Pet Rabbits in the UK

**HEALTH STUDY RESULTS**

**Number of UK rabbits in study:** 6,349

**Average lifespan:** 4.3 years

**Average adult bodyweight:** 2.1 kg

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**Most Common Causes of Death**

- Flystrike: 16.0%
- Collapse: 10.0%
- Anorexia: 7.6%
- Gut stasis: 4.5%

**Percentage of rabbit deaths**

- Males (5.2 years) lived longer than females (3.7 years)

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**Most Common Disorders Diagnosed in Rabbits**

- Overgrown nails: 20.0%
- Overgrown molar(s): 16.0%
- Dirty bottoms: 12.0%
- Overgrown incisor(s): 4.3%
- Gut stasis: 4.2%
- Overweight/obesity: 3.7%
- Anorexia: 2.9%
- Flystrike: 2.0%
- Tear duct abnormality: 2.0%
- Haircoat disorder: 1.8%

**RABBITS DIAGNOSED during a one year period**

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**CONCLUSIONS:**

- Many common disorders are associated with inappropriate housing or feeding.
- Rabbits evolved as prey species and can disguise external signs of disease, making it hard for owners to spot that their rabbit is ill.
- This study can improve the lives of rabbits by helping owners to recognise common health problems and prioritise key management factors that will improve the lives of our rabbits.

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**CLICK TO READ**

RVC VetCompass: [https://www.rvc.ac.uk/vetcompass](https://www.rvc.ac.uk/vetcompass) carries out welfare research based on anonymised clinical information shared from over 30% of UK veterinary practices. We are very grateful to the owners and veterinary professionals who contribute to VetCompass research.

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**O’Neill et al. (2020)** "Morbidity and mortality of domestic rabbits (Oryctolagus cuniculus) under primary veterinary care in England"

**Vet Record**