



The College of
Animal Welfare

Rabbits and Small Furrries Congress

Thursday 13 March 2025

9.30am-4.30pm



EARLY BIRD

Book before

17 JANUARY 2025

for just

£125+VAT



Rabbits and Small Furrries Congress Programme

9.15am – 9.30am **Online Registration and Exhibition**

9.30am– 9.35am **Chair's Welcome**

9.35am – 10.15am **Help! My rabbit's a nightmare!**
Advising on common behavioural problems in practice

Guen Bradbury MA, VETMB, MRCVS

This presentation will be looking at common rabbit behavioural issues and by the end of the talk you should:

- Recognise common behavioural problems in rabbits
- Understand how health and welfare affect behaviour
- Be able to identify where a rabbit's welfare is poor and suggest ways to improve it
- Know simple advice to give to owners who are struggling with some common behavioural problems

10.15am – 11am **Nutrition – Is it just about hay?!**

Nicola Lakeman MSc BSc(Hons) RVN CertVNECC CertSAN VTS(Nutrition)

This session will look at how the different nutrient content of the diet (hay, pellets, vegetables) can affect different medical conditions in herbivores. Discussing lifestage nutrition and why we have different stages for rabbits – it's all about protein and calcium content.

Hay and grasses are a multitude of different species, with differing mineral contents, that will have a potential consequence for the animals being fed it.

Nutrition isn't just about what we feed; it is also about how we feed these foods. We will have a look at feeding behaviours and enrichment techniques that we need to discuss with pet owners.

11am – 11.30am **Live Q&A Panel** Present questions to the speakers

11.35am – 12pm **Morning Break and Exhibitor Promos**

12pm – 12.45pm **Rabbits – Getting the Bloods Out and the Meds In**

Jo Megarity RVN

This talk will discuss 2 main topics: Blood sampling and common medications including analgesia.

Placing IV cannulas and taking blood samples can be a daunting thought but these top tips including sample sites, local anaesthesia and general stress reduction will help.

Analgesia is vital and we will cover a range of different types to enable you to understand the important pharmacokinetics of each and allow you to take a polypharmacy approach to your treatment plans.

Other common medications such as antibiotics and prokinetics will be delved in to as we look at their potential indications and administration routes.

12.45pm–1.05pm **Live Q&A Panel** Present questions to the speakers

1.05pm-2.05pm

Lunch Break, Online Exhibition and Lounges

2.05pm - 2.50pm

How to Make your Practice Guinea pig Friendly

John Chitty BVetMed CertZooMed MRCVS

Guinea pigs are becoming ever more popular as pets and there is often a strong owner-guinea pig bond. Guinea pig owners expect high quality care!

Guinea pigs, like rabbits, are prey species and so have different needs to dogs and cats. However, guinea pig needs are not quite as for rabbits- there are differences in housing and diet, for example. As such a practice seeing a lot of guinea pigs needs to understand how to cater for their needs both in the consultation and when hospitalised.

In addition, many of their presenting diseases are based in unfulfilled husbandry needs and so a good knowledge of Guinea pig biology and welfare needs is essential.

2.50pm - 3.35pm

Veterinary care of chinchillas, they are not small rabbits!

Matthew Rendle RVN

Chinchillas are increasingly popular as pets, and increasingly seen in practice, but often treated as small rabbits, with rabbit protocols, dosages and approaches used - lots of which are inappropriate, and often result in poor welfare.

In this lecture, we will look at the common presentations in practice and how to nurse them properly.

3.35pm - 4pm

Live Q&A Panel Present questions to the speakers

4pm-4.10pm

Chair's Close

4.10pm-4.30pm

Event Close

How to book...

For details of prices and how to book your place, please see overleaf to complete and return the booking form. You can also book online at www.caw.ac.uk/events/rabbits-and-small-furries-congress



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Please note the organisers have the right to change the programme at short notice and without notice.

Rabbits and Small Furrries Congress 2025

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(Bookings before 17 January 2025)

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