

## Post Operative Instructions for Foster Rabbits

The following is information regarding post-operative care and information for your foster animal. If you have any questions or concerns about the surgical procedure or recovery please email the Foster Veterinary Technician, at [sanderson@hswestmi.org](mailto:sanderson@hswestmi.org).

Most rabbits will self limit their activity following this abdominal surgery. Some may also be slightly groggy due to the anesthetic/pain medication given for the rest of the day.

You are being sent home with oral pain medication to start the day after surgery.

**\*\*Monitor appetite\*\*** - Monitoring a rabbit's appetite is potentially the most important step in post-operative care due to their sensitive nature. Some rabbits will have little or no appetite following surgery. If this symptom persists past 24 hours, please let us know ASAP.

**Keep the incision dry** - no bathing should be done for 10 days.

**Monitor the incision** for any pain, heat, redness, drainage or excessive swelling for 7-10 days. If any of these things are observed, please email the foster vet tech and send a picture along.

**Discourage licking and chewing at the incision** - some rabbits will need to wear a special collar to prevent them if the licking is excessive. We can provide an e-collar or you can get one at a pet store. Sometimes a paper plate can be fashioned into a cone with some rabbits.

**Try to discourage** running, jumping or strenuous activity for 3-5 days post surgery.

**Do not give your foster Aspirin, Tylenol, Advil or any other over the counter pain medication** - these substances are very toxic to rabbits and can be fatal, especially if combined with the pain medication sent home. If there is excessive pain, please let us know and we can prescribe additional prescription pain relievers.