



## Make Mine Chocolate!

The Make Mine Chocolate! UK organisation is about changing the way rabbits are perceived and cared for.

This independent organisation is working hard to raise awareness of welfare needs - especially in relation to the problem of impulse buying from the 'cute fluffy' factor.

It is well documented the issue of impulse buying leads significant number of rabbits surrendered to rescue - or worse, neglected or dumped to face certain death. Around 60% of rabbits entering rescue in the UK have been owned for less than a year, with a staggering 40% of these being owned for less than six months!

It is time to make a significant welfare improvement and Make Mine Chocolate! UK is dedicated to this objective. With ground-breaking projects such as the Easter Amnesty, Make Mine Chocolate! UK is working hard to spread the message that rabbits are a life-long commitment; those not ready can buy a chocolate one instead!

In addition, extensive support material for those with rabbits, or those considering obtaining rabbits, is designed to improve rabbit welfare and understanding of their needs, and finally break the cycle of a lack of education in rabbit care.

[MakeMineChocolate.org.uk](http://MakeMineChocolate.org.uk)

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## Emergency 101

Rabbits are complex creatures, and as a prey species they hide their pain or illness. This makes it difficult to know what is wrong or what may constitute an emergency - when a trip to the vet is priority.

### Observation

One of the most important things you can do as an owner is to get to know your rabbits very well. The more you know them, the more likely and more quickly you are to detect when something is wrong.

### The 10 Point Guide

The following guide is not exhaustive, but does cover the most common key emergency indicators.

But remember, it is better to be cautious and go to the vet 'just in case', than wait until a condition is severe; when treatment could be more extensive, costly and possibly being administered too late.

1. Breathing difficulty, blue lips or uncontrolled bleeding
2. Injury or bite by another rabbit/animal - it may be small on the surface but there could be unseen damage underneath

3. Unconsciousness/fitting or other neurological issues
4. Maggots on fur. This means fly strike!
5. High or low temperature - the normal temperature of a rabbit is around 38.3 - 39.4C (101 - 103F).
6. Suspected pain - flinching on touch, sitting hunched, grinding teeth
7. Suspected poisoning - remember rabbits can't be sick so toxin have to pass through the system so can cause a lot of damage.
8. Diarrhoea - a sign of illness, inappropriate diet and a significant contributor to secondary problems such as flystrike, infection, skin burns.
9. No interest in food or unable to eat (even after just a few hours)
10. Trouble urinating or pooping - seeming to strain, frequent visits to the loo, lots of little spots of wee, blood or excess chalkiness in the urine



Rabbit Welfare though Education