

This is in reference to Ember, my 10.5wk old New Zealand Red buck. I first noticed something "wasn't quite right" with him when I went out to do my morning rabbit chores, at about 9am.

The first picture is what I saw - a rabbit with signs of discomfort and what appeared to be a distended abdomen.



From there, I grabbed him firmly, and shook. I heard fluids sloshing in his stomach, which confirmed my bloat suspicions. From there, he gradually kept getting worse. He stopped eating, drinking, became lethargic. Upon advice from the group, I purchased Simethicone drops (Infant Gas Drops) and began treating him. I used a FULL dropper, every hour, on the hour 6 times, and started seeing progress late that evening when I gave him a final dosage of the drops for the night. After the doses of drops, he started passing odd stools, which stunk heavily for rabbit feces.

The second picture is Ember at the peak of bloat. Very lethargic, grinding his teeth in pain, and fading very fast.



This third picture is some of the stool that he passed after a few treatments of the Simethicone drops. It was VERY large for a rabbit, almost cow-pie like and smelled horrible.



This fourth picture shows the first signs of progress! His belly had started to “deflate” a little.



And this fifth and final picture is the most dramatic; Ember showing great progress after many treatments of the Simethicone drops. Approximately 30-35 hours from the first signs of bloat.



Additional Information:

30-35 hours after I first discovered what was happening and after many treatments of the Simethicone drops, his stomach is at least 1/2 the size it was, and when shaken, I wasn't able to hear any sloshing of fluids.

During this time, I have also been using a dropper to force him to drink water. I GENTLY drained the dropper into his mouth, so that he wouldn't aspirate.

Once I first noticed the bloat, I removed ALL of his pellets and gave him a pile of hay and a bowl of old fashioned rolled oats. About 30 hours after the first signs of bloat, he started eating again, but I still forced water with the dropper, just in case he wasn't drinking enough. Hydration is VERY important in the treatment of bloat!

I was instructed to continue oats and hay until NORMAL stools are observed. And to continue the Simethicone drops until there is ZERO sloshing heard when shaking the rabbit.

At the peak of the bloat, he became very lethargic, and would shake and grind his teeth in pain.

I hope that whoever finds themselves reading this remains hopeful if they ever have to treat a rabbit for bloat...if you give up or aren't aggressively treating it, your rabbit will likely suffer a painful death. Always keep hope! Bloat can't always be treated to success, but I was thankful I tried and saw results.