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Rabbit Problems - GI Stasis

One of the more unfortunate stories I hear from rabbit owners is that one day their rabbit suddenly died. Upon further discussion, the owner usually recalls their rabbit was acting normal. This is called "GI Stasis", a condition where the normal movement of the intestines slows down or stops. There are many causes for GI stasis: stress, dehydration, pain, intestinal blockage or poor diet. To treat this often deadly problem, it's important to recognize GI stasis symptoms. These include: Poor appetite, fewer and smaller fecal pellets, mucus in feces, distended stomach, stomach gurgling, lethargy, diarrhea, and pain. If you recognize these signs, act immediately. Make sure your rabbit continues to eat by providing Critical Care, watered down pellets or veg-

etables. Simethicone (Little Tummies) can help reduce gas pain: 1-2 ml (20 mg/0.3 ml) every 3-4 hours. Keep your rabbit hydrated. If necessary, deliver via syringe. Syringe 1-2 ml in the mouth and allow time for digestion. Stop feeding if your rabbit refuses. Finally, get to your veterinarian quickly. They will provide further treatments such as fluids, pain relief, appetite stimulants and motility medications. In many cases, this can be enough to help get your rabbit back to normal. Unfortunately, many cases aren't so lucky. That's why prevention is crucial. Proper diet, reducing stress, treating illnesses and regular check-ups are the best measures you can take to reduce your risk of GI stasis.

Dr. Alex Teed - Bayshore Animal

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