Antibiotic use in rabbits

Write your practice policy on antibiotic use in the boxes below

**Respiratory infections - Upper respiratory tract**

- Respiratory tract infections are common in rabbits, often presenting as nasal discharge, sneezing and sneezing may be a key feature.
- Bacterial infections may be caused by various bacteria, including Pasteurella, Moraxella, and Chlamydia species.
- Treatment options include antibiotics such as tetracyclines, macrolides, and trimethoprim-sulfonamides.
- Practice policy - diagnostic testing
  - Culture and sensitivity (throat swabs)
  - Cytology can provide information on appropriate prescribing.

**Respiratory infections - Lower respiratory tract**

- Lower respiratory tract infections may be caused by various bacteria, including Mannheimia haemolytica, Pasteurella multocida, and Arcanobacterium haemolyticum.
- Treatment options include antibiotics such as tetracyclines, macrolides, and trimethoprim-sulfonamides.
- Practice policy - diagnostic testing
  - Culture and sensitivity (deep nasal swabs)
  - Cytology (BAL and tracheal wash)

**Urinary tract infections - cystitis**

- Cystitis is a common condition in rabbits, often presenting as dysuria, frequency, and hematuria.
- Treatment options include antibiotics such as tetracyclines, macrolides, and trimethoprim-sulfonamides.
- Practice policy - diagnostic testing
  - Culture and sensitivity (deep abdominal swabs)
  - Cytology

**Dental disorders**

- Dental disorders are common in rabbits, often presenting as dental calculus, periodontal disease, and tooth impaction.
- Treatment options include dental cleaning, antibiotics, and systemic therapies.
- Practice policy - diagnostic testing
  - X-rays (mandible and maxilla)
  - Cytology

**Gastrointestinal infections - Infectious enteritis**

- Infectious enteritis is a common condition in rabbits, often presenting as diarrhea, vomiting, and weight loss.
- Treatment options include antibiotics such as tetracyclines, macrolides, and trimethoprim-sulfonamides.
- Practice policy - diagnostic testing
  - Culture and sensitivity (rectal swabs)
  - Cytology

**Treat effectively**

- Effective treatment of respiratory infections may be achieved through the use of antibiotics such as tetracyclines, macrolides, and trimethoprim-sulfonamides.
- Effective treatment of urinary tract infections may be achieved through the use of antibiotics such as tetracyclines, macrolides, and trimethoprim-sulfonamides.
- Effective treatment of dental disorders may be achieved through the use of antibiotics such as tetracyclines, macrolides, and trimethoprim-sulfonamides.
- Effective treatment of gastrointestinal infections may be achieved through the use of antibiotics such as tetracyclines, macrolides, and trimethoprim-sulfonamides.

**Other options**

- Consider the use of alternative therapies such as acupuncture, herbal medicine, and homeopathy.
- Consider the use of probiotics and prebiotics to support gut health.

**Types of bacteria and drugs**

- Choose antibiotics based on the bacterial species and the infection site.
- Consider the cost and availability of antibiotics.

**Practice policy**

- A practice policy for empirical prescribing should include guidelines for the treatment of common infections.
- A practice policy for drug sensitivity testing should include guidelines for the use of antibiotics in rabbits.

**Practice policy - empoly narrow spectrum**

- It is better to use narrower spectrum antibiotics as they limit the effects on commensal bacteria.
- Avoid using broad spectrum antibiotics as first line agents; only use when other agents are ineffective or are determined by culture and sensitivity testing.

**Medication and monitoring**

- Medications should be administered according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Monitoring should include regular re-checks to ensure the effectiveness of treatment.

**Adjunctive therapy/analgesia**

- Adjunctive therapy/analgesia may include anti-inflammatory drugs, antihistamines, and nutritional support.
- Adjunctive therapy/analgesia may be used in combination with antibiotics.

**Respiratory infections - empirical prescribing**

- Respiratory infections are common in rabbits, often presenting as nasal discharge, sneezing, and coughing.
- Treatment options include antibiotics such as tetracyclines, macrolides, and trimethoprim-sulfonamides.
- Practice policy - empirical prescribing
  - Tetracycline
  - Doxycycline
  - Erythromycin

**Urinary tract infections - empirical prescribing**

- Urinary tract infections are common in rabbits, often presenting as dysuria, frequency, and hematuria.
- Treatment options include antibiotics such as tetracyclines, macrolides, and trimethoprim-sulfonamides.
- Practice policy - empirical prescribing
  - Tetracycline
  - Doxycycline

**Gastrointestinal infections - empirical prescribing**

- Gastrointestinal infections are common in rabbits, often presenting as diarrhea, vomiting, and weight loss.
- Treatment options include antibiotics such as tetracyclines, macrolides, and trimethoprim-sulfonamides.
- Practice policy - empirical prescribing
  - Tetracycline
  - Doxycycline

**Dental disorders - empirical prescribing**

- Dental disorders are common in rabbits, often presenting as dental calculus, periodontal disease, and tooth impaction.
- Treatment options include antibiotics such as tetracyclines, macrolides, and trimethoprim-sulfonamides.
- Practice policy - empirical prescribing
  - Tetracycline
  - Doxycycline

**Gastrointestinal infections - empirical prescribing**

- Gastrointestinal infections are common in rabbits, often presenting as diarrhea, vomiting, and weight loss.
- Treatment options include antibiotics such as tetracyclines, macrolides, and trimethoprim-sulfonamides.
- Practice policy - empirical prescribing
  - Tetracycline
  - Doxycycline