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Fly strike.. a serious problem!!

It's Easter and the weather is finally warming up, it's the time of year when a lot of parents by their children a rabbit. But with the warm weather comes pesky flies and we all need to be aware of the problems that can arise.

Flystrike is a distressing condition that can affect any animal, and

unless caught quickly, it can be a painful killer. Rabbits are very susceptible, especially if they have a problem that makes it hard for them to keep their back-end clean. Another problem is unsanitary living conditions. Soiled bedding and litter must be removed regularly, preferably daily. Left in the rabbit's home,

it too will attract flies, and will soil fur, owners need to be super vigilant to avoid a serious situation.

Flies, notably bluebottles and greenbottles, lay their eggs on rabbits dirty bottoms or soiled fur and the hatched maggots eat their flesh. This can happen very quickly, especially in hot weather

when the maggots are more active and develop more rapidly. Rabbit owners should keep a close eye on their furry friends and if the skin or fur becomes soiled, it should be cleaned and dried thoroughly. It is possible to buy preparations to apply to your rabbit's fur that will prevent fly eggs from hatching. However, these alone

are no substitute for ensuring that your rabbit is healthy enough not to become susceptible in the first place, and they cannot be relied upon to replace regular checks of the rabbit's bottom and dealing with any soiling immediately.

If you are worried about your rabbit or have noticed anything

around his back end, please call us here at Cootes veterinary Clinic Burgess Hill on 01444 242434 it could be an emergency situation. If you would like further information, our vets are happy to discuss the correct flystrike prevention treatment for your furry friend, it could just save his life!