

Veterinary Protocols for HRN Foster Homes & Rabbits

HRN's focus is to provide good quality medical care to as many rabbits as possible. Because we are a small non-profit organization relying on donations, grants and a modest adoption fee, we are financially limited. Because we provide veterinary care to all the foster rabbits in our foster homes, as well as the sick and injured rabbits we regularly are asked to take in from animal control, we need to remain cost conscious and use our financial resources wisely. We need to be sure we have the funds available to treat all of our cases requiring veterinary care. In order to best use our funds, we are following the guidelines below in helping control medical costs.

1. Please contact the medical committee before making a veterinary appointment with your foster rabbit. We can help assist you as to urgency for an appointment, direct you to the appropriate veterinary care, and help provide guidance as to whether your foster rabbit needs to be seen by a veterinarian or if you can try something at home first.

*If this is an emergency, and you are unable to contact a medical committee member, please use your judgement and take your foster bunny to the nearest available veterinary location.

2. HRN has set up contracts with certain local vet hospitals, so that HRN will get billed directly and the foster does not need to pay the bill and be reimbursed. Many of these hospitals give HRN a non-profit discount on veterinary care. This is reserved for HRN owned rabbits only. Certain hospitals have a steeply discounted spay/neuter rate for HRN. Although convenience for the foster homes is a factor, please understand that we will encourage use of those veterinary hospitals where the cost of the procedure may be half that of another, amounting to hundreds of dollars in savings that can be used to help care for other rabbits needing help.

3. HRN does not pay for routine pre-operative bloodwork or fecal testing. While full testing is the gold standard of medicine, medical costs spiral out of control quickly. Based on veterinary advice, HRN feels that the costs of running these tests are used better in other places.

4. If your foster rabbit is sick, and the veterinarian recommends testing blood, stool, or imaging including radiographs (Xrays), the cost will be covered by HRN but if possible please check with the medical committee first. If your foster rabbit needs advanced imaging (ultrasound, echocardiogram, CT, MRI) you will need approval first. We will not approve radiographs for routine stasis cases.

5. If your foster rabbit needs surgery (other than spay/neuter), please inform the medical committee so the surgery can be approved. If your foster rabbit has a good chance of recovery, HRN does not cap the funds that will be used to cure that particular rabbit. We have treated abscesses requiring extensive surgery, broken bones, diseased eyes, dental disease, and uterine disease. If your foster rabbit has a poor prognosis and is unadoptable due to a terminal health problem, we tend to prefer comfort care over heroic measures.

6. If your foster rabbit is prescribed medications, please let us know. HRN maintains a stock of certain medications procured at low cost (Panacur- fenbendazole, Metacam- meloxicam, Ivomec- ivermectin). If your vet is prescribing a medications such as trimethoprim sulfa, please ask for a script for a human pharmacy as the cost to HRN is as much as a third lower. If your foster rabbit is on long term medication, we will help you mail order them to conserve cost.