

## **HRN Veterinary Protocols**

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.

HRN does not pay for routine pre-operative bloodwork or fecal testing. While we understand that full testing is the gold standard of medicine, this leads to our medical costs spiraling unmanageably upwards.

If the veterinarian recommends testing blood, stool, or imaging including radiographs for a sick rabbit, the cost will be covered by HRN. If the HRN foster rabbit needs advanced imaging (ultrasound, echocardiogram, CT, MRI) an approval needs to be given by medical committee. We will not approve radiographs for routine stasis cases.

If an HRN foster rabbit needs surgery (other than spay/neuter), the procedure needs to be approved by the medical committee. If the prognosis is good for 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 the prognosis is poor and is unadoptable due to a terminal health problem, we tend to prefer palliative (comfort) care over heroic measures.

HRN maintains a stock of certain medications procured at low cost (Panacur- fenbendazole, Metacam- meloxicam, Ivomec- ivermectin), and we request that you check with foster homes first to see if they need the medicine, or the dosage information and use our medication. We request a written script for medication available inexpensively at a human pharmacy (ex. trimethoprim sulfa). Long term medications will be mail ordered.

Please contact the medical committee with any questions or issues. We very much appreciate your working with our foster bunnies!