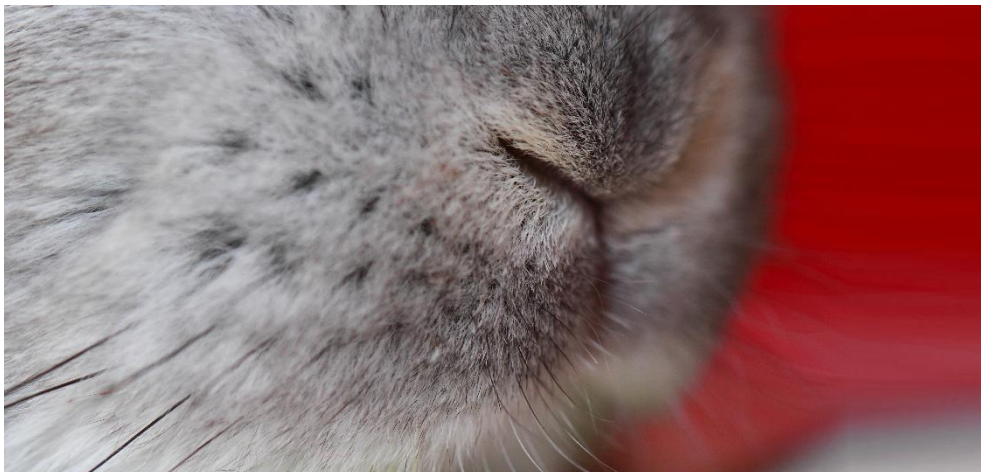


Why do rabbits grind their teeth?

Overview

- Have you noticed your rabbit grinding their teeth?
- Tooth grinding can be a sign of pain, illness or distress.
- Book an appointment with your vet if you notice your rabbit grinding their teeth. Never wait to see if they improve, this could lead to more severe problems.



Causes

Loud tooth grinding

Rabbits tend to grind their teeth loudly if they are unwell, in pain, or stressed. This type of tooth grinding usually comes from the back teeth (cheek teeth).

Quiet tooth grinding

Some types of tooth grinding are normal and natural for a rabbit, for example: when they are happy and relaxed (similar to a cat's purr), and when they wear down their front teeth (to keep them the right size and shape). This type of tooth grinding is quiet, gentle and comes from the front teeth.

When to contact your vet

Contact your vet for an urgent appointment if your rabbit has started grinding their teeth. Never wait to see if they get better, this could lead to more severe problems developing. If possible, film your rabbit grinding to show your vet.

Other symptoms to look out for

Your vet will want to know if you have noticed any other symptoms of pain, illness or stress, including:

- Hiding away/ not wanting to be handled
- Changes in behaviour (being grumpy)
- A reduced appetite
- Pooing less than usual
- Diarrhoea, soft or different shaped poos
- Low energy (lethargy)
- Excessive drooling/dribbling
- Weepy eyes

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