

ENTERITIS
By Margaret Bartold

This year I seem to have had problems with the bunnies getting enteritis. This usually occurs in rabbits between the ages of 7-14 weeks. They get diarrhea and within 24-48 hours are dead. I have had this happen with two litters. The first litter I treated them with Albon as soon as I noticed the problem but lost all 3 of them. When it happened again I thought to myself I am NOT going to let these bunnies die (or at least I was going to give it my best effort to try and pull them through). I noticed 2 of them in the litter of 6 had diarrhea when I went out to check on them one morning. They were perfectly fine the night before. I gave them both a dose of Bene Bac and quickly did some research. I found enteritis causes the bunny to have severe diarrhea, dehydration, and bloats with gas. So I headed to Troy to Walmart to search for over the counter meds that may help these symptoms. This time I'm treating the symptoms and not the disease. So I bought Gas Drops for Infants and Imodium AD. I came home and first gave the bunnies about .15 on the eye dropper of the gas drops, waited an hour and gave them 1/2 tablet of the Imodium AD which I dissolved in water. I then removed their water and gave them a mixture of pedialyte and tea in their water bottle. I did force this liquid into the one that seemed to be the most severe. I also removed their pellets and just gave them timothy hay. I worked in the rabbit building that day so I could monitor the progress of the bunnies and to be honest felt it was probably all in vain. Well, by evening they no longer had the diarrhea, weren't hunched up due to the gas pain and were starting to nibble on the hay and drink the tea. By the next morning they were alive and seemed to be happy and healthy. I did introduce oats to them in the evening of the second day and kept them on the diet of oats, hay, and cheerios for 3-4 days. I slowly introduced the pellets again and am happy to say this seemed to work. I did have the 'runt' have another episode and did the same treatment plus I added about a tablespoon of Activa daily to his diet (about 3 days) until I noticed he was eating again. I seriously doubt this would have worked if I had not caught this soon after the onset of the Enteritis but one never knows!

I am passing this information along as something I tried and had success. It is up to the breeder/owner to determine if they want to use this treatment. I do know I now have these meds as a part of my bunny medicine cabinet!