



BROWN COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 472 De Pere, WI 54115 920-336-7292
www.browncountyfair.com

Rabbits with the following illnesses will not be allowed to be exhibit at the Brown County Fair. Animals found with these illnesses will be removed from the fair at the discretion of the veterinarian and/or the executive committee. We ask that if you know your rabbit has one of the following illnesses, you do not bring it to the fair because of the risk of spreading the illness.

Ear Mites -

Ear mite infestation in rabbits is caused by a parasite. They may be found in only one ear, or in both, and in some cases may spread to the surrounding areas – the head, neck, abdomen, and genital regions. The main symptom is skin scales on the inner ear, which turn into larger, thicker crusted lesions with surrounding hair loss. If left untreated, the lesions can become infected, putting the inner ear at risk of infection and subsequent hearing loss. No specific breed or age is at higher risk, but the risk of acquiring ear *mites* can be increased with exposure to affected rabbits. The risk of infection can also be increased by exposure to mite eggs that have been laid in grass, straw, or wood chip bedding material.

Symptoms:

- **Itching primarily located around the ears, head, and neck**
- **Head shaking and scratching**
- **Affected areas may become extremely painful**
- **Thick, brown to beige crusty exudate in the ear canal**
- **Occasionally, brown to beige crusting and itching occur on the ears and feet only**
- **Hair loss and peeling of skin around the ears**
- **Signs of ear infection may also occur**
- **Mites and lesions may extend to the face, neck, abdomen, perineal region, and even feet via grooming**

Pasteurellosis

Infection with the *Pasteurella multocida bacterium* can result in a severe respiratory illness, generally characterized by nose infections, *sinusitis*, ear infections, conjunctivitis, pneumonia, and generalized infection of the blood, among other things. This condition is often referred to as the “snuffles” because of the snuffling breathing sound affected rabbits make. It may also cause abscesses in the *subcutaneous* (beneath the top layer of skin) tissues, bone, joints, or internal organs in rabbits. The *pasteurella* bacteria usually co-exist in the rabbit’s body with other, more common bacteria that cause nasal infections. In rabbits with strong immune systems, these bacteria can reside in the nasal cavity and *upper respiratory tract*, and are kept in check by the rabbits’ defense system. Indeed, some rabbits do not show symptoms of infection. However, the bacteria is highly contagious, spreading by direct contact, or through the air in close quarters. Many rabbits are infected at birth through vaginal infection, or shortly after birth while in close contact with an infected mother.

Symptoms:

- Sneezing, nasal discharge
- Dizzy, disorientated behavior
- Breathing difficulty (*dyspnea*)
- Shortness of breath if pneumonia or large abscesses are present in the respiratory tract
- Staining of the front paws (due to discharge collected while self-grooming)
- Excess salivation, facial swelling, and loss of appetite (due to sinusitis or head *abscess*)
- Excess tears or blockage of the tear ducts
- Head tilt, shaking head, and scratching at the ears if the infection spreads to the ears or the brain/nerves
- Anorexia, depression, pain from skeletal abscesses
- Lameness and reluctance to move (when abscesses are present on the soles and toes of the feet)
- Subcutaneous (beneath the surface of the skin) swelling with subcutaneous mammary abscess

If you need to scratch any rabbits that you have previously registered, please contact Paul or Jean Petersen at pauljeanpetersen@msn.com or call / text (920)336-5066 by August 8th.

Reminders for the fair:

- You must supply your own bedding, food, and water. Don't forget containers to store these things in unless you plan on bringing them with you every day.
- You must have your cages cleaned before 9 a.m. every day.
- All rabbits must remain in the building, on exhibit until closing on Sunday at 6 p.m.
- Selling rabbits at the fair is prohibited.