

**Table 3.1** Formulary\*

**Disclaimer:** There are very few products that are authorized for use in rabbits. The responsibility for the use of unauthorized products lies with the prescribing veterinary surgeon. The following dose rates are based on the current state of knowledge and some dose rates are anecdotal (see comments). Products authorized for use in rabbits appear in **bold** type.

Preparation	Dosage	Route	Frequency	Type of drug or indication	Comments
Acepromazine	0.5–1 mg/kg	IM, SC		Sedation	Not analgesic
Acepromazine + butorphanol	0.5 mg/kg +0.5 mg/kg	SC, IM		Sedation	Can be mixed in same syringe Vasodilatory
Albendazole	20 mg/kg	PO	Daily	Anthelmintic	Used to treat <i>E. cuniculi</i> Continue for 3–14 days
Amikacin	2–5 mg/kg	SC/IM	bid–tid	Antibiotic	Can affect renal function if hydration not maintained
Atropine	0.05 mg/kg (50 µg/kg)	IM		Premedication Organophosphate toxicity	40% rabbits produce atropine esterase that metabolizes atropine
Azithromycin	15–50 mg/kg	PO	sid	Antibiotic	For abscesses and osteomyelitis May cause dysbiosis
Benazepril	0.05 mg/kg	PO	sid	ACE inhibitor	For treatment of CHF and CRF
Bromhexine	0.3 mg	PO	sid	Mucolytic	Anecdotally may be used more frequently
<b>Buserelin (Receptal, Hoechst)</b>	<b>0.2 mL/rabbit</b>	<b>SC</b>		<b>FSH/LH</b>	<b>Used to induce ovulation and improve conception rate in breeding does</b>
Carprofen	2–4 mg/kg 1.5 mg/kg	SC PO	sid bid	Analgesic	Care in hypotensive patients Tablets can be mixed with fruit juice, jam or syrup
Cefalexin	15 mg/kg 20 mg/kg	SC SC	bid sid	Antibiotic	
Ceftazidime	50 mg/kg	IM/IV	tid	Antibiotic	Literature cites half-life not dosing frequency; this dose effective anecdotally
Celecoxib	68 mg/kg	PO	bid	NSAID	Experimental dosage used for adhesion prevention <b>NB:</b> this dose is much higher than doses reported in other species, e.g., birds

**Table 3.1** Formulary—cont'd

Preparation	Dosage	Route	Frequency	Type of drug or indication	Comments
Cholestyramine 'Questran'	0.5 g/kg 2 g/20 mL water	PO	bid or sid	Ion exchange resin	Enterotoxaemia Can be used prophylactically
Chlorphenamine maleate	200–400 µ/kg	PO	bid	Antihistamine	Paediatric syrup available
Ciprofloxacin	5–20 mg/kg	PO	bid	Antibiotic	Ocular form shown to maintain therapeutic levels in tear film for 6 h
Cisapride	0.5 mg/kg	PO	bid	Prokinetic	Now available in UK
Clindamycin	Should not be used orally	<i>In situ</i> only		Antibiotic	for local use in abscesses incorporated into AIPMMA beads
Dexamethasone	1–2 mg/kg	IM, IV		Anti-inflammatory	Steroids should only be used with extreme caution in rabbits due to the likelihood of debilitating side effects
Diazepam	1–2 mg/kg	IV, IM		Sedation	Not analgesic
Diltiazem	3.75–7.5 mg/kg	PO	bid	Calcium channel blocker	For use in adhesion prevention
Diphenhydramine	2 mg/kg	PO	bid–tid	Antihistamine	Used for torticollis
Domperidone	0.5 mg/kg	PO	bid	Prokinetic	Similar action to metoclopramide with fewer side effects
Doxapram	5 mg/kg	IM, IV		Respiratory stimulant	
Doxycycline	2.5–4 mg/kg	PO	sid	Antibiotic	
Enalapril	0.25–0.5 mg/kg	PO	sid or eod	ACE inhibitor	For treatment of CHF or CRF
<b>Enrofloxacin (Baytril, Bayer)</b>	<b>5 mg/kg</b> <b>10 mg/kg</b> <b>5–10 mg/kg</b>	<b>SC</b> <b>SC</b> <b>PO</b>	<b>bid</b> <b>sid</b> <b>bid</b>	<b>Antibiotic</b>	<b>Authorized for use in rabbits</b>
Estriol	0.1 mg/rabbit	PO	sid	Hormone	Can titrate dose to effect; may notice estrogenic effects
Fenbendazole	20 mg/kg	PO		Anthelmintic	Treatment for <i>E. cuniculi</i>
<b>Fentanyl/fluanisone (Hypnorm, Janssen)</b>	<b>0.2–0.3 mL/kg</b>	<b>IM, SC</b>		<b>Premedication</b> <b>Analgesia</b> <b>Anaesthesia</b>	<b>Can be used in combination with midazolam or diazepam (0.5–2 mg/kg)</b>

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Preparation	Dosage	Route	Frequency	Type of drug or indication	Comments
Fluid therapy	10–20 mL/kg/h 10–15 mL/kg	IV SC			Warm before use
Flunixin	1.1 mg/kg	SC	bid	Analgesia	Care in hypotensive patients
Furosemide	0.3–2 mg/kg	IV, SC, IM		Diuretic	Indicated for treatment of CHF
<b>Fusidic acid: eye drops (Fucithalamic, Leo)</b>	<b>1 drop/eye</b>		<b>sid or bid</b>	<b>Conjunctivitis</b>	
Fusidic acid ointment (Fuciderm, Leo)	Topical		sid or bid	Superficial pyoderma	Caution as contains steroids
<b>Gentamicin (Tiacil, Virbac)</b>	<b>1–2 drops/eye</b>		<b>tid</b>	<b>Conjunctivitis</b>	<b>Give for 5–7 days</b>
Glucose 5%	10 mL/kg	IV, SC		Anorexia Perioperatively	Warm before use
Glycopyrrolate	0.01 mg/kg 0.1 mg/kg	IV, SC IM		Premedication Organophosphate poisoning	Does not cross blood–brain barrier and cause mydriasis
Griseofulvin	25 mg/kg	PO	sid	Ringworm	Continue for at least 2 weeks
<b>Imidacloprid</b>	<b>10 mg/kg</b>	<b>Topical</b>		<b>Fleas</b>	<b>Active against fleas not mites</b>
Ivermectin	400 µ/kg	SC		Mites	Repeat after 10–14 days
Ketoprofen	1–3 mg/kg	PO	bid	Analgesia	Care in hypotensive patients
Liquid paraffin	1–2 mL/kg	PO	bid	Gastric or impactions	Can be used to soften and lubricate caecal/intestinal contents
Marbofloxacin	2–5 mg/kg	PO/SC	sid	Antibiotic	Has been used at 10 mg/kg sid for pasteurellosis
Meclizine	2–12 mg/kg	PO	sid–tid	Antiemetic	Used for torticollis
Melatonin	1–2 mg	PO	sid	Hormone	Dose extrapolated from other species, not yet validated
Meloxicam	0.3–0.6 mg/kg	PO/SC	sid–bid	Analgesia	Can be used at up to 1.5 mg/kg without accumulation
Metoclopramide	0.5 mg/kg	SC, PO	bid	Motility stimulant	May not be effective in young rabbits
Metronidazole	20 mg/kg	PO	bid	Antibacterial	Treatment of choice for enterotoxaemia
Moxidectin	0.2 mg/kg	PO	Repeat in 10 days	Antiparasitic	

**Table 3.1** Formulary—cont'd

Preparation	Dosage	Route	Frequency	Type of drug or indication	Comments
Nandrolone	2 mg/kg	SC, IM		Anabolic steroid	Appetite stimulant Adjunct to treatment for anaemia especially in CRF
Nimesulide	0.5 mg/rabbit	IM/IP	sid × 5 days	COX2-selective NSAID	For use in prevention of adhesions
Orbifloxacin	5–20 mg/kg	PO	sid	Antibiotic	Doses anecdotal
Oxytetracycline	15 mg/kg 30 mg/kg (depot) 1 mg/mL 50 mg/kg	SC, IM SC DW PO	sid every 3 days	Antibiotic	
Oxytocin	1–2 IU/kg	SC, IM		Hormone	Stimulation of uterine contraction in non-obstructive dystocia
Paracetamol	200–500 mg/kg	PO	bid	Mild analgesic	Can be used in tandem with NSAIDs
Penicillin (Procaine)	40,000 IU/kg (40 mg/kg)	SC	sid	Antibiotic	Contain 1000 IU/mg 5-day course for <i>Treponema paraluisuniculi</i>
Penicillin Procaine + benzathine Penicillin	20 mg/kg PP +15 mg BP/kg	SC	wkly	Antibiotic	Treatment of choice for <i>Treponema paraluisuniculi</i> Give 3 weekly injections (discontinued in UK)
Penicillamine	30 mg/kg	PO	bid	Chelating agent	Copper and lead toxicity
Pentoxifylline	15–30 mg/kg	PO	bid		Doses reported from experimental data in literature
Phenylpropanolamine	5–10 mg/rabbit	PO	bid	Increases urethral outflow resistance	For use in urinary incontinence
Pimobendan	0.25–0.3 mg/kg	PO	bid	Positive inotrope and vasodilator	Drug doses anecdotal
Praziquantel	6 mg/kg	SC		For treatment of cestodes	Repeat after 10 days
Prednisolone	0.5–2 mg/kg	PO, IM, SC		Anti-inflammatory	Use with caution and only with direct indication
Prochlorperazine	0.2–0.5 mg/kg	PO	tid	Torticollis	Doses as high as 30 mg/kg tid are used to treat labyrinthine disorders in humans

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**Table 3.1** Formulary—cont'd

Preparation	Dosage	Route	Frequency	Type of drug or indication	Comments
Ranitidine	2 mg/kg 2–5 mg/kg	IV PO	sid bid	Gastric ulceration	Gastric ulcers often occur in inappetent rabbits
Selamectin	6–18 mg/kg	Topical	Once only	Mites	Single application appears to be effective
Sodium calcium edetate	27.5 mg/kg or 13 mg/kg	SC SC, IV	qid qid for 5 days then every 2–3 days if necessary	Lead poisoning	Based on successful treatment of two cases General dose rate for cattle, dogs and cats Preparation should be diluted 1:4 in 5% glucose or 0.9% saline prior to use
Sulphadimidine	100–233 mg/L	DW		Coccidiosis	
Theophylline	10–20 mg/kg	PO	bid–tid	Bronchodilator	Doses extrapolated from rodents <b>NB:</b> theophylline has dose-dependent effects on the rabbit gastrointestinal tract
Trimethoprim/sulphadiazine	30 mg/kg 48 mg/kg	PO SC	bid	Antibiotic	
Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole	40 mg/kg	PO	bid	Antibiotic Coccidiosis	'Co-trimoxazole' human formulation available as paediatric syrup Continue for 7 days
Toltrazuril	25 ppm	DW		Coccidiosis	Can be used for treatment of rabbit colonies
Tylosin	10 mg/kg	SC, IM	bid	Antibiotic	
Verapamil	200 µg/kg	SC	tid x 9 doses	To prevent post-surgical adhesions	Start immediately post-op then eight hourly for nine doses Not used routinely

Rabbits drink approximately 10% of their bodyweight daily and eat approximately 5%.

Abbreviations: sid, once daily; bid, twice daily; tid, three times daily; eod, every other day; wkly, once weekly; IV, intravenous injection; SC, subcutaneous injection; IM, intramuscular injection; PO, by mouth; DW, in drinking water; CHF, congestive heart failure; CRF, chronic renal failure.

\*Products used during anaesthesia are listed separately in Table 4.1.

*multocida* and *Staphylococcus* spp. are frequently isolated from infected sites. *In vitro* rabbit isolates of *P. multocida* are generally sensitive to penicillin, chloramphenicol, tetracycline, erythromycin, novobiocin and nitrofurans with varying susceptibility

to streptomycin, kanamycin, neomycin and sulphoamides. They are usually resistant to clindamycin and lincomycin (Manning *et al.*, 1989).

It is important to give therapeutic dosages for an antibiotic to be effective. Medicating the drinking