

... TO YOUR PATIENTS

Key pearls to put into practice:

- 1** All rabbits should be carefully assessed for cardiopulmonary disease prior to any immobilization procedure. If signs of cardiopulmonary disease are identified, appropriate treatments must be administered until clinical resolution, after which the immobilization procedure can be reconsidered.
- 2** Care should be used with overconditioned rabbits presented for routine procedures, as drug dosages can be miscalculated when based on total body weight rather than desired lean body weight.
- 3** If possible, use of medetomidine and ketamine combinations should be avoided.
- 4** All rabbits should be closely monitored for signs of pain, dysphagia, and reduced fecal output in the first 72 hours postanesthesia. Preemptive treatments (eg, analgesia, assisted feeding) should be applied in all cases.
- 5** Clinicians must be aware of the increased odds for less-favorable outcomes in rabbit patients, which should be discussed with all owners prior to initiation of any sedation or anesthetic procedures.

Suggested Reading

- Broadbelt DC, Blissitt KJ, Hammond RA, et al. The risk of death: the confidential enquiry into perioperative small animal fatalities. *Vet Anaesth Analg*. 2008;35(5):365-373.
- Grint NJ, Murison PJ. A comparison of ketamine-midazolam and ketamine-medetomidine combinations for induction of anaesthesia in rabbits. *Vet Anaesth Analg*. 2008;35(2):113-121.
- Leach MC, Allweiler S, Richardson C, Roughan JV, Narbe L, Flecknell PA. Behavioural effects of ovariohysterectomy and oral administration of meloxicam in laboratory housed rabbits. *Res Vet Sci*. 2009;87(2):336-347.
- Wenger S. Anesthesia and analgesia in rabbits and rodents. *J Exot Pet Med*. 2012;21(1):7-16.

Research Note: Hemostasis & *Ehrlichia canis* Infection

Ehrlichia canis infection causes thrombocytopenia and clinical bleeding in dogs, although some dogs with clinically relevant thrombocytopenia will not show signs of bleeding. In this study, hemostatic variables, platelet dynamics, and coagulation testing were evaluated before inoculation of dogs with blood infected with *E canis*, then at 1-week intervals, including after treatment with doxycycline between weeks 3 and 4. Infected dogs were found to have significantly lower platelet counts, evidence of activated platelets, and antiplatelet antibodies. Based on thromboelastographic measurements, dogs were also more hypercoagulable and hypofibrinolytic as compared with baseline. Although more studies are needed, results suggest that activated platelets and a hypercoagulable, hypofibrinolytic state may explain the lack of a bleeding phenotype in some thrombocytopenic dogs infected with *E canis*.

Source

Shropshire S, Olver C, Lappin M. Characteristics of hemostasis during experimental *Ehrlichia canis* infection. *J Vet Intern Med*. 2018;32(4):1334-1342.

Activated platelets and a hypercoagulable, hypofibrinolytic state may explain the lack of a bleeding phenotype in some thrombocytopenic dogs infected with *E canis*.