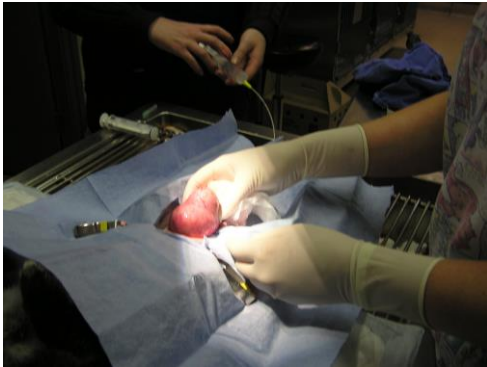


Chocolait the rabbit

Chocolait came in to the surgery to have a lump on his abdomen checked out because it was stopping him from eating his caecotrophs. These are the soft droppings that rabbits eat straight from their bottoms which give them lots of essential vitamins and nutrients, a little bit like cows chewing their cud. The lump was large and firm and it was decided that it would be best to remove it.



When Chocolait was being prepared for surgery, Vicki noticed that if the lump was pressed lightly, the depression filled with a more fluid substance beneath the surface. This was quite unusual for a growth or tumour.



Exploratory surgery showed that the lump was in fact part of Chocolait's bladder which had herniated through his body wall and become trapped. The reason it was so solid was because it was full of calcium crystals which form normally in rabbit urine but had become trapped in this little section of the bladder and were unable to be urinated out as normal.



Vicki had to open the bladder and remove all this material before replacing it back in to his abdomen. Once returned back in to its normal place, we had to wait and see if his bladder would work normally again.

Chocolait made a remarkably quick recovery and was back to his normal self within a week. Aren't rabbits amazing? I bet it would take one of us much longer to recover!