Rabbit Grooming 4

So I'm just going to go back here to the nail trimming and. Cover that again. This is just like you would do a cat. Ok, so your. You just the rabbit is in low position. See this nail here. Let me just back this up. Let me stop it right when we get to so you have the nail out. You're holding the foot with one hand, you're clipping it with the other hand, this nail you're going to see right here. This nail is broken. Now you will have a lot of rabbits that come in that have a nail that is broken.

And many times it's broken on a permanent basis, so they'll lose that nail all the way back to the nail bed. It happens, Bunny nails are very fragile and that nail bed is very fragile, so if there was damage when they were a kit, they may never have a nail that grows there. Bun has 1 foot that is missing a nail. It gets me every time. I am always searching for the fourth nail on that foot and it doesn't exist. Because when she was a kid it got caught and when they brought her home she just didn't have one so you just pull the fur back.

You can see the broken nail there. That nail may grow back. It might not, I don't know. And you just clip it just like you would a cat's nails and you watch for the quick. And they have front dewclaws, like almost always. And this little girl has a significant dulap as well. So you have to kind of. You know, tip your body around to see what you're doing. Get in there and get those nails trimmed up nice and you cut them back to the quick just like you would for a cat or a dog.

And then you hand file over, so we're going to go right back to the plucking. Ok. So you're holding the fur. And you're just pulling out. Don't over pluck if you over pluck you'll cause a bald spot, OK? You're gonna feel with your hand. And what is dense? You just take out all you're taking out is dead coats. You don't have to pull. You're literally just. Almost like milking it out OK, you're just lightly taking out the excess.

So here we have. This is Doctor Williams. Doctor Williams is a small animal veterinarian. And she will tell you all about her, her different qualifications in the interview, and she's fantastic. I really like her. She has unfortunately moved away and I wasn't able to contact her when I was writing my book, but we were discussing it even back when I took this interview here. I want to make sure you guys can hear it. So if in chat you can let me know. If you can, please hear if you can hear this, please tell me. Ok, so welcome every. Can you guys hear this? Yes, excellent one. Today I am interviewing Doctor Williams.

You please tell everyone all about your background. I'm doctor Jen Williams. I've been a veterinarian now for 13 years and I've worked it. As a technician, prior to that, small animal medicine and surgery, I've also owned rabbits for about 15 years. I've had rabbits. I don't have any right now, but I do have a lot of experience holding rabbits and also in treating rabbits in a small animal medicine.

So we have some questions for you today. Ok. I always advised rumors to work as a team for rabbit grooming so one can sue the rabbit as the other completes the routine procedure. Do you think this is helpful and should be a requirement for rabbit grooming? Or merely suggest? I think it would be great to your requirement having two people to hold the rabbit and ship room allows one person to really focus on the rabbit. Now rabbits are prey species. They're very scared under some circumstances and paying attention to their body language and to keep them safe I think is really important.

So having one person holding all the others focusing on the grooming procedure I think is a safe way for bunnies. They can be sometimes unpredictable. And want to jump on in being unpredictable and in some of their movement courses they can get injured pretty easily, much more so than a dog or cat. In your veterinary opinion, should rabbits be washed like a dog or a cat, as in a full back? So under most circumstances rabbits really don't need a full bath. They have a book that's much different from dogs and cats on, and being a pretty species they're very nervous as to why they're being immersed in water.

This is to be very scary and traumatizing and not to mention also, and they can become hypothermic very easily. Get very cold after bathing and lose a lot of heat in that skin. Surface area and their first is pretty wet. It's very thick, it's velvety, so it's a. Much different than cat and dog, and under most circumstances they really shouldn't have a whole bath. I think spot bathing is OK. Or if we have a medical issue that requires saving, as long as we're doing that properly and in veterinary supervision, yeah, that would.

That would be a great idea. Thank you. When a rabbit has an improper diet and ends up with pieces, that is very abnormal and it gets stuck to their rear end and must be washed off. Water temperature, should we use in order to best clean the area and that does happen sometimes for whatever reason we get some PC stuck to the back of the rabbit. Usually rabbits under normal circumstances should have very firm around hey looking people balls, but if they are sick for whatever reason, those species can accumulate and take on the backside and it's really important to get that off before they scald. On the skin of the rabbit, so using a warm water is probably the best.

I wouldn't recommend using cold water because again it's very prone to hypothermia and too hot is going to. That either so a good look warm to warm temperature like you're discussing. If it's comfortable to wash your hands and it's comfortable to put on the backside of the of the wedding and also just being very careful on the backside of the rabbits too, there are a lot of flaps and folds it sent plants back there pieces can get stuck, too many areas. Sometimes it's a lot of work to get that people material off on and take a little bit of time. So also thinking about the. I think that time that we're beginning to and that they are prone to hypothermia and just stress as well, always minding mindful of that excellent points.

Can you tell us what transitions and what issues may arise if a rabbit is trans? Yeah, so trade saying i have to say I do use trancing sometimes but it has to be used with the right rabbit who's used to going upside down. So if you put a rabbit upside down it is a precious that does feel like it is going to die and it will calm down. Usually sometimes I do use that to my advantage to. Examine around it. But if the rabbit is not comfortable going upside down and hasn't learned how to go upside down, it can be very stressful.

They can kick, and the more kicking, the more chances that they're going to hurt themselves. I think trancing in a grooming sense can be a very scary and. Tough place to be. I wouldn't recommend that. I like the two person method for holding a rabbit and doing grooming. That is much better. Way to handle rallies you know, under some circumstances some rabbits are OK to be tranced, but I wouldn't assume that every rabbit can go upside down. And two, in the grooming situation, if you transfer rabbit and something goes right, we can't bring them back, right? Yeah, you can't. We don't have that ability. Basically taking a rabbit and making it think it's going to die and not the terrible thing.

So we have to be mindful that they are a prey species and they were designed to. Fellow while upside down, but it can be scary yes. Actually, this is where bun can come on in. Why don't we? yes hey. So now we're actually going to talk about on one spine. As a. I've stated before earlier in the presentation, rabbit spines are exceptionally fragile yes why is that? Well, they have very powerful back legs and just the way the science is developed, if they forcefully check these powerful back legs, they can actually break their back and that is a very scary.

Thing to have happened and we don't want that to happen. They are. They are meant to be very agile, to go in and out of holes, to move around. But if we're being pinged somewhere we don't want to pin and they're trying to get away, just the act of really forcefully kicking back can actually break their spine. That's scary, that's scary. We don't want that to happen umm? What is the best way we can hold a rabbit to give them the support we need to give them in order to clip their nails or to shave out any matting that may have occurred on their underside? Yeah, so with rabbits making sure that we do support that backside and making sure they feel comfortable too, and I find too with rabbits that sometimes it's just kind of closing their eyes and just keeping hand over if they're really stressed can sometimes help them to calm down a little bit holding rabbits.

We want to make sure that we are really keeping them feeling secure, then they're less likely to want to jump, so with rabbits supporting the front, supporting the back so that we have a nice hold on them to be able to. And if you notice she did not with her by her armpits, yeah, you know, so yeah, she lived her as a unit. This is a unit 1 solid like a nice piece of wood. It all came up as one piece. Program itself by their arms. They will stress out and they will start to kick and they do not like that. Yeah, yes, yes, you could tell she was crying she.

Yeah yeah, you just have to go nice and slow and exactly lifting up as a unit. I think it's really important. And you'll notice that bun is in low position, yes. ok so. Tell me about rabbits back feet and how do they differ from a dogs or cats back? Yeah, so the rabbit spends most of its time as it's standing. It's standing on its whole foot pad, whereas a dog would be up off of the foot and I can show you is this.

What our foot pad looks like, so this is heel and toes here, whereas a dog would be upstanding just on those toes so that whole length of that foot is covered by very dense hair. That foot pad is very important in the health of rabbit beat. It should not be shortened down. It should definitely be observed and monitored, and you can sometimes tell. Proper housing conditions based on the health of that firm pad. That means that there needs to stay as a. Second barrier. Thank you when grooming a cat or dog.

Rumors you just answered that. Jade off their feet so the pads are explosive, better traction and as you said, that should not ever. Those are their shoes. That's very important that they have that information, OK? And what do you feel would be the best procedure for cleaning rabbit ears? Years that's a tough one. I know everyone wants to look in there and get something out of an ear, but a rabbit ear goes down and there are a lot of important things down there is an ear canal.

There's also a false ear canal in there. If we do see any debris in the ears, it's best to just take a sample of that degree and let the owners know that they should see a veterinarian. Rabbits do a great job at cleaning their own ears. Most of the time the ears. Could be. Normal looking without any flaking or discharge, and if you see discharge it probably means that there's something going on that should be addressed by a veterinarian. She's yours. Look fantastic. And I would not put any solutions cleaning agents, anything down into the ears of a rabbit unless directed by a veterinarian.

Real issues in there much different year structure. In my salon, if we do happen to find discharge on. Part of the year within the ear leather itself. What we do and if it seems that there's something there that would be abnormal, we'd bag up the cotton balls and zip lock bag and send them home with a vet referral card for diagnosis. Would this be a good practice for groomer? And so you know what was in there before we cleaned? That's fantastic.

I think that's a great way for a veterinarian to be able to see what's inside for the owners to see what's inside I. You know, having a veterinary referral part is. It is a great idea if there is some debris that is reachable that you do clean out. It's best to save that. So yeah, so I can see what could be going on inside the skiers. Rapid chief can grow very long if they're not on a proper diet. If they're overgrown, how do we stress to a client that this is something they need to see a vet for right away? And this is, by the way, something groomer should never handle any way, shape, or form.

This is a veterinary only issue. Yeah, teeth in rabbits are growing continuously. They need long stem fibers such as hey to wear those teeth down and that goes for the incisors in the front but also some molars in the back which are very hard to see anyway. And usually if there's a problem going on with their incisors that you can see, there's usually some more to it. There's something going on with their molars behind.

I can't stress enough how important hate is to rabbits. Diet it should be the number one diet of a rabbit is important for so many things. Teeth wear proper digestion, boredom, everything. Hey is the answer. Can't stress that enough and yes. I wouldn't advise you know rumors to be clipping teeth. Cleaning teeth going inside the mouth there. There's a lot involved in a continuously growing and elongating tooth that we could probably cause. But it is a great thing to show owners and the owners know that they should contact their veterinarian if we're having some dental issues in rabbits.

Hi, thank you. Should rabbits be considered an express room where they come in or worked on and immediately sent back home? The rabbits again are appraised species. They do get nervous under stress. I think the best thing is to if we do need to groom a rabbit is to get it in, groom it under the least stress possible and get it back to its natural environment as quickly as possible. So I think as expressed as we can think you know, rabbits house rabbits tend to get along with cats and dogs in their own environment, but dogs that don't understand rabbits. Being out of a booming facility where there are other dogs barking or other animals, that's a scary thing for a rabbit.

Of course. Thank you. Here's a very important one. What is stasis in a rabbit? Gi stasis so rabbits are herbivores and they need a lot of. Hasn't fibers and vegetation to complete their digestion and their guts are very sensitive and their stress organ is their gut. So when they get scared and think that they're running from for their wives, their God will stop. So GI Stasis is exactly that. It's the stopping of the gut which rabbits rely heavily on breaking down all this plant material that they've eaten by bacteria.

And bacteria that just sit there are going to produce more gas, so GI stasis pretty much they got stops the intestines and different parts of the rabbits digestion digestive tract will fill up with gas and you can very painful. So one of the first signs we notice with pain and rabbits is the inability to get comfortable. They may be grinding their teeth, they may be kicking their feet in pain on and sensitive. For being touched around their belly area, so GI Stasis is a real thing. It happens in a in a stressed rabbit. Either we can see that either in a rabbit coming into a grooming salon or after a grooming procedure that is stressful.

So something that owners really need to be aware of that the gut is so delicate and these guys. And what are some of the steps we should take to prevent this? Rabbits that we are carrying? Making sure that they always have access to food on coming with hay and snacks and things like that. Sometimes they may not always eat that here, but making sure we have that available. Keeping the stress level down, making sure we're not and we're going to calm quiet environment and doing what we need to do is.

As quickly as possible so that they can get back into their normal habitat. Are there any other things you feel that? Ill groomers that are caring for rabbits should milk. Well, I was just in thinking about feces and I was starting to talk about on dry feces versus the diarrhea, but one of. Things that we might notice is a small fecal pellet too, so that could be indication that we have some nutritional changes to. We may see that here that might be something to just let owners know that they might want to contact a veterinarian. That still doesn't seem normal. You know, just I think the big things with rabbits are. Keeping their stress level down as much as possible, you know i'm constantly petting this rabbit and making sure that we're comfortable.

I feel like that is. The big stuff. Ok, that's what's important. Fun man. Alright, well I thank you very much for coming today and I really appreciate your time. And London is a big fan of the pets someone? ok so. That was Doctor Williams and. How are we on time? You have a. Half hour OK, excellent. Then let's proceed. Counting problems and grooming solutions for rabbits. So long nails need trimming and filing to ensure that sharp nails don't scratch tender ears. Scabs in the ears are usually an indicator of mites, so.

When they come in, if that animal, if that rabbit has dark discharge in those ears. We don't groom it, we send it home and they go to the vet. Because that's not something we can handle. Rabbits can suffer from ear mites, fur mites and burrowing mites. So ear mites can be seen when scabs appear in the ear. Because it's mites are itchy, so they're going to be itching and they're going to be scratching, and they're going to be scabbing up that ear.

Termites are found the back of the neck, and they look like dust. And the area will appear irritated. You'll see scratches because they'll constantly be scratching. They will have loose fur there from scabbing and scratching, and they almost always have a bald spot. So what you wanna do is you wanna take a dark colored piece of paper. And you want to scrape some of them off to see, because it might be dander. The easiest way to tell is you scrape them off onto a dark piece of paper and you see if they start moving.

If they're moving it's mites groom over you, go to a vet. That's not something we do. It's not something we handle. Burrowing mites are much less common in the US. This is much more common in European countries. You will see them perhaps if you have a rabbit that has come from overseas. I have never seen burrowing mites in my career. But these will also appear as white dust and. You anytime you see mites of any sort, grab your Chlorhexidine without citric acid. There are two types you can find on Amazon. And one has citric acid 1 does not look for the ingredients we in any areas where my rabbit room is also my cat room.

I do not use any product with citric acid in that room because I also groom cats there as well. So be mindful of what you are purchasing and what you are putting on the materials that you're using for rabbits and also for cats of course. Poopy butt is something we've discussed and. You'll see the rabbits when they come in with us. You'll probably see them back within a month with the same issue. It is so important to impress to rabbit owners that 80 to 90 % Timothy hay. Is what they need to be consuming, not vegetables, not carrots, not anything Timothy hay. For the young rabbits, the kits they need alfalfa.

For rabbits that are breeding they will need alfalfa as well. You will generally not see these in a salon. I have one rabbit that is a breeding rabbit that comes to me for grooming. She is constantly on alfalfa because she needs that extra boost because she is a breeding rabbit. So educate the owners. It's so important hairballs? Hairballs are also called trickle trickle bazars. Rabbits can't vomit. They can't hack up a hairball like a cat does. So because of that, if they are not routinely groomed they can get what's called wool block. Wool block is exactly what it sounds like. It is a chunk of fur that sits in there intestine and it causes a blockage so the food cannot be processed.

It can't, nutrients can't be absorbed, it can't get through because there's a blockage there. They will need surgery for this. That's why we as groomers when we are brushing out a rabbit. We have to be very careful about where that excess fur is in relation to their mouth because they will pick it up and they will consume it. This is a huge thing when you're talking to rabbit owners about why their rabbits need to be groomed on a regular basis. When they do it themselves, they bring them to you. It needs to be done. How it gets done when it gets done, that's up to them.

Most of them cannot do this at home, so you'll want to immediately ask them when the groom is finished. Would you like to rebook for your next appointment? Most of my rabbit people will book for the year. And they book right after the solstices and equinoxes, because that's when the sheds occur. So that's a huge thing for creating routine clients. The long haired rabbits they come in about every 6 to 8 weeks or so for haircuts. And they will also get hairballs. It's not just the short coated ones that get the hairballs hiccups, they're just little spasms. It's very normal, very natural for them to have hiccups because they can't burp and they cannot vomit.

So I didn't need to do sue them and their diaphragm were relaxed and then they'll stop hiccuping. Temperature is a huge thing when it comes to rabbits. 6870 is your target zone. If your salon is ever, I wouldn't personally go past 75 But 78 should be the cutoff for any pet that you're grooming. If your salon is hotter than 78 degrees, call it a day. 45 to 50 % humidity is good for a rabbit and your bracky pets, rabbits are more humidity tolerant than say dogs or cats are because they Burrow. And of course, in the ground you have almost 100 % humidity, so they're more humidity tolerant.

They are not temperature tolerant at all. So they can very easily overheat. Balding, dulap. So we saw on bun she has that massive fluff of fat that sits right under her chin that's on the females. That's a dual up. You might see it. Occasionally on males when they're. Chubby or more than chubby? But some breeds don't even have a dulap, so it's really breed dependent, but when they're have a balding do lap. It could be a couple things. It could be if they are not an intact female.

It may be a false pregnancy. Bun is not spayed, so about every couple years she will have a false pregnancy. Notify the owner of this. It could also be mites, but bun doesn't have mites and there are no signs of mites, so if you notice that they have a balding dewlap, let that owner know that the dewlap is balding, so that they can look for the. Object, whatever it is that this rabbit has taken in as their false kit. So that way that kit is not removed from their crate, it will cause the rabbit a great deal of stress as they look for their.

Offspring that may be a toy that they picked up, or a small pillow or something like this and they'll find it. And they'll know that the rabbit is freaking out because they picked it up. Odor, so odor and rabbits is often caused by dirty scent glands. If they haven't been clean, they form the hard packed nodule and. It can clog the gland and they get really stinky so it just needs to be cleaned. It's a really quick easy solution. Urine stained feet as we see here. Cornstarch, like I showed you guys before you place the cornstarch on the foot and you just come through it.

You'll come through with your course comb you'll come through with your fine comb and then you're very tooth comb. So that way you get all of that. You're in standing out because that urine is going to cause pododermatitis or sore hawk because it's going to scold the foot. Bent, overgrown, broken nails. This is a rabbit that came in and the nails are so long. And unlike dog nails and sometimes cat nails, they grow back into the pad rabbit nails grow out and they can bend and they can twist and they can become broken. This can actually break off at the root and the rabbit can lose that toenail.

From then on. So when you first start your rabbit services, you're going to see a lot of rabbits coming and looking with nails like this because there isn't anyone else to provide this service. A lot of vets aren't doing nail trims. A lot of vets aren't providing nail trim services for rabbits, so the House Rabbit society does have nail trim days, but there's usually like one spot in an entire state. And where they'll have to drive 3, possibly 4 hours, to get a nail trimmed down on a rabbit. The services don't exist. That's why this class exists, because we need so many more rabbit groomers out there to do to help to do this.

Once you become established, you will almost never see these. I haven't seen a rabbit like this in two years because all my rabbits are regulars now sometimes they need a vet. This is the vet referral card we use. It is from Barkley. If you just go to barclaystore.com You can order them and I think they're packs of 100 And. If they have any gunk we take a swipe of that gunk like I discussed Doctor Williams, we put that in a baggie now that they can cannot culture that past five to six hours. So you're just going to take that one swipe and stick that in the bag and seal it up so that way the owner goes.

That's not supposed to be in their ear. That's really gross. They can take that and the vet referral card, and even though it's a dog on the card, that's fine. They have generally the same basic body parts. And you can just write up and remember we don't make a diagnosis, we just say there was discharge in the ear and or there were. Possibly some sort of parasite. We know it's mice, but that's for the vet to deal with.

And as you write these up, the vet will say, oh, I didn't know they were doing rabbit grooming there. That's great. That's just how you start to build your router clientele, because the vets will tell them. Oh, go see Angie, she deals with all that. I have vets as far away from Maine that recommend me and they send me everything, every animal day, every rabbit that they've got comes to my facility.

Maine, New Hampshire Vermont Rhode Island Connecticut. They'll drive from all over so even though you may not have rabbits in your immediate area. They'll drive 3 hours 4 hours for these services. So here we have Bolding on the ears and on the head. This is not a false pregnancy system symptom. This is on the ears. Something is wrong with this rabbit like? Really wrong, and it's systemic. This is something going on inside their body. This is not us. This is a vet. Of that needs to deal with us.

It is safe to groom this. But we still write up a vet referral card because we've checked for mites. This is not a MIC issue. So you make note of it, write up a vet referral, hand that to the owner, something's going on with your Bunny. I don't know what it is. I'm not a vet. Have a vet check them out. Here's the vet referral card. Please have the vet call me if they have any questions. This is the abraded skin and holes in the surface of the skin and you can see here on the right hand side. Just, aside the anus. That the skin is. It's got whole actual holes and this is from urine skull and fecal skulls.

This is the rabbit that came in all the time with poopy butt every month. Take pictures of all of this. Take video, document every single thing that you see that is going on with this. So that the owner can't come back and say that you created this issue. No, this issue existed underneath the filth that you allowed your rabbit to live in. This is not on me. I'm not paying this. Make sure you use your intake form and so that's covered and give them a copy. I always give the owners a copy. Because it's a contract. I'm not paying the bills for this is on you. So this is post drainage from a nipple on a rabbit.

This is the same one that had the poopy butt. Because she lived in those conditions, she had an infection that ran through her entire body and. It needed a vet. And eventually after I think it was the second month. Where she had not yet gone to the vet, I told her I refused to go in the rabbit until she did. And I wouldn't go until I had a note from the vet saying that she had gone to the vet. So cleaning up after a rabbit. Cleaning up after Rabbit comes with a purpose, much like dogs and cats.

There's the spread of zoonosis diseases that they can spread from one to another, and rabbits are not exempt from that. So there's. Diseases they can spread to us and diseases they can spread to each other. Pasteurella or Sniffles is a common respiratory disease and it's spread by contact or inhalation. And certainly considered that all rabbits are exposed to it in their lifetimes. They may or may not develop illness from it, and but stress can trigger the illness.

Signs of snuffles include sneezing, congestion, pink eye tearing in the eye, discharge from the nose that rabbit might wipe on his paws, causing matted fur on his front legs, on the insides of the front legs because they'll self groom. And they need antibiotics for this. Even though the condition can become chronic, abscesses usually require. Surgical removal. So there's mites, ear mites, burrowing mites. They can be transmitted to other rabbits. Fleas and ticks are another issues you guys already know all about that I'm not going to go into fleas and ticks. Termites can be transmitted to humans and can cause a rash.

So once again, if you see termites get that rabbit out of your salon. Think of it like taking in a dog with a ringworm. Rabbits can also get ringworm. I don't want an animal with ringworm in my salon, ever. So what you're going to do is, you're going to vacuum everything, spray everything down with Chlorhexidine bleach, and wash any rags that you had used for whatever reason. And with ringworm, it's not a worm. It's actually a fungus.

But it takes its name from the classic raised red circular lesion with a clearing center that can be a primary symptom that can transmit to humans. Ringworm is can run rampant and it can live for a very long time in your salon if you are not diligent about cleaning after an animal with ringworm comes in. Crusting scaling bald spots are very common. They're more common than the red ring of ringworm. And you'll see them on the head, ears and face lice. If you see lice, the groom ends so dumb, send it to a vet and there is a charge for having to clean up after these kinds of things.

This that time is not free. First of all, we're losing out of the money for the for the group and secondly, we're spending all that time, effort and product cleaning up after that room. Alright, so now we have our HVD. Or DVD, so that's rabbit hemorrhagic viral disease. The West Coast. If you are on the West Coast or any of these dark colored states. You need to seriously.

Have a protocol in place that requires the vaccine for RHDV. Because it's highly contagious and it is fatal, there is no cure. Rabbits are infected by oral or a respiratory or ocular eye. Exposure to the virus or by blood feeding insects. So ticks fleas lice. Always clean Chlorhexidine without citric acid it is. Generally sit skin safe. I mean, it's not something you want to place on a rabbit at anytime or any you don't want to put straight chlorex. On a Bunny, but it is fine for cleaning, just make sure it's been dried.

We wiped out every service the rabbit has touched after every single room all tools get Chlorhexidine Clipper blades get wiped down and clorex then they get oiled then they get put in the UV. The table has gone over with the UV one. Mites are small enough where you may not see them with the naked eye, but Clorex will kill them. And you can get it for like 20 bucks off Amazon.

I just get a case at a time, it's just easier. Some clean with vinegar. And vinegar is fine as a cleaner, but vinegar is not a. Not going to kill the viruses, we need it to kill. So it is good as a disinfectant for a lot of human viruses. But it is not a good disinfectant for our purposes where chlorex. Hits all the all the notes on that.

So this is a better view of the states that have RHDV. The dark colored states are domestic and wild cases. The yellowish beige are domestic cases umm? So you can see here that there have been domestic cases from rescue rabbits that have been brought into the New York region. So the vets here in Massachusetts as we're the next state over, they're watching very closely. There is a vaccine for this. However, if your state is not one of the states that is. Already in the affected area, the vets aren't even being given the option of having that vaccine. They can't get it. There isn't enough of it, and they're not giving it to them. So once your state has been exposed, talk to your local vets and see if they are given that option and the second they are given that option for the vaccine, you need to say all rabbits are required to have, because if they have that vaccine, that means exposure is at a level where.

They're vulnerable. And there is no cure. It is fatal. They die within three days, and it is a horrible, horrible death. And that is not something I want in my salon or spreading through my salon. Ok so marketing and approaching current clients. The market is there are 7 to 9000000 pet rabbits out there. The owners know they have the need they need you. They know they do, but they don't know where to go. So you need to make sure that you hit as many markers as you can to let them know that you exist. Go to local vets, leave them a flyer explaining that you are versed in rabbit grooming.

You're looking for rabbit clients. Get a website. Your two pelted rabbits will pay for it if you're not ready to do pelted rabbits because your Clipper skills are not exceptional. That's fine, it'll take 4 short coated rabbits. That'll pay for your website for the year. If you if you don't have a website because if you don't have a website, you're losing out on a huge market share. They're simple to make and they will bring in more money than you will spend post pictures of your work post shoot pics, fun pictures.

And now social media. Take pictures of every single rabbit that comes into your salon. Every single one, not before you groom them. Those who keep we don't want to shame and blame and that kind of stuff on social media ever we want to pose the after see so pretty so cute. You don't wanna post the pictures of the rabbit poopy butt. You don't want to post the pictures of the urine skull and the fecal skulls. No, we're not. That's never go negative. If I don't care if a rabbit peed on you don't post it on social media. So you just say, oh, fluffy came in for grooming today, aren't they cute? And even though you smell like pee, just leave the odor out of it.

Hang signs in your in your salon offering rabbit grooming. You probably have rabbit owners you don't even know you have because your existing cat or dog clients they like they have a rabbit at home so that's another way that you can. Do that and all the small animal vets, even the vets that don't do small animals. Let them know that you are offering the service.

Do you have a separate room like? I have a separate room in my salon specifically for rabbits. And cats, I have pictures of it on my social media. I want everybody to know that they will be in here. You can stay. I invite the owners to stay because I want them to see what I actually do. I want them to see and understand the service that I'm providing and once they do they realize one. It's more than they can handle themselves and two that it's worth the value for what they're paying so. Have a cat and Bunny day and post that on your Facebook oh cat Bunny Day is coming up or just Bunny Day.

If you don't do cats. Whatever however you want to do it, so you're not grooming a rabbit in the same room with a dog on the table. So if you want to just do cats and rabbits and get them in, get them done, get them out. Do that. Have like us. I know a lot of salons do. Saturday, is there cat rabbit day? No dogs are groomed on that day.

The cats come in, they get groomed, they go home, the Bunny comes in, it gets groomed and goes home. So it's all express grooming pricing. Nail trims 20 bucks. That's what dog nail trims cat nail trims are my salon 20$ for rabbit nail trim and even though it takes me way less time than dog does because the filing is hand filing and Rob is. Quite frankly, you're just generally quicker. They're smaller, they're easier. And they're good about it. So 20 bucks for 5 minutes, I'll take it.

Sometimes on Bunny days I'll do an entire hour of just back-to-back rabbit trims and I'll fit 6 rabbits in on the hour, so that way it gives me 5 minutes to clean up in between and so that's 120$ for. Half hour work. Thank you. But trim up singling cleaning and nails 40 to 50$ for a butt trim scent gland clean and nail trim. Total groom time 15 minutes. So, and it depends on the condition of the rabbit. So it the scent glands are really noxious, and I had to do, you know, some significant cleaning on the butt. 50 bucks if it's basically clean and easy, 40$ Poopy butt.

Hard number 50$ There is no way you're going to pay less. Ever in my salon. Poopy Butt is a 50$ 00 fee. Additional 20 minutes. So I charge on average 100$ an hour for rabbits. I charge 65 an hour for dogs and. 80 to 85 for cats. So a rabbits are a niche market. I can charge more because there's no one else. Who are they going to go to? No one. This isn't an expertise thing. I have an expertise that no one else has, and because I have this expertise, I can charge more.

Brush out saint, Glens and nail trim is 55 to 75$ So if you have a molting rabbit. That's going to take more time, so springtime. Around the spring equinox you're going to want to look at those short coated brush outs and you're going to want to book an hour. Normally they take 30 minutes or less. During that time, because of the heavy shed, because the winter coat is so much denser, there's a lot more to brush out, so you're going to book an hour groom for what usually would take you 30 minutes.

But for a 30 minute groom time. 75$ And that's just plucking and brushing out a short coated rabbit. Shaved down is ninety two hundred dollars with a nail trim and send glance. Estimated room time is 45 minutes also. I have been drumming for 34 years so. I can groom a Shih Tzu in an hour and 15 minutes. So I can groom a rabbit faster than I can groom a Shih Tzu. Like half an hour less because I not bathing a rabbit. All I'm doing is shaving it down and doing nails and singles and this kind of thing.

So that's going to take time off. Of you know your typical dog or cat from. Pelted rabbits start at 200$ for the first time room. First time you come in and that rabbit is pelted 200 bucks. I actually charged one person 250 because there was 6 inches of mat. So and it's 150$ an hour for every time after. So if it's two hours, then if it's take Me 2 hours 300 bucks. groom time is estimated to be 2 hours for pelting, for me to shave down a pelted rabbit and.

Their cycle for grooming for the. Rollback and fly back coded. Those are the short coded rabbits. Is every three months so? Spring equinox summer solstice fall equinox winter solstice. I get them in right after. Because that's when they have the big sheds. Rabbit grooming is specialty grooming. It comes with a specialized set of knowledge and skills and that knowledge is quite simply worth more money. Estimate for everything above nail trims. Two times your average cost per minute. So twice what you're making on a dog umm? So I can groom a lab start to finish in an hour.

I charge 65 bucks rabbit. I usually make 120 to 150 for most rabbits umm? And for the regular shave downs, they get a bit of a discount. I generally charge them 100 bucks an hour. Because they're in, like, every month for the long haired shaved house. And they get down like a four or five, but the rabbits are good. So mites of any kind, please, as we said, 25 bucks and that triggers the second. They walk in the door.

If they're. People have asked me in the past about aggression handling fees. I I've actually never had a rabbit. That was aggressive really. I haven't had that issue, so it's I suppose I would charge more for an aggressive rabbit just like I would an aggressive dog or cat. But honestly, I've never been able to had an issue where I haven't been able to soothe them to call so, and I've never been bitten by a rabbit.

Hard enough to cause any type of injury. I have been bitten by a rabbit where they say hey you know it's just a pinch. Ooh, that hurts when I'm shaving the pelting off because it pulls and it does hurt and then I just. I'm sorry i soothe. And they calm down, and they're fine. But I've never had a rabbit break skin or. Box or kick or be nasty ever because I'm so focused on keeping them happy with soothing, it's just not an issue.

So the forms. These are the forms. They can all be found on the handout page and so I always ask for customer information. I want the rabbit owner's name, address. And the reason I asked for that is because when they have an appointment and they call me. And rabbits have some short life spans, but I keep this information for all of my pets. If they call me to tell me that the rabbit has passed away, I send a sympathy card and I do take pictures. As you've seen, the pictures throughout the program. I take pictures and they get the next copy at their next grooming. But if they.

Rabbit is past than the sympathy card. The picture goes in the sympathy card umm? Alright, so we don't have much more to go. It's just a few more forms and then we're done. So I want the rabbit's name, the breed I want to know if it's male or female. And I always ask if they are intact. I want to know what vet clinic they are going to because I want to know what vet is recommending me when I was having my book reviewed I was looking for a vet to review it and I went into my software to look for the vets that were common in out of my customers and I found Scarborough Animal Hospital had were more than half of my clients.

So I knew something was going on there because they're in Maine. But there's one vet had seen one of their rabbits that we had that I had just done. That was a long haired angora and it was an English angora. Excuse me and he was. He loved the group so he started recommending me and the owner had stayed for the whole room so she has seen the process. She told him that she was pleased with the whole process and he's the one of the veterinarians that reviewed my book. So you want to know. Can you take pictures you want them to sign off on that? I've never had any rabbit owner say no. They love having pictures of their rabbits taken.

Do they have any issues? Do they hate their nails done? Do they have stiff joints? Have they had teeth issues? Whatever it is I want to know. Has your pet ever bitten? Almost all rabbit owners will say yes because they don't handle the rabbits well. They don't have the knowledge on how to properly lift or handle or hold them. So they do things they don't like. They do nail trims and they don't know what they're doing, so almost always that will say yes.

Every time so and then there is the. If you no call no show on me then before I'll make you another appointment you have to prepay that appointment and it is non refundable sign here so. This is the intake checklist that we were discussing, excessive matting growing, matting, urine, stained feet, excessive feces on the body. Ear issues. Limping on the front, back, right, left paw and. That I'm not liable for any of those issues because these are pre-existing. I'm not paying for this. Rabbit demounting form if they need dematting. And you can just brush it out then this is the dematting and it's there.

This is the shave down form. Excuse me so they get shaved and it goes over that they may get nicked and it is a thing so they will get shaved with a 10. If they're mad, they get shot with the time you don't want to ever use a blade lower than 10. First of all, you don't need to. Second of all, you never go against the grain.

And you never use a 15 to 30 or 40. There is no reason you will ever need those blades. You can use a 10, you just may not have the proper blade. It may be you're using a metal and this rabbit requires a ceramic rock the blade and you'll get under it. You do not want to go lower than that for any reason on rabbit skin. Because you will Clipper blade them to high heaven. This is the senior Robert Medical release.

When Rabbit gets old as we know, strass causes issues. If the rabbit is old the more likely it is for them to be caught, become stressed and for that to be an issue. Owners need to know that questions. Alright, so if someone is watching this later, Angie, how do they ask you questions? All right so you will want to go. And you can text me. Or you can. Send me a Facebook message.

And however you want to do that, don't call me because I won't answer the phone, especially if I'm working on a pet. So Facebook message me text me and I will get back to you if you are going to text me, please tell me who you are umm? Because I will not necessarily know. This is my contact information. That is my phone number. You can Facebook me. Either one works for me. Ok, so I'm going to stop the recording.