

Recording Sheet

How to use the Bristol Rabbit Pain Scale (BRPS)

- 1) Observe the rabbit for 3 minutes
- 2) Then quietly approach the cage before scoring the behaviours described in each category
- 3) Score each category on a 0-3 scale based on the behaviours that the rabbit exhibits for most of the observation
- 4) Calculate the total score from 0-18

Day:

Pet Name:

Problem:

| Categories | Pain Score | | | | Recorded Score |
|--|--|--|--|--|----------------|
| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| Demeanour | The rabbit is looking around, is alert and responsive to the surrounding environment OR the rabbit is asleep | The rabbit is awake but shows little interest in the surrounding environment | The rabbit is dull and is not responsive to the observer OR surrounding environment | The rabbit is unresponsive to the observer OR surrounding environment even if approached | |
| Locomotion | The rabbit is active and hopping around the area OR is relaxed OR asleep | The rabbit appears hesitant to move and shows little activity | The rabbit is inactive and does not move during the observation period, except when approached | The rabbit is inactive and does not move at all, even when approached | |
| Posture | The rabbit is resting in a relaxed and comfortable posture e.g. lying on a flank or on its front with its hind legs to the side, OR is moving freely | The rabbit is sitting OR lying on its front with visible fore-legs | The rabbit is sitting OR lying on its front with its legs under its body and appears hunched | The rabbit is sitting OR lying on its front with its legs under its body, and the body looks tense, stiff and hunched OR the rabbit is pressing its abdomen against the ground | |
| Ears* *Take in consideration that lop eared rabbits may show less pronounced changes | The rabbit moves its ears freely and turns them towards sounds | The rabbit moves and slightly turns its ears towards sounds | The rabbit does not obviously move its ears, but reacts slightly to sounds (e.g. with a head turn) | The rabbit does not move its ears at all and does not react to sounds OR the ears are flattened against its back | |
| Eyes | The rabbit has its eyes open | The rabbit keeps its eyes semi-closed | The rabbit keeps its eyes closed | The rabbit keeps its eyes closed and tightened | |
| Grooming | The rabbit is meticulously grooming his/herself | The rabbit is grooming but gets distracted easily | The rabbit is attempting grooming, but with little energy | The rabbit is not grooming at all | |
| | | | | | Total |