The guide to achieving the best outcome for your patient and your team when using Alfaxan® Multidose for the induction of anaesthesia in the pet rabbit.

**Premedication**
- Dependent on the case ensure suitable premedicant drugs have been administered and an appropriate length of time has elapsed to allow the premedication to achieve peak effect.
- Alpha-2 agonists can reduce the dose of Alfaxan® Multidose and maintenance agents required by up to an average of 70%. Acepromazine can reduce dose requirements by up to 30%.
- Alpha-2 agonists may increase circulation time. Administer Alfaxan® Multidose more slowly than described below if these drugs have been used.

**Recommended dose**
2mg/kg*
* This is lower than the labelled (SPC) premedicated dose for Alfaxan® Multidose and the dose may be further reduced if alpha-2 agonists or acepromazine have been administered.1,9

Preoxygenation is essential prior to induction of anaesthesia with Alfaxan® Multidose in pet rabbits.10
Ideally oxygenate for 4-5 minutes via tight fitting facemask although “flow by” may be useful in nervous patients.
An intravenous cannula is preferred for the administration of the product.

**Induction**
1. Calculate and prepare 2mg/kg Alfaxan® Multidose.
2. Within the syringe divide the dose into 4 equal parts.
3. Administer the first ¼ dose slowly.
4. Ensure the dose is flushed through with sterile saline (the cannula and bung can hold approx. 0.1-0.15ml of fluid).
5. Wait 20-25 seconds. The patient will relax into a sedated state and be under control.
6. Assess depth of anaesthesia.
7. If not at stage III anaesthesia repeat step 3, flush, and wait 20-25 seconds.
8. Assess depth of anaesthesia.
9. If not at stage III anaesthesia repeat steps 7 & 8 until stage III anaesthesia has been achieved, or the full dose administered.
10. It is unusual for intravenously administered Alfaxan® Multidose to have no immediate effect on the patient. If the animal is not demonstrating any degree of sedation following the full calculated dose of Alfaxan® Multidose the position & patency of the IV access should be assessed.
11. If stage III anaesthesia has not been achieved following the 2mg/kg dose, a further similar dose may be administered to effect.
   - Aim to administer Alfaxan® Multidose slowly and to effect. Rapid administration may result in transient apnoea.
   - A compensatory increase in heart rate may be seen following Alfaxan® Multidose administration. This is a normal physiological response due to a maintained baroreceptor reflex and persists for 10-15 minutes in most patients.
Airway management & transition

Alfaxan® Multidose provides sufficient duration of action to allow smooth, unrushed, transition to volatile maintenance: up to an average of 10 minutes in the pet rabbit.

- Ensure the patient is genuinely at stage III anaesthesia before attempting to intubate/control the airway.
- Ensure the oropharynx is clear of food material or other debris prior to intubation or placement of a supraglottic airway device.
- Apply local anaesthetic to the larynx and allow sufficient time for this to take effect before using airway management techniques.
- A rabbit that is not sufficiently anaesthetised may “breath hold” following airway management or attempts at airway management.
- Capnography is the gold standard for assessing the success, and maintenance, of airway management techniques.
- Capnography is advisable if supraglottic airway devices are used.

Recovery

- Return of jaw tone & tongue movements may be useful indicators of when to extubate/remove the supraglottic airway device.
- Maintain the rabbit in sternal recumbency, and on 100% oxygen for as long as tolerated, until return to normal.
- Ensure regular monitoring during recovery.
- Minimise stimulation (manipulation, sound, light) to assist smooth recovery.
- Adequate levels of analgesia and a degree of sedation will help smooth recovery.

References