



RABBITS & RHDV2

- WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW -

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD) is a highly contagious and deadly disease caused by a calicivirus that affects both wild and domestic rabbits. It's not contagious to people or other animals. Rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus 2 (RHDV2) causes deaths in wild rabbits and hares native to North America and has spread throughout the United States, Mexico, and parts of Canada.

The virus is shed in urine, feces, and secretions from eyes, nose, and mouth, and remains present in fur and internal organs and tissues. The virus infects rabbits through the mucous membranes of their eyes, noses, and mouths. Sick rabbits and insects typically transmit the virus. While RHD only affects rabbits, the disease can be transmitted by people or animals through contact with contaminated objects, animals, insects, or feces. **Even if your rabbit is kept inside, they are still at risk of becoming infected with RHD.**

The virus causes death within 3-5 days of exposure, often with no symptoms. A sudden rabbit death is suspicious and should be reported to your veterinarian as a possible RHD case. Report sightings of sick and/or dead wild rabbits to your state wildlife officials; **do not touch them.**

PROTECTING YOUR RABBIT FROM RHD

- ▶ Keep your rabbit indoors with no outdoor playtime and no playtime with other rabbits from outside your home.
- ▶ Wash your hands thoroughly before and after handling rabbits.
- ▶ After contact with other rabbits, change your clothes and wash them.
- ▶ Leave shoes outside your home.
- ▶ Disinfect objects that may be contaminated. Visit rabbit.org/rhdv for a list of disinfectants that effectively kill the virus that causes RHD.
- ▶ Keep mosquitos and flies out of your home with window and door screens.
- ▶ Know your sources of hay, feed, and greens, and avoid if located in areas where RHD is spreading among wild rabbits who may be carrying the virus.
- ▶ Quarantine any new rabbit for at least 14 days.
- ▶ Multi-pet households should take additional precautions to protect their rabbit, as the virus can be spread to a healthy, indoor-only rabbit by cats and dogs who go outside. **(see reverse)**
- ▶ Learn how to trim your rabbit's nails and groom them at home, not taking them to higher-risk locations like a rescue or vet's office.
- ▶ Use a monthly flea treatment for rabbits, cats, and dogs. Advantage II and Revolution are safe to use on rabbits. Never use Frontline. Visit rabbit.org/faq-grooming to learn more.

**Ask your
vet about
the RHDV2
vaccine!**

