

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus 2

Known as RHDV2

RHDV2 is a highly contagious and deadly rabbit disease that infects wild and domestic rabbits, hares, and related species. It cannot be transmitted to people or other domestic animals. There is no treatment for RHDV2. We can, however, take steps to prevent its transmission.



The best way to protect your rabbits from RHDV2 is through a combination of vaccination, indoor housing, and biosecurity measures.

1. Vaccinate your rabbit every year. Contact your rabbit veterinarian for information on where to get your bunny vaccinated. If you adopted a rabbit from Los Angeles Animal Services, you'll need the date of first RHDV2 vaccination in order to schedule the annual booster.
2. Keep your rabbits indoors at all times to minimize contact with insects or dust particles that could carry the virus.
3. Take biosecurity measures:
 - Do not wear your outside shoes in the home.
 - Avoid contact with rabbits or hares outside the home.
 - Minimize the risk of spreading the virus on your clothing, shoes, and surfaces, using shoe covers and disinfecting with recommended products only in safe concentrations. Effective disinfectants include: bleach (1:10 dilution), potassium peroxymonosulfate (Virkon), accelerated hydrogen peroxide (Prevail, Accel, and Peroxigard).
Do not use these disinfectants on or around your rabbits.
 - Keep mosquitoes and flies out of the home with window and door screens.
 - Keep dogs and other pets that go outdoors separate from your rabbits. If your dog goes on hikes, wash paws with soapy water. Some dogs can wear booties when they go on short walks.
 - Do not feed greens that you have foraged (dandelions from the yard, for example). Rinse leafy greens and other perishable foods thoroughly. Consider growing leafy greens indoors.
 - Feed hay that has been harvested at least 105 days prior.

If you find a deceased rabbit whose cause of death is unknown, do NOT touch the rabbit.

For **DOMESTIC RABBITS**, contact
California Department of Food and Agriculture
at: 909-947-4462.

For **WILD RABBITS OR HARES**, contact
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
at: 916-358-2790.