



Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV2)

What is RHDV2?

RHDV2 is a highly contagious and often fatal virus affecting domestic and wild rabbits. It causes severe internal bleeding and liver failure and has been reported across many areas of the United States.

How It Spreads

- Direct contact with infected rabbits
- Contaminated objects (bowls, bedding, cages, clothing, shoes)
- Insects such as flies or mosquitoes
- Contaminated hay, grass, or produce

******Indoor rabbits are still at risk.******

Vaccination

Vaccination is the most effective protection against RHDV2. The vaccine is safe, well tolerated, and strongly recommended for all rabbits, including indoor-only pets. It is administered as an initial vaccine followed by a booster 21 days later, then annually. Please call to schedule a consultation and/or vaccination.

Clinical Signs

Some rabbits show no signs before sudden death. Others may develop lethargy, loss of appetite, fever, breathing difficulty, neurologic signs, or bleeding from the nose, mouth, or rectum. Mortality rates can reach 70–90%.

Is It a Risk to People or Other Pets?

No. RHDV2 only affects rabbits. Humans and other pets cannot become infected, but people can carry the virus on clothing or shoes.

Additional Prevention

- Avoid contact with wild rabbits
- Wash hands before and after handling rabbits
- Change clothes/shoes after outdoor activities
- Avoid feeding untreated foraged greens
- Quarantine new rabbits for at least 14 days