

**Animal Health Alert: Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD) Detected in Los Angeles County  
8.6.2020**

Dear colleagues,

As of August 2020, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) confirmed that Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease virus type 2 (RHDV2) has been detected in wild cottontail rabbits in the areas of Juniper Hills and Littlerock of Los Angeles County. Infected wild rabbits have also been found in Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties. Infected domestic rabbits have been found in San Bernardino county. Outside of California, RHDV2 has caused mortalities in both wild and domestic rabbits in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas, and domestic rabbits in Nevada and Utah.

RHDV2 is a foreign animal disease and a calicivirus that is not related to coronaviruses. This disease is not a food safety concern and does not affect humans or domestic animals other than rabbits. RHD is highly contagious and often lethal to both domestic and wild rabbit populations. Infected rabbits may exhibit no symptoms leading up to sudden death, or may suffer from fever, swelling, internal bleeding or liver necrosis.

RHD is a reportable disease in Los Angeles County, California, and in the United States in general. To report a suspect case in Los Angeles County, even if it is not tested, complete the reporting form [here](#) and email to [vet@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:vet@ph.lacounty.gov) or fax to 213-481-2375.

As of May 12, a quarantine has been placed on rabbits, hares and all associated products and equipment entering California from a state where RHD has been diagnosed in the prior 12 months. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has posted a [map of RHD affected counties](#).

Currently no approved RHD vaccines are available in the United States. However, California veterinarians may apply to order and import approved vaccinations through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). Information on how to order the vaccine is available [here](#). The USDA has also created an [FAQ](#) about RHDV2 vaccines.

All rabbit owners and veterinarians are advised to learn about RHD and how to protect rabbits. For more information about biosecurity and disinfection recommendations:

[Keeping Your Rabbit Safe From Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease - Biosecurity Recommendations – CDFA](#)

[How To Keep Your Clinic and Patients Safe from Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease – CDFA](#)

[General Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of RHDV Contaminated Premises – USDA](#)

For more information on RHD and the current outbreak of RHDV2:

[Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease – CDFA](#)

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Frequently Asked Questions – CDFA

Quick Facts about Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease – CDFW

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Detected in California – Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Please call 213-288-7060 or email [vet@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:vet@ph.lacounty.gov) if you have questions about RHD.

Sincerely,

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