

Keep Your Rabbits Safe from Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease

Biosecurity Recommendations

May 2020

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD) is caused by a calicivirus and is extremely contagious between rabbits. Follow these biosecurity guidelines to help reduce risk of exposure and transmission of RHD.

Visitors

- Ensure wild rabbits do not come near your rabbit(s)
- Maintain proper fencing so wild rabbits cannot enter your yard, rabbit housing, or feed storage area
- Do not allow other people who own rabbits to handle your rabbit(s)
- Watch that dogs, cats, birds and scavengers do not bring rabbit carcasses onto your property; promptly dispose of and disinfect



Care and Equipment

- House rabbits off the ground when possible
- Do not feed plants or forage gathered from outside to your rabbit
- Do not use materials gathered from outside for bedding or cage base
- Keep new or returning rabbits separated from your existing rabbits for 2 weeks
- Properly and frequently dispose of soiled and used bedding
- Clean and disinfect caging, enclosures, harnesses, and other equipment between different rabbits with 10% bleach water, 1% Virkon-S, or other product recommended by your veterinarian
- Do not allow rabbits to share toys and enrichment objects



You

- Always wash your hands before and after handling your rabbit
- Use separate footwear for outside and inside the rabbitry, or use a disinfectant footbath, to avoid tracking contamination on your shoes
- Do not handle any rabbits that are not your own. If you do, then wash your hands and change clothes and shoes before handling your rabbits



To report dead wild rabbits or hares contact:
CDFW Wildlife Investigations Lab - (916) 358-2790
or report online at:
<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Laboratories/Wildlife-Investigations/Monitoring/Mortality-Report>

To report dead domestic rabbits contact the CDFFA
Animal Health Branch.

Consult your private veterinarian if your rabbit is sick.

Animal Health and Food Safety Services Animal Health Branch

Headquarters - (916) 900-5002
Redding District - (530) 225-2140
Modesto District - (209) 491-9350
Tulare District - (559) 685-3500
Ontario District - (909) 947-4462

USDA-APHIS-VS - (916) 854-3950 or (877) 741-3690

For more information, please click the following:

[Animal Health Branch](#)
[Hand Washing Why, When, How, and with What?](#)