

# 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 CDFA  
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?](#)