



**OC Animal Care**



*Let's Paws*



# **RABBIT HEMORRHAGIC DISEASE VIRUS SEROTYPE 2 (RHDV2)**

**RHDV2 HAS BEEN CONFIRMED TO BE FOUND IN AT LEAST ONE WILD RABBIT IN ORANGE COUNTY. RABBIT HEMORRHAGIC DISEASE (RHD) IS DEADLY AND EXTREMELY CONTAGIOUS BETWEEN RABBITS.**

## **Can people or other animals get RHDV2?**

*No; this disease is only known to affect rabbits and hares.*

## **How is RHDV2 spread?**

*The California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) reports that RHDV2 can live in the environment for several months and is transmitted via direct contact with infected rabbits (oral, nasal, conjunctival routes), indirectly via shared bedding, feed, water and fomites, and by vectors such as insects.*

## **What are the Symptoms?**

*The incubation period is 3-9 days. It can cause liver inflammation (hepatitis) and prevent blood from clotting. Symptoms include:*

- *Loss of appetite, lethargy, high fever, seizures, bleeding from nose, mouth or rectum, difficulty breathing and may die a sudden death without showing any symptoms*

## **What if I find a dead rabbit?**

*To report **dead wild rabbits or hares** found in the cities OC Animal Care services, call our Field Services Department at: (714) 935-6848*

*To report **dead domestic rabbits**, contact the CDFA Animal Health Branch. Visit their website at:*

[https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Animal\\_Health/RHD.html](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Animal_Health/RHD.html)

## **How can I keep my pet rabbits safe?**

### **Watch out for Visitors**

- Make sure your rabbits never come in contact with wild rabbits.
- Have proper fencing & storage so wild rabbits cannot enter your yard.
- Do not allow others who own rabbits to handle your rabbits.
- Watch out for any scavengers (dogs, cats, birds, etc.) who may bring a rabbit carcass onto your property.

### **Rabbit Care**

- House rabbits off the ground if possible.
- Do not use materials or feed plants from outside to your rabbit.
- Keep new rabbits separated for at least 2 weeks from your existing rabbits.
- Properly clean and dispose of used bedding.
- Do not allow rabbits to share toys.
- Clean and disinfect caging, enclosures, harnesses and other equipment between rabbits.
- Always wash your hands before and after handling your rabbit.
- Change shoes or use a disinfectant footbath before entering your rabbit enclosure to avoid tracking anything from your shoes.
- Do not handle any rabbits that are not yours. If you do, wash and change clothes before interacting with your rabbit.



**For more information, visit [ocpetinfo.com](http://ocpetinfo.com)**