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Edited 5/18/20

## **Recommended Rabbit Standard Operating Procedures for Shelters/Rescue Facilities due to Emergence of RHDV2**

**Purpose:** To advise animal shelters and rescue groups on the intake, care, movement, and placement of rabbits because of emerging Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV) in North America in two scenarios: *Scenario 1* with no vaccine available, *Scenario 2* with access to an approved vaccine. These recommendations will be updated as new information is available.

**Background:** Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus, or Rabbit Calicivirus, affects both wild and domestic rabbits and has been found to be present in several western states as of early 2020 with emergent movement state to state. Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus 2 (RHDV2) is the currently identified strain present in North America. This disease is highly contagious and may be fatal to rabbits. RHDV is not transmissible to other animals or humans.

RHDV is a disease that must be reported to your State Veterinarian in the US. In a confirmed case of RHDV or confirmed death in a shelter/rescue facility or home, the State Veterinarian's protocol will determine the course of action. In some states, all of the rabbits in an affected facility will be required to be euthanized/depopulated followed by a fallow period of months with no rabbits on-site, while in others, a strict quarantine with no rabbits entering/leaving the facility for months may be permitted.

## About RHDV

(From <https://rabbit.org/rhdv>)

- The incubation period for RHDV1 is 2-10 days, and RHDV2 is 3-9 days.
- The death rate of rabbits exposed to this virus is very high, between 40-100% for RHDV1 and 5-70%+ for RHDV2. Rabbits who survive may shed the virus and be infectious to other rabbits for at least 42 days, perhaps longer.
- Some rabbits may have few to no symptoms of RHDV2 (subclinical), but may [shed virus for up to 2 months](#).
- RHDV causes necrotizing hepatitis, and may cause necrosis of the spleen. There may be internal or externally visible bleeding. Death occurs from liver failure or hemorrhage due to an impairment in the blood's ability to clot.
- Rabbit calicivirus is a very hardy virus, remaining viable in the environment for 105 days at 68F on fabric – it remains stable for 105 days at room temperature – and for 225 days at 39F. It is not killed by freezing. It survives heat of 122F for one hour.
- There is no known cure for RHDV.
- RHDV2 [treatment](#) is supportive care in isolation. There are currently no known effective anti-viral drugs or other treatments available.

## How RHDV Is Spread

(From <https://rabbit.org/rhdv>)

RHDV is highly contagious. It can be spread by:

- Contact of a rabbit with inanimate objects contaminated by the virus (i.e., fomites). These objects include clothing, shoes, and car and truck tires.
- Direct contact of a rabbit with an infected rabbit or the urine or feces of an infected rabbit.
- Contact with rabbit products such as fur, meat or wool from infected rabbits.
- Insects (including flies, fleas, and mosquitoes), birds, rodents, predators, and other pets (cats and dogs) are known to spread the virus by acting as indirect hosts or fomites. They can transport the virus from an infected rabbit to a healthy rabbit.
- Humans can spread the virus to their rabbits if they have been in contact with infected rabbits or in contact with objects contaminated by the virus, including feces from an infected rabbit.
- Ingesting virus-contaminated food or water.
- Read the [results of a 2017 survey](#) of cases of rabbits who died of RHDV, to better understand risk factors, undertaken by veterinarian Dr. Frances Harcourt Brown.

## Scenario 1 - No Available Vaccine, RHDV in the Area, but No RHDV Disease Present in Facility

***It is safest for rabbits to be housed so that they have little possibility of contact with each other. Therefore, we strongly recommend placing rabbits in adoptive or foster homes.***

Disinfection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● For your disinfectant to be optimally effective, mechanically remove surface debris (fur, feces, hay) completely before applying product.</li> <li>● Disinfectant labeled to be effective for feline calicivirus should be used, following label instructions for contact time for feline calicivirus             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Accelerated hydrogen peroxide (e.g., Rescue)</li> <li>○ Potassium peroxymonosulfate (e.g., Trifectant or Virkon S)</li> <li>○ Bleach 1:10 dilution = 1.5c bleach (12oz) in 1 gallon water.                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Surfaces should be thoroughly cleaned first as organic material deactivates bleach.</li> <li>■ Check the label on the bleach to make sure it is intended for disinfection, and not expired</li> <li>■ Never mix bleach with other cleaning products</li> <li>■ Animals must be removed from the area when bleach is used</li> <li>■ Wear gloves when handling bleach, and use in a well-ventilated area</li> <li>■ Once diluted, bleach loses efficacy after 24 hours</li> <li>■ Wet contact time must be maintained on the surface for at least 10 minutes</li> <li>■ Following disinfection, bleach should be rinsed off and surface dried before animal contact.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● Have written cleaning and disinfection protocols, with responsibility for ensuring tasks happen on a regular schedule assigned to a specific person(s).</li> <li>● Any surface a rabbit may be in contact with should be fully disinfected before and after contact, including any exam or play areas. Any non-sanitizable items may only be used by one rabbit (or bonded pair). These items may follow the animal to their adoptive/foster homes, or they must be discarded.</li> </ul>
Services for Owned Rabbits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● If your facility offers services for owned rabbits as well as housing sheltered rabbits (for example, boarding, grooming, rabbit-to-rabbit introductions, or owner-requested euthanasia), we strongly recommend ceasing operations which allow owned rabbits on-premises.</li> <li>● Veterinary services for owned rabbits should be at the discretion of your veterinarian.</li> </ul>
Transfers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Limit shelter-to-shelter or shelter-to-rescue transfers. Transfer to</li> </ul>

	<p>rescue/another shelter should be considered only in the case that all options other than euthanasia vs. transfer have been exhausted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● If there is a quarantine of an area by a regulatory agency, no rabbits may leave/enter the quarantined area.</li> <li>● No transfer to or from any facility with a confirmed positive RHDV2 case without consultation with the State Veterinarian.</li> <li>● No transfer of rabbits should occur from an area affected with RHDV2 to an unaffected area.</li> <li>● For transfer, the outside of the carrier should be disinfected with an effective disinfectant listed here prior to being given to the transporter. The transporter should place the carrier on a plastic bag or towel that will be discarded inside their car, so that the carrier does not come in contact with the interior of the car. After the carrier is removed at the receiving facility, the garbage bag/towel should be bagged and disposed of, and the area of the interior of the car disinfected. The transporter may not touch the rabbit during transport.</li> <li>● One vehicle may only have rabbits from one source shelter.</li> </ul>
Intake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recommend halting owner surrenders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Advise owners that rabbits should not be released outside <b>under any circumstances</b></li> <li>○ Recommend encouraging private rehoming home-to-home (<a href="https://home-home.org/">https://home-home.org/</a>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Stray domestic/wild rabbits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Officers must wear PPE and clean and disinfect vehicles and equipment as outlined above.</li> <li>○ Officers should be informed of signs of illness, and if possible, radio or call prior to bringing any suspect rabbit to facility.</li> <li>○ If brought in by a member of the public, the rabbit should remain in the car and be transported inside in sanitizable or disposable carrier. Advise the member of public to wash hands and change clothes before interacting with their own pet rabbits, if any, or wild rabbits.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is required in handling of all rabbits at intake and during quarantine period. Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gown or coveralls.</li> <li>○ Disposable gloves, with gloves changed between rabbits.</li> <li>○ Shoe/boot covers worn in rabbit quarantine area. Footbaths are no longer considered effective in shelter contexts.</li> <li>○ Hair tied back, short, or covered with a bouffant cap if necessary, to prevent hair contact with rabbits.</li> <li>○ Due to current COVID-19 outbreak, facilities may face shortages of disposable PPE and may need to use cloth re-usable gowns or shoe covers. These items should be laundered with quarantine laundry.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Monitor for signs of illness, including: lethargy, inappetence, fever, seizures, difficulty breathing, bleeding from mouth, nose, and/or anus.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recommend all rabbits receive flea preventative at time of intake (insects are disease vectors). Revolution and Advantage are rabbit-safe. Frontline should <b>never</b> be used on rabbits.</li> <li>● Clean surfaces and equipment between intakes and disinfect thoroughly with an effective disinfectant listed here.</li> </ul>
<p>General Shelter Care Guidelines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Monitor all rabbits daily for signs of illness.</li> <li>● Have a PPE station at the entrance to rabbit quarantine and rabbit housing areas.</li> <li>● Observe a quarantine period of 14 days - clinical signs develop after 3-9 days. Count from the first full day in shelter care, ending at the end of the full day on day 14. At this time we are recommending 14 days rather than a shorter quarantine period in an abundance of caution.</li> <li>● After 14-day quarantine, healthy rabbits should be moved out of the quarantine area, and housed indoors in enclosures individually or in pre-existing bonded pairs.</li> <li>● If virus is present in your area in the wild rabbit population, consider a uniform policy of separate clothing not worn outside, including footwear or PPE, for staff/volunteers entering facility's area housing general population rabbits.</li> <li>● Rabbits shall at no time during shelter care be allowed to interact with rabbits other than those that they live with full time (i.e., no play times, aka "hoppy hour").</li> <li>● Any out-of-enclosure indoor exercise/play area for general population rabbits must be able to be fully disinfected, with no shared items between rabbits. Any surface a rabbit may be in contact with should be fully disinfected before and after contact.</li> <li>● Do not store any items in any area housing rabbits unless they are essential to rabbit care in that area.</li> <li>● As flying insects are a significant disease vector for RHDV2, shelters should be mindful of repair of window and door screens and general pest control.</li> <li>● At this time, we do not know the risk that feeding greens/produce may present to rabbits. There may be a risk of RHDV contamination of produce during growing/harvesting in outbreak areas. The disease is currently spreading in areas where produce is commercially grown. When choosing whether to feed produce to rabbits, consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Significantly reduces risk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Know where produce was grown, and feed if not grown in a current outbreak area.</li> <li>■ Enlist volunteers to grow greens in covered spaces (greenhouses/indoors).</li> <li>■ Thoroughly wash produce for at least 2 minutes, with several water changes during the process.</li> <li>■ Peel vegetables.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Reduces risk:</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Thoroughly wash produce for at least 2 minutes, with several water changes during the process.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● Know source of hay and whether it was grown outside an outbreak area, or harvested/stored securely over 8 months, exceeding the known time the virus may be infectious.</li> <li>● No feeding of found or foraged grasses, greens, or branches.</li> <li>● Ideally no individual staff/volunteer will work with both general population and quarantined rabbits in the same day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If staffing does not allow for separation of duties, general population husbandry needs should be met before quarantine needs.</li> <li>○ If there is need to return to the general population from the quarantine area, this may only be done if coveralls/gown, booties, and glove protocol is followed strictly within the quarantine zone.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Laundry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wash ½ washer capacity load.</li> <li>○ Washed items twice with hot water.</li> <li>○ Use ½ cup undiluted bleach in wash.</li> <li>○ Dry on high heat.</li> <li>○ In an abundance of caution, linens and gowns/scrub tops that have visible fur remaining after washing should be rewashed.</li> <li>○ Label laundry bins for dirty laundry and do not use for clean laundry.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Do not accept used donations of rabbit supplies, unless nonporous and able to be thoroughly disinfected.</li> <li>● Staff/volunteers who have rabbits at home or interact with domestic/wild rabbits outside of work should be provided information about RHDV and encouraged to take biosecurity precautions at home. A factsheet for print/email can be found here: <a href="https://rabbit.org/rhdv/">https://rabbit.org/rhdv/</a></li> </ul>
<p>Quarantine Area Care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● During the 14-day quarantine period, rabbits should be housed in a separate room from the general population of rabbits.</li> <li>● For facilities with an open floor plan that do not have a dedicated room(s) for quarantine, consider a way to subdivide the space that will allow a quarantine area to be maintained.</li> <li>● Each quarantine period is measured for an individual, rather than all-in/all-out for the room, assuming PPE protocol is followed. Consider developing a system to care for rabbits in the order in which they arrived.</li> <li>● Dates for quarantine shall be posted on each individual rabbit's enclosure and entered in shelter software, if used.</li> <li>● During quarantine, if a rabbit is exposed to contamination from another rabbit, directly or indirectly, the 14-day quarantine period starts over.</li> <li>● If there is a suspicious death in the quarantine area, immediately contact your local, contracted, or in-house veterinarian who will contact the State Veterinarian for their protocols on receipt of bodies</li> </ul>

and facility next steps.

- During quarantine, recommended rabbit housing must be a non-porous solid-walled/solid-floored surface for disinfection, preferably stainless steel enclosures.
- Enclosures in quarantine area should not be stacked, which would allow for feces or hay to fall from an upper enclosure into a lower enclosure.
- As we want to minimize contact with quarantined rabbits and trips into quarantine space for staff, consider a cleaning, feeding, and medicating schedule that would allow for the fewest entries/exit to the space as possible.
- PPE is required in handling of all rabbits during quarantine period. Include:
  - Gown or coveralls
  - Disposable gloves, with gloves changed between rabbits.
  - Shoe/boot covers worn in rabbit quarantine area. Footbaths are no longer considered effective in shelter contexts.
  - Hair tied back, short, or covered with a bouffant cap if necessary, to prevent hair contact with rabbits.
- Just outside quarantine area, without touching any surface, put on clean gown or coveralls, then gloves. Open door to quarantine area, put bootie over shoe without touching shoe on one foot and step into room, so that sole of shoe does not touch ground within quarantine space and surface of bootie does not touch ground outside quarantine space. Repeat with other foot.
- All staff/volunteers need to be trained in use of PPE and signage posted in all areas housing rabbits.
- If in the course of caring for quarantined rabbits, a rabbit comes in contact with gown/coveralls, change item before moving to next animal.
- For items in animals' enclosures in quarantine, use disposable items as much as possible (e.g., disposable litter boxes, puppy pads, newspaper, food trays, disposable enrichment if used) spot clean rather than deep clean where possible. Use heavy water crocks that are fully disinfected after the rabbit leaves quarantine, rather than water bottles which may be difficult to fully disinfect.
- Do not store any items in the quarantine area unless they are essential to quarantine rabbit care.
- Wash quarantine laundry separate from general population laundry.
- Quarantine garbage
  - Quarantine area should be equipped with two large, visibly labelled garbage cans, one for dirty laundry and one for trash, including PPE.
  - Apart from staff and animals being released from quarantine, materials will only leave the quarantine space in sealed garbage bags, and trash taken immediately outside to the dumpster.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ When removing trash bags from the quarantine area, place dirty trash bag directly into a clean garbage bag ready <b>outside</b> the quarantine area. If someone outside of quarantine can hold open a clean bag, the dirty quarantine bag can be deposited inside, then carry the double-bagged garbage directly to the dumpster. If working alone, set up a clean bag with the edges rolled down outside quarantine prior to entry into the quarantine space, to set the “dirty” garbage bag into when finished.</li> <li>● Any re-usable equipment must be disinfected inside the quarantine space and stay inside the quarantine space.</li> <li>● When leaving quarantine space, remove gown/coveralls and gloves without skin touching outside surface of either. Remove booties in reverse of method of putting them on. Dispose of all by reaching toward garbage inside quarantine, but not touching any surfaces. Immediately wash hands, without touching any surfaces.</li> </ul>
<p>Veterinary Care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Signs of illness include: lethargy, inappetence, fever, seizures, difficulty breathing, bleeding from mouth, nose, and/or anus.</li> <li>● There is currently no treatment for RHDV2, only supportive care.</li> <li>● If in a state with confirmed RHDV cases, discuss future acquisition of vaccine for shelter rabbits with local exotic small mammal veterinarian.</li> <li>● In case of any sudden death of a rabbit, immediately contact your local, contracted, or in-house veterinarian who will contact the State Veterinarian for their protocols on receipt of bodies and facility next steps.</li> <li>● Animals may receive routine veterinary care during their 14-day quarantine period. For necessary surgical procedures, including spay for female rabbits as rabbit gestation is relatively short, veterinarian should advise process. The quarantined rabbit should be the last surgery scheduled for the day and only one quarantined rabbit procedure should be performed. Post-op recovery should be separate from any other rabbits.</li> <li>● During the 14-day quarantine period, when choosing medications or treatments, when possible, veterinarians may consider choosing treatments that require less frequent dosage/contact, to reduce the risk of caregiver contact/transmission.</li> <li>● Recommend all rabbits receive flea preventative at time of intake then monthly (insects are disease vectors) while in shelter care and provided to fosters for monthly application in foster care. Revolution and Advantage are rabbit-safe. Frontline should <b>never</b> be used on rabbits.</li> </ul>
<p>Foster</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Include disclosure of presence of RHDV2 in area for all foster homes. A factsheet for print/email can be found here: <a href="https://rabbit.org/rhdv/">https://rabbit.org/rhdv/</a></li> <li>● Foster and foster-to-adopt before the completion of a 14-day quarantine only if there are <b>no rabbits in the home</b> and only with full</li> </ul>

	<p>disclosure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In a foster home, the quarantine unit is inside the home, not inside the enclosure. Rabbits can have outside-of-enclosure indoor playtime in a foster home during the 14-day quarantine period.</li> <li>● Strongly recommend that rabbits are placed in foster homes (with no other rabbits in the home) for 14-day quarantine.</li> <li>● Recommend adoption directly from foster home to home, without return to shelter site.</li> <li>● Rabbits cannot be allowed to go outside in foster care.</li> <li>● Recommend foster is provided with flea preventative (insects are disease vectors) and instructions for monthly application while in foster care. Revolution and Advantage are rabbit-safe. Frontline should <b>never</b> be used on rabbits.</li> <li>● Foster must report signs of illness or death to the shelter.</li> <li>● Provide cleaning protocols to fosters, including washing hands before and after handling foster rabbit, changing clothes after spending time in areas with wild rabbits or interacting with other animals. Recommend a no-shoes-in-the-house policy.</li> <li>● See greens/produce and hay recommendations above.</li> <li>● If foster has other animals of other species in the home, or regularly interacts with such, they should take extra precaution with handwashing and clothes changing. Rabbits should be housed in a room separate from all resident animals with no contact.</li> <li>● If rabbits return to shelter after 14-day quarantine in foster home, they may be housed with general rabbit population as outlined above. If returned within the 14-day period, the quarantine may continue in the shelter facility, unless the foster home or transport method is considered to be high-risk (e.g., foster home which routinely fosters rabbits from a variety of sources).</li> <li>● After foster rabbit has left foster home, all equipment and the rabbit's enclosure in that home shall be cleaned with effective disinfectant and laundry washed following recommendations for shelters provided here.</li> </ul>
Adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Include disclosure of presence of RHDV2 in area for all adoptive homes. A factsheet for print/email can be found here: <a href="https://rabbit.org/rhdv/">https://rabbit.org/rhdv/</a></li> <li>● Recommend halting on-site rabbit-rabbit introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If adopter is intending to “bond” adopted rabbit to rabbit already living in home, refer them to 14-day quarantine protocols and advise change of clothes and hand washing in between interacting with each rabbit.</li> <li>○ Following 14-day quarantine, adopter may begin to introduce rabbits in home following advice of adoptive agency.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● It is the shelter’s choice to adopt rabbits out after a 14 day quarantine, to foster-to-adopt if a suitable match is found within the 14 days, or to adopt during quarantine period with disclosure of 9 day incubation period, if a suitable match is found.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We recommend facilitating adoptions remotely, as much as possible, to prevent adopters from bringing RHDV into the shelter.</li> <li>● Weigh the cost vs. benefit of allowing public access to rabbit areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Allowing adopters to meet rabbits and take them home likely reduces overall risk by removing animals from your facility, as long as precautions are taken.</li> <li>○ Consider limiting this to serious adopters rather than allowing unlimited public access to rabbit adoption areas.</li> <li>○ If adopters are interacting with rabbits on-site, they must wash their hands prior to interaction and between all interactions. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are not effective against RHDV.</li> <li>○ Do not allow public access to quarantine areas. Consider creative options for viewing if needed, such as video.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Provide adopter with additional information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Our strong recommendation is that rabbits can no longer have time outside, even in protected yards.</li> <li>○ Share greens/produce and hay recommendations above.</li> <li>○ If adopter has animals of other species who spend time both indoors and outdoors, they should not have access to interact with the rabbit and adopter should wash hands in between interacting with each. Dogs, cats, and rabbits should receive monthly flea preventative treatment.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Recommend adopter follow up with private veterinarian about the possibility of future RHDV2 vaccination, when available.</li> </ul>
Deceased Rabbits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● RHDV2 may remain viable on deceased rabbits and in the environment for many months, even at extreme temperatures.</li> <li>● PPE is required for all staff handling deceased rabbits.</li> <li>● Follow Intake protocols for Officer and public DOAs.</li> <li>● Bodies should be double bagged and labelled as exposed or suspected.</li> <li>● Immediately contact your local, contracted, or in-house veterinarian who will contact the State Veterinarian for their protocols on receipt of bodies and facility next steps.</li> <li>● All sudden deaths should be treated as highly suspicious. Your state veterinarian may want to be made aware of any deaths or DOAs, especially in the case of multiple rabbits with good body condition and no clear cause of death. There <b>may or may not</b> be blood from the mouth, nose, or anus.</li> <li>● In an outbreak area, a post-mortem is recommended for all rabbit deaths, even when known health conditions are suspected as the cause of death, to rule out RHDV.</li> </ul>
Wild Rabbits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Follow Department of Fish and Wildlife guidelines.</li> <li>● If housing wild rabbit prior to transfer to rehab organization, ensure physical separation from domestic shelter population and use PPE.</li> </ul>

## Scenario 2 - Vaccine Approved and Available in Your Area, RHDV in the Area, but No RHDV Disease Present in Facility

Follow all protocols for Scenario 1, and include:

<p>Vaccination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The overall health of the rabbit must be evaluated by a veterinarian (or under the direct guidance of a veterinarian) prior to vaccination. For rabbits who are sick or critically injured, the veterinarian may recommend waiting until the rabbit is healthier to vaccinate when it will place less stress on an already compromised immune system.</li> <li>● Vaccination must be performed by a veterinarian licensed in this state, or by their staff under direct supervision (CA)</li> <li>● If the shelter/rescue does not have an on-site veterinarian and vaccine available through emergency use import request, rabbits will need to be transported to a private veterinarian with access to the vaccine.</li> <li>● The State Veterinarian may require microchipping or ear tattoo prior to/at the time of vaccination.</li> <li>● Record-keeping - each state may have specific rules on what must be part of the vaccine record that is created by the veterinarian administering the vaccine. CA: owner's contact information, vaccine information, and details about the rabbit (age, sex, markings, breed). Records must be kept for at least 2 years. Owner/shelter must be provided with a certificate of vaccination.</li> <li>● Vaccines cannot be moved out of state.</li> <li>● Transfer of vaccines between veterinarians should be coordinated with the State Veterinarian.</li> <li>● Vaccinations should be provided at the time of intake, if over 4 weeks of age.</li> <li>● Rabbits under 4 weeks of age are too young for vaccination and ideally would be moved immediately to foster.</li> <li>● As the vaccine confers full immunity after 7 days for Filovac and Eravac vaccines, but the rabbit may have been exposed immediately prior to vaccination,             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If vaccinated upon intake, a 14-day quarantine allows for the full incubation period</li> <li>○ If vaccinated after intake, the rabbit should remain in quarantine for 7 days after vaccination to allow for the vaccine to be fully effective.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vaccination is expected to be effective for most rabbits – it may not prevent disease in 100% of cases, but if vaccinated, it helps rabbits survive if exposed to RHDV.</li> <li>• In veterinarian Dr. Frances Harcourt Brown’s survey, <a href="#">some rabbits who died of RHDV (confirmed by PCR or histopathology) were reportedly current on a RHDV vaccine</a> or had recently been vaccinated.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Biosecurity measures</a> should still be taken to protect rabbits, even if they are vaccinated.</li> </ul>
General Shelter Care Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vaccinated rabbits can be fed well-washed greens.</li> <li>• For general population vaccinated rabbits, staff/volunteers can wear clothes/footwear worn outside the facility, without PPE.</li> </ul>
Adoptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may remove limitations on visits and direct contact with adoptable rabbits by the public as long as these rabbits have been vaccinated and quarantined for 7 days post-vaccination, for at least a total of 14 days quarantined.</li> <li>• All rabbits need an annual vaccine. Advise adopters and provide proof of vaccination at time of adoption.</li> <li>• A factsheet for print/email for adopters can be found here: <a href="https://rabbit.org/rhdv/">https://rabbit.org/rhdv/</a></li> </ul>
Staff/ Volunteers/ Fosters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is recommended that any staff or volunteers with rabbits at home have their rabbits vaccinated due to the possibility for cross-exposure, for the safety of their pets and the rabbits at the shelter.</li> <li>• If any rabbit fosters have rabbits at home, their rabbits must be current on vaccinations.</li> <li>• A factsheet for print/email for staff/volunteers/fosters can be found here: <a href="https://rabbit.org/rhdv/">https://rabbit.org/rhdv/</a></li> </ul>
Services for Owned Rabbits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prior to reopening any services, ask your State Veterinarian about what their protocol would be if there was a case of RHDV in your facility, and you had vaccinated rabbits on-site. If all rabbits including vaccinated rabbits would be required to be depopulated/euthanized, or quarantined on-site indefinitely, we recommend not allowing owned rabbits on-site for ancillary services, even if vaccinated.</li> <li>• If your facility offers services for owned rabbits as well as housing sheltered rabbits (for example, boarding, grooming, or rabbit-to-rabbit introductions for the purpose of adoption, or owner-requested euthanasia), each facility should consider the risks involved in</li> </ul>

	<p>whether owned vaccinated rabbits should be allowed on-site. Consider risks and protocols for each individual service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● If services for owned rabbits can be provided in a different building with different staff than for the sheltered population, this may minimize risk.</li><li>● Veterinary services for owned rabbits on-site should be at the discretion of your veterinarian.</li></ul>
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