



Wyoming Livestock Board

"To represent and serve Wyoming's livestock industry through protecting livestock health and verifying livestock ownership."

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Guidance for use of the Medgene Labs RHDV2 Vaccine in Domestic Rabbits

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV) is a highly contagious, fatal disease in both domestic and wild rabbits that has spread across 15 states in the US since April 2020.

Medgene Labs, Brookings, SD, has been granted permission by USDA's Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) to market and distribute an experimental Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus vaccine under emergency use authorization. The Medgene product is an inactivated (killed) recombinant subunit vaccine that builds immunity to RHDV-2 specific antigenic proteins in the rabbit. The vaccine is administered as a subcutaneous injection and is a 2-dose regimen, with the booster dose being delivered 21 days following.

CVB has granted Medgene full efficacy and initial safety for this product. To date, one-third of the field safety requirement has been completed, which yielded no concerns with the product. The remainder of the safety study is near completion. The vaccine has also been confirmed by FADDL that it will not produce false positive PCR results, as previously seen with the imported vaccines. Established vaccine withdrawal periods must be followed for meat-type rabbits used for human or animal consumption (21 days).

As of October 1, 2021, Medgene has been approved to start distribution of the vaccine. The company intends to achieve a conditional license by the end of the year, and full approval during 2022. As a requirement to distribute this product, Medgene Labs must obtain approval from the state veterinarian to ship in each individual state.

RHDV2 Recommendations for Use in Domestic Rabbits Emergency Use/ Conditional Approval Status

1. Medgene must be approved by the State Veterinarian (State Animal Health Official or SAHO) prior to distribution or use of RHDV2 vaccine in each state.
2. If requested by the SAHO, Medgene will provide record of veterinarians and dose quantities of vaccine distributed within that state.
3. RHDV2 vaccine may be sold to veterinarians for use as directed by the veterinarian.
4. Veterinarians should maintain vaccination records as for any routine vaccination and conforming to state licensure expectations. Meat-type rabbits vaccination records may be kept at the herd level, similar to other livestock, rather than at the individual animal level.
5. Issuance of vaccine certificates and/or administration of official identification (tattoo, microchip) will be at the discretion of the State Veterinarian.

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Full Licensure Status

1. Medgene's RHDV2 vaccine must be approved by each State Veterinarian prior to distribution or use in that state.
2. Medgene's RHDV2 Vaccine may be distributed in accordance with other routine vaccines and may not require a veterinarian for distribution, oversight or administration.

Wyoming Livestock Board supports the liberal sale and use of the RHDV2 vaccine once full licensure approval is granted. Rabbits have relatively short lifespans and high reproductive rates creating an environment that perpetuates a constant naïve population. Due to the contagious and extremely virulent nature of this virus, getting vaccines into rabbits with the fewest impediments is critical for disease control to protect our domestic and wild rabbit populations alike.

This guidance covers the use of vaccines in domestic rabbits only. Guidance for feral domestic rabbits may vary from state to state based on regulatory authority. Wildlife agencies will be responsible for developing guidance for wild rabbit populations.

For additional technical questions regarding the Medgene RHDV2 Vaccine:

Medgene contact information:

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www.medgenelabs.com [medgenelabs.com]
<https://medgenelabs.com/rhdv2-vaccine/>

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