



**Mark Gordon**  
Governor

# Wyoming Livestock Board

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

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## **RHDV2 Guidance for Veterinarians and Rabbit Owners**

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus 2 is now considered stable endemic in Wyoming. Testing for RHDV2 may be performed at the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory (WSVL) in Laramie. Testing of domestic rabbits will be performed at owner expense. Testing is not mandatory, but may be done if owners request it at their expense.

RHDV2 remains a reportable disease in Wyoming. Veterinarians must report all suspect and positive cases to the Wyoming State Veterinarian's office, 307.857.4140 or 307.777.6440. A quarantine may be placed on suspect and/or positive premises to protect rabbits both within and outside of Wyoming. RHDV2 positive premises will be quarantined for 120 days following the last death. Under quarantine, no rabbits may enter or leave the premises for 120 days. Due to the survivability of RHDV in the environment, thorough cleaning and disinfection during the quarantine period is highly recommended. Please refer to the factsheet reference listed below for further information regarding cleaning and disinfection.

Deceased domestic rabbits may be submitted to the WSVL for PCR testing. Please contact the laboratory directly regarding cost and sample submission, 307.766.9925. If a whole rabbit carcass is submitted, a diagnosis may be received within 2-3 days. Rabbits at highest risk are those exposed to wild rabbits or jackrabbits. If a diagnosis of RHDV2 is confirmed, all in-contact rabbits are at risk.

### **RHDV2 vaccine**

Currently, there are no licensed RHDV2 vaccines produced in the United States. The USDA Center for Veterinary Biologics is approving importation of two RHDV2 vaccines from Europe. Accredited veterinarians may import vaccine at the discretion of the state veterinarian. An APHIS import permit is required. The accredited veterinarian is responsible for international shipment logistics of the vaccine.

For a list of veterinary clinics who have received the vaccine in Wyoming, please contact the Wyoming State Veterinarian's office, 307.857.4140 or 307.777.6440.

### **Wild or feral rabbits**

The WGFD is currently conducting opportunistic surveillance for this disease and asks if rabbit carcasses are found and RHDV2 suspected, please contact the Wildlife Health Laboratory at (307) 745-5865. If needing to handle carcasses, please use caution and wear gloves/additional PPE, as dead rabbits could also potentially carry zoonotic diseases.

27 April 2021

### **Resources and Information on RHD**

<https://wlsb.state.wy.us/public/animal-health>

[https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Wildlife-in-Wyoming/More-Wildlife/Wildlife-Disease/Wildlife-Disease-Information/Rabbit-Hemorrhagic-Disease-Virus-2-\(RHDV](https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Wildlife-in-Wyoming/More-Wildlife/Wildlife-Disease/Wildlife-Disease-Information/Rabbit-Hemorrhagic-Disease-Virus-2-(RHDV)

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/downloads/rhdv-cleaning-guidance.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/downloads/rhdv-cleaning-guidance.pdf)

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/downloads/faq-rhd-vaccine.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/downloads/faq-rhd-vaccine.pdf)

<https://arba.net/announcements/>

[http:// http://www.uwyo.edu/wyovet/](http://http://www.uwyo.edu/wyovet/)

[https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/rabbit\\_hemorrhagic\\_disease.pdf](https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/rabbit_hemorrhagic_disease.pdf)