

## **Guidance for Premises with Suspected or Confirmed Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease**

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease is considered a Foreign Animal Disease, and to protect domestic and feral rabbits in Utah and the rest of the United States, the Utah State Veterinarian, under the authority granted to him by Utah Code 4-31-115, is quarantining your facility for a minimum of 120 days. Your facility will only be released from quarantine once the State Veterinarian is satisfied that your facility does not pose a threat of spreading RHDV2 to wild or domestic rabbits within the state.

While under quarantine, no live rabbits, rabbit products (including fur and meat), or equipment are allowed to leave the property except under the express permission of the State Veterinarian. Because of the contagious nature of the virus, you should avoid visiting any rabbit facilities, shows, or feed stores that carry rabbit supplies for the duration of the quarantine.

### **Disposal**

Disposal of dead and euthanized rabbits, rabbit products, and equipment that cannot be cleaned will involve double bagging with lime and disposal at a landfill approved to accept infectious waste.

### **Cleaning and Disinfection**

The following disinfectants are considered effective against RHDV2. Sodium hypochlorite (household bleach) is likely the easiest for rabbit owners to get, but can cause oxidation of metal surfaces.

- Sodium hydroxide (1%)
- Sodium hypochlorite (1:10 dilution household bleach)
- 2% One-stroke Environ® (Vestal Lab Inc., St. Louis, MO)
- 1% Virkon-S (DuPont)

After all rabbits are removed, clean and disinfect your rabbit facility. UDAF or USDA/APHIS/VS staff may be able to assist with initial cleaning and disinfection steps.

1. Clean rabbit hutches, all associated equipment, floors, and walls to remove all organic material such as dirt, saliva, urine, and feces.
2. Clean/dig out all bedding down to just dirt in any outdoor pens
3. Bury or bag and dispose of contaminated materials that can't be cleaned on-site
4. Disinfect all surfaces after cleaning with one of the above disinfectants, following label recommendations for concentration and contact time.

If you have any questions, please contact the Utah State Veterinarian's Office at (801) 982-2200.