

# Animal Health Guidance

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**UTAH  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE  
AND FOOD  
ANIMAL HEALTH  
PROGRAM**

**Logan Wilde**  
*COMMISSIONER*

**Leann Hunting**  
*ANIMAL INDUSTRY  
DIVISION DIRECTOR*

**Dean Taylor, DVM**  
*STATE VETERINARIAN*

**Amanda Price, DVM, MS**  
*ASSISTANT STATE  
VETERINARIAN*

**Dustin Durfee, DVM**  
*FIELD VETERINARIAN*

**Robert Erickson, DVM**  
*FIELD VETERINARIAN*

State Veterinarian's Office  
350 N Redwood Rd  
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

801-982-2235

ag.utah.gov

## Guidance to Veterinarians and Rabbit Owners on Testing for RHDV2

Utah is now considered an endemic state for Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus 2 (RHDV2). Because the disease is considered “stable” in the state, confirmatory testing can be performed at the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory instead of USDA’s Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. Because all testing of domestic rabbits will now be performed at the owner’s expense, testing is not mandatory. However, to protect other rabbit owners both in Utah and outside the state, quarantines may be placed on rabbit owners with rabbits suspected of RHDV2 infection.

RHDV2 is a reportable disease in Utah, so if a veterinarian suspects RHDV2 in a rabbit, they must report it by calling the State Veterinarian’s office at (801) 982-2235 or completing the online reportable disease form at: <https://form.iotform.com/93096124063151>.

### **If owners choose to test for RHDV2:**

Dead domestic rabbits for necropsy or livers for RT-PCR should be submitted to the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory or the Central Utah Branch Laboratory. A necropsy costs \$45 and the RT-PCR costs \$35, plus a \$10 accession fee. There are no tests available for RHD in live rabbits.

If the rabbit tests positive for RHDV2, the State Veterinarian’s office will quarantine the premises for 120 days after the last death. RHD virus can survive for months in the environment, so a thorough cleaning and disinfection is recommended during the quarantine period.

**Utah Veterinary  
Diagnostic Laboratory**  
950 East 1400 North,  
Logan UT 84341  
Phone: 435-797-1895

**Central Utah Branch  
Laboratory**  
514 West 3000 North,  
Spanish Fork, UT 84660  
Phone: 801-798-5435

### **If owners choose NOT to test for RHDV2:**

Veterinarians must report the case within 24 hours to the Utah State Veterinarian's office using the phone number or online reportable disease form above. The State Veterinarian's office will determine if a hold order or quarantine should be placed on the premises.

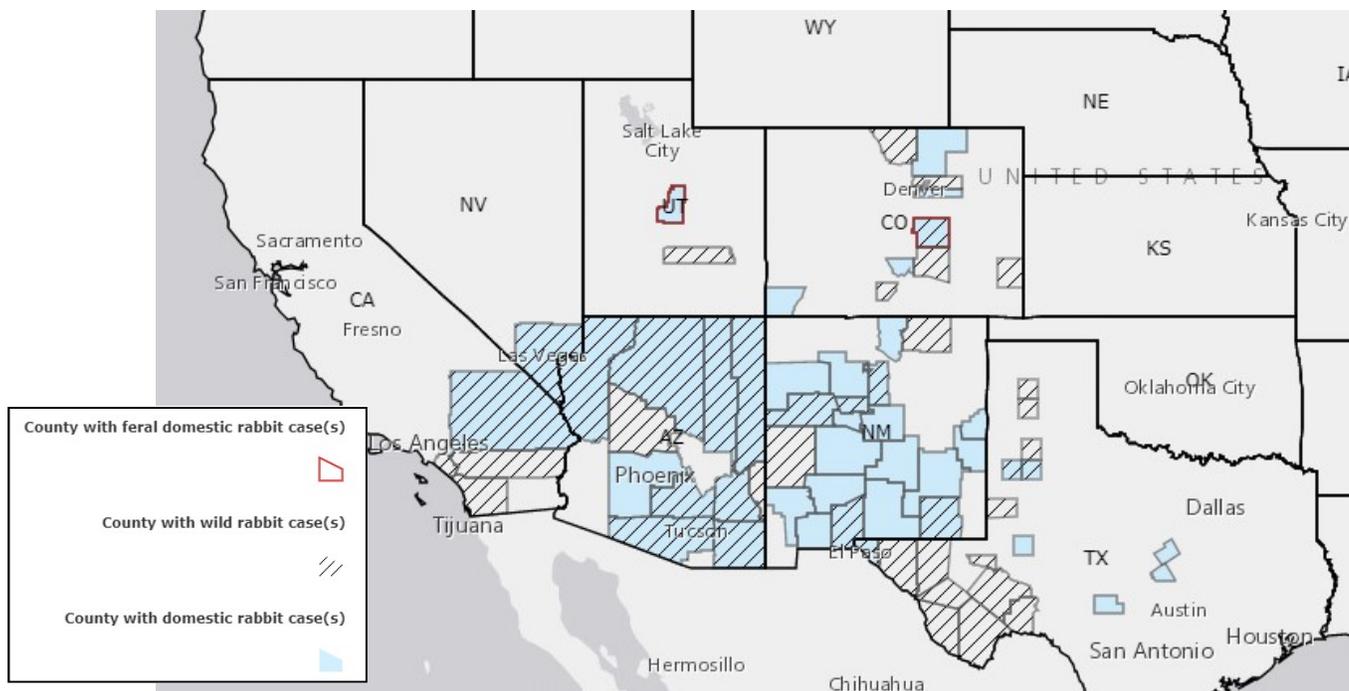
An owner with a single dead domestic rabbit that has no hemorrhage around the nose may be placed under a 7 day hold order. While under the hold order, the owner should not have contact with other rabbits and their rabbits cannot leave the premises for 7 days after the death of the first rabbit. If additional rabbits die during that period, the veterinarian or the owner should immediately notify the State Veterinarian, and the premises will be placed under quarantine for 120 days after the death of the last rabbit (or may be released with testing).

An owner with a single dead domestic rabbit with hemorrhage around the nose or an owner with multiple dead domestic rabbits will be placed under quarantine for 120 days after the last death by the State Veterinarian. The quarantine notice will be mailed to the owner by the State Veterinarian's office. Under quarantine, no rabbits may enter or leave the premises for 120 days.

### **Wild or feral rabbits:**

Quarantines will not be placed on premises with only dead wild or feral rabbits. If multiple dead wild rabbits are seen on a premises, the owner should contact their regional office of the Division of Wildlife Resources and practice good biosecurity to prevent the introduction of disease to domestic rabbits.

***For more information on Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease, please visit [bit.ly/UtahRHD](https://bit.ly/UtahRHD).***



Map of affected counties as of 7/29/2020. <https://usda-aphis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=37791da88ef04cd08404a5794aaf0be3>