

Prevention - Safeguarding Rabbits From RHD

What you can do to insure the safety of the Rabbits you care for:

Know where outbreaks are being reported. Check into the message board for updates whenever there is a rumor for confirmation or denial of an actual case. Or sign up for our email notification system by filling out the form in [Subscribe](http://www.kindplanet.org/vhd/vhdsubscribe.html), <http://www.kindplanet.org/vhd/vhdsubscribe.html>. Note location. If you are on the East Coast and the outbreak is on the West Coast, your level of concern should not be too high. If it starts spreading then it is time to follow quarantine guidelines as described below.

Make sure your Vet is aware of RHD. Ask if she is prepared for a possible case. You may end up being your Vet's first alert of an emergence if she is not on the net. If RHD does reach your area, ask the staff if any Rabbits have been in and died without obvious symptoms. They are not always apparent. Though most Vets are really good about sanitizing areas, extra precautions are needed in the event of a case of RHD. There are great Vets and there are not so great Vets. It is recommended when choosing a Vet to check for cleanliness in kennels and other out of sight areas. In regards to RHD, this becomes imperative.

Keep rabbits indoors in order to prevent any contact with the outside world.

Avoid contacts of any kind with other Rabbits. This means, Pet Stores, Shelters, People, and Equipment. Do not share equipment or allow visitors with out strict sanitation measures.

Know your food sources. If you buy local hay, make sure the farmers and distributors do not have Rabbits. The same should apply to vegetables.

Thoroughly sanitize your hands, clothing, shoes, etc. before handling your Rabbits. Disinfect any areas that may have been exposed to the virus using a bleach solution of 1 part bleach to 9 parts water, (10% bleach solution). Bleach must be left on surface for ten minutes. Remove all feces from cages. The latter part is imperative.

Keep Dogs, Cats and any other Animals who travel outside from contact with your Rabbits.

Keep your environment free of insects, Birds, wild Animals, such as Mice, Rats, Opossums, Raccoons. Remove Bird feeders and baths. Make sure garbage cans and areas are secure against scavengers so as not to attract them.

RHD In The US Coalition
Call 800.906.2445 Or Visit www.vhdcoalition.org
For Information About RHD And An Opportunity To Work With Others To Keep The US Free Of RHD