



RHDV2 Vaccine

FAQ:

Because this disease is highly contagious and fatal and is believed to be prevented by proper vaccination.

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, WE ARE REQUIRING ALL OF OUR RABBIT PATIENTS TO BE

VACCINATED AGAINST RHDV-2 as an integral part of responsible care.

Rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus (RHDV) is a highly contagious virus that has been found in rabbits

across the USA and spotted in nearby states. RHDV can cause fatal illness in domestic and wild rabbits,

and no treatment has been successful against rabbit hemorrhagic disease. The virus is readily

transmitted between a variety of wild animal species (not just rabbits), and the virus is very persistent in

the environment unless specific disinfectants are used.

The two best ways to prevent RHDV affecting your rabbits are to vaccinate your rabbits against RHDV

and practice strict “biosecurity” measures. Vaccination is the best way to help prevent disease from some

strains of RHDV. We can vaccinate your rabbit against RHDV, as long as your rabbit is not

showing a fever or signs of infectious disease at the time that might interfere with vaccine efficacy, and

Your rabbit is a resident of Florida. We use the Medgene vaccine. For more information about the vaccine

please visit: <https://medgenelabs.com/rhdv2/>

Any rabbit vaccinated against RHDV must be permanently identified. To do this we place a microchip

under the skin, usually in between the shoulder blades. The cost is \$54.73, and this is done at the first

vaccination appointment. If your rabbit is already microchipped, we will verify its presence and note it on

your rabbit’s record.

Biosecurity measures include housing rabbits strictly indoors, protecting them against exposure to flying

insects that could carry the virus from outdoors, not feeding them any outdoor greens that have not been

disinfected, and housing your rabbits away from all other rabbits. As the virus can be carried on clothing,

we recommend changing or disinfecting shoes that have been worn outdoors prior to entering areas

where your rabbit may be exposed.

FAQ:

How effective is the vaccine in preventing RHDV-2?

It has been shown to be highly effective.

Will my rabbit infect other rabbits after being vaccinated?

No.

How old does my rabbit need to be to get his vaccine?

4 weeks or older.

How long does it take for the vaccine to be effective?

14 days after the booster injection, which is done 3 weeks after the first vaccination. Annual booster

shots will be required for continued immunity.

How effective is a single dose of the vaccine?

Currently, it requires two-dose series 21 days apart and an annual booster for continued immunity.

What side effects should I expect?

A small swelling at the injection site may develop, a slight temporary fever may occur, and your rabbit

may be lethargic for a day or two after the injection.

Is it safe for pregnant or nursing does?

A full study of safety has not yet been completed.

Is it safe for previously vaccinated rabbits to be vaccinated with the new vaccine?

This vaccine has gone through safety testing in accordance to USDA standard. It has been determined

safe and approved for use with a two-dose regimen.

What is the cost of the vaccine?

The vaccine is \$30.98. By FL state law we need to have an established veterinarian-client-patient

relationship to provide this vaccine, and rabbits must be checked for symptoms or fever prior to receiving

the vaccine. The office visit including physical examination with temperature check is \$83.00 and if your

Rabbit is not yet microchipped. The cost of the microchip implantation is \$54.73. We require each

vaccinated rabbit be microchipped at the time of the initial vaccine to ensure proof of vaccination.

What is the cost of the booster vaccine in 3 weeks?

This can be done by one of our Veterinary Assistants under the supervision of one of our veterinarians.

The fee for the limited exam is \$40.54 and the vaccine is \$30.98.

How do I schedule a vaccine for my rabbit?

– New clients, or existing clients whose rabbit has not been examined at our clinic a year or more:

visit our website at Exoticbirdhospital.com, click on “*BOOK APPT*”

– Existing clients whose rabbit has been examined at our clinic in the last 12 months:

If you are an existing client with us, and we have examined your rabbit within the past year, then please

first visit our website at www.EXOTICBIRDHOSPITAL.COM, click on “**BOOK APPT**” or call us (904)256-0043

Because of the highly contagious and fatal nature of this virus and the ready availability of the RHDV-2

vaccine, we will no longer maintain your rabbit as a patient if your rabbit has not been fully vaccinated

against RHDV-2. If your rabbit has been vaccinated elsewhere against RHDV-2, we will require proof of

vaccination, vaccination booster, and microchipping at least 30 days prior to your rabbit’s next scheduled

appointment, grooming, or boarding. We are instituting this new policy for the protection of not only your rabbit, but for the protection of all rabbits, including in our clinic and in your neighborhood.

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More information about RHDV-2 can be found at the following links:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/fs-rhdv2.pdf

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/downloads/rhdv2.pdf