

There are many ways you can keep insects out of your home:

- ▶ Control flies, fleas, and mosquitos.
 - ▶ Seal cracks and openings in your home.
 - ▶ Install window and door screens
 - ▶ Store trash in a bin with a lid and take it out regularly.
 - ▶ Clean, sweep, and vacuum regularly.
 - ▶ Use a monthly flea treatment for rabbits, cats, dogs, and other pets in your household, especially if any pets go outside. **Only Revolution or Advantage II can be applied to rabbits. Never apply Frontline to a rabbit.** Talk with your veterinarian to learn more and to get a prescription. Do this monthly for all the animals in your household, at least until your rabbit is vaccinated.
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OTHER PETS

If your household has dogs, cats, or other pets, take additional precautions.

Keep cats indoors, so they can't bring in the virus from outside.

- ▶ When taking dogs out, keep them on-leash to ensure they don't directly interact with wild rabbits, alive or deceased. If your dog tolerates it, consider having him/her wear booties outside, or consider washing its paws when coming inside.
 - ▶ Designate separate areas in your home for your dog and block off its access to areas where your rabbit lives or exercises.
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VACCINATION

A big question on everyone's mind is about the RHDV2 vaccine and its availability.

Since people, insects, birds, and other animals can spread the virus to a healthy rabbit, there are many safety precautions rabbit guardians should take to help protect their rabbit, including vaccination. **The best way to protect your rabbit from this deadly disease is to have it vaccinated.**

Although the vaccine may not prevent the disease in 100% of cases, when vaccinated, it helps rabbits survive if they have been exposed to RHDV2. **Biosecurity measures should still be taken to protect rabbits, even once they are vaccinated.**

- ▶ Per the House Rabbit Society, "**Regular vaccination is required for continuous protection against RHD.** Vaccination is low risk and is effective to the vast majority of rabbits... Currently, a vaccine that protects against RHD is available in most states in the United States. Medgene Labs manufactures this vaccine and supplies veterinarians in states where the vaccine has been approved for distribution. The vaccine has been given emergency use authorization and further studies are needed to determine how often the vaccine needs to be administered, but at this time it is believed that it will be annually." Talk with your veterinarian about your rabbit's overall health history and ask about vaccination.
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WILDLIFE

Besides sharing RHDV2 information with other rabbit guardians, another way you can help is to report any sightings of infected or dead wild rabbits to state wildlife officials and let others know they should do the same, so outbreak areas can be confirmed more quickly. This can help protect more domestic rabbits, since it can pinpoint where the disease is spreading.

If you see an infected or dead rabbit, **do not touch it!** Report sightings of sick or dead wild or feral rabbits to your state wildlife officials at **Wildlife Commission Wildlife Health Hotline - (866) 293-9282.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

<https://rabbit.org/rhdv/>

[RHDV Information Page](#)

<https://rhdv2.org/>

<p>Suspected cases of RHDV2 should be reported to the Florida State Veterinarian. Dr. Michael Short Division of Animal Industry Phone: (850) 410-0900 E-mail: michael.short@freshfromflorida.com or RAD@FDACS.gov</p>	<p>Veterinarians should report suspected cases of RHDV2 to: USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Dr. Michael Whicker Phone: (352) 415-4050 Email: Michael.E.Whicker@usda.gov</p>
<p>To report sick or dead wild or feral rabbits, contact: Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission - Wildlife Health Hotline - (866) 293-9282</p>	<p>If YOUR rabbit is sick, contact your private veterinarian. If you suspect that you have a possible death from RHDV2, do not bury the body or take it out of the house; call your vet immediately to ask what to do.</p>

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Disclaimer: All information contained herein has been researched extensively and is provided in good faith. Nonetheless, the Florida RHDV2 Team makes no claims or guarantees as to any particular results or outcome which may be achieved from the use of this information. As such, the Florida RHDV2 Team and/or any of its individual members are not liable for any loss or damage of any kind. In conjunction with this information, we recommend you do your own careful research to protect your rabbits.

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