

# Pet owners and Calicivirus

## HOW TO PROTECT MY PET RABBIT

### ALL PET OWNERS

*Calicivirus only affects Rabbits. Other animals such as dogs, cats and native animals will not be affected.*

### Pet Rabbit Protection

Please seek advice from your local veterinarian. There is a vaccine available for RHDV1 K5 calicivirus which is the strain that the City will be releasing. Ask your vet about the Cylap and Filavac vaccines.

#### *Other protection measure include:*

- Keep your pet in an insect proof enclosure
- If possible keep your pet inside
- Avoid contact with other unfamiliar rabbits
- Report sick rabbits to your vet
- Have good insect control
- Regularly disinfect you pet enclosures
- Rabbit proof your backyard so other rabbits can't get in
- Remove uneaten food daily so not to attract flies that will infect your pet's food

### Symptoms of Calicivirus:

- Restlessness
- Poor appetite
- Seizures
- Bleeding from the nose or you may notice blood in the rabbit's enclosure
- Fever
- Sometimes rabbits will show no symptoms at all and suddenly die

### What is Calicivirus?

Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV), commonly known as Calicivirus, is a virus that typically causes a rapidly fatal disease in European rabbits. The virus is used across Australia as a biological tool for control of wild rabbit populations.

There are three strains of the Calicivirus in Australia: RHDV1 – First released in 1997, RHDV2 – Arrived in Australia in 2015, RHDV1 K5 – First released in 2017

The City of Greater Geraldton will be releasing RHDV1 K5, for which there is a vaccine that provides protection against. There may be other strains present in the region for which a vaccine won't provide protection.

#### *The virus is spread by:*

- Direct contact between rabbits
- Insect vectors such as flies, birds and rodents
- Animals feed on infected rabbits may excrete the virus
- The virus will remain active in the environment (soil, pasture, clothing) for several months

### Why is the City Releasing the Calicivirus

To support local landholders and their efforts to control rabbits.

More information on the City's Rabbit Control Program can be found here



SCAN ME

