

WAIVER FOR RABBIT HEMORRHAGIC DISEASE (RHDV) VACCINATION

Rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus (RHDV) is a highly contagious calicivirus that has been found in wild and domestic rabbits across many states in the United States, now including California, Texas, Georgia and Florida among others. More specifically, RHDV was confirmed in 18 dead rabbits in an outbreak at a Lake County backyard facility on 12/31/2020.

RHDV can cause fatal illness in domestic and wild rabbits, and no treatment has been successful for reversing 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 against it. ***The two best ways to prevent RHDV affecting your rabbits are to practice strict “biosecurity” measures, and to vaccinate your rabbits against RHDV.***

I have elected to have my rabbit [patientname] vaccinated with the Filavac vaccine, as an attempt to protect against Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Serotype 1 and 2.

I understand the following:

1. This vaccine is not licensed in the US and is being used under a special research and evaluation import permit from the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture).
2. This vaccine does not guarantee full protection against the disease, rabbit hemorrhagic disease.
3. For best efficacy, it is recommended that rabbits over 10 weeks of age receive the vaccine and then are given a booster vaccine every year. Please note that booster vaccines will only be available if additional vaccine importation is permitted by the state

veterinarian's office and USDA.

4. The vaccine will take a minimum of 7 days to provide some protection.
5. Side effects have been documented in rabbits given the vaccine, including but not limited to: lethargy, fever, digestive upset, nodule or swelling at vaccination site, anaphylactic reaction, and death. Very common side effect: a temporary increase in body temperature of up to 1.6°C can be observed one day after vaccination.

Common: Immunization is followed by a limited local reaction (subcutaneous nodule up to 3 mm in diameter) which may be palpable and observable for at least 52 days, then disappear without need for treatment.
6. If my rabbit develops any side effects from the **Filavac vaccine or the vaccination procedure, I do not hold the Exotic Animal Hospital of Orlando or the veterinarians responsible**, and as the owner of this rabbit, will assume full responsibility for any treatment costs associated with said side effects.
7. I acknowledge that there may be other, unknown risks and that the long-term effects and risks of this vaccine are not known at this time.
8. The effects of this vaccine on fertility have not been determined and the risk of abortion in pregnant does is undetermined at this time.
9. There is currently no medical data on the interaction of this vaccine with other medical products.
10. Because rabbits are considered by some for meat production, USDA requires a 21-day withdrawal period for meat consumption, to avoid potential risks to US food supplies.
11. Per Florida state veterinary regulations, any rabbit vaccinated against RHDV must be permanently identified. Our means of doing this involves implantation of a transponder microchip under the skin, usually in the region above the chest. The microchip implantation procedure is done with use of injected local anesthetics (lidocaine and

bupivacaine) since the insertion needle is relatively large. We will use a universal sensor to determine whether your rabbit already has a transponder microchip, in which case we would not be needing to place one during the vaccination appointment.

12. We ask that you stay (in your car or in the exam room) for 15 minutes after vaccination in case there is an adverse reaction.

13. Because this disease is believed to be able to be prevented by vaccination, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1st, 2022, WE ARE REQUIRING ALL OF OUR RABBIT PATIENTS TO BE VACCINATED AGAINST RHDV as an integral part of responsible care. Because of this new policy, and availability of vaccine, we will no longer maintain your rabbit as a patient if your rabbit has not been vaccinated against RHDV. If your rabbit has been vaccinated elsewhere against RHDV, we will require proof of vaccination. We are instituting this new policy for the protection of not only your rabbit, but for the protection of other rabbits, including in our clinic and in your neighborhood.

14. By signing this form, you the owner, affirm that the rabbit(s) to be vaccinated are eating and passing feces normally today, and that you are not aware of any reason that they are not fit for vaccination.

I have read and fully understand the terms and conditions set forth above. I, as the undersigned owner (or agent) of the pet identified below, authorize the staff of the Exotic Animal Hospital of Orlando to vaccinate my rabbit with the vaccine.

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Name: _____