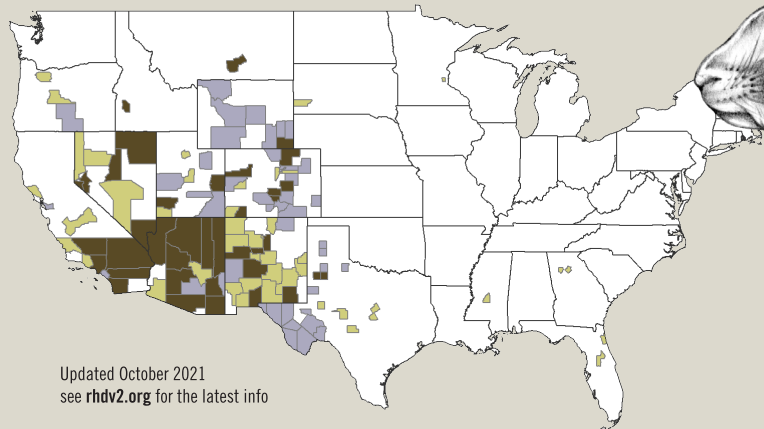
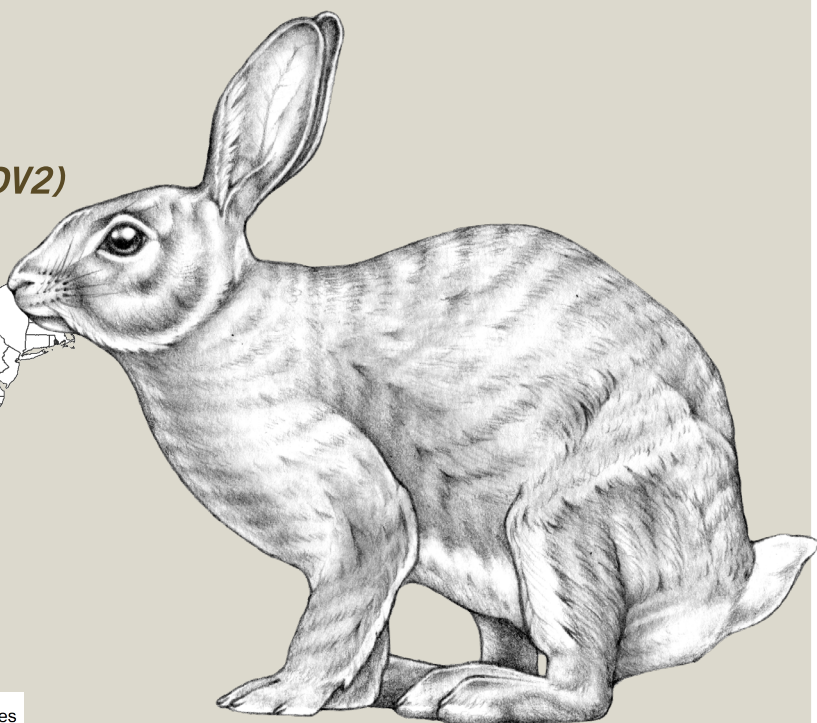
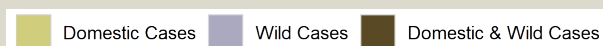


INFORMATION FOR HUNTERS

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus 2 (RHDV2)



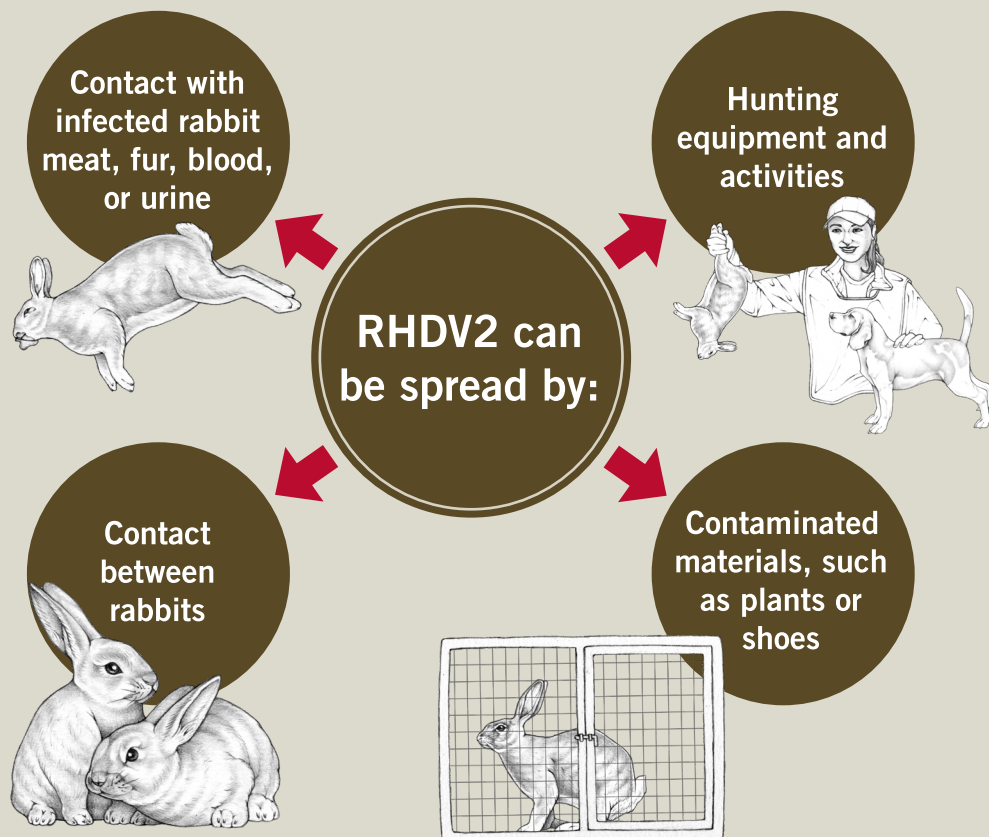
Updated October 2021
see rhdv2.org for the latest info



RHDV2 can spread through wildlife populations. However, the greatest risk of RHDV2 spreading to new areas is from people moving infected rabbits and contaminated materials.

What is RHDV2?

- ▶ RHDV2 is a highly contagious virus that infects wild and domestic rabbits and hares.
- ▶ RHDV2 kills up to 80% of infected rabbits.
- ▶ Visible signs are rare, but infected animals may have a blood-stained nose or mouth.
- ▶ The virus can survive extreme conditions, such as freezing temperatures or hot, dry environments.
- ▶ The virus can survive outside of a rabbit on contaminated materials.
- ▶ RHDV2 will not impact human health.



For full details and expert advice on mitigating RHDV2, visit rhdv2.org

Information for Hunters

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus 2 (RHDV2)

HOW HUNTERS CAN HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF RHDV2

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Immediately report sick or dead rabbits to your state wildlife agency; do not handle the animal unless directed otherwise. If possible, mark the location with flagging or another object, or record the GPS coordinates.

Notify your state wildlife agency if you notice a decline in rabbit populations.

Wear disposable gloves when handling rabbit and hare carcasses.

Always clean and sanitize hunting clothes, equipment, and surfaces after hunting rabbits and hares.



CARCASS HANDLING

▶ Process carcasses on a surface that can be sterilized.



▶ Clean hard surfaces with a solution of 10% bleach or 10% sodium hydroxide mixed with water.



▶ Cook rabbit meat to at least 165°F.

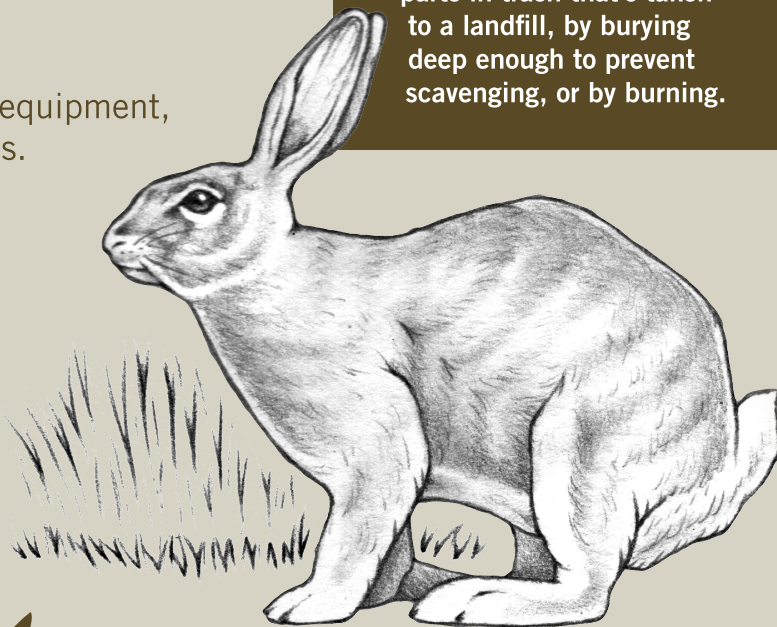


▶ If field dressing rabbits, store inedible parts in a non-porous plastic bag.

▶ Dispose of inedible rabbit parts in trash that's taken to a landfill, by burying deep enough to prevent scavenging, or by burning.

Why should I care about RHDV2 if I do not hunt rabbits?

- ▶ 1.3 million people hunt rabbits each year.
- ▶ One of the least expensive game species to harvest.
- ▶ An important food source for many wildlife species.
- ▶ Rabbits help maintain healthy habitat through seed dispersal.



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