



Vaccine Development for Rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus (RHDV)

There is strong support for the efficacy of the current RHDV1 vaccine (Cylap®) against both the Czech strain that has been circulating in Australia since 1996 and the new Korean or RHDV1 K5 strain, for which release took place in March 2017.

Further information on the protection of pet rabbits from RHDV1 K5 is available at:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/content/agriculture/livestock/rabbits/rabbit-haemorrhagic-disease-virus-rhdv>

<http://www.ava.com.au/rabbit-calicivirus>

<http://www.pestsmart.org.au/minimise-rhdv1-infection-in-pet-rabbits/>

However, there is a need to expedite production of a new RHDV vaccine to provide protection against Type 2 strains of RHDV.

Scientists are currently undertaking research to develop a new generation of vaccines to protect domestic rabbits. The goal is to have a vaccine that will cover the known strains of rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus (including RHDV1 and RHDV2) that are circulating in Australia.

However, any vaccine development needs to involve a commercial manufacturer and requires a range of approvals from regulatory authorities. There are a number of aspects that need to be addressed to ensure that any updated RHDV vaccine is both safe and effective for domestic rabbits. The research underway will assist in meeting these requirements.

Further information

For all rabbit health concerns contact your private veterinarian.

For information on rabbit biosecurity contact Kate Wingett, Veterinary Officer, NSW DPI, on (02) 6391 3717 or kate.wingett@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (27 April 2017). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of NSW Department Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.