



RHDV Carcass Disposal Guidance

*Developed by the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials (NASAHO)
RHDV2 Subcommittee
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Carcass Handling

If you experience a mortality event in your colony or if you find a dead wild rabbit:

- Wear gloves when handling deceased rabbits.
- Double bag carcass and spray the outside of the bag with disinfectant.
- Contact the Indiana State Board of Animal Health for domestic rabbit reports at 317-544-2400 or the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for wild rabbit reports at 812-334-1137 to determine if testing should be done.
- If testing is required, refrigerate bagged carcass or pack in ice.
- Wash your hands after handling.
- Follow shipping or collection guidance from your state veterinarian.
- All rabbits (wild or domestic) that die as a result of RDHV including pelts should be disposed of to avoid reinfection. RHDV virus can persist in infected frozen carcasses and on pelts from infected rabbits.
 - Do not freeze carcass for human or animal consumption.
 - Do not process, sell or transport pelts.

Disposal Options

If testing is not required, the carcass should be disposed of in compliance with your county regulations and local Department of Health. Disposal options include:

- Incineration
- Double bag and burial at least 3 feet deep.
- Double bag and landfill

[See RHDV Carcass Hunting Guidance for Wild Rabbits](#)