



How do vaccines work

Vaccinations don't prevent rabbits from catching these viruses. They help to prepare the immune system to fight the virus should a rabbit become infected. Vaccines allow our rabbits to build up an immunity to Myxi & RVHD, giving their bodies the tools they need to fight the virus and survive.

Vaccinated rabbits have a much higher chance of survival and many remain completely symptom free. In many cases, you would only know they had been infected if they hadn't been vaccinated.

Let's Get Vaccinated



The most common vaccine available in the UK is now **Nobivac Myxo-RHD Plus**, which is a single dose vaccine and protects against both myxomatosis and RVHD 1 & 2.

Some vet surgeries may still be using Nobivac Myxo-RHD which does not protect against RHD2, so it is important to check which vaccine your rabbit has had or will be having. Eravac and Filavac are separate vaccines which cover RHD2



If your rabbits haven't been vaccinated, get them booked in with your veterinary surgery as soon as possible. It really is the only way we can provide our pets with protection from these deadly viruses. Don't wait until it's too late!



Our Guide to



Rabbit Vaccinations

Why Rabbits Need to be Vaccinated

Rabbits must be protected against myxomatosis and rabbit viral haemorrhagic disease (RVHD / RHD / VHD). There are no known cures for these viruses and the only way we can protect our rabbits is via annual vaccinations. Rabbits need their first vaccination from 5-8 weeks of age and require annual boosters for life.

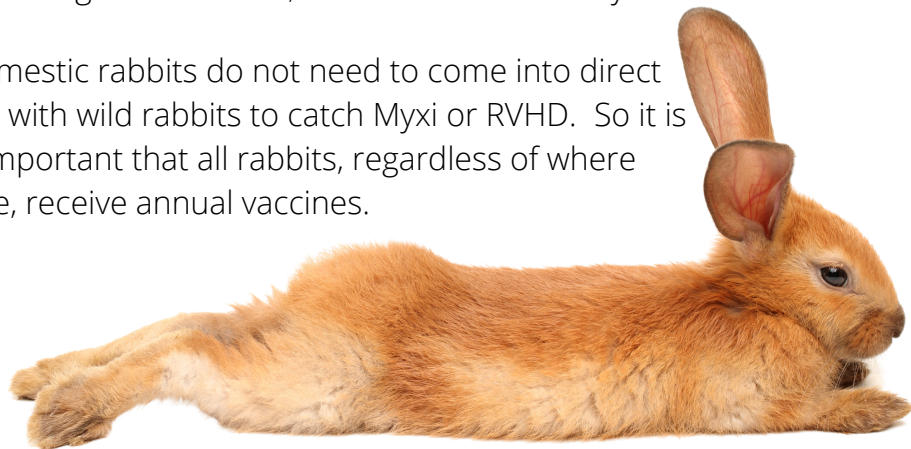
This is a very important part of rabbit ownership and a long-term consideration of the costs involved. Rabbits aren't the low cost pet many owners expect and so few first time owners are made aware of the need of vaccinations at the point of sale. Our guide to vaccinations will help you understand why vaccines are so important.



Do All Rabbits Need to be Vaccinated?

Yes! It is a myth that house rabbits or rabbits living outside in towns or cities don't need vaccinations. They just have a slightly lower probability of contracting these viruses, but are most definitely still at risk.

Our domestic rabbits do not need to come into direct contact with wild rabbits to catch Myxi or RVHD. So it is vitally important that all rabbits, regardless of where they live, receive annual vaccines.



How These Viruses Spread



Myxomatosis

This virus is spread by direct contact with an infected rabbit and by biting insects, such as mosquitos and midges. During the summer, when these insects are most prevalent, and we have our windows and doors open, these insects can easily sneak in and infect house rabbits.

Myxomatosis is a horrible virus which causes damage to many areas of the body including the skin, eyes, genitals, lungs and liver. Once contracted it is almost always fatal and there is no known cure or treatment.



Rabbit Viral Haemorrhagic Disease

RVHD has two different strains in the UK, known as RVHD1 and RVHD2 and is spread by pretty much anything and everything the virus comes into contact with. Walking through a field is enough to bring it back into your home and cause infection in your rabbits. It can also be carried on hay, the feet of wild birds and even your dogs' or cats' paws. Added to this the virus can survive for close to 1 year on many surfaces even during cold weather.

It is highly likely that many owners have lost rabbits to RVHD without even realising, as there are very few visible symptoms. Rabbits may seem a little quiet and will refuse food only hours before death. Many owners wake in the morning to find their rabbits have died over night and chalk it off as one of those things. The most devastating part is that their deaths could have been completely prevented had they received annual vaccinations to provide protection from this silent and deadly virus. This horrible virus attacks internal organs, mainly the liver and causes internal bleeding.

