

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

To participate in this program, you will need to undertake work on your property leading up to the virus release. This includes several nights of pre-feeding oats and liaising with LBG.



Assessment of site and estimation of rabbit numbers

- Population numbers and control should be recorded using the FeralScan app or MyPestGuide Reporter app selecting "Leschenault biosecurity survey" or report directly to LBG.
- Check for kittens (baby rabbits). Do not release RHDV1-K5 into breeding populations i.e., when baby rabbits are observed. Baby rabbits may develop an immunity to future outbreaks/releases of the virus.

Pre-feeding:

This phase is ESSENTIAL TO ESTABLISH RABBITS' HABIT of eating oats at feeding sites

- PRE-FEED min 3-nights immediately before Release Date.
- Use "Clipped" or "Dressed" Oats. (this is type we will mix with virus)
- Put oats out at dusk or just before.
- Check first thing in the morning to see if being eaten.
- Be mindful about other species that may be eating the oats, check for signs of rabbits.
- Use a motion sensor camera, if available, to verify rabbit activity.
- Locate feeding sites near rabbit activity, but not next to established poo piles.

FURROWS:

- 3 - 4 cm deep
- 50 - 70 cm long
- Use garden trowel to scrape a furrow into the dirt to disturb the soil

TRAYS/DISHES:

- Dinner plate size (20-30cm)
- Spread oats flat to edges

Check each night to ensure oats available

RELEASE NIGHT:

Clean away ALL Pre-feed
Turn over the soil for fresh furrow

RELEASE NIGHT:

Clean away ALL Pre-feed including in surrounding area

Release of virus-treated oats

- Collect virus-inoculated oats from LBG at arranged location
- Date of collection will be your "Release Date".
- The virus remains viable on oats for only 24 hours.
- These oats MUST be placed out for rabbits on same day, in same sites used in "pre-feed" phase, preferably around dusk.
- Remove all "pre-feed" oats, prior to putting out inoculated oats, so as to not "dilute" dosage of virus to be consumed.

Cost

- Participants must provide their own oats for the pre-feed phase. (Neighbours sometimes buy one \$20-\$25 bag of oats to share.)
- The virus inoculated oats will be provided by LBG.
- Landholders who are charged the WA Declared Pest Rate are able to participate in the program fully subsidised at no additional cost.

Facts about this virus

RHDV1 K5 is a naturally occurring virus that will only infect the European rabbit. It will not harm any other species including, humans, pets (other than rabbits), our native species, livestock or other predatory animals.

The virus takes ~24-72 hours to impact a rabbit. It will not eliminate all rabbits, but will significantly reduce populations, creating better opportunity to effectively use other rabbit control strategies.