

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 Leschenault Biosecurity Group team members.



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
- Use "Clipped" or "Dressed" Oats (this is type used with virus)
- Put out at dusk or just before
- Check first thing in the morning!
- Be mindful about other species that may be eating the oats, check for signs of rabbits!
- Monitor with a motion sensor camera if you have
- Locate feeding sites near rabbit activity, but not next to established poo piles.



Consistently feed at same sites for min 3-nights immediately before Release date



Place pre-feed in TRAYS/DISHES:

- Dinner plate size (20-30cm)
- Spread oats flat to edges
- Experiment at varied locations to identify rabbits preferred feeding sites



RELEASE NIGHT:

Clean away ALL Pre-feed including in surrounding area before putting out virus-inoculated oats

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 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 up to a set number of feeding sites (discuss with LBG team members).

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.