

Vaccines arrived for rabbit calicivirus RHDV2 strain

Update for New Zealand veterinarians

14 June 2018

We are pleased to advise that the initial order of 2000 doses for the RHDV2 virus strain have now arrived in New Zealand. The vaccines (max 20 doses) will be sent early next week to the first 100 vet practices who placed early orders.

AsureQuality Limited has been granted special circumstances approval by ACVM to import more Filavac VHD K C+K for ongoing supply to veterinarians, and will advise the costs and ordering processes once it is finalised. It is hoped more vaccines will arrive in New Zealand at some stage next month.

The New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) recommend that when Filavac is available, it should be used to provide protection against both RHDV1 and RHDV2 viruses in New Zealand rabbits.

Rabbits who receive Filavac do not need to continue receiving Cylap for their RHDV1 protection. If Cylap has already been administered, it is recommended that veterinarians wait two weeks before vaccinating with Filavac.

We encourage you to continue advising rabbit owners to follow practices to minimise potential risk to their animals, including controlling insects and not feeding grass grazed by wild rabbits.

Two further cases of RHDV2 have been confirmed, both involving wild rabbits in the Bay of Plenty. These cases were picked up as part of monitoring the effectiveness of the controlled calicivirus K5 release that was undertaken earlier in the year.

It is too early for us to be able to build an accurate picture about how, or if, the three V2 cases are linked, however it is possible that this strain may have been present in New Zealand for some time before it was first detected last month (May).

Queries on to your Filavac vaccine order
Questions on the calicivirus RHDV2 response

MPI Pest and Disease Hotline

exports@asurequality.com
MPI's general enquiries line:
0800 00 83 33
0800 80 99 66