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VIRAL HAEMORRHAGIC DISEASE OF RABBITS

Viral Haemorrhagic Disease 1 (VHD1 or RHD1) in rabbits is an invariably fatal disease caused by a calicivirus. It was first recognised in 1984 in an outbreak in China that lasted nine months and killed an estimated fourteen million domestic rabbits.

The virus has an incubation time of 16 hours to three days. Rabbits are usually found dead with haemorrhages from the nose and mouth. The virus infects rabbits greater than 6 weeks of age (rabbits of 4 – 6 weeks may become infected and survive).

