
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF ANIMAL HEALTH
Mexico-United States Commission for Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease
and other Animal Exotic Diseases

RABBIT HEMORRHAGIC DISEASE

Rabbit hemorrhagic disease, also known as “Chinese fever” is a highly contagious viral disease that only affects domestic and wild rabbits of the *Oryctolagus cuniculus* species, and is characterized for the sudden death of the infected animals.

What is its geographical distribution?

This disease is located in some South American, European, Asian and African countries.

Who or what causes it?

It is caused by a *Lagovirus* genus virus of the Caliciviridae family.

How is the virus transmitted?

The virus is found in secretions and excreta of infected animals (ocular and nasal fluid, urine and feces.) It can be transmitted by direct contact or by fomites, like individuals, vehicles, materials or equipment.

What are the clinical signs?

Rabbits have fever, depression, loss of appetite, ocular hemorrhages, blood-stained and foamy secretion, difficulty to breathe, excitation, loss of coordination, body rigidity and death after 12 to 36 hours after the onset of the disease.

Occasionally there are only terminal squealing, collapse and sudden death.

How is the disease diagnosed?

It is difficult to clinically distinguish rabbit hemorrhagic disease from other diseases such as myxomatosis, pasteurellosis and enterotoxaemia, since the signs are similar; therefore, it is necessary to diagnose in an official laboratory.

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How can it be prevented?

Mexico has been free of rabbit hemorrhagic disease since 1993; thus, it is necessary to control the import of animals and their products and byproducts, and bolster biosafety measures in production units.

SENASICA carries out a permanent epidemiological surveillance aimed to timely detect animal diseases endangering livestock assets and the public health of our country.

Report immediately to the official veterinarian services about any suspicious case; an official veterinarian will visit the production unit, obtain the samples for laboratory diagnosis and give the appropriate instructions.

Contact us for more information or to report any suspicious cases:

Emergency phone: 01 (800) 751 2100
(24 hours/day - 365 days/year)

Phone: 01 (55) 5905 1000
(Extensions 51236, 51242 and 51243)

E-mail addresses:
sive.dgsa@senasica.gob.mx
gestioncpa.dgsa@senasica.gob.mx

You can also report at any SADER or SENASICA offices, or at the Regional Coordination Offices of the CPA closest to your community.