

**June 30, 2010  
For Distribution**

## **RABBIT VIRUS ALERT**

Dear Rabbit Owners,

In recent weeks there have been several confirmed cases of Myxomatosis in the San Gabriel Valley area. This is a contagious virus with no proven methods of treatment and it has a 99% mortality rate--so we wanted to give you all a heads up as to what signs to look for, what to do if you suspect your rabbit has it, and how to take preventative measures. The following link contains good basic information on all aspects of the virus and we encourage you all to read it.

**<http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?c=18+1803&aid=3422>**

If you notice your rabbit behaving differently: not eating, lethargic, 'spaced out,' drinking excess amounts of water--or there is any swelling around the eyes, ears, nose, mouth or genitals--treat the rabbit as if he or she IS contagious (as outlined in the above link) and contact your rabbit vet, immediately. ***Make sure to tell whatever vet you call that you suspect Myxomatosis.*** Sudden death is also suspicious for Myxomatosis. Should this occur, contact your rabbit vet to have your rabbit tested. A lung tissue sample can be sent to the lab for diagnosis. *Make sure to wrap body in closed plastic bag to help prevent spread of this virus.*

**This virus is non-zoonotic—not contagious to humans. Other non-rabbit animals are also safe.**

The main vector of infection of this virus is mosquitoes and fleas, which can be in the area; wild rabbits are also carriers. The best ways to protect your rabbits are to keep them inside (to live) and to treat them with Revolution once a month - *for rabbits who do NOT go out doors*, and every two weeks - *for rabbits who DO go outside*. Revolution is a topical flea treatment and can be purchased at your vet's office. In addition, be sure you do not have any "standing water" in your yard, as this is a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Treating your yard and around the outside of your home is also suggested. Make sure not to treat area where bunnies can go, as most pesticides are deadly.

If you have any questions please let your vet know, or you can contact me at at **[zoohgir@gmail.com](mailto:zoohgir@gmail.com)**.

***Alexandra "Cat" Logsdon, president***  
**ZooH Corner Rabbit Rescue**  
PO Box 2192 - San Gabriel 91778  
(626)576-BUNI  
[www.mybunny.org](http://www.mybunny.org)