



TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CHARLIE HATCHER, D.V.M.
COMMISSIONER

DIVISION OF CONSUMER & INDUSTRY SERVICES
ANIMAL HEALTH

ORDER OF THE STATE VETERINARIAN

WHEREAS, Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus 2 (RHDV2) is a highly contagious and often fatal foreign animal disease that affects domestic rabbits, wild hares, and pika;

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Center for Veterinary Biologics has granted permission to Medgene Labs to market and distribute an experimental RHDV2 vaccine under emergency use authorization;

WHEREAS, no veterinary vaccine, antiserum, or diagnostic antigen or other veterinary biologic product may be distributed, sold, or used in Tennessee unless licensed by USDA and permitted by the State Veterinarian under Tenn. Code Ann. § 44-2-103; and

WHEREAS, the State Veterinarian is charged with ordering tests or vaccinations and regulating the importation of animals within or entering the state as necessary to protect the health of animals in Tennessee under Tenn. Code Ann. § 44-2-102.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Dr. Samantha Beaty, State Veterinarian and Assistant Commissioner for Animal Health, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Tennessee, do hereby order and direct that, beginning October 15, 2021, and enduring until the vaccine is fully approved by USDA for use against RHDV2, the following vaccination documentation and identification requirements:

1. Tennessee licensed veterinarians who administer the RHDV2 vaccine shall maintain routine vaccination records at the herd level for rabbits intended for human consumption and at the individual level for all other domestic rabbits;
2. A certificate provided by the State Veterinarian shall be issued by the treating veterinarian for each domestic rabbit not intended for human consumption that receive the RHDV2 vaccine;
3. Each domestic rabbit not intended for human consumption shall be identified via tattoo, microchip, OR in writing by name, age, sex, color, and identifying markings;
4. All rabbits intended for human consumption that receive the RHDV2 vaccine shall be identified via tattoo or microchip; and
5. No rabbits intended for human consumption that receive the RHDV2 vaccine may be taken for processing until the 21-day withdrawal period has lapsed.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dr. Samantha Beaty, D.V.M.
State Veterinarian & Assistant Commissioner for Animal Health