



Wild Rabbit Control Program, Cervantes Primary School

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PARENTS & RESIDENCE

A wild rabbit control program is scheduled for the Cervantes Primary School. Work will begin at the end of November 2022 & will be completed by the end of March 2023. Several control methods have been approved for use and will be applied as/if needed this will include the release/use of Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV-K5), a rabbit calicivirus K5 strain & Pindone a Schedule 6 Poison.

Rabbits are a declared pest species **under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007***. [Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007](#)

RHDV-K5 is released as a live virus in solution to chopped carrots or through injection. The RHDV1-K5 release date is Between: 1 January 2023 & 30 January. This notification is to allow residence time to contact veterinarians for advice as there is a need to vaccinate pet rabbits as all rabbits, including pet rabbits can be affected. For best protection rabbits should be vaccinated prior to 1 January 2023.

- RHDV-K5 is spread by insects (such as fleas and flies), via direct contact between rabbits and by predator faeces (cat, dog, and fox).
- RHDV is species specific; RHDV affects only rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*).
- **RHDV is not harmful to native animals or domestic pests other than rabbits.**
- The most suitable rabbit poison in urban areas is the anticoagulant, pindone because there is an effective antidote (Vitamin K1, phytomenadione),
- Pindone can be used in more closely settled areas where 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) poison cannot be used due to the potential risk of poisoning domestic livestock and pets. The antidote for pindone is available from veterinarians either as an injection or as a tablet.
- This control program is undertaken in accordance with all state regulatory legislation & the *animal welfare act 2002*.
- Cervantes Primary School with consent from the Department of Education has engaged Midwest Professional Shooting & Pest Management DOH Licence Number - 2295 to carry out all works using Licenced Pest Management Technicians who are RHDV. RHDV1-K5 qualified for handling and mixing the liquid suspension virus.
- Entry during the duration of the school holiday period will be restricted to authorised personnel only. Parents and teaching staff should advise their children/students of these restrictions during this time.

Domestic pets should be restrained at all times from entering the property. 4G camera monitoring and recording equipment will be in place from start to the completion of the program.

It is advised that signage be obeyed at all times. Further information can be found on the Cervantes Primary School Website or by contacting Cervantes Primary School.

Email: cervantes.ps@education.wa.edu.au

Website: www.cervantesprimary.com.au

For Poison Information Telephone: 131 126.