



Rat Lungworm Disease

(RLWD) is caused by tiny worms that reproduce in rats and develop in slugs and snails. People can become infected if slugs and snails are hidden in unwashed, uncooked fruits or vegetables.



While cases have been reported throughout the state, most originate from Hawaii Island.

Initial Symptoms:

Can be flu-like and start with a headache, most often severe. There may be fever, joint pain, fatigue, nausea, and often the skin may feel itchy and tingly, becoming painfully sensitive.

Disease Progression:

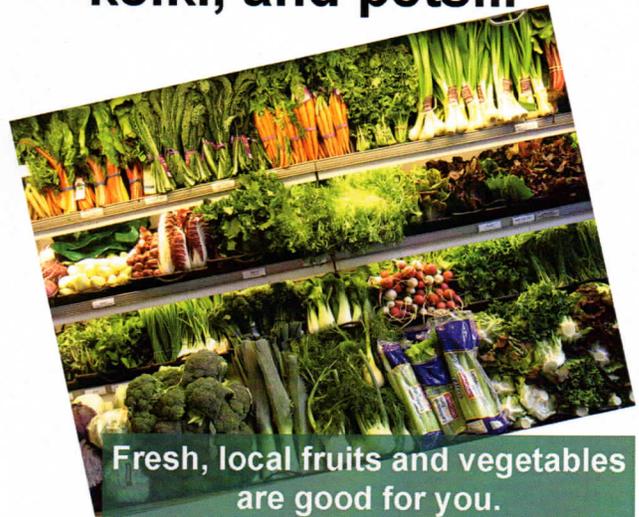
Severe RLWD can include inflammation of the brain and spinal cord, which may lead to paralysis, coma, and death.

Treatment:

The type and severity of symptoms determines the course of treatment by your physician.



Protect your ohana, keiki, and pets...



- Always check & clean or cook fruits and vegetables before eating them.
- Bring in pet food and water dishes overnight.
- Control rat, slug and snail populations to reduce risk.
- Maintain water catchment systems, replace filters regularly.
- Don't drink unfiltered catchment water

For more information please visit our website:
<http://pharmacy.uhh.hawaii.edu/rw/>
Questions? Please email:
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