



# 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:**

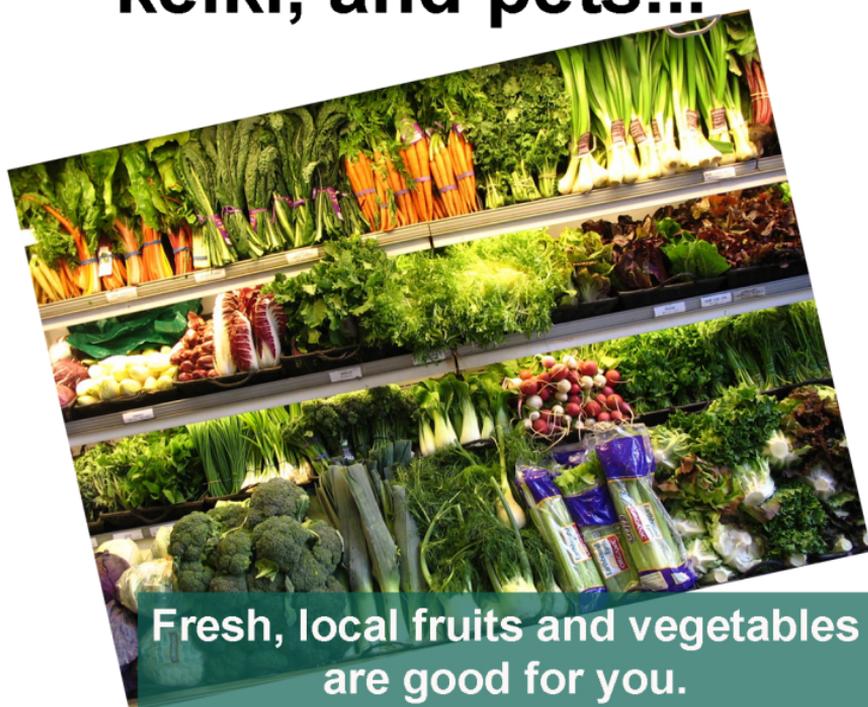
Severe RLWD can include inflammation of the brain and spinal cord, which may lead to paralysis, coma, and death.

## **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/rlw/>  
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