

Superovulation and Embryo Transfer in Rabbits

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Abstract

The present study was carried out to establish the effective methods for the production of large number of fertilized eggs and embryo transfer in the rabbits.

German Angora rabbits with some kinds of infertility were used as the donors for collection of embryos. Superovulation was induced by the injection of FSH and HCG. FSH was subcutaneously injected at the dosage of 15 IU/rabbit twice daily for 3 days and 100 IU/rabbit of HCG was intravenously injected on the 4th day. The donors were artificially inseminated with 1 ml of semen containing more than 1.0×10^8 motile sperm at the time HCG was administered. The embryos were recovered from oviducts and uteri at about 48 hrs for 8-16 cell embryos, 72 hrs for morulae and 78 hrs for blastocysts after insemination. A total of 529 embryos were obtained from 20 does with a mean of 29.5 embryos in one rabbit.

The embryos recovered from German Angoras were transferred into 26 recipient rabbits (Chinchilla, Belgian hare, Californian or New Zealand white rabbits). Eighteen of them (69.2%) bore 82 normal young (from 192 embryos--42.7%). Litter size was 4.5.

