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INHERITED SKELETAL DEFORMITY OF THE HIND LEG IN VIENNA GREY RABBITS IN CONJUNCTION WITH MODIFIED HAIR MORPHOLOGY (ANGORA)

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Nearly 10 years ago in Saxony a hitherto unknown phenotypical defect of the hindlegs of Grey Vienna rabbits was observed by Dr. W. Bernhard (+). He drew our attention to these anomaly and placed some animals at our disposal which were characterized by

- skeletal deformities of the hindlimbs and pubic bones
- a modification of normal hair morphology: long hair only from mid-section to the hindquarter of the rabbit's body.

Carriers of the supposed gene(s) had neither skeletal anomalies nor any hair modification.

We tried to genetically analyse the progeny obtained over the years. Such progeny tests are difficult to realize in view of the severe malformation of the skeleton. According to our tests we consider the variable skeletal deformities an autosomal recessive trait:

- 100 % affected rabbits (8 animals) by mating affected parents

- 23.8 % affected rabbits (10 out of 42 animals) by mating known carriers of the supposed gene.

It is unclear whether the hair mutation will prove to be a pleiotropic effect or be caused by further genes. Anatomical studies were conducted by Dr. W. Seffner.