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IN YUGOSLAVIA**

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CLINICAL PATHOLOGY OF RABBITS IN INTENSIVE RABBIT BREEDING IN YUGOSLAVIA

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ABSTRACT

Research has been conducted on the farm equipped with intensive breeding technology, during 18 Months, on the specimen of 450 New Zealand rabbits which represented a foundation stock. In this period, 1759 clinical manifestations of sickness were recorded, out of which 1492 (85.67%) was the rhinitis disease. On the second place was enteritis with 124 cases (7.05%).

INTRODUCTION

While studying the pathology of rabbits in extensive breeding, Mrzel et al. (1985) performed 118 pathoanatomical examinations of rabbit corpses and noted that various forms of pasteurellosis appeared in 42.4% of cases, enteritis complex in 40.7%, Tyzzer's disease in 7.6%, coccidiosis in 12.7%, and mange in 19.5% of cases. During research on patho-morphological changes and bacteriological analysis of dead rabbits, Urosevic et al. (1986) have found out, while examining 130 corpses, that the maximum percentage (66.92%) of patho-morphological changes was on the respiratory organs, and 20.77% on intestinal tract.

Based on the examining of 480 dead rabbits, Evans (1986) points out that broncho-pneumonia was the death cause in 15%, and enteritis in 16.88% of cases.

Skandro Mevla et al. (1995) report that in the rabbit breeding stock 92% have died of viral haemorrhagic disease.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Research has been conducted on a farm for intensive breeding of rabbits, which primary use was the production of fatteners. On the farm were 450 New Zealand White, which represented the breeding stock. The rabbits were kept in metal "flat-deck" system cages. Males and females were held in the same room. Technologically, it was assumed that the females were to mate in first five days after whelping. They were fed with pelleted feed, watering was automatic (nipple system) and the ventilation was achieved with over-pressure system. Air was brought in with plastic pipes above the cages.

Researches started in July 1995 and ended in December 1996.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

All units were observed daily, clinical symptoms of certain diseases were recorded, and therapy was undertaken. Frequency of certain diseases of the New Zealand white rabbit during 1995 is shown in table I., and in 1996 in table 2.

Table 1: Frequency of disease of New Zealand White rabbit in 1995.

Disease	Month						Total
	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	
Rhinitis	328	207	211	89	143	75	1.053
Enteritis	21	18	5	2	10	1	57
Scabies	15	9	1	6	1	1	33
Mastitis	2	-	5	3	-	6	16
Otitis	-	1	3	5	2	5	16
Decubitus	8	-	-	4	-	-	12
Abscess	4	-	2	1	-	-	7
Coniunctivitis	5	-	-	-	1	-	6
Atonia uteri	-	1	-	2	-	1	4
Torticoli	3	1	-	-	-	-	4
Retention sec.	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	386	237	228	112	157	89	1.209

Table 2: Frequency of disease of New Zealand White rabbit in 1996.

Disease	Month												Total
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	
Rhinitis	51	19	33	14	27	20	11	26	31	46	89	72	439
Enteritis	6	-	1	5	-	1	-	2	8	5	21	18	67
Otitis	6		1		3	1		1	1	1	4		19
Mastitis	5					1							7
Scabies	4					1			1				7
Coniunctivitis	2	1		1	1		1	1					7
Atonia uteri		1					1						2
Abscess			1					1					2
TOTAL	74	21	36	20	31	23	14	30	42	53	115	91	550

Greatest losses on our farms are the consequence of pasteurellosis mostly as rhinitis. The rabbits would cough, with nasal discharge which was clear and transparent, mucilaginous or mucilaginous purulent, depending on the phase of disease. Sick specimen breeds with difficulties.

Antibiotics therapy gives very good results in start, but recidivism are often and there are often significant losses. How much of a problem rhinitis was, can be seen from the fact that during July 328, and during September 211 females had clinical symptoms of rhinitis.

If, rhinitis was the most widespread symptom of pasteurellosis, other symptoms as conjunctivitis, torticoli, otitis, as well as some specific forms of pasteurellosis were added, then the image of pasteurellosis spread in New Zealand white rabbit is utterly defeating.

The appearance of other clinical symptoms of various diseases wasn't a problem.

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