

thogenic power on the rabbit, that colibacillosis enteritis exists in this species. Enteropathogenic strains belong to 02, 08, 020, 039 and 0106 groups in the newborn rabbit and to 02, 049, 085, 0103 and 0132 groups in the fattening rabbit.

---

### IMPORTANCE OF NEPHROPATHIES IN THE RABBIT

J. VAISSAIRE, Cl. MAIRE, L. RENAULT et J. P. LABADIE  
avec la collaboration technique d'E. LE BOURHIS, M. AUVRAY et C. PIANEL

*Laboratoires vétérinaires Sanders,  
17, Quai de l'Industrie,  
91260 Juvisy sur Orge*

---

Among 669 rabbits received at the laboratory during 1972 about 56 p. 100 exhibited nephritis lesions and 60 suffered from « uremic syndrome ». Primary kidney lesions were caused either by microbic or parasitic diseases, or poor management conditions bringing about serious digestive troubles, or, at last, uncontrolled use of medications. Epithelial nephritis bringing about an important mortality by « uremic syndrome », high levels of urea, reaching in certain cases 4.5 g per liter of serum, was associated with hyperkalemia reaching 23 mEq per liter and causing rapid death by heart stopping. To cope with severe nephropathy that may kill up to 50 p. 100 of flocks, farmers should take into consideration the importance of good management practises and good sanitary conditions of their animals.

---

### III. — Physiology

#### COMPARISON OF THE REPRODUCTIVE BEHAVIOUR OF DOES MATED AT DIFFERENT TIME INTERVALS AFTER PARTURITION

Maryse SELME et M. PRUD'HON

*Station de Physiologie animale, I. N. R. A.,  
E. N. S. A., Place Viala,  
34060 Montpellier Cedex*

---

The effect on ovulation, implantation and embryo survival of the time interval between parturition and mating was studied in 182 primiparous rabbits. The rabbits were mated either on day 1 (lot 1) or on day 10 (lot 10) and killed on day 10, 16, 20, 24 or 28 post-coitus. The frequencies of ovulation and implantation were determined, the numbers of corpora lutea (C. L.)

and sites of implantation were counted and the embryos were examined, macroscopically for a heart beat. Ovulation occurred less frequently in lot 1 than in lot 10, the respective values being 56.1 p. 100 and 83.7 p. 100 in autumn, 78.3 p. 100 and 80 p. 100 in winter, 77.8 p. 100 and 94.4 p. 100 in spring. No significant difference was found between the two lots of rabbits for the other parameters which were examined, although values were higher for lot 10 than for lot 1.

The mean number of C. L. increased from autumn to spring for rabbits mated 10 days after parturition, but not when the interval was one day. The percentage of early embryo survival (no. sites per no. C. L.  $\times$  100) was 67 p. 100 in lot 1 and 77 p. 100 in lot 10.

---

## VARIATIONS IN THE BODY RESERVES OF FEMALE RABBITS DURING THE REPRODUCTIVE CYCLE

F. LEBAS

avec la collaboration technique de Marie-Claude COUSIN, M. THEAS-LABAN et G. SARDE

*Station de Recherches sur l'Élevage des Porcs,  
Centre national de Recherches zootechniques, I. N. R. A.,  
78350 Jouy en Josas*

---

Sixty-five Californian female rabbits, having already undergone a complete reproductive cycle, were used. During pregnancy, half of the females were fed *ad libitum*, whereas the others only received 140 g/day of the same food. From parturition, all the animals were fed *ad libitum*, 5 of the rabbits were killed at mating and 5 rabbits per group on days 10, 21 and 28 of gestation and on days 10, 21 and 32 after parturition. Study of the body composition of these rabbits showed a great constancy in the protein compartment of the rabbits. On the other hand, the lipid reserves of the rabbits are liable to be subjected to rapid and considerable variations. According to diets, the mobilization and deposition of lipid reserves may be recorded as well during gestation as during lactation.

---

## EFFECT OF WEIGHT AT WEANING IN THE RABBIT ON ITS SUBSEQUENT GROWTH PERFORMANCES

F. LEBAS

avec la collaboration technique de Marie-Claude COUSIN et G. SARDE

*Station de Recherches sur l'Élevage des Porcs,  
Centre national de Recherches zootechniques, I. N. R. A.,  
78350 Jouy en Josas*

---

Forty-two litters of Californian rabbits were used for the experiment. By changing the nature and amount of diet offered before weaning (28 days), we obtained 2 groups of experimental animals whose weight at weaning (450 g) was definitely lower than that of the control group