

## Action of an irritant (NH<sub>3</sub>) on the pathogeny of a respiratory disease induced experimentally by *Pasteurella multocida* in the rabbit

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Rabbits held 15 days in an ammonia environment at the level of 30 ppm (S<sup>+</sup>) and rabbits in a normal environment (S<sup>-</sup>) were intranasally inoculated 4 times with *Pasteurella multocida* (10<sup>8</sup> bacteria/inoculum).

In the sensitized animals (S<sup>+</sup>) lung lesions were significantly more frequent and more acute than in the non sensitized ones (S<sup>-</sup>). Bacteriological investigations showed that in the (S<sup>-</sup>) rabbits, the mucosa of the upper respiratory tract had entirely played its role in filtering and destructing the bacteria : in (S<sup>-</sup>) animals, lungs were sterile or poorly infected whereas in (S<sup>+</sup>) animals, they were heavily contaminated.

## Use of the dermojet apparatus for vaccinations against myxomatosis

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The DERMOJET is an injector apparatus without needle used to vaccinate rabbits by simple projection of the vaccine at the inner side and towards the basis of the external ear. However, this apparatus must be used with precautions and the instructions must be followed carefully when vaccinating against myxomatosis.

The procedure is only fully efficient in very young, newly weaned rabbits, but the protection obtained, although rapid is transitory. It is only efficient for a period of about 2 months corresponding to the duration of an intensive fattening.

This procedure is no more interesting when applied to animals aged more than 3 months, as the protection obtained is less intensive and of shorter duration. From that moment, the best efficiency is obtained with subcutaneous administering of a virus vaccine with adjuvant. When used systematically, this technique (Dermojet) might not always be successful. The apparatus must be checked regularly and it is also necessary to verify whether the general status of the population in which the vaccination is practiced is sufficiently good.

For all these reasons, DERMOJET seems to satisfy the particular requirements of large meat rabbit production units at the moment when thousands of young of much variable origins are grouped together, provided that health controls have been practised in the rabbitries supplying the animals.

In traditional or semi-intensive production units as well as in breeding herds, this procedure does not provide a sufficiently durable protection in animals of all ages and staying a long time in the rabbitries.