

Establishment of a production and supply for rabbit with minimum disease ⁽¹⁾

Ming-Yang Tsai ⁽²⁾ Wei-Ling Kho ⁽²⁾ Chao-Hsien Hsieh ⁽²⁾ and Hsi-Hsun Wu ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾

Received: Sep. 14, 2015; Accepted: Jan. 21, 2016

Abstract

This study was to establish production facilities of minimum disease rabbit. Weight data and health monitoring program during 4 to 12 weeks of feeding period were established. It was to improve production facilities, management and the quality of experimental rabbit health. Weights of New Zealand White rabbits measured at 4 to 12 weeks of age in cold and hot seasons showed that body weights of male (822-2,570 g) and female (838-2,612 g) rabbits in cool season were significantly higher than those in hot season ($P < 0.05$). Average body weight of male was $2,570 \pm 255$ g and that of female was $2,612 \pm 220$ g at 12 weeks of age. That was required body weight of experimental rabbits. The results of health monitor in 2014 from season 1 to season 4 showed that *Coccidia* was 5% (1/20); positive antibody for *Encephalitozoon cuniculi* was 5% (1/20) and *Clostridium piliforme* was 5% (1/20). The other pathogens were not detected. This study had established the minimum disease rabbit population for bio-medical materials. Nine testing diseases were negative. Those can provide for animal experiment, vaccine development and biomedical research and promote the pharmaceutical industry and academic development.

Key words: Health monitoring, Minimum disease, Rabbit.

(1) Contribution No. 2351 from Livestock Research Institute, Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan.

(2) Animal Industry Division, COA-LRI, Hsinhua, Tainan 71246, Taiwan, R.O.C.

(3) Department of Animal Science, National Pingtung Science and Technology University, Pingtung 91201, Taiwan, R.O.C.

(4) Corresponding author, E-mail: hhwu@mail.npust.edu.tw.