

ON-FARM CAUSES OF MORTALITY IN FEMALE RABBITS.

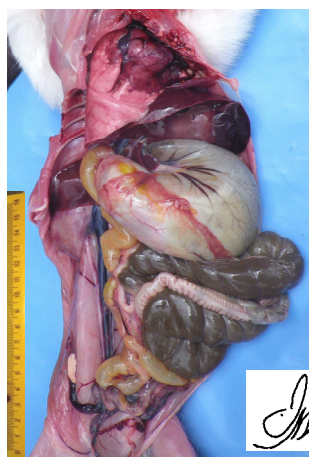
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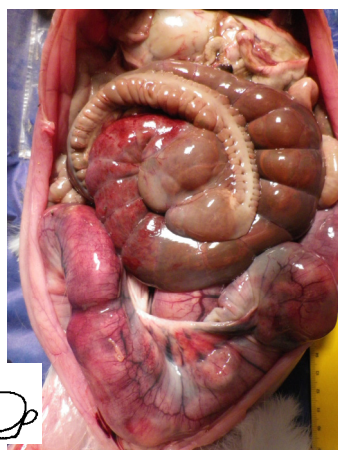
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ABSTRACT

On-farm causes of mortality in female rabbits were collected from 1,000 necropsies of 803 dead and 197 moribund-euthanized rabbit does. Data were gathered on 488 visits to 173 doe farms, in Spain and Portugal during 2006-2011. The median size of the 173 doe farms was 600 does (minimum to maximum: 60-2,580 does), and 45 bucks (minimum to maximum: 14-180 bucks) on 45 farms/173 doe farms; there were no bucks on 128 farms. Our estimation of the causes of mortality was based on a population of 369,589 females at risk over a period of 6 years. The mortality risk per year $\times 100$ females (MR) was estimated, considering the relationship between necropsied does and the population at risk on each visit. We found alterations of the respiratory tract compatible with cause of death in 31.1 % of does (MR). MR due to digestive causes was 22 % (15.7 % enteritis-diarrhoea, and 6.3 % mucoid enteropathy, similar to Epizootic Rabbit Enteropathy), followed by metritis, pyometra and mummified fetuses (MR= 11.4%), hemorrhagic septicemia (8.4%), pregnancy toxemia/ketosis (8.4%), uterine torsion (7.5%), mastitis (chronic, but mainly acute; MR= 5.5%), viral hemorrhagic disease (4.1%). There were also miscellaneous health events (14.7%), and unknown conditions (cadaver with autolysis included; MR= 3.7%). Among the miscellaneous health events there were hepatopathies (abscesses and cholecystitis included; MR= 1.9%), uterine prolapse (1.9%), toxicosis caused by ionophore antibiotics in feed (1.5%), or nephropathies (1.4%). It would be very useful if this information might be complemented with laboratory analyses. Knowledge of the apparent causes of disease and death in does is necessary for preparing adapted prevention protocols.



Main cause: pneumonia



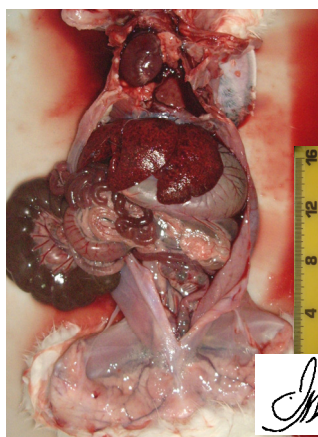
Enteritis (haemorrhagic tiftitis)



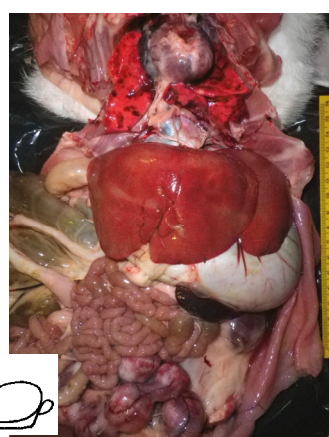
Mucoid enteropathy (sim. Epizootic rabbit enteropathy)



Haemorrhagic septicemia



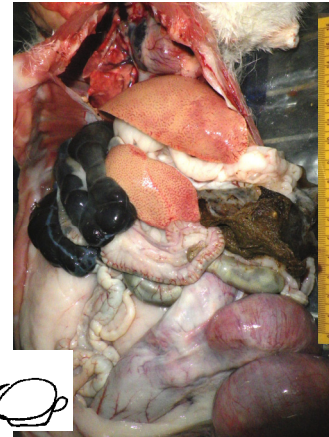
Hepatopathy (and ascites)



Viral haemorrhagic disease



Uterine torsion



Hepatic lipidosis (pregnancy toxemia)

P06: ON-FARM CAUSES OF MORTALITY IN FEMALE RABBITS. Rosell, J.M. and de la Fuente, L.F.

This article is dedicated to Lluís Viñas Borrell (1943 to 2004).

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