

## **Effect of age and sex on slaughter traits in New Zealand White rabbits**

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### **Summary**

The aim of the study was to determine the effect of age and sex on slaughter traits in New Zealand White rabbits (n=60). The rabbits were fed pellets ad libitum and slaughtered at the age of 12., 21. and 31. weeks. The following traits were recorded: body weight, hot and cold carcass weight, prime cuts' weight ( fore part, loin and hind part), the weight of meat, bone and fat in carcass and prime cuts, meat, bone and fat content of carcass and dressing percentage. To examine the differences between the means for age and sex groups, the GLM procedure and Tukey's test (SAS, 2001) were used. The linear model included age and sex as fixed effects, and age x sex interaction. The results of the experiment showed that the dressing percentage, fore part, loin and fat content in carcass were higher in elder rabbits; however, the percentage content of meat and that one of hind part in carcass were lower. The dressing percentage of males and females was similar, except the hot dressing percentage III. Any significant age x sex interaction was not found.

Key words: rabbits / slaughter traits / age / sex