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Suitability of behavioural tests for determining the ways rabbits function in the environment and their relationship with some productive traits

S u m m a r y

The aim of the study was to produce two lines of rabbits differing in overall locomotor activity using genetic selection. The lines obtained were compared for traits such as fertility, prolificacy, mortality of young rabbits and their weight gains until weaning. Based on the results obtained a hypothesis was framed that the line of active females is less suited to rearing in cages of standard recommended dimensions. Females from this group are much worse than mothers. Rabbits of the passive line preferred to stay in a closed space, which is considered as a way of adaptation to the created environment. Because males of the active line are quicker to mature sexually, more confident and mate earlier, they should be preferred in further breeding.