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Response to stress and productivity of rabbits

S u m m a r y

The aim of the study was to test the response of rabbits to stress stimuli using simple behavioral tests (hand test, SIH test) and to determine how the behaviour of animals exposed to stress affects their productivity. Basic cortisol levels and the number of stereotypies were used for welfare assessment. The animal response to stress depends on many factors. Performed trials indicate that most important are individual traits. It appeared that the same situation can cause very strong stress for one animal but may have no effect on other animals. The obtained results suggest, that some rabbits with low resistance to stress are less suited to farm breeding. Since the low resistance to stress is reflected in productive results, these rabbits should be eliminated from the herd.