



Effect of dietary restriction on the growth and survival of young rabbits *Oryctolagus cuniculus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

*Athanasé Kraïdy Otchoumou, Franck Konan Yao, Marie Flavienne Raïssa légbé Wognin, Sébastien Niamké

Biotechnology Laboratory, Biosciences Faculty, Félix Houphouët Boigny University, 22 BP 582 Abidjan 22

***Corresponding author:** Dr. Otchoumou Kraïdy Athanasé, *Biotechnology Laboratory, Biosciences Faculty, Félix Houphouët Boigny University, 22 BP 582 Abidjan 22, Email: tchoumou2@yahoo.fr, Phone: +225 07 79 72 06*

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1 ABSTRACT

The feed restriction study involved two groups of rabbits; the first was subjected to two-week restriction and the second group to four-week restriction. Feed restriction consisted of reducing the daily feed by 10, 20, 30 and 40% over different periods. The results showed that a 10% restriction of daily feed allows a growth (group 1: 2370.63 ± 100.41 g; group 2: 2175.11 ± 51.78 g) similar to that of the control (2465.54 ± 127.57 g) which received a complete daily feed. It also improves their survival (100%). This study also revealed that feed rationing in rabbits induces growth, which is a function of the duration of the restriction. The feed costs evaluated (D 10: group 1: 7476.92 FCFA and group 2: 7030.40 FCFA against 7598.48 FCFA for the control batch) showed that this 10% reduction of daily feed constitutes a gain for any breeder wishing to do an intensive activity.
