

Clinical Presentation, Treatment and Management of Some Rabbit Conditions in Nairobi

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Abstract

A retrospective study carried from records at the Small Animal Clinic, University of Nairobi between the years 1999 to 2010 to investigate the occurrence of rabbit conditions /diseases found a total of fifty clinical cases to have been presented within the period. Annual variations in the number of cases presented were noted with the highest incidence of 54% in the year 2010. The incidence of infectious conditions were ear canker 36% (18/50), gastrointestinal conditions 22% (11/50), pneumonia 12% (6/50) and skin conditions at 6% (3/50). Single cases of Ehrlichiosis, vaginal prolapse and Vitamin E /selenium deficiency were observed. Cases classified under routine health checks accounted for 18% (9/50) of the conditions. The distribution of the diseases by breed was New Zealand White 40% (20/50), California White 20% (10/50), crosses 24% (12/50), Dutch 10% (5/50), and Kenya White 6% (3/50). More female cases were noted relative to males at 78% (39/50) and 22% (11/50), respectively. A similar prevalence was also observed as per the age group where the adults were more than the kittens (baby rabbits). The mortality rate of the cases was 26% (13/50). Pneumonia had the highest case fatality rate at 83% (5/6) followed by gastrointestinal conditions 36% (4/11) and ear canker 22% (4/18). The findings of this study revealed that ear canker, intestinal coccidiosis and pneumonia were the most prevalent conditions affecting rabbits in Nairobi, Kenya.