ABSTRACT

- Different intrinsic factors such as breed, parity, or week of lactation, and several extrinsic factors, such as housing, feeding, season, rhythm of reproduction and age at weaning, influence on body condition of domestic rabbit doe.
- This study aimed to evaluate the reciprocal relationships between the sanitary status and the body condition of the females.
- The sanitary status (rhinitis, mastitis, sore hocks, mange) and body condition (BC) of 3571 lactating does was evaluated on 39 farms. BC scoring was estimated by weighting and palpating the fullness of muscle and fat of the lumbar, sacral, coxal tuberosity and gluteal regions, in relation to the size of the doe, on a lineal scale of 1 to 9.

An ANOVA was used to evaluate the effect of sanitary status on the BC, the following factors being significant: rhinitis, mastitis, sore hocks, number of kindling, partum-AI interval, lactation stage and farm.
- The method of maximum likelihood (CATMOD procedure) was used to estimate the analysis of the factors of variation affecting each disease.
- The factors that were significant for some of the diseases were: farm, BC, reproductive rhythm, number of kindling, phase of lactation, season, and use of foot-rests (it reduces the prevalence of sore hocks by over 50%).
- The body condition scoring is a good indicator of health in does, and is thus a criterion in farm management.