

DISEASES OF RABBITS

Rabbits like to be kept dry. Better not keep any than to expose them to dampness.

Rabbits, like most farm yard animals, are always more easily preserved from disease than cared for once they are stricken.

Dampness in hutches and litters, lack of fresh air, dirtiness, consanguinity in breeding, failure to vary diet are practically the only causes of disease among rabbits.

Dropsy

SYMPTOMS.—A soft tumor appears on the neck, then diminishes to reappear again. The belly grows more voluminous and the hair stands on end.

TREATMENT.—Give a few meals of wheat or a mixture of wheat bran, buckwheat flour and powdered resin, 1 in 10. The seeds and twigs of the juniper-tree or of the dried willow also have their place in the troughs of rabbits suffering from dropsy or "big belly."

Scabby ears

SYMPTOMS.—A kind of scab develops in the inside of the ears or rather a white liquid hardens in foul-smelling crusts. The ears are drooping.

TREATMENT.—Apply in the ears as deeply as possible an ointment prepared as follows: Mix together one (1) spoonful of castor oil, two (2) spoonfuls of sublimated sulphur and four (4) spoonfuls of lard. This mixture should be lukewarm and held in the ear by means of a wadding pad. The ears should be washed with boracic water every second day and applications of the mixture repeated till complete cure. The hutches should be scoured with boiling water.

Sore eyes

SYMPTOMS.—The eyes are almost completely closed. The lids are covered with little reddish pimples.

TREATMENT.—Wash the affected parts with very weak brine containing about 15 grammes of acetate of lead per quart of liquid.

Constipation

SYMPTOMS.—The dejections become hard, dry, shiny and are expelled with more and more difficulty. There is usually irritation of the urinary ducts and loss of appetite.