

New Zealand White Rabbits

Nomenclature

CrI:KBL(NZW)

Strain Origin

The New Zealand White (NZW) rabbit was obtained in 1991 by Charles River Canada from Kitayama Labs K.K. of Nagano Prefecture, Japan.

Coat Color

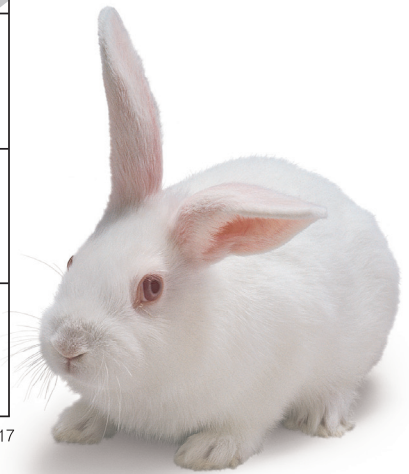
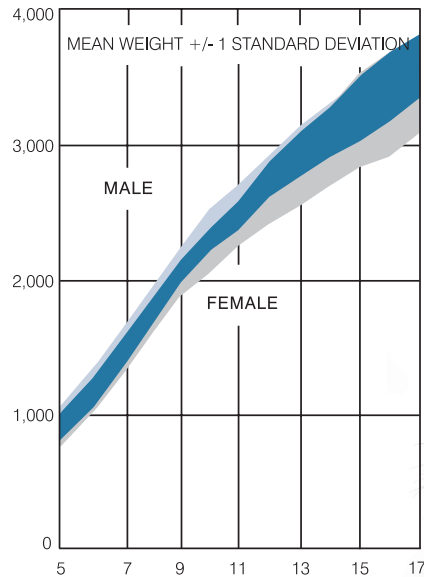
Albino

Colony Overview

Charles River adheres to strict biosecurity practices when breeding our New Zealand White (NZW) rabbits to ensure the highest standards in health and genetics. The rabbits are maintained as an outbred colony, housed in HEPA-filtered barrier rooms and bred via a pair mating system.

Health Monitoring Program

The rabbits are maintained under a VAF/Plus® health status that indicates that the colony has been tested for and is free of an extensive list of viruses and other pathogens. On a quarterly basis, we evaluate 8 animals – 4 rabbits age 3-5 months old and 4 of at least 6 months of age (typically retired breeders) – from each production colony via a comprehensive health monitoring program which includes bacteriology, parasitology and gross pathology, as well as serology (assessment profile). Rabbit colonies are also screened quarterly for infection by all *Helicobacter* species by polymerase chain reaction (PCR). In addition, each colony is



tested annually by PCR for an extensive list of bacteria and some parasites and fungi using the Charles River PRIA PCR panel.

Monthly, between quarterly submissions of live animals, we screen the colonies by serology and parasitology. Serum samples from 8 rabbits are screened by the Tracking profile. Interim parasitology samples (fecal pellets from 8 rabbits) are processed by density separation and concentration methods and are examined for the presence of helminth eggs, as well as for any protozoal trophozoites or cysts, including all *Eimeria* spp. Updated health reports for our rabbit barrier production colonies are located on our website at www.criver.com.

Normal Physiological Values

The following information represents the normal physiological values for the NZW rabbit. The values presented may vary due to factors such as breeding, animal care, environmental and housing programs.

| Parameter | Value |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Body Temperature | 38-40°C 100.4-104°F |
| Heart Rate (beats per minute) | 130-325 |
| Respiration Rate (per minute) | 30-60 |
| Weight Range Adult Male | 2-6 kg |
| Weight Range Adult Female | 2-6 kg |
| Weight Neonate | 30-80 grams |
| Water Consumption (daily) | 100-600 ml |
| Food Consumption (daily) | 100-300 grams |
| Life Span | 5-8 years |
| Sexual Maturity Age | 4-6 months |
| Estrous Cycle Frequency | Induced |
| Duration of Estrus | NA |
| Gestation Period | 29-35 days |
| Breeding Life | 3 years |

Source: *Handbook of Clinical Signs in Rodents and Rabbits*, 1st Edition, Charles River

References

Pharmacology

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