

Proceedings of the 17th Annual Conference of the Nigerian Society for Animal Production, 22-27 March 1992, Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Abuja, Nigeria



NIGERIAN SOCIETY FOR ANIMAL PRODUCTION



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17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
(ABUJA '92)

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

DATE: 22ND — 27TH MARCH, 1992

VENUE: SHERATON HOTEL & TOWERS, FCT, ABUJA

THEME: THE CHALLENGES OF LIVESTOCK AND
POULTRY PRODUCTION IN NIGERIA IN THE 21ST
CENTURY

GENETIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS AFFECTING WEANING WEIGHT IN RABBITS

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A total of 139 kid records collected over a 9-month period was analysed to evaluate the effects of parity, breed, litter size born alive (LsizeA), sex and season on the weaning weight of rabbits. Parity, breed and sex had no effect on weaning weight. However, litter size born alive and season significantly ($P < 0.01$) affected weaning weight. Kids born to Chinchilla does were heavier (525.9 g) than those born to New Zealand White (500.5 g) and California (490 g) does. There was no particular trend on the effect of litter size born alive on weaning weight. However, litters in LsizeA of 2 (523.2 g) and four (572 g) were superior to the other litter sizes, while kids in LsizeA of 5 were the lowest (463 g). Kids born during the late wet season (627 g) were also superior to those born during the early wet season (451 g) and late dry season (439 g) ($P < 0.01$).