

Diagnostic Exercise

From The Davis-Thompson Foundation*

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Clinical History: Nine out of 22 Standard Rex meat rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) died within 72 hours in a backyard rabbitry of southern California. Animals were kept outdoors in individual cages. Some rabbits died suddenly without any clinical sign, whereas a few of them had dull eyes and abnormal position 4-8 hours prior to death. One carcass had blood coming through the nares.

Necropsy Findings: Four carcasses were examined and they all were in good nutritional condition. Lungs were swollen, wet, and there were occasional petechiae. Tracheal mucosa was variably congested. Livers were pale, occasionally with rounded borders, and there was a mild to moderate reticular/lobular pattern (Fig 1).



Figure 1. Gross aspect of the liver

Follow-up questions: Microscopic findings, morphologic diagnosis, cause, and associated lesions.

*The Diagnostic Exercises are an initiative of the Latin Comparative Pathology Group (LCPG), the Latin American subdivision of The Davis-Thompson Foundation. These exercises are contributed by members and non-members from any country of residence. - Consider submitting an exercise! - A final document containing this material with answers and a brief discussion will be posted on the CL Davis website (http://www.cldavis.org/diagnostic_exercises.html).

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