

## **RABBIT SLAUGHTERING OPERATIONS RABBIT HEALTH**

- **Diseases or Conditions Evident which Require Condemnation**
  - Carcasses of rabbits affected with or showing lesions shall be condemned. (Tularemia, anthrax, hemorrhagic septicemia, pyemia, septicemia, leukemia, acute enteritidis, peritonitis, sarcomatosis, metritis, necro-bacillosis (Smorl.s Disease), tuberculosis, emaciation, streptobacillary pseudotuberculosis, and advanced stages of snuffles.) Rabbits from pathological laboratories shall be condemned.
  - Any organ or part of a rabbit carcass affected with a tumor shall be condemned and when there is evidence that the general condition of the rabbit has been affected by the size, position, or nature of the tumor, the carcass shall be condemned. In cases of malignant neoplasms involving any internal organ to a marked extent, or affecting the muscles, skeleton, or body lymph glands, even primarily, the whole carcass shall be condemned.
  - Carcasses of rabbits showing any disease such as generalized melanosis, pseudoleukemia, and the like, which systemically affect the rabbit shall be condemned.
  - Any organ or part of a carcass which is badly bruised or which is affected by an abscess, or a suppurating sore, shall be condemned. Parts or carcasses contaminated by pus shall be condemned.
  - Carcasses of rabbits contaminated by volatile oils, paints, poisons, gases, or other substances that affect the wholesomeness of the carcass shall be condemned.
  - All carcasses of rabbits so infected that consumption of the meat or meat food products thereof may give rise to meat poisoning shall be condemned. This includes all carcasses showing signs of any of the following diseases: acute inflammation of the lungs, pleura, pericardium, peritoneum or meninges; or severe hemorrhagic enteritidis or gastritis; polyarthritis and acute nephritis. Immediately after the slaughter of any rabbit so infected, the infected premises and implements used shall be thoroughly sanitized. The part or parts of any carcass coming into contact with the carcass or any part of the carcass of any rabbit covered by this section other than those affected with acute inflammation of the lungs, pleura, pericardium, peritoneum or meninges, shall be condemned.
  - Carcasses showing any degree of icterus with a parenchymatous degeneration of organs, the result of infection or intoxication, and those which, as a result of a pathological condition, show an intense yellow or greenish-yellow discoloration without evidence of infection or intoxication shall be condemned.

- Carcasses of rabbits affected with mange or scab in advance stages, or showing emaciation or extension of the inflammation to the flesh, shall be condemned. When the disease condition is slight, the carcass may be passed for food after removal and condemnation of the affected parts.
- In the disposal of carcasses and parts of carcasses showing evidence of infestation with parasites not transmissible to man, the following general rules shall govern: If the lesions are localized in such manner and are of such character that the parasites and the lesions caused by them may be radically removed, the non-affected portion of the carcass, or part of the carcass, may be certified for food after the removal and condemnation of the affected portions. Where a part of a carcass shows numerous lesions caused by parasites or the character of the infestation is such that complete extirpation of the parasites and lesions is difficult and uncertainly accomplished, or if the parasitic infestation or invasion renders the organ or part in any way unfit for food, the affected organ or part shall be condemned. Where parasites are found to be distributed in a carcass in such manner or to be of such a character that their removal and the removal of the lesions caused by them are impracticable, no part of the carcass shall be certified for food and the entire carcass shall be condemned. Carcasses infested with a hydatid cyst or cysts (*Echinocooccus granulosus*), transmissible to dogs and from dogs to man, shall in all cases be condemned regardless of the degree of infestation.
- Carcasses of rabbits showing such degree of emaciation or anemic condition as would render the meat unwholesome, and carcasses that show a slimy degeneration of the fat or a serious infiltration of the muscles shall be condemned.
- **Decomposition- Carcasses of rabbits deleteriously affected by post-mortem changes shall be disposed of as follows:**
  - Carcasses that have reached a state of putrefaction or stinking fermentation shall be condemned.
  - Carcasses affected by types of post-mortem change superficial in nature may be certified for food after removal and condemnation of affected parts.
- **Disposal of Condemned Carcasses and Parts- All condemned carcasses, or parts of carcasses, shall be disposed of by one of the following methods:**
  - Steam treatment - which shall be accomplished by processing the condemned product in a pressure tank under at least 40 pounds of steam pressure) or by thorough cooking in a kettle or vat for a sufficient time to effectively destroy the product for human food purposes and preclude dissemination of disease through consumption by animals. Tanks and equipment used for this purpose or for rendering or preparing inedible products shall be in rooms or compartments separate from those used for the preparation of edible products. There shall be no

direct connection, by means or pipes or otherwise, between tanks containing inedible products and those containing edible products.

- Incineration or complete destruction by burning.
- Chemical denaturing - shall be accomplished by the liberal application to all carcasses and parts thereof, of:
  - Crude carbolic acid,
  - Kerosene, fuel oil, or used crank case oil,
  - Any other substance that will decharacterize the carcasses or parts to the extent necessary to accomplish the purposes of this section.

\*\* These guidelines are as generally summarized from USDA FSIS and in no way replaces the animal health expertise of a Veterinarian or Veterinarian designee. If a Vet or vet designee feels the animal is not in good health for human consumption, it may not be used.