

## ERG EVALUATION IN RABBITS: ALBINO PHENOTYPE vs PIGMENTATED PHENOTYPE

**Authors:** MP Cassarani <sup>1,2</sup>, A. Marata <sup>3</sup>, M. Zengarini <sup>3</sup>, SG. Rosolen <sup>2,4,5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Centro Veterinario Argo, Ancona, Italy

<sup>2</sup> REOVVA Membre, Réseau Européen d'Ophtalmologie Vétérinaire et de Vision Animale

<sup>3</sup> Ambulatorio Veterinario Animal Salus, Monte San Giusto, Italy

<sup>4</sup> Clinique Vétérinaire Voltaire, Asnières, Paris

<sup>5</sup> Institut de la Vision, Paris

### **Purpose**

Develop an electroretinogram protocol for the retina study in rabbits, albino phenotype versus pigmented phenotype

### **Methods**

Six rabbits albino phenotype (three males and three females) and six rabbits pigmented phenotype (three males and three females) visited for vaccinations at the Centro Veterinario Argo were included in this study. All animals included, were without ophthalmic diseases. After the agreement of the owners, the rabbits were submitted to deep sedation to perform an electroretinogram examination. Photopic ERG was performed to find the I-max value and Flicker stimulation. Scotopic ERG was performed to highlight the scotopic retinal adaptation. All data obtained were submitted to statistical evaluation.

### **Results**

All results obtained in photopic condition showed greater variability of waves amplitudes compared to the variability of the culmination time. The pigmented phenotype has a b-wave amplitude value greater than the albino phenotype. In scotopic condition in either phenotypes B-wave amplitude value grow during t0 and t20, however, with a more significant increase in the pigmented phenotype.

### **Conclusion**

Despite the number of animals per group is small, the analysis of ERG parameters has allowed to show that there are differences between the two phenotypes only for what concerns the operation of the rods. We hypothesize are due to the difference in pigmentation between the two phenotypes.