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GROWTH RESPONSE AND CARCASS YIELD OF RABBIT FED DIETS CONTAINING SUPPLEMENTED POULTRY GROWTH PROMOTERS

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out to examine the effect of poultry growth promoter supplementation on fattening rabbits' growth performance, as well as carcass characteristics. Twenty unknown breeds of rabbit weaned rabbits were purchased and randomly assigned to 4 dietary groups at the rate one rabbit per hutch. Each of the four groups was assigned to different treatment diet (T1, T2, T3 and T4) consisting of non-inclusion (control), el-rox, glofast and maxgrowth as commercial growth promoters. The feeding trial lasted for 91 days. The poultry promoter was added as it was prescribed by the manufacturer for broiler. The experiment has a significant difference on the total feed intake (5836, 7235, 5755 and 5721) were reported for T1, T2, T3 and T4 respectively. For average daily feed intake and feed conversion ratio (fcr) T2 (el-rox growth promoter) showed higher values (79.51, 7.09) than in the control diet (64.13, 6.13) while values for T3 and T4 were lower indicating no positive effect. There was significant increase in weight gain as T3 T4 and T2 (111.90, 1084.00 and 1020.40) performed better than T1 (956.20) respectively. For live weight of organs, groups fed growth promoters (T3, T2 and T4) had higher values than the control (T1) except for small intestine, kidney and kidney fat where T1 had higher values (1.31, 0.58 and 0.96g) than other treatment groups. There was negative effect of growth promoter on GIT length as T1 (control) had higher values (2.98, 67.76 and 10.34cm) for oesophagus, small intestine and caecum than other treatment groups. For economics of production, cost of feed intake was lower in T1 than T2, T3 and T4 (293.93, 422.31, 335.99 and 334.60 respectively). Based on the results obtained in the present study, it can be concluded that the inclusion of poultry growth promoter has a positive effect on grower rabbit. It is therefore recommended that poultry growth promoter supplementation in rabbit feed can be a way to enhance growth for rabbit fattening. Further studies should be conducted to determine effect of poultry growth promoter on health of rabbit and also on human health when consumed as food.



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