ABSTRACT: Survey on the prevalence of the bacterial respiratory pathogens in intensive management rabbit farms in Campania Region. The present study was undertaken with the aim to evaluate the health status of rabbits. In particular, bacterial respiratory diseases were investigated. 15 intensive rabbit farms (with a number of rabbit does more than 500) located in the Campania region were analysed. Each farm was twice sampled during the period November 2005/November 2006. In particular, 20 nasal swabs/farm were performed to check Pasteurella multocida, Bordetella bronchiseptica, Staphylococcus aureus. Moreover, the animals found dead were necropsied and analysed for P. multocida, B. bronchiseptica, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Klebsiella pneumoniae following the procedures suggested by Office of International Epizooties. P. multocida was isolated in 105/600 nasal swabs analysed. Furthermore, B. bronchiseptica and S. aureus were found in 8/600 and 82/600 nasal swabs respectively. Finally, out of the 22 carcasses analysed, P. multocida (n=12), B. bronchiseptica (n=3), P. aeruginosa (n=3), K. pneumoniae (n=1), S. aureus (n=9) were isolated. Our results show that the mortality rate due to specific respiratory pathogens (Pasteurella multocida and Bordetella bronchiseptica) are limited. In contrast, the remainder isolates represent a serious problem for the animals subjected to stress condition.

Key words: Rabbit does, Pasteurella multocida, Nasal swabs, Necropsy.