

UNIVERSITÀ
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DI PADOVA

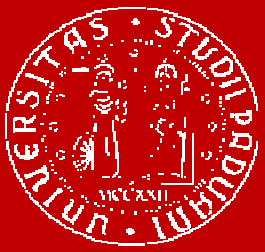
SA Department of
Animal Science

University of Padova

Research in rabbit science



**Department of Animal Science
University of Padova**



RESEARCH STAFF



Gerolamo Xiccato
(Full professor)



Angela Trocino
(Contract professor)



Duilio Majolini
(Junior researcher)



Marco Tazzoli
(PhD. student)



**Lab and farm technicians, secretaries, and statisticians
supporting research staff**

**Antonella
Dalle Zotte**
(Associate professor)

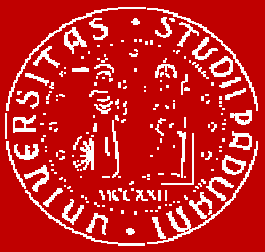
Chiara Rizzi
(Assistant professor)



DEPARTMENT'S LABORATORIES

- **LAZ:** laboratory for physical and chemical analyses of feeds and foods, and for biological analyses such as in vitro digestibility;
- **NIRS:** Near Infrared Spectroscopy Lab dedicated to a rapid evaluation of chemical composition of feeds and foods
- **DNA:** laboratory for DNA analysis (genomics, markers, candidate genes)
- **MILK:** analysis of milk renneting and manufacturing properties, small-scale cheese production





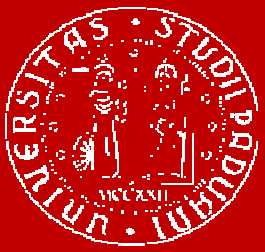
EXPERIMENTAL FACILITIES



Rabbitry of the University
experimental Farm "Toniolo"



Commercial
rabbit farms



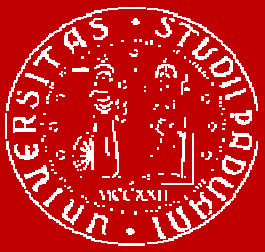
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TOPICS OF RESEARCH

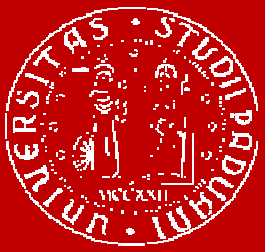




Relationships between nutrition and digestive health in growing rabbits

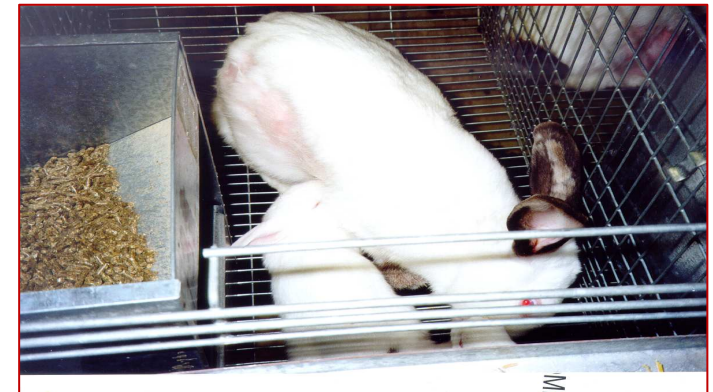
1. Role of starch and fibre fractions level
2. Role of protein level and interactions with dietary starch and fibre fractions
3. Feeding plans with varying protein level and effects on nitrogen excretion
4. Feed restriction
5. Pre and probiotics in rabbit feeding (yeast, organic acids, bacteria)





Energy and protein metabolism in rabbit does

1. The body energy deficit of reproducing does
2. Feeding of young and reproducing does
3. Management strategies to reduce the energy deficit (reproductive rhythm, litter weaning age, parity order)
4. Comparative slaughters, ultrasound measurements

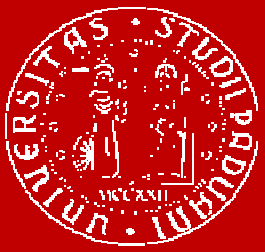




Harmonization of rabbit feed evaluation (EGRAN)

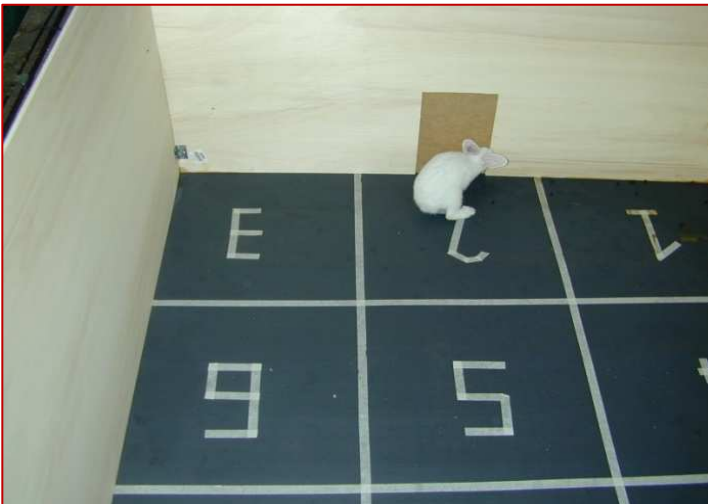
1. Chemical analyses
2. *In vivo* digestibility trial
3. *In vitro* method to estimate diet digestibility
4. Near infrared reflectance spectroscopy (NIRS) analysis to predict diet chemical composition, nutritive value, and ingredient inclusion rates

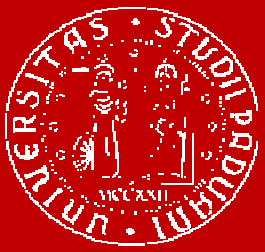




Rearing systems for growing rabbits

1. Individual and bicellular cages vs. collective systems
2. Dimension of cages, group size and stocking density
3. Type of floor (wire net, steel and plastic slat, wood, straw)
4. Effects on welfare (ethogram, reactivity tests), performance, slaughter results and meat quality





Other topics of research

1. Effect of rearing systems and pre-slaughter management on performance and welfare of poultry and fish
2. Factors affecting meat quality in poultry and fish
3. NIRS analysis to evaluate chemical composition, nutritional value and origin of poultry and fish products

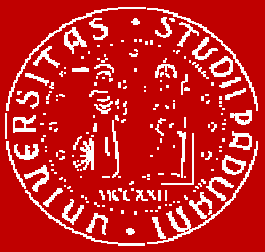




Organization of congresses



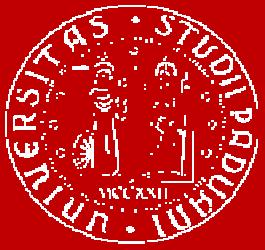
- 10th World Rabbit Congress (2012, Egypt)
- ASIC Rabbit days



Funds of research

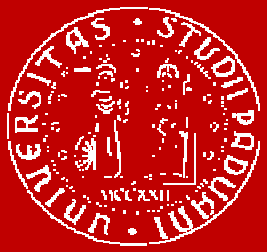
1. Public National Institution (e.g. Ministry of Instruction, University and Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Veneto Region, University of Padova, others)
2. European Union
3. Private enterprises (Feed industries, Producers of feed additives, Breeders associations)





Some projects we are working at:

1. Development of new feeding strategies to promote intestinal health and meat safety in rabbits Referencia projecto: AGL2008-00627/GAN – Coordinator Prof. C. De Blas (Spain)
2. Rearing and feeding strategies to improve nutritional and technological properties and safety of rabbit meat – MIUR – Coordinator Prof. C. Cavani (Bologna, Italy)
3. Effect of rearing systems (collective cages) on performance, animal health and welfare, and meat quality (private enterprises)



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Thanks for your visit

