

SUMMARY

Twenty four rabbits for meat production were used to study the effect of an experimental infection by *Cystoisospora felis*. By means of a gastric tube, 10^6 sporulated oocysts of *C. felis* were given to eight rabbits. Other 16 rabbits were used as controls, being either pair fed, and the other eight as experimental controls. In the infected animals, the parasitism over the intermediated host was confirmed, where infective forms, hypnozoites, were recovered from Peyer's patches, lymph nodes, spleen, liver, and intestines, after the 2nd day after infection. Progressive loss of body weight and inapetence in the first week of infection, were the main clinical signs. Reduction in the carcasses, yield hypertrophy of lymph nodes, liver, and spleen were considered the most prominent changes and lesions at necropsy. Neither clinical signs nor pathologic lesions were observed in the control.

KEY WORDS: *Cystoisospora felis*, rabbits, parasitism, hypnozoites, cat.