

Rabbit Diets General Information



Zeigler provides a series of rabbit diets with differing ingredient and nutrient concentrations to accommodate colonies maintained for the production and use in biomedical research, or other commercial endeavors. Diets also differ in nutrient composition to accommodate rabbits of different genotypes, and for differences in requirements during the life cycle: growth, reproduction, and maintenance.

Zeigler Rabbit Research Quality (RQ) Diets

Zeigler Rabbit RQ Diets are fixed formula diets that provide those nutrients required for maximum reproductive performance in rabbit production and research colonies maintained in Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) or conventional environments. Zeigler Rabbit RQ Diets are “closed formula” or proprietary-formula diets in that the quantitative ingredient concentrations in these diets are not readily available.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Open Formula Diets

Zeigler Rabbit NIH Open Formula Diets were developed at the NIH as standard reference diets for use throughout the biomedical research community. These diets are referred to as “Open Formula” Diets because the quantitative ingredient composition is readily available. Zeigler was the first company to make the NIH diets commercially available approximately 35 years ago.

Utilization of Rabbit Diets

- Shelf Life:** Zeigler natural ingredient rabbit diets are formulated for a shelf life of six months after the date of manufacture, which is consistent with the recommendations in the NIH “Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.” Laboratory animal diets should be stored in cool, dry areas where the humidity is low in order to realize maximum shelf life. In addition, feed storage areas should be free of vermin and hazardous materials in order to prevent biological or chemical contaminations.
- Sizes:** Zeigler rabbit diets are most frequently manufactured in pellets 5/32” in diameter and 5/16”- 5/8” long. These diets can also be manufactured into pellets of various other sizes to accommodate specific customer requirements.
- Packaging:** Zeigler rabbit diets are packaged in 3-ply laminated paper bags of varying weights to accommodate customer requirements.
- Feeding Instructions:** Zeigler rabbit diets can be fed ad libitum. The amount of feed consumed by rabbits will vary according to age, size and reproductive status. For instance, a pregnant rabbit will consume from 150-200 grams per day and during lactation this may increase to 200-400 grams per day. Limited feeding is acceptable to prevent obesity.