

## Anaemia in rabbits

Anaemia in rabbits is defined as a decrease in haemoglobin concentration [Hb] and/or haematocrit (HCT).

### Diagnosis of anaemia in rabbits

[Hb]	< 104 g/L
HCT	< 0.33 L/L

Based on Sysmex Haematology analyser results

### Mild, moderate or severe anaemia

In many species when anaemia is classified as mild, moderate or severe it can aid in narrowing the differential diagnoses as well as determining the urgency with which a patient must be treated. In rabbits categorizing the severity of an anaemia does not help in establishing the origin because mild to severe anaemia can be seen with both acute and chronic diseases.

### Classification of severity of anaemia in rabbits

Mild	0.26-0.32 L/L
Moderate	0.19-0.25 L/L
Severe	< 0.19 L/L

### Causes for anaemia in rabbits and their relative frequency

Anaemia of inflammatory or chronic disease	~30%
Haemorrhage	~25%
Undetermined aetiology	~25%
More than 1 mechanism	14%
Renal disease	~7%

Data from: *Anaemia in pet rabbits: causes, severity and reticulocyte response*. A Dettweiler et. al. (2017). *Veterinary Record*, 181(24), 656

### Regenerative vs non-regenerative anaemia

In rabbits a high reticulocyte count doesn't define a regenerative anaemia because counts can be high ( $> 400 \times 10^9/L$ ) in healthy, non-anaemic animals. Similarly, there is no increase in MCV in a regenerative anaemia.