# Why Not To Trance A Pet Rabbit In Your Salon

The following are veterinary studies about trancing, which creates tonic immobility (aka TI).

“Additionally, rabbits that have been frequently placed in a TI position learn to anticipate when this will happen and become stressed more quickly and enter a TI state more quickly. Rabbits do not have to be fully reclined to be in a TI/Trance.“

Gallup, G.G. (1974) Animal hypnosis: factual status of a fictional concept. Psychological Bulletin, 81, 836-853 McBride, A, (2015) Animals in trances: peace of mind or panic. Rabbiting On, Winter 2015 issue, 10-12

"During growth (27 to 75 days of age), a total of 384 rabbits were kept in 72 individual cages, 48 bicellular cages (2 rabbits/cage) and 24 collective cages (9 rabbits/cage). To evaluate the effects of the housing system on the fear level and behavioural patterns of rabbits at the two ages (39 to 45 days and 66 to 73 days), a tonic immobility test and an open-field test were conducted and their behaviour was video recorded. In the tonic immobility test, the number of attempts to induce immobility (1.38) was lower, and the duration of immobility (47.8 s) was higher (0.05 < P < 0.01) in the rabbits housed in individual cages than in those kept in bicellular (1.72 attempts and 25.0 s of immobility) and collective cages (1.99 attempts and 25.0 s of immobility). During the open-field test, the rabbits from individual and bicellular cages showed higher latency (38.8 and 40.3 v. 27.0 s), a lower number of total (73.3 and 81.7 v. 91.9) and central displacements (3.6 and 2.8 v. 5.4) and a shorter running time (11.8 and 13.6 s v. 17.7 s) and the time biting the pen (5.5 and 9.1 s v. 28.2 s) compared with the rabbits kept in collective cages (0.05 < P < 0.001). During the 24-h video recording, the rabbits in individual and bicellular cages spent less time allogrooming (0.34% and 0.19% v. 1.44%), moving (0.74% and 0.60% v. 1.32%) and running (0.08% and 0.03% v. 0.21%) than the rabbits in the collective cages (0.01 < P < 0.001). The lowest numbers of alerts and hops were observed in the rabbits kept in bicellular cages. With increasing age, a lower number of rabbits were sensitive to the immobility test and more rabbits entered the pen spontaneously during the open-field test (P < 0.001). In conclusion, the rabbits in individual cages exhibited the highest fear level and incomplete behavioural patterns; the rabbits housed in collective cages showed the lowest fear levels and had the possibility of expressing a wider range of behaviour; and the rabbits in bicellular cages exhibited an inconsistent pattern of fear in the tonic immobility and open-field tests. Probably, these rabbits were in a less stressful condition compared with animals in individual cages because social contacts were allowed, even if freedom of movement was more limited."

##### Housing of growing rabbits in individual, bicellular and collective cages: fear level and behavioural patterns

A.Trocino D.Majolini M.Tazzoli E.Filiou G.Xiccato

"Proximity of either the experimenter or the home cage was found to affect speed of recovery from tonic immobility in rabbits. The closer the experimenter was to the rabbit during immobility, the slower the rabbit was to right itself. Conversely, the closer the home cage was to the rabbit, the more quickly the rabbit righted itself. Habituation of the response was not observed in rabbits in any of the groups. These results suggest that there may be species differences in habituation of tonic immobility because the response readily habituates in chickens. The effects of the proximity of the experimenter or home cage on speed of recovery from immobility support the hypothesis that this form of immobility serves as a defense against predation."

##### Tonic immobility as a predator-defense in the rabbit (Oryctolagus cuniculus)1

Albert H. Ewell Jr .John M. Cullen Michael L. Woodruff

This study is why I say not to use TI on rascue rabbits, as unlike show rabbits they have not been tranced since they were kits.

"Tonic immobility (animal hypnosis) was investigated in rabbits during the first 8 weeks of life and as adults. During the first 2 weeks postpartum, tonic immobility could be produced immediately by inverting the animal. This reaction was found to decrease in incidence thereafter and to be virtually absent in adults. A second form of tonic immobility required the animal to be restrained first in the inverted position and was seen with increasing frequency from Week 4 onward. Prior handling in another behavioral situation was found to reduce the incidence of this second form of tonic immobility in adults.

#### Ontogeny of tonic immobility in the rabbit

David A.Oakley H.C.Plotkinab

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"Animal models of autonomic correlates of defense behavior range from fish to mammals. There is however no study reporting heart and respiratory rate, blood pressure and body temperature simultaneously recorded in the same animal in association to different forms of immobility in response to threat: freezing, restraint-sustained immobility and tonic immobility (TI). In a prey/ predator context freezing behavior is associated with bradycardia and no change in blood pressure but in other conditions (e.g., extreme stressful stimuli) may be associated with tachycardia and hypertension. Restraint-sustained immobility does not affect blood pressure but may reduce heart rate according to the type of stimulus and mechanical pressure. Blood pressure and heart rate oscillate during TI induction and adjust at basal levels during TI, sometimes gradually decreasing below basal levels. In conclusion, in all these passive defense responses, the immobility is not due to a blood pressure collapse."

##### Chapter 9 - Autonomic correlates of defense responses, including tonic immobility (TI)

Giancarlo Carli Francesca Farabollini