Table 1. Primers designed for qRT-PCR analysis

| Target genes                                      | Acc. No.        | Sequence (5’---3’)                      | Amplicon size (bp) |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------|
| **Rabbit chondrocyte growth and phenotype related genes** |                 |                                        |                    |
| ACAN                                              | XM_002723376    | FWD: GGATGGACACCCCCCTACAA             | 122                |
|                                                   |                 | REV: AGGGGACGTCATTCCACCTC            |                    |
| Col1-α1                                           | XM_017348831.1  | FWD: TGCCCCAGAAGAAGCTTGACCA          | 81                 |
|                                                   |                 | REV: AAGCCCATCGTCATGCTCCTC          |                    |
| Col2-α1                                           | NM_001195671    | FWD: GACGACATAATCTGTGAAGACACC        | 133                |
|                                                   |                 | REV: GTTCTCCTTCTGGCCCTTTG          |                    |
| CTNNB1                                            | XM_002713075    | FWD: ATGACTCGAGCTCAGAGGGT           | 144                |
|                                                   |                 | REV: TGCGTGTTCGACATTGGGG           |                    |
| IL-1β                                             | NM_001082201.1  | FWD: GGTGTGGTCTGGCAGTATG            | 124                |
|                                                   |                 | REV: GGCCACAGGTATCTGGTTG           |                    |
| Sox9                                              | XM_002719499    | FWD: CTGGAGACTCTGTAAGCGGGAGG        | 98                 |
|                                                   |                 | REV: GTTACTTGAGTGCCCGGTGGT         |                    |
| **Rabbit cell death and destructive factors**      |                 |                                        |                    |
| ADAMTS5                                           | XM_002716775.3  | FWD: CCATGAGGAGCTACAGACG            | 101                |
|                                                   |                 | REV: ATATGGTCCAAAGTCTGC            |                    |
| Cas-3                                             | NM_001082117.1  | FWD: GCATATTCCACAGCACCCTG           | 150                |
|                                                   |                 | REV: TGTCGACTCCCTCGGTCCC           |                    |
| FADD                                              | XM_008253090.2  | FWD: GAAGTCACAGCTGGAATGGC          | 95                 |
|                                                   |                 | REV: CCTGAACCGCTGGTTCTTT           |                    |
| MMP-13                                            | NM_001082037.1  | FWD: CCTACACCGGAGAAGTGAC           | 99                 |
|                                                   |                 | REV: GGTTAGTGGTGTTGGGGT           |                    |
| TNF-α                                             | NM_001082263.1  | FWD: ACAAGCCTCTAGGCCACGTA           | 147                |
|                                                   |                 | REV: AGATGAGGTACAGCCCGTGC          |                    |
| TNFR1                                             | XM_002712835.3  | FWD: GGAAGTGGAAACGGCACC            | 123                |
|                                                   |                 | REV: TGTCATAGTTCCACCTGGCAA         |                    |
| TRADD                                             | XM_008257435.2  | FWD: GTGGTACATCTACGCACAG           | 108                |
|                                                   |                 | REV: ATCTGGAGCCTGGTTGCA            |                    |
| **Rabbit internal control-house-keeping gene**     |                 |                                        |                    |
| GAPDH                                             | NM_001082253    | FWD: ACGGCTGTTTTTAACCTC            | 149                |
|                                                   |                 | REV: ATGCCAGCTTCCCGTTCT          |                    |
| **Human death and destructive genes**             |                 |                                        |                    |
| Cas-3                                             | XM_011532301.1  | FWD: CCATGATGTGCTGGGAATCG          | 152                |
|                                                   |                 | REV: GGAGTGAGGTGAACTGGA            |                    |
| FADD                                              | NM_003824.3     | FWD: CTGGAGCTCGTCAGGCTAAATG         | 128                |
|                                                   |                 | REV: GTTCGCTCTCGTTCTCGTG           |                    |
| IL-1β                                             | NM_000576.3     | FWD: GCCCTAAACAGATGAAAGTGCTC        | 156                |
|                                                   |                 | REV: GAACAGCATCCTCGTCAGG           |                    |
| MMP-13                                            | NM_002427.3     | FWD: TTGAGCTGGACCTGTTG             |                    |
| Gene    | Accession  | FWD Sequence          | REV Sequence          | Length |
|---------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| TNFR1   | NM_001346091.1 | CCATTGTTTGTGGGAAATCG | GGAGGTGAAGGTGGAACTGG  | 126    |
| TRADD   | XM_005256213.3 | TTTGAGTTGCATCCTAGCCC | GCACTTCAGATTTTCGAGC   | 152    |
| GAPDH   | NM_001289746.1 | ACACCCACCTCCTCCACCTTT | TTACTCCTGGAGGCCATGT   | 143    |

**Human internal control-house-keeping gene**

| Gene    | Accession  | FWD Sequence          | REV Sequence          | Length |
|---------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| GAPDH   | NM_001289746.1 | ACACCCACCTCCTCCACCTTT | TTACTCCTGGAGGCCATGT   | 143    |

*These genes, from both rabbit and human, markedly fall into 2 categories, chondrocyte growth and phenotype defining genes, and cell death and destructive factors. GAPDH serves as an internal reference gene for quantitation.*