

EVALUATION TRIAL OF TROTTERS BREEDING IN POLAND¹

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Abstract: The aim of this study was the trial of evaluation of trotter horses breeding (American, French and Russian) in Poland on the base of characteristic of their breeding centres, basic biometrical measurements, coat colours and ways of usability. On the base of collected information concerning 278 American Standardbred, 71 French and 29 Russian trotters it was stated that the highest value of height at withers obtained French trotter and the lowest – American Standardbred; the highest girth circumference was observed for Russian and the lowest for American Standardbreds; the highest cannon circumference was observed for French and the lowest for Russian trotters. Among American and Russian trotters the bay coat colour was dominating, among French – chestnut. It was stated that all American Standardbreds breeders were using these horses in sulkies, French trotters were used for sulkies and for recreation and Russian only for recreation as a saddle horses.

Key words: standard bred, horses breeding

Introduction

Standard bred horse is specially selected only for racing performance in trot but these horses are diversified according to exterior and very often they have also faulty posture (*Bek-Kaczowska I. 2003a*). Thoroughbred horses played very important role in creation of this breed. Standardbreds are very universal perfect for ridding and driving (*Haller M. 2000*). There are many different breeds of trotters around the world. In Poland the most popular are American, French, Russian and Orlov trotters. Trotters racing are very popular in Western Europe. In France, Denmark, Germany and Sweden it is treated nearly like national sport (*Bek-*

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Kaczowska I. 2003b). After II World War Henryk Stermach started to breed trotters in Poland. It was his initiative that in 1997 the Association of Trotters Breeders came into being. In 1998 Ministry of Agriculture approved the breeding program and stood Book for trotters in Poland. In 2002 Polish Trotter Association came into being, which is trying to get the official rights for organization of trotter racing in Poland (*Bek-Kaczowska I. 2003c*).

The aim of this work was the trial of evaluation of trotter horses breeding (American, French and Russian) in Poland on the base of characteristic of their breeding centres, basic biometrical measurements, coat colours and ways of usability.

Materials and methods

Data for the study was collected in 2003-2004 as a questionnaires filled out by trotters' breeders from 6 centres and 10 private owners of single trotter. On the base of obtained data the information concerning 278 American Standardbreds, 71 French and 29 Russian trotters.

Results and Discussion

The main centres of trotters breeding in Poland are: Świątoszewo (Zachodnio-pomorskie province), Szukalice (Dolnośląskie province), Lubnów (Opolskie province), Nowe Worowo (Pomorskie province), Dąbrówka (Opolskie province) and Radomsko (Łódzkie province). In Małopolska province only single Russian trotters are bred. The biggest trotters centre in Poland is Świątoszewo. There are 161 American Standardbreds and 46 French trotters. This centre breeds trotters and obtain about 60 foals each year. Farm owns 435 ha of pastures, meadows and plough lands, 4 box stables, 2 free run stables and 1 training track 800 metres long. Trotters from Świątoszewo take part in races all over the Europe. Table 1 shows the centres characteristic and information about horses bred there.

Table 1. Breeding centres of trotters in Poland
Tabela 1. Odgajivački centrikasačkih konja u Poljskoj

Place/Mesto	Centre size/Vel. centra (ha)	Trotter's breed/Rasa	Mares' origin/Poreklo kobila	Number of mares/ Broj kobila	Number of stallions/Broj pastuva	Total horses in the centre/ Ukupno konja u centru
Świątoszewo	435	American French	Denmark, Sweden	87	6	207
Szukalice	20	American	Germany, Denmark	9	-	25
Lubnów	120	American	Germany	10	2	28
Nowe Worowo	60	American	Germany	12	-	38
Dąbrówka	50	American	Poland	10	-	26
Radomsko	15	French	France	11	-	25
Małopolska	-	Russian	Poland	10	-	29

In table 2 the information concerning the average measurements of trotters bred in Poland. It was stated that the highest value of height at withers obtained French trotter and the lowest – American Standardbred; the highest girth circumference was observed for Russian and the lowest for American Standardbreds; the highest cannon circumference was observed for French and the lowest for Russian trotters.

Table 2. Average measurement of trotters in Poland
Tabela 2. Prosečne mere kasačkih konja u Poljskoj

Measurement/Mera		Standardbred/ Standardni kasač n=50	French trotters/ Francuski kasač n=30	Russian trotters/ Ruski kasač n=10
Height at withers/ Visina grebena	\bar{x}	156,83	163	161,5
	SD	2,64	2,63	1,5
Chest circumference/ Obim grudi	\bar{x}	180,79	182,13	182,8
	SD	1,8	1,33	1,13
Canon circumference/ Obim cevanice	\bar{x}	20,35	22	20,3
	SD	0,88	0,7	0,71

In table 3 the coat colour is described among trotters bred in Poland. Among American and Russian trotters the bay coat colour was dominating, among French – chestnut. Among American and Russian trotters the bay coat colour was dominating, among French – chestnut. Taking under consideration all studied trotters, except division into races, it was stated that the most numerous were bay horses.

Table 3. Coat colour of trotters bred in Poland
Tabela 3. Boja dlake kasačkih konja odgajanih u Poljskoj

Coat colour/ Boja dlake		Standardbred/ Standardni kasač n=100	French trotters/ Francuski kasač n=50	Russian trotters/ Ruski kasač n=29	Total/ Ukupno n=180
Bay/Doratasta	%	57	40	67	53,9
	n	57	20	19	97
Black/Crna	%	29	14	16,6	22,8
	n	29	7	5	41
Chestnut/Kestenjasta	%	13	46	10	21,6
	n	13	23	3	39
Grey/Siva	%	1	0	7	1,7
	n	1	0	2	3

On the base of questions in questionnaire it was stated that Among American and Russian trotters the bay coat colour was dominating, among French – chestnut. It was stated that all American Standardbreds breeders were using these horses in sulkies, French trotters were used for sulkies and for recreation and Russian only for recreation as a saddle horses – there were no cause of using Russian trotters in sulkies.

Race tracks for trotters existing in Poland are located close to breeding centres Dąbrówka (700 m), Szukalice (720 m), Lubnów (806 m and 1400 m) and Świętoszewo (800 m). The most classic trotter race track is sloping track in Lubnów – 806 m long built with hardened layers of loam, clay, sand and gravel and covered with hardened, rinsed gravel. In Lubnów there are two race tracks: short – 806 m and long 1400 m. All trotters race track in Poland are owned by American Standardbreds breeders.

Conclusion

Most trotters' breeders in Poland plan to widen the number of bred horses. Breeders look optimistically on development of trotters breeding in Poland and think that trotters racing will obtain higher popularity and their horses will be able to be successful not only in abroad but also in Polish races.

OCENA ODGOJA KASAČKIH KONJA U POLJSKOJ

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Rezime

Cilj ovog ispitivanja je bila ocena odgoja američkih, francuskih i ruskih kasačkih konja u Poljskoj na osnovu karakteristika odgajivačkog centra, osnovnih biometričkih mera, boje dlake i načina upotrebe. Podaci su sakupljeni na bazi upitnika koji su popunjavali odgajivači konja iz 6 odgajivačkih centara i 10 vlasnika pojedinačnih konja. Dobijeni podaci su se odnosili na 278 američkih standardno odgajenih konja, 71 francuskih i 29 ruskih kasačkih konja. Većina kasačkih ergela se nalazi u zapadnoj Poljskoj, samo su ruski kasački konji locirani i u regionu Małopolska. Francuski kasački konji imaju najveću visinu grebena, najkraći su bili američki standardni konji. Najveći obim grudi je registrovan kod ruskih kasača, a najmanji kod standardnih; najveći obim cevanice kod francuskih kasača a najmanji kod ruskih. Većina standardnih i ruskih kasača su bili doratasti dok je među francuskim kasačima registrovano najviše kestenjatih konja. Standardni kasači se najviše koriste za kasački trening u jednoprežnim dvokolicama, ruski kasači se koriste samo u rekreativne svrhe. Sva kasačka trkališta su vlasništvo odgajivača standardnih kasača.

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