RESEARCH REGARDING CERTAIN MORPHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE HUTSUL BREED FROM THE LUCINA STUD FARM

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Abstract

The Hutsul breed is the only native horse breed of the Carpathian Mountains, renowned for its remarkable adaptability to the harsh environmental conditions of high-altitude regions. This study aims to evaluate the current morphological profile of the breeding nucleus at the Lucina Stud Farm (Suceava County). Standard somatic measurements (height at withers, chest girth, and cannon bone circumference) and derived body indices (digital-thoracic, cannon bone, and massiveness indices) were analyzed across a sample of 28 horses (14 breeding stallions / sires and 14 broodmares). The results highlight a well-defined sexual dimorphism alongside remarkable morphological homogeneity (V% < 5%), confirming the effectiveness of current stabilizing selection efforts dedicated to preserving the gene pool of this native breed.

Key words: *horses, stud farm, body indices, stallions, broodmares*