

Arctic foxes temperament determined using empathic and feeding behavioural test

Summary

The aim of the study was to assess the usefulness of empathic test and feeding test to determine the type of arctic foxes females' behaviour. The research material included females kept on a commercial farm situated in western part of the Wielkopolskie Voivodeship. The assessment of behaviour type of all the females from the foundation stock was conducted in 2002-2009 on the basis of behavioural reaction on empathic and feeding test. To determine the degree of balance and confidence of each animal taking part in both types of test, the basic test index TI (1) and behavioural index BI (2) were calculated. The feeding test appeared to be a more adequate tool for determination of behaviour type of arctic foxes when compared to empathic test, however it classified animals only to two groups (trustful and fearful).

KEY WORDS: arctic fox, behaviour, feeding test, empathic test, temperament