

The effect of the age of the dam on the racing performance of Arabian horses

Summary

The ability to predict racing predisposition in horses even before they start training is of fundamental importance in the breeding of riding horses, as the costs incurred in preparing the horse for racing and then the races themselves are incomparably greater than for any other types of use of horses. One of the factors which can help a breeder predict the success of a foal is the age of its mother. The aim of the study was to determine the relationship between the age of Arabian dams and the subsequent racing performance of their offspring. The age of the mother was found to significantly influence the racing performance of the offspring. The offspring with the greatest racing success came from mares 13 years old and older. Although they had significantly fewer starts per season, they won races highly significantly and significantly more often, won higher prize totals, and attained a higher quality handicap than the offspring of younger mares. Irrespective of the age of the mare, colts had better racing performance than fillies. For the average number of starts in all age groups of dams and for the average number of wins and the sum of prizes awarded in the group of the youngest mares, the difference between the offspring of different genders was highly significant.

KEY WORDS: Arabian horses, age of dam, racing performance