

## **Analysis of the results of field trials of Polish Konik horses in 2018**

### **Summary**

The Polish Konik is the only conserved breed of horse derived directly from wild tarpans, which were found in eastern Poland, Lithuania and Prussia until the end of the 18th century. The utility value of Polish Konik horses, kept in stables or outdoors, is assessed on the basis of field trials. Mares and stallions must pass an initial performance test before they can be entered in the studbook. Then, at the age of 3-4 years, stallions undergo a basic performance test under saddle or in harness, while mares must pass the test within 4 years of the day of their registration. These trials serve to improve gait and traits associated with recreational use. The gait of Polish Konik horses has markedly improved in recent years, in terms of both the length of the stride and engagement of the hindquarters. In 2018 as many as 73 Konik horses were positively assessed in field trials at eight centres in Poland. Currently, most Konik horses undergo preparation for use under saddle. Polish Konik horses are known for their gentle nature, friendliness towards people, and willingness to work. For this reason they are popular horses for recreational riding for children and adults.

**KEY WORDS: Polish Konik, performance trials, horse riding**