

Principles of work safety on a deer farm

Summary

The behaviour of red deer and fallow deer kept as farm animals differs significantly from that of other domestic animals. Deer farming is associated with a higher risk of accidents for both the workers and the animals themselves. This article attempts to develop principles of safe work on deer farms, based on technical organization and equipment as well as long-standing practice at the Research Station of the Institute of Parasitology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Kosewo Górze. Continual observation of farmed herds of red deer and fallow deer was found to be extremely important, affecting the functioning of the entire farm and daily handling of the animals. Factors to be considered in introducing principles of safe work and handling of animals include their species, individual behaviour, and seasonal variation in stress and aggression. Smaller staff on the deer farm, but possessing the necessary knowledge, is more effective and enables a higher level of safety.

KEY WORDS: deer farming, industrial safety, farm equipment