

# **The main causes of replacement of Sokólski and Sztumski horses in herds included in the animal genetic resources conservation programme in Poland in the years 2011 to 2022**

**Joanna Wójtowicz, Katarzyna Olczak**

## **Summary**

The aim of the study was to determine the main reasons for the replacement of Sokólski and Sztumski horses included in the genetic resources conservation programme in Poland. Data analysis was based on reports provided by breeders of these two breeds, which are covered by programme. The analysis led to the conclusion that the primary reason for replacing animals in 2011–2022 was selection in herds (38.63%). Other reasons were deaths (18.39%) and herd rebuilding (13.81%). The data also revealed significant variation in the causes of replacements between the two breeds. In 2022, a 26.37% animal replacement rate was recorded in these protected breeds.

**KEY WORDS:** horse, horse replacement, protected breeds, genetic resources conservation, Poland