

Characteristics of reproductive organs and potential fertility of gilts at different age

S u m m a r y

The main aim of the study was to evaluate morphometrical traits of reproductive organs and potential fertility of gilts at different age groups. The examined material were hybrid gilts (Polish Landrace x Polish Large White) originating from small-producers' farms. The gilts were divided into following age groups: 180-195 days; 196-210; 211-225; 226-240 and over 240 days. The morphometrical evaluation of gilts' reproductive organs was performed directly after their slaughter. The potential fertility of gilts was estimated on the basis of the corpora lutea number on both ovaries. The greatest changes in mean weight of the uterus, the length and width of oviducts were found in the gilts at the age of above 225 days. The highest weight and size of ovaries were found in the gilts older than 8 months. At this stage of their development, the highest potential fertility of the gilts, equal to 16 animals was found.