

Effect of the month of birth on racing performance in thoroughbred horses

S u m m a r y

The month of birth effect was investigated in Polish Thoroughbred race horses in relation to the racing performance. Data collected were 7865 placings at finish (square root) and 4958 earnings (log), won by 1053 horses, running over the period of 2001-2003. The horses were grouped into five categories according to their month of birth: January, February, March, April, May-August. The effect of the birth month was tested through analysis of variance and was significant in most cases. Horses born in the February and March have an advantage and perform better than horses born at the April and May. The analysis performed in the age groups indicated that the advantage being born at February and March is greater for older horses.