

Effect of mink genotype on the selected parameters of reproductive performance and hair coat quality

S u m m a r y

In Polish fur farms, one of the largest populations are standard mink, accounting for approximately 55% of the entire population. Polish Scanblack mink are characterized by a relatively high body weight and unfavourably long guard hair. Another type of standard mink is the American mink, possessing better hair coat parameters (density, silkiness) and desirable guard hair. The aim of this study was to determine the effect of mating mink having different hair coat types on the reproductive parameters, growth, and hair coat quality of young mink. The study was conducted at the Experimental Station of the National Research Institute of Animal Production in Chorzełów. There were 3 groups, each having 20 females. Group I included standard American mink, group II – standard Scanblack mink, and group III – animals obtained from mating of the American males with the Scanblack females. The highest percentage of whelping females and lowest pup mortality during the first period of life were found in Scanblack mink. Average number of pups born alive was the highest in group I, with a statistically significant difference in relation to the other groups. Litters of American mink were the largest throughout the period of rearing with mothers. Weaning weight of the mink varied within groups and sexes, with greater fluctuations noticed in males. Standard American mink had markedly better density of hair coat (trait 4). When assessing the conformation of mink from group II (Scanblack), the panel of experts did not award minus points for hair length. Animals of group III had markedly shorter hair in relation to the initial material.