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The comparison of the racing performance of Polish and foreign bred Arabian horses during the years 1996-2005

S u m m a r y

A comparison of the racing performance of 2202 pure bred Arabian horses originating from Poland, Russia, Germany and other countries, participating in races at Polish tracks, was carried out. Two indicators of the horses' racing value were analyzed - the average earnings per start and the weight in the general handicap established after the end of the season. The analysis of racing performance of 3 and 4 year old pure bred Arabian horses showed that the best results were achieved by horses from Russia. The poorest results had the 3-year-olds from Poland and among the 4-year-olds - horses from countries other than Poland, Russia and Germany. The German horses turned out to be the best in the 5 year old and older category, with averages very close to those achieved by Russian horses. Better results of the Russian horses in relation to the Polish horses can be explained by such factors as: a different direction of selection used in the breeding of pure bred Arabian horses in Russia, as well as the role of racing in the selection process, a pre-selection of Russian horses sent to Poland and also the fact that most of these horses were trained by one trainer with many years' of experience of working with Russian horses. In Polish Arabian horse breeding racing performance is not the most essential selection criterion and racing itself is treated as a training work-out and a way of maintaining the traditional qualities of the pure bred Polish Arabian horse.