

Evaluation of hair coat quality in pastel foxes kept at the
Chorzeliów Experimental Station of the National Research
Institute of Animal Production

S u m m a r y

The origins of breeding pastel foxes in Poland date back to the 1970s, when a silver female gave birth to a litter, consisting of silver and beige foxes. The organized breeding of this fur animal species was interrupted when the farm in Jeziora Wielkie was liquidated. Efforts to restore the pastel fox population based on material found and obtained from other farms were made by the Chorzeliów Experimental Station of the Institute of Animal Production. The aim of the present study was to evaluate the existing population of pastel foxes for fur quality traits. On the ground of the conducted evaluation of conformation and skin and hair coat quality of pastel fox, it was found that further breeding work with the mentioned animal should be concentrated on obtaining greater dimensions of animals and skins and maintaining the same lightness of skins. Further selection work should be aimed at producing the most desirable, dark colour type of the foxes. Improvement in hair coat quality should mainly concern increasing of the density of hair on the back and abdomen side. The attention should be also paid to a considerable softness of the guard hair, the too great delicacy of which causes a loss of their springiness.