

Multiple pregnancies in Thoroughbred horse breeding in Poland during the recent ten years

S u m m a r y

The aim of the study was to analyse the occurrence of multiple pregnancies in chosen Thoroughbred studs. Data from 1997-2006 were collected in five Polish Thoroughbred studs. The data were gathered from broodmare cards, breeding reports and foaling reports, as well as notes by horse breeders. Studs were divided in two groups: studs which regularly used USG for early pregnancy diagnosis and studs which did not use USG at all, or used rarely or irregularly. Age structure and relationship between mares that had multiple pregnancies were considered. Cases of aborted twin pregnancies, dead bom or removed in early stages by veterinary surgeon, were examined. It was stated that in 1997-2006 percent of multiple pregnancies in general was 7.07. Multiple pregnancy rate in the examined studs that had been employing USG regularly was 11.12% and in studs that did not use USG or used it rarely equalled to 3.48%. The highest rate of twin pregnancies was diagnosed in a group of 11 years old mares (15.19%) and 12 years old mares (15.15%) and the lowest rate in a group of mares above 18 years (1.51%) and above 20 years of life (0.75%). The results show that 3.03% of four years old mares had multiple pregnancies. Twin pregnancies reoccurred in a group of related horses. In a population of mares diagnosed with twin pregnancy, 18.19% individuals were related. The results show that twin pregnancies are a serious problem in Thoroughbreds breeding in Poland.