

## **The analysis of trends in purebred dog breeding in 2000-2010 – data from the National Purebred Dog Shows organized by the Polish Kennel Club, Branch in Olsztyn**

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Purebred Dog Shows reflect certain quantitative and qualitative trends in dog breeding. The analysis of the present study was performed on the information on dog submissions included in the catalogs of the National Purebred Dog Shows organized by the Polish Kennel Club – Branch in Olsztyn, from 2000 to 2010 (a total of 11 years, 22 exhibitions). Dogs appearing in the catalogs of shows organized by the Branch in Olsztyn represented 207 breeds which accounted for 80% of all breeds (260) registered in Poland. The total number of dogs participating in the shows held by the Olsztyn Branch of the Polish Kennel Club was found to increase steadily. A highly statistically significant increase in the number of dogs permitted into the shows was noted in the following FCI groups: IX (Companion and Toy dogs), III (Terriers) and VIII (Retrievers, Flushing Dogs and Water Dogs), while a significant increase was observed in groups VI (Scenthounds and Related Breeds) and VII (Pointers). The number of dogs in the group IV (Dachshunds) showed a significant downward tendency. In the analyzed period, most frequently exhibited at shows were dogs representing the following breeds: German Shepherd Dog (1137), Yorkshire Terrier (801) and Labrador Retriever (737). Based on the results of the present study, the number of dogs entered to the shows is expected to increase dynamically over the next 10 years.

**KEY WORDS: dog breeding / National Purebred Dog Shows / Polish Kennel Club**

The popularity of dog ownership in Poland continues to increase. Monkiewicz and Wajdzik [9] estimated the dog number as oscillating around 400 thousand; nonetheless, from the legal point of view these numbers are much smaller, the population of dogs registered in the Polish Kennel Club (ZKwP), the largest and oldest Polish organization, affiliated with the International Kennel Federation (Federation Cynologique Internationale – FCI), is only 64 419 [4]. However, it is necessary for those dogs to obtain rights of stud or brood bitch in order to be used for further breeding. This status can be only acquired by dogs that received an appropriate rating on three shows, including at least one international or club

show. In practical terms, this means that dogs receive two of the three required evaluations mostly on national exhibitions with a lower rank. Dog shows are designed to assess the presented dogs; they allow estimating the state of breeding of the individual breed and indicate the desired further direction of breeding to the owners [3]. In addition, dog shows also make the idea of dog ownership more popular.

The literature concerning the dog breeding in Poland and the dog head number is relatively scarce. Main Breeding Committee performs a periodical quantitative analysis of the dog population which is based on reports from all branches of the Polish Kennel Club [2, 4]. Kubański [5] and Zawiański [11] recently characterized the populations of Pointing Dogs in Poland and the trends in breeding of different dog breeds in the Bydgoszcz district. The trends were statistically verified on the base of number of the birth certificates of pups [6, 7, 8].

There are no available studies concerning the issue of forecasting the state of dog population in the coming years.

The aim of this study is to present trends of interest in the various breeds of dogs classified into the FCI groups in the period 2000-2010 at the National Purebred Dog Shows organized by the Polish Kennel Club – Branch in Olsztyn. In addition, attempts to forecast the numbers of dogs presented at shows in the next 10 years were undertaken.

### **Materials and methods**

The analysis was performed on the information on dogs submissions included in the catalogs of the National Purebred Dog Shows organized by the Polish Kennel Club – Branch in Olsztyn, from 2000 to 2010 (a total of 11 years, 22 exhibitions). During this period, the Olsztyn Branch organized two National Purebred Dog Shows every year.

The following classification of dogs used in the present paper is consistent with the classification of the FCI [1], considering the dog's origin and utility:

- I FCI group: Sheepdogs and Cattle Dogs (except Swiss Cattle Dogs)
- II FCI group: Pinscher and Schnauzer - Molossoid Breeds - Swiss Mountain and Cattle Dogs and Other Breeds
- III FCI group: Terriers
- IV FCI group: Dachshunds
- V FCI group: Spitz and Primitive Types
- VI FCI group: Scenthounds and Related Breeds
- VII FCI group: Pointing Dogs
- VIII FCI group: Retrievers - Flushing Dogs - Water Dogs
- IX FCI group: Companion and Toy Dogs
- X FCI group: Sighthounds

The numerical values were entered in the series of time, where time (t) was included as an independent variable. Linear trend was determined using simple regression analysis, using the method of least squares. Forecasts of the numbers of dogs presented at shows in the next 10 years (until 2020) were undertaken for groups of FCI of which the slope of the regression line (trend) was significantly different from zero. All calculations were performed using Statistica PL software [10].

## Results and discussion

There were 17 845 entries for the dog shows noted throughout 11 years. In order to obtain rights of stud or brood bitch it is necessary for the dog to participate in at least two national dog shows (both can be organized by the same Branch), it should be assumed that many of the reported dogs were presented in more than one show. Moreover, some of the assessed dogs do not receive adequately high ratings and their owners, either resign from further active participation in the shows or they present their dogs several times, until a satisfactory assessment is received. Additionally it is common that dogs, that already have appropriate titles, are entered into the shows for marketing purposes, as the owners wish to continue collecting medals, for example in the class of veterans. The list also includes dogs belonging to the class of puppies and adolescents, where obtained titles do not exempt from the need of obtaining respective equivalents on the future shows where they will be presented as adult dogs. Furthermore, it is frequent that dogs registered in Branches other than Olsztyn Branch of the Polish Kennel Club are entered into shows with the national rank. Also foreign owners are entitled to present their dogs at national shows. In general, dogs appearing in the catalogs of shows organized by the Branch in Olsztyn represented 207 breeds which accounted for 80% of all breeds (260) registered in Poland [4].

Table 1 presents the list of ten dog breeds reported as most commonly entered for dog shows in the district of Olsztyn. Majority of the submissions were recorded for the following breeds: German Shepherd, Yorkshire Terrier and Labrador Retriever. They also are the most common breeds throughout the country. According to the report prepared by the Main Breeding Commission, German Shepherd, Yorkshire Terrier, Labrador Retriever, Golden Retriever, Miniature Schnauzer, American Staffordshire Terrier, Siberian Husky, Bernese Mountain Dog, West Highland White Terrier and Beagle were the most numerous breeds registered in the Polish Kennel Club [4]. However, it is noteworthy that Rottweiler, Polish Hunting Dog, Great Dane and Newfoundland were very popular at the shows organized by the Branch in Olsztyn, even though they are not mentioned in the lists of the most common breeds of dogs in Poland. Meanwhile, Siberian Husky, Bernese Mountain Dog, West Highland White Terrier and Beagle were listed in the statement of the 10 most numerous breeds registered in the Polish Kennel Club, nonetheless they were not among dogs reported as most commonly presented in dog shows in Olsztyn breeding district.

Table 2 presents the dog breeds with the highest upward trends recorded. It is noteworthy that breeds which are Polish cultural heritage were among them: Tatra Shepherd Dog, starting from a low level ( $-0.91 + 1.73 t$ ,  $P=0.0002$ ) and Polish Hunting Dog, a lot more popular at the beginning of the investigated period ( $14.64 + 2.68t$ ,  $P=0.005$ ). Among the 20 breeds with highly significant upward trends, eight breeds represented the IX FCI Group, 4 breeds were in the Group I and 3 in the Group II. Even though the Bernese Cattle Dogs were not listed as 10 most popular breeds at the shows, it is worth noting that relatively high number (323, 11<sup>th</sup> place) of them have been submitted, also a highly significant upward trend was noted for this breed. Therefore, it may be assumed that this race will soon be on the list of top 10 races, not only in the national list but also in district of Olsztyn.

**Table 1 – Tabela 1**

The most frequently exhibited dog breeds at shows in 2000-2010  
Najliczniej zgłaszane na wystawy rasy psów w latach 2000-2010

The dog's breed Rasa psa	The average in 2000-2010		The years Lata											The total in 2000-2010 Razem lata 2000-2010
	Średnio w latach 2000-2010	SD	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
German Shepherd Owczarek niemiecki	103,36	21,89	93	138	136	127	101	95	77	114	86	84	86	1137
Yorkshire Terrier Yorkshire terrier	72,81	17,41	54	73	62	57	62	65	92	62	75	110	89	801
Labrador Retriever Labrador retriever	67,00	21,66	19	39	53	72	89	78	88	83	73	70	73	737
Miniature Schnauzer Sznaucer miniaturowy	66,54	12,97	63	81	66	77	80	77	72	70	49	54	43	732
Golden retriever	59,09	13,58	30	48	55	76	70	60	65	71	45	67	63	650
American Staffordshire Terrier	40,91	15,62	58	47	38	54	68	43	43	32	21	17	29	450
Rottweiler	36,72	16,35	65	58	26	56	41	31	31	33	25	25	13	404
Polish Hunting Dog Gończy polski	30,72	11,50	26	26	17	21	26	33	24	30	31	49	55	338
Great Dane Dog niemiecki	30,27	8,41	28	36	28	17	24	21	30	29	38	35	47	333
Newfoundland Nowofundland	29,63	9,47	32	34	25	34	31	50	34	31	16	18	21	326

SD – standard deviation – błąd standardowy

**Table 2 – Tabela 2**

Dog breeds exhibited at shows with the highest increase tendencies  
 Rasy zgłaszanych na wystawy psów, u których rejestrowano najwyższe tendencje wzrostowe

The FCI group Grupa FCI	The dog's breed Rasa psa	The average in 2000-2010 Średnio w latach 2000-2010	SD	Trend	SD
I	Border Collie border collie	6,91	5,65	<b>-0,89 + 1,30t **</b>	3,84
I	Czechoslovakian Wolfdog Ceskoslovensky Vlcak	6,18	6,51	<b>-3,53 + 1,62t **</b>	3,88
I	Australian Shepherd owczarek australijski	3,73	5,46	<b>-4,13 + 1,31t **</b>	3,49
I	Polish Tatra Sheepdog owczarek podhalański	9,45	6,42	<b>-0,91 + 1,73t **</b>	3,06
II	Bernese Mountain Dog berneński pies pasterski	29,36	9,66	<b>15,89 + 2,45t **</b>	6,48
II	English Bulldog bulldog angielski	16,09	4,37	<b>10,20 + 0,98t **</b>	3,07
II	Greater Swiss Mountain Dog duży szwajcarski pies pasterski	5,82	6,35	<b>-3,94 + 1,63t **</b>	3,53
III	Jack Russell Terrier	6,82	7,65	<b>-5,62 + 2,07t **</b>	3,54
III	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	11,64	6,82	<b>1,76 + 1,65t **</b>	4,30
V	Shiba	3,27	3,00	<b>0,87 + 0,69t **</b>	2,04
V	Pomeranian dog szpic miniaturowy (Pomeranian)	8,64	5,24	<b>1,65 + 1,63t **</b>	3,73
VI	Polish Hunting Dog gończy polski	30,72	11,50	<b>14,64 + 2,68t **</b>	7,69
IX	Boston Terrier	4,18	2,04	<b>1,13 + 0,51t **</b>	1,21
IX	French Bulldog bulldog francuski	26,00	16,66	<b>-0,07 + 4,34t **</b>	8,81
IX	Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	15,36	10,37	<b>-3,02 + 3,06t **</b>	2,21
IX	Chihuahua	19,36	18,31	<b>-10,47 + 4,97t **</b>	8,38
IX	Coton de Tulear	3,00	3,06	<b>-1,20 + 0,70t **</b>	2,11
IX	King Charles Spaniel	3,54	4,52	<b>-3,71 + 1,21t **</b>	2,21
IX	Maltese maltańczyk	4,64	3,67	<b>-1,31 + 0,99t **</b>	1,72
IX	Continental Toy Spaniel – Papillon spaniel kontynentalny miniaturowy – Papillon	4,91	4,11	<b>-1,04 + 0,99t **</b>	2,60

SD – standard deviation – błąd standardowy

\*\*Trend highly statistically significant at  $P \leq 0.01$  – Trend wysoko istotny statystycznie przy  $P \leq 0,01$

**Table 3 – Tabela 3**

Dog breeds exhibited at shows with the highest falling tendencies  
 Rasy zgłaszanych na wystawy psów, u których rejestrowano najwyższe tendencje spadkowe

The FCI group Grupa FCI	The dog's breed Rasa psa	The average in 2000-2010 Średnio w latach 2000- 2010	SD	Trend	SD
II	Dogue de Bordeaux dogue de Bordeaux	13,18	8,90	<b>24,96 – 1,96t **</b>	6,39
II	Rottweiler rottweiler	36,72	16,35	<b>61,33 – 4,10t **</b>	9,57
III	American Staffordshire Terrier	40,91	15,62	<b>61,91 – 3,50t **</b>	11,02
IV	Wire-haired Dachshund jammik szorstkowłosy	34,64	9,18	<b>47,07 – 2,07t **</b>	6,41

SD – standard deviation – błąd standardowy

\*\* Trend highly statistically significant at  $P \leq 0.01$  – Trend wysoko istotny statystycznie przy  $P \leq 0,01$

Table 3 presents the dog breeds for which highly significant downward trends were recorded over 11 years. These are the Dogue de Bordeaux, Rottweiler, Wire-haired Dachshund and Amstaff. Analysis of trends indicates that despite of the relatively large number of entries of Rottweiler dogs (in this period 404, 7<sup>th</sup> place among all breeds of dogs), their number was decreasing rapidly (from 65 to 13 individuals). Hence, it can be assumed that the popularity of Rottweiler breed at the shows in Olsztyn reflects the situation of this breed throughout the country, which is confirmed by the fact that in Poland number of Rottweiler dogs accounted for the 8<sup>th</sup> quantitative position in 2004 and fell on the 12<sup>th</sup> position in 2008 [4].

Table 4 shows the numbers of dogs according to the group classification of the FCI and calculated on this basis trends in the numbers of dogs introduced to the shows. The dogs which were entered into the competition predominantly were classified in group II (Pinscher and Schnauzer - Molossoid Breeds - Swiss Mountain and Cattle Dogs and Other Breeds), group III (Terriers) and group I (Shepherds and Cattle Dogs except Swiss Cattle Dogs), and the rarest breeds represented group IV (Dachshunds), VII (Pointers) and X (Sighthounds). There has been a highly significant upward trend recorded for the Terrier group, while a significant downward trend was recorded for Dachshunds breed (FCI group IV). After the show season in 2000, Dachshunds occupied 4<sup>th</sup> quantitative position, while in 2010 they were placed only on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Although the reasons for the described phenomenon are unknown, it can be assumed that “fashion for Dachshunds” as the companion dogs has already ceased. Recently the future dog owners primarily prefer dogs from groups III, VI and IX instead of Dachshunds. The Main Breeding Commission also indicated the large drop in population of Dachshunds in Poland. 2175 Dachshunds were registered in the Polish Kennel Club in the year 2008, which accounted for 32.7% decrease compared with

**Table 4 – Tabela 4**

The quantitative trends and number of dogs entered in shows in 2000-2010  
 Liczebności i trendy ilości zgłaszanych na wystawy psów w latach 2000-2010

The FCI group Grupa FCI	The average in 2000-2010 Średnio w latach 2000-2010	The years Lata											Trend	SD
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010		
I	214,91	171	226	219	214	188	224	216	267	188	216	235	197,40 + 2,92t	25,35
II	457,64	443	442	429	455	491	492	482	460	445	445	450	452,40 + 0,87t	22,29
III	243,54	198	228	212	204	262	248	286	223	255	286	277	<b>198,93 + 7,44t **</b>	22,18
IV	77,73	123	103	87	78	66	60	60	62	72	70	74	<b>102,82 - 4,18t *</b>	14,80
V	101,64	92	98	93	83	102	97	113	132	99	109	100	90,13 + 1,92t	11,83
VI	112,91	100	108	123	102	91	103	108	120	118	140	129	<b>95,94 + 2,83t *</b>	11,56
VII	52,18	56	41	44	52	45	54	54	54	56	52	66	<b>44,38 + 1,30t *</b>	5,65
VIII	163,18	72	114	144	179	189	163	193	206	160	183	192	<b>109,62 + 8,93t **</b>	28,30
IX	156,82	78	88	89	84	92	130	189	207	238	271	259	<b>64,04 + 3,78t + 1,52t² ***</b>	20,91
X	41,73	43	33	45	45	38	44	37	53	36	42	43	40,42 + 0,22t	5,74
Total Ogółem	1622,27	1376	1481	1485	1496	1564	1615	1738	1784	1667	1814	1825	<b>1356,47 + 44,30t **</b>	49,86

SD – standard deviation – błąd standardowy

\* Trend statistically significant at  $P \leq 0,05$  – Trend istotny statystycznie przy  $P \leq 0,05$

\*\* Trend highly statistically significant at  $P \leq 0,01$  – Trend wysoko istotny statystycznie przy  $P \leq 0,01$

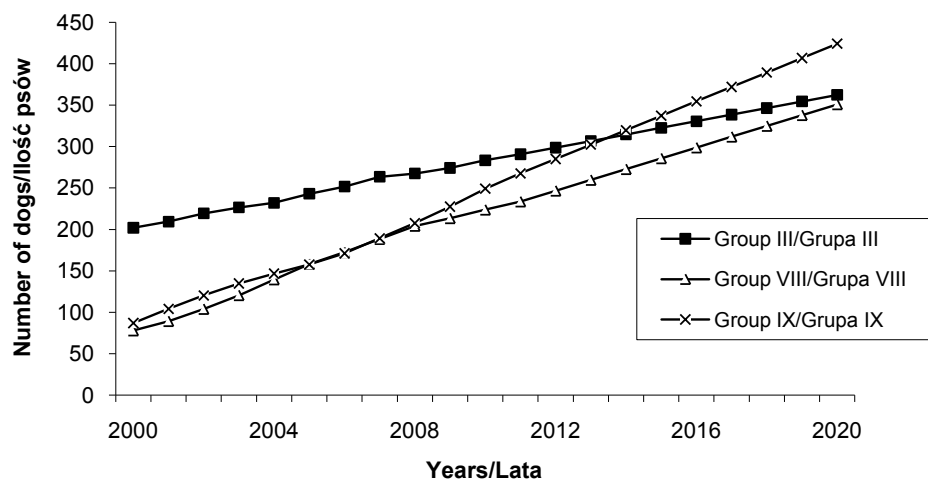


Fig. 1. The prediction of number of dogs from III, VIII and IX FCI groups participating in shows until 2020

Rys. 1. Prognoza ilości zgłaszanych na wystawy psów z grup III, VIII i IX FCI do 2020 r.

the year 2004 [4]. The quantities of birth certificates issued in Bydgoszcz breeding district indicate that ‘fashion for Dachshunds’ was already subjected to considerable variations in the past. In the years 1960-1975 a sharp increase ( $-1.55 + 3.43t$ ) of the population of Dachshunds was noted, but in 1992-1999 the head number of this group clearly diminished ( $212.04 - 13.48t$ ) [6]. Slightly larger decline in the amount of Dachshunds ( $206.88 - 14.57t$ ) was recorded also in a longer time frame – in the years 1992-2004 [7]. It should be stated that regardless of fashion, the population of Dachshunds bred by hunters will remain in Poland, because Dachshunds are excellent hunting dogs with versatile utility.

Although dogs from group VII (Pointers) and X (Sighthounds) generally were entered most rarely to the shows for a period of 11 years, their numbers steadily increased. In case of the Pointing Dogs, the registered upward trend proved to be statistically significant. It is also noteworthy that the dogs from FCI group IX (Companion and Toy Dogs) that started from the 7<sup>th</sup> position in 2000, ranked on the 3<sup>rd</sup> position after shows in 2010. In case of this group the most significant upward trend ( $64.04 + 3.78t + 1.52t^2$ ) was recorded. A sharp rise in the number of dogs in the group IX registered in the Kennel Club is also demonstrated by Junikiewicz [4]. Studies of the dog population conducted in the Branch Bydgoszcz demonstrate an interesting aspect of the unpredictability of fashion for a certain dog breeds. It was denoted that in the years of 1992-2004 the number of dogs in group IX showed a slightly negative trend [8].

The calculated slope of the regression line (trend) proved to be significant for groups IV, VI and VII and highly significant for group III, VIII and IX of the FCI, as well as for all groups evaluated together (Table 4). For all other FCI groups the observed trends were not statistically valid, thus they were not included in the prediction for the next 10 years. Forecasts projecting the dynamic growth in the number of dogs within each group



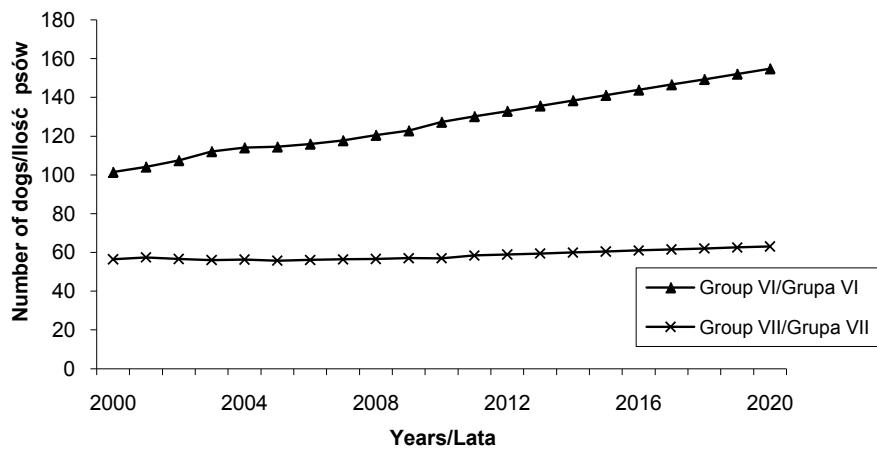


Fig. 2. The prediction of number of dogs from VI and VII FCI groups participating in shows until 2020

Rys. 2. Prognoza ilości zgłaszanych na wystawy psów z grup VI i VII FCI do 2020 r.

are illustrated on the Figures 1 and 2, while the overall estimate of the numbers of dogs entered to the shows is presented in Figure 3. If the development trends registered in the present study remain, in 10 years Companion and Toy Dogs (group IX) will become the most popular group of dogs, the second and third position will be occupied respectively by Terriers (group III) and Retrievers, Flushing Dogs and Water Dogs (Group VIII) – Figure 1. The popularity of the latter group is sustained by Golden and Labrador Retriever, even

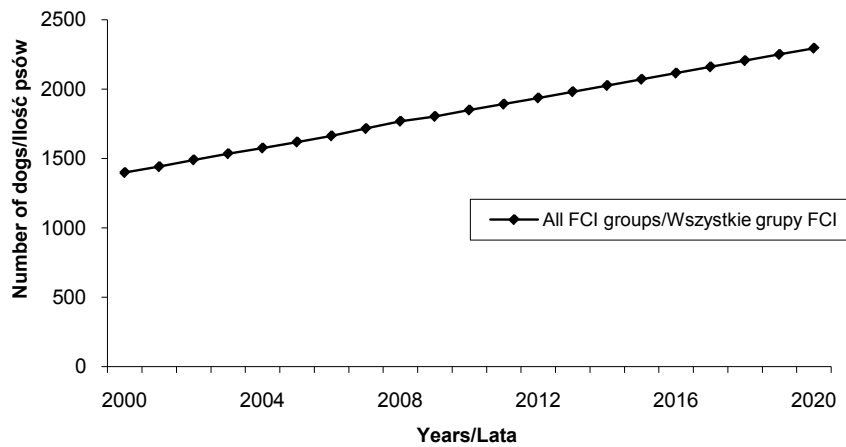


Fig. 3. The prediction of number of dogs from all FCI groups participating in shows until 2020

Rys. 3. Prognoza ilości zgłaszanych na wystawy psów wszystkich grup FCI do 2020 r.

though the upward trend was significant ( $P \leq 0.05$ ) only for the Labradors. A significant increase in population projected for the FCI group VI (Fig. 2) is mainly derived from the rapidly growing popularity of Polish Hunting Dog (Table 2) and to some extent, the rising popularity of the Beagle breed, which has not been confirmed statistically. An upward trend of dogs from group VII of the FCI appears to be under major influence of gradual increase of frequency of entering the Irish Setter and Weimaraner Short-haired Pointer to the dog shows, which also was not confirmed statistically. A clear increase in the interest in Weimar Pointer was already indicated by the results of study of dog head number carried out in the Branch in Bydgoszcz [8].

Figure 3 illustrates the forecast for the total number of dogs declared to participate in the dog shows organized by the Branch in Olsztyn. Such a good prognosis is due to the fact that all FCI groups (except IV) were characterized by upwards trends. The trends were confirmed statistically (Table 4) for five of the groups.

To summarize, it can be concluded that the total number of dogs entered into the National Purebred Dog Shows organized by the Polish Kennel Club, Olsztyn Branch continues to grow. FCI group IX (Companion and Toy Dogs), III (Terriers) and VIII (Retrievers, Flushing Dogs, Water Dogs) were characterized by statistically highly significant growth dynamics, while growth dynamics for Group VI (Scenthounds and Related Breeds) and VII (Pointers) were statistically significant. A significant downward trend was recorded for the Group IV (Dachshunds). During the investigated period of the study, the dog breeds most often declared to participate in the dog shows were as following: German Shepherd (1137), Yorkshire Terrier (801) and Labrador Retriever (737). The overall 10-years forecast for the quantities of dogs declared for the shows projects a further dynamic growth in the number of applications for the dog shows.

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## Analiza tendencji w hodowli psów rasowych w latach 2000-2010 na przykładzie wystaw organizowanych przez Związek Kynologiczny w Polsce – Oddział w Olsztynie

### Streszczenie

Wystawy Psów Rasowych stanowią pewne odzwierciedlenie ilościowego i jakościowego stanu hodowli poszczególnych ras. Analizą objęto informacje o zgłoszeniach psów zawarte w Katalogach z Krajowych Wystaw Psów Rasowych organizowanych przez Związek Kynologiczny w Polsce – Oddział w Olsztynie w latach 2000-2010 (łącznie 11 lat, 22 wystawy). Psy figurujące w Katalogach z Wystaw należały do 207 ras, co stanowiło 80% wszystkich (260) ras zarejestrowanych w Polsce. Stwierdzono, że ogólna liczba psów zgłaszanych na wystawy organizowane przez Oddział w Olsztynie stale rosła. Wysoko istotną statystycznie dynamiką wzrostową cechowały się grupy IX FCI (psy ozdobne i do towarzystwa), III (teriery) oraz VIII (aportery, płochacze i psy dowodne), a istotną statystycznie – grupy VI (psy gończe i posokowce) i VII (wyżły). Wobec grupy IV (jammiki) odnotowano natomiast istotną tendencję spadkową. W badanym okresie najczęściej zgłaszano na wystawy psy ras owczarek niemiecki (1137), yorkshire terrier (801) oraz labrador retriever (737). Ogólna prognoza ilości zgłaszanych psów, zakładająca utrzymanie się rejestrowanych w pracy tendencji rozwojowych i obejmująca kolejne 10 lat, przewiduje dalszy, dynamiczny wzrost liczby zgłoszeń.

**SŁOWA KLUCZOWE:** hodowla psów / wystawy psów / Związek Kynologiczny w Polsce