

## **Behaviour and performance assessment in Felin Pony**

### **Summary**

The study included assessment of mental traits' quality, movement and physiological efficiency in 16 mares and 5 stallions of Felin Pony. Mental traits were evaluated using fearfulness test by Budzyński method. During tests the heart rate (beats/min) was measured using electronic monitor apparatus Hippocard-Polar Sport Tester PEH 4000. High level of nervous balance in the examined horses was found that allows for their versatile, safe and effective performance. Total mean point score of fearfulness test in optic scheme was  $19.00 \pm 1.79$  in mares and it was higher by 0.80 points in comparison with stallions ( $18.20 \pm 2.05$  points). Quite high Felin Pony movement efficiency in walk and trot expressed by length and frequency of step as well as movement speed is similar to movement traits found in Hucul and Polish Konik horses. The dependences between mental traits' quality, walk efficiency and heart rate can be employed for more extended and objective assessment of horse behaviour.

**KEY WORDS:** nervous irritability, movement efficiency, Felin Pony