Do breeding fur animals differ from wild-living mink, red fox and raccoon dog? – preliminary results of the studies

Summary

The project which is accomplished in the Department of Biological Backgrounds of Animal Production by a team of prof. Grażyna Jeżewska-Witkowska is aimed at development of the standards allowing for identification by phenotype and genotype of farm-bred and wild animals, including: American mink, red fox and raccoon dog. The obtained results suggest that the domestication process contributed to increase the diversity of farm animals (coat color, body weight), as well as to a number of changes in physiology and anatomy. Domestication is also associated with the formation of a number of mutations and polymorphisms at the molecular level. The differences observed at the phenotypic/DNA level will be used to develop tests enabling the identification of the affiliation of mink, fox and raccoon dog to a group of farm or wild-living animals. This fact will be important both for the environmental protection and also for the proper organization of the carnivorous fur farms.

KEY WORDS: American mink, red fox, raccoon dog, farm animals, wild animals