

## SKULL SHAPE VARIATION OF RACCOON DOGS AND RED FOXES IN LITHUANIA

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**Summary.** The aim of performed work was to calculate indexes and ratios of raccoon dogs and red foxes skulls and based on this to determine the differences of the skull shape between sexes and species. Analysis was performed at the Laboratory of Osteology, Department of Anatomy and Physiology, Veterinary Academy of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences. Sixty three modern adult raccoon dogs (17 males and 14 females) and red foxes (16 males and 16 females) skulls were measured. The measuring was performed using mechanical sliding callipers with accuracy of 0.1 mm according method described by A. von den Driesch (1976). Using obtained measurements 7 skull indexes and 3 ratios were determined. No differences between form of skull of female and male raccoon dogs and red foxes were established ( $p>0.05$ ). The skull, facial and facial-1 indexes, palatal index and palato–palatine ratio of females and males raccoon dogs were significantly higher compared to indexes of females and males of red foxes ( $p<0.05$ ). It was shown that the major differences between species were concentrated in the facial part of the skull.

**Keywords:** red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*), osteometry, indexes, skull.