

KAUNAS REGION HORSES

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Summary. The Balt's territories have one peculiarity - a large amount of horse bones is found in the burial grounds. This phenomenon is typical of the Prussians (V-XI c.) and the Lithuanians (Kaunas region, VIII-XI c.)

On the basis of the data obtained we determined that mostly 4,5-10 year old horses were buried in the burial grounds of middle Lithuania.

It has been determined by means of the bone measurements that the length of metacarpals ranges between 180 mm and 216 mm (the average length is $193,1 \pm 0,99$ mm); the length of metatarsals -218-253 mm (the average length is $233,9 \pm 0,73$ mm).

These data (Pictures 2,3 and Table 2) demonstrates, that horses of different types were buried in Marvelė and Veršvai burial grounds (with height is 120-136 cm). A certain number of larger horses (with height is 136-144 cm and 153 cm; length of metacarpals is 210-222 mm) might not have been of local breeds.

We have come to the conclusion, that the most similar horse skeletons (according to the osteometric data) were found in South Prussia and, partly in Slovakia. The larger horse type skeletons are closer to the horse skeletons found in the burial grounds in North Germany (Beckum).