

## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF BODY CONFORMATION AND GROWTH RATE OF ŽEMAITUKAI AND HEAVY-TYPE ŽEMAITUKAI HORSES

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**Summary** Until now, the specialists of horse breeding and horse-breeders disagree if the žemaitukai and the heavy-type žemaitukai are two different horse breeds under the same name or the horses of two different types comprising the same breed. The purpose of the study was to make conclusions on the question after the analysis of the exterior, body measurements and indices, and growth rate of the žemaitukai and heavy-type žemaitukai. The study was carried out in 1995-2000 at the Lithuanian Institute of Animal Science, Vilnius Stud farm, Sartai Stud farm and individual farms keeping horses. The results from the study indicated that the žemaitukai are all-purpose pony-type horses and heavy-type žemaitukai are horses of the harness type.

Different body measurements, type and use of these horses allow to make a presumption that the žemaitukai and the heavy-type žemaitukai should be treated as the horses of two different Lithuanian breeds.

**Keywords:** the žemaitukai, the heavy-type žemaitukai, exterior, growth rate.