

## A COMPARISON OF BODY AND HEART SIZE BETWEEN THE MALLARD AND PEKIN DUCK

Bartłomiej J. Bartyzel<sup>\*</sup>, Maciej Karbowicz<sup>1</sup>, Izabela Bartyzel<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Department of Morphological Science, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Warsaw Agricultural University, Warsaw, Poland*

<sup>2</sup> *Solec Medical Hospital, Medical University of Warsaw, II Medical Department, III Clinic of Internal Diseases and Cardiology, Warsaw, Poland*

<sup>\*</sup> *Correspondence to: Bartłomiej J. Bartyzel, Department of Morphological Science, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Warsaw Agricultural University, ul. Nowoursynowska 159, 02-776 Warsaw, Poland; Tel./Fax: +4822 8473783; e-mail: [bartyzel@alpha.sggw.waw.pl](mailto:bartyzel@alpha.sggw.waw.pl)*

**Summary.** The aim of performed study was to evaluate morphological changes in the wild ducks connected with domestication effect. Sixteen males and 12 females of the adult mallard ducks *Anas platyrhynchos* (Linnaeus, 1758) were analyzed and compared to 20 domestic pekin ducks *Anas platyrhynchos f. domestica* (10 males, 10 females). The body size (total body weight, body length) and the absolute heart weight were determined for each bird. There were statistically significant differences in respective traits between wild and domestic ducks and between males and females of each species ( $p < 0,05$ ). In addition, the absolute heart parameter of the weight, relative heart weight was calculated as a percentage of body weight. The relative heart index was statistically significantly higher compared to the mallard duck. The performed study between wild ducks have shown significant domesticated differences in body and heart size. This was in agreement with corresponding data reported by other authors.

**Keywords:** bird, duck, body, heart, morphometry, domestication.