

OSTEOMETRICAL ESTIMATION OF METACARPAL AND METATARSAL BONES OF LITHUANIAN WHITE PIG

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Summary. The aim of this study was to measure third and fourth metacarpal and metatarsal bones of females and castrates of Lithuanian White pig and to estimate the applicability of osteometrical method to establish the sex and age of pigs.

A sample of 64 individuals (36 female, 28 castrates) of known age and sex were examined.

Measurements were taken in millimeters, according to technique described by von den Driesch (1976). Statistical analysis was done by statistical analysis system SAS version 8.2.

Sex of Lithuanian White pigs identify by measurements of bones is impossible. The breadth in the middle of the diaphysis of the third metacarpal is the best measurement separated pigs according to age ($p < 0,05$).

Keywords: Lithuanian White pig, metacarpus, metatarsus, osteometry, sex, age.