

## A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF THE DENTITION OF LITHUANIAN HEAVY-DROUGHT HORSES

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**Summary.** The purpose of this study was to report the findings of the clinical examination of the teeth in the Lithuanian heavy-drought horse breed. In total, fifty horses were clinically examined. This is likely the very first time the dental examinations were performed in these horses.

Clinical examination of the teeth of the horses was made to initiate their health care management. A Triadan tooth numbering system was used in order to document the findings and to analyse the results (Foster, 1996).

The main dental finds were sharp enamel points on maxillary and mandibular cheek teeth, rostral hooks, wave mouth, step mouth, ramps, carries and buccal mucosal ulcers.

The results of this research suggest that it is purposeful to continue dental research for the whole population of the Lithuanian heavy- drought horses as a part of their health care program. Regular dental care is important for the welfare of the horse and especially in keeping and sustaining the national Lithuanian breed.

**Key words:** the upper and lower cheek teeth, wolf teeth, rostral hooks, wave mouth, clinical examination of the teeth.