



## **Equine Science Education in Hungary**

*Mihók S., Bodó I.*

*University of Debrecen, H-4032 Debrecen Böszörményi út 138*

### **Summary**

Equine science as a subject is involved in curricula of graduate students of universities all over the country (Debrecen, Mosonmagyaróvár, Keszthely, Kaposvár).

The same topic is facultative at high schools in Nyíregyháza Hódmezővásárhely. Special courses for driving and riding are available at the Debrecen Kaposvár Mosonmagyaróvár and Gödöllő universities. Students can learn riding in everyday practice. The trainer, the manage and other facilities are at their disposal here.

In the thirties of the last century the Örkénytábor riding trainers' school was famous and successful. After the Second World War for political reasons the development stopped.

Riding Academy was established at the Kaposvár University for education of riders and trainers

The former department at the Herceghalom Research Institute is closed and its reconstruction is planned to the near future.

### **Introduction**

Equitation, riding, breeding of horses, use of horses under saddle and in carriages were important in the history of mankind because it belonged to the everyday life. It was also in education and practice for the whole society for peasants, farmers, soldiers and aristocrats included.

As a consequence of mechanisation its importance decreased dramatically. After the decades of decadence now it is a renaissance of use of horses in equine sports and leisure time riding. Therefore it is now the obligatory renaissance in the education of equine science i.e. hypology in theory and practice. Table 1. shows the construction of different disciplines on different levels.

Table 1.

|                             | <b>Workman course</b>                 | <b>Secondary school</b>              | <b>BSc</b>                           | <b>MSc</b>             | <b>PhD</b>          | <b>Research group</b> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Breeding</b>             | Groom                                 | Foreman of a team                    | Stud leader                          | Ing. of horse breeding | All the disciplines | All the disciplines   |
| <b>Sport</b>                | Groom                                 | „Bereiter”                           | Assistant trainer                    | Trainer                |                     |                       |
| <b>racing</b>               | Groom                                 | Jockey                               | Fodder master                        | Trainer                |                     |                       |
| <b>tourism</b>              | Groom                                 | Accompanying rider                   | Tour leader                          | entrepreneur           |                     |                       |
| <b>Auxiliary profession</b> | Smith, cartwright, saddler apprentice | Smith, cartwright, saddler Assistant | Smith, cartwright, saddler craftsman | farrier                |                     |                       |

## Equine science at universities' curricula

Teaching at University level starts with some basic subjects like anatomy, physiology etc. In the fifth semester the general animal breeding first of all genetics (Mendelian, population, molecular and its application to the breeding of domestic animals), domestication, estimation of breeding value, selection, methods of breeding technology etc. are taught

After these basic studies the breeding of different domestic species takes place.

The duration of horse breeding studies is not the same in different universities it is belonging to the opinion of head of departments. It is obligatory to involve it to the examination process as well.

In the text book of university studies the horse breeding has 135 pages and there are two other books the Manual for horse breeders and the Horse and Donkey (a book on the breeds).

## Practical education in the schools

It was a movement for learning of riding in elementary schools of the villages with the slogan: „the horse should be the gymnastic hall of the village”.

Some universities have riding schools for the students. These are Gödöllő, Debrecen, Kaposvár, Mosonmagyaróvár. Students can learn riding in the afternoon, and the talented young man or women can sport in the clubs of university. There are championships for universities year by year.

The details of education of horse breeding in Hungary

At the **Debrecen University** in the 7. semester 4 x 2 lectures and 4 x 1 practicals. Optional subject sport horse breeding 2 x 2 per 14 weeks Possibility for learning of riding 2 hours per week.

At the **West-Hungarian (Mosonmagyaróvár) University** in the 5. semester 3 x 5 lectures 3 x 2 hours of practicals. Optional subject horse breeding and health 28 hours.

At the **Kaposvár University** 2 x 1 hours per 13 weeks, supplementary education 3 x 5 hours. For correspondence students 3 x 2 hours.

The **Georgicon University Keszthely**. Optional subject horse breeding and sports 12 x 2 hours lectures. Nutrition of the horse 13 x 2 hours

**Faculty of Veterinary Science** Optional subject 7 x 2 hours

On the other hand education of riding in higher level is going on in horse sport clubs.

## **History of riding schools in Hungary**

It is the reason that the campagne style was always nearer to Hungarian riders than the Spanish high school.

The modern horse sport starts at the end of the nineteenth century.

Up to the first World War the riders of Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy represented the classic school and style. After World War I. the Hungarian horse sport looked for the development, because the level was not comparable to the results of the leader nations like Italians, Germans, French and Polish riders. In order to follow the international development in horse sports a modern riding school was established in Örkénytábor (60 km from Budapest) and young officers of cavalry were sent to foreign riding schools for learning. These were Grudziądz, Hannover, Pinerolo, Tor di Quinto in Italy and the Spanish Riding School in Vienna.

They took part at the high level of international competitions using the training methods learned and became teachers at the Örkénytábor riding school.

The role of the Riding and Driving Teachers' School at Örkénytábor was a break through in the results. Many medals and placings were obtained in international concours and the Olympic games at Berlin in 1936 Platthy J. won the bronze medal in show jumping and the military team (Endrődy 5th, Jankovich 9th) could have won the three day events if the horse of Visy I. would not have broken its leg.

The next development was broken by World War II. The successful riders and trainers must do physical work as helpers in masonry others became electrician etc. Thus, by the lack of the teachers and trainers political aspects have broken the development of a successful sport in Hungary.

The level of the former Hungarian riding school was proven by the trainers and teachers of Örkénytábor who left Hungary worked abroad, on the other side of „iron curtain”. It is enough to mention the names of G. Hazslinszky, B. Némethy, Á. Endrődy, I. Visy. Many gold medals are belonging to the activity of the Örkénytábor riding teachers in international competitions.

It was only the driving of four in hands which was very successful for Hungary at the international concours in the last decades.

After the political changes of 1989 the new challenges are similar to that of the twenties among just more difficult conditions.

### **Situation of research and hyppology**

In the Institute of Animal Breeding and nutrition at Herceghalom there was a department of horse breeding, but it was closed fifteen years ago. After this fact the hyppology was cultivated at the Animal Breeding Departments of different universities and with the contribution of the Institute of Agricultural Quality Control.

The investigation was on the estimation of breeding value of race and sport horses, on the nutrition, and on the international cooperation, when it was possible..

On the initiatives of head of the department of Animal Breeding at the University of Veterinary Science Budapest a successful cooperation developed in the framework of INCO COPERNICUS on genetics of Lipizzan horses based on the traditional studs.

The reconstruction of the structure of research also in the hyppology is planned for the next years.

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