

Broodmare demographics: A study of a United Kingdom sport horses stud during a stud season.



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1. Background

- Previous studies have highlighted the demographics of the thoroughbred broodmare population visiting stud farms.
- However, limited study has been undertaken within the sport horse population.

2. Aim

To evaluate the demographic profile of sport horse broodmares visiting a large sport horse stud within the UK over a single stud year.

4. Results

The sample population consisted of 238 sport horse broodmares.

Age profile

- **51.6%** (n=123) **9 -15 yrs** ($\chi = 36.210$, $P < 0.001$)
- **23.4%** (n=55) **+ 15yrs**

Status profile

- 41.6% maiden
- 38.2% barren
- 20.2% with foal at foot

Method of Service

- **62.6%** (n=147) **fresh semen** ($\chi = 92.630$, $P < 0.001$)
- **25.6%** (n=61) **frozen semen**

End of year positive pregnancy diagnosis

- 66% (n=155) overall ($\chi = 21.782$, $P < 0.001$).
- 70% ≤ 8 yrs
- 61% + 15 yrs
- 70% maiden mares
- 69% barren mares
- 48% mares with foals at foot ($\chi = 7.845$, $P < 0.05$).

3. Method

- Data was collated and discriminated by various measures of status and outcome.
- Frequencies were returned for discriminating variables.
- Further cross tabulation comparison and chi square analysis was undertaken.



5. Conclusions

- This study indicted different demographics in the mare population when compared to previous studies in the thoroughbred, in particular age and method of service.
- Overall positive pregnancies was consistent with others studies on sport horse populations.
- Significantly lower rates of positive pregnancy diagnosis observed in mares with foals at foot.