REPRODUCTION CONTROL BY IMMUNO-CONTRACEPTIVE VACCINATION OF FERAL MARES FROM LETEA FOREST

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ABSTRACT

According to the air-censuses conducted by the organization Vier Pfoten Romania, in Letea, there are about 500 feral horses. Population growth is a problem for the vegetation, and the most ethical method of reproduction management was proven to be the immuno-contraceptive vaccine. The project aims to protect and control the number of animals by reaching a stable populations, based on the limited resources of the habitat in which they live. This study summarizes the steps and results of the project.

For 2014, the contraceptive immunization and subsequent monitoring of a total of 100 mares was wanted. The aim of this vaccine was preventing fertilization during the mares heat season in 2014 and thus reducing the number of births in the spring of 2015. For 2015, the readministration of the vaccine to the 100 mares and the vaccination of 50 more.

The effects are measured by the determination of estrogen and progesterone. The results of the analysis of the biological samples taken from 20 mares show in 19 cases - the absence of gestation and one case of possible pregnancy, underlining the effectiveness of the vaccine.

We consider that this project, being the first of its kind in Europe, opens the possibility to address similar problems with other types of animals and provide a longer life expectancy and higher quality of it.

KEYWORDS

PZP, immune contraception, wild horses, Letea.

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