

UDC 636.046.3:639.1.03:001.82

**ANALYSIS OF INTEREST IN THE POPULATION OF THE POLISH HUNTING
SPANIEL BREED**

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The Polish Hunting Spaniel (PHS) is a breed of dog, that origins are as early as the 19th century. Dogs of this breed often accompanied hunters during hunting. Unfortunately, the period of wars severely limited the number of individuals. Only in the 90s of the 20th century, the population began to recover. So PHS is a relatively new breed.

The aim of the study was to analyze whether the size of the Polish Hunting Spaniel population has changed over the past few.

Data on the number of PHS dogs came from the data of the Polish Kennel Club (the organization affiliated to the FCI-Fédération Cynologique Internationale) and of the PHS Club-Comission (the organ of Main Board of the Polish Kennel Club). The analysis covered the years 2017-2023. Data from 2024 was unpublished yet.

Data was collected and analyzed against 3 criteria: the total number of dogs registered, the number of litters with number of puppies born and the number of kennel. At the end of 2017, there were 43 registered representatives of the breed. In 2018 there was an increase in the total number of individuals to 70. In the following years the upward trend continued and grew stronger. In 2019 was- 138 individuals, in 2020 - 173 individuals, in 2021 – 285 individuals, in 2022 - 346 individuals, until 2023 when the total number of animals of this breed amounted to 264 dogs. There was also an increase in the number of registered litters, from 2 in 2017 (19 puppies) to 39 litters in 2021 (239 puppies). 2022 observed slight decrease in the number of litters, to 2020 level, however the number of puppies born was a record - 314. In 2023 were 23 litters which 169 puppies. The number of kennel or rather a kennel name was increase in years 2020-2023. Data for previous years is unknown. In 2020 their number was 32, in 2021 already - 40 and 2 kennels were also recorded outside Poland. The year 2022 was similar to 2021, i.e. 42 kennels in Poland and 3 outside. 2023 is characterized by a large increase, there were 54 recognized breedings in Poland.

The analyzes carried out showed a general increasing tendency, although in some years the number of litters characterized small decrease.

If the analyzed parameters increase, it means that the breed is becoming more and more popular. So it can be assumed that this new breed - PHS - is a dog with appropriate both for hunting features and other uses for example as family or sports dog.



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**Матеріали Міжнародної науково-практичної конференції
присвяченої 95-річчю від дня народження доктора
сільськогосподарських наук,
професора, академіка УАН
Григорія Олександровича Богданова
6-7 березня 2025 р.**

Київ - 2025

УДК 636:001.8«XXV»(092)

М 33

Матеріали Міжнародної науково-практичної конференції *«Наукові і технологічні виклики тваринництва у XXI столітті»*, присвяченої 95-річчю від дня народження доктора сільськогосподарських наук, професора, академіка УААН Г. О. Богданова, м. Київ, НУБіП України, 6-7 березня 2025 року. 192 с.

Матеріали конференції подано у авторській редакції.