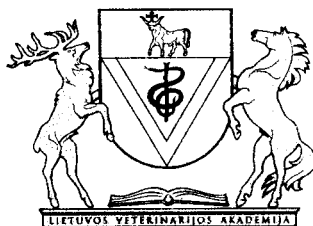


LITHUANIAN VETERINARY ACADEMY

**International  
Council for  
Archaeozoology**



**Abstracts**  
of the third International conference  
of the Animal Palaeopathology Working  
Group (APWG) of the International Council  
for Archaeozoology (ICAZ)

6-8 September 2007, Kaunas

## Cephalic skull measurements to differentiate male and female bovine skulls

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**Abstract.** A sample of near 799 bovine fresh adult skulls (distributed among 117 males and 682 females) belonging to 10 different domestic cattle breeds from Spain and France was examined. The studied breeds (Aubrac, Bruna dels Pirineus, Friesian, Red Friesian, Limousin, Brown Swiss, Pyrenean, Blonde d'Aquitanie, Salers and Charolais) descend from different European ancestor trunks. The heads were obtained from slaughtered animals and at all events were from absolute pure animals according to the racial standard. A total of 9 cephalic lineal measurements and 7 derived indexes were obtained on each skull. Some original aurochs skulls are used, too. The values between sexes were individually compared to discriminate measures to differentiate male and female skulls were found in each breed and globally.

Given their number-based nature, cephalic measurements and indexes allow comparisons between breeds from very different geographical areas as well as permitting the development of research into breeds using exclusively bone material. Moreover, our presented numbers could act as reference values for further morphometrical craneological studies on sexual dimorphism.

