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**PROSPECTS FOR THE
3rd MILLENNIUM
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HOCKS AND HOOVES CONDITION AND CHANGES IN BEHAVIOUR OF DAIRY COWS IN TIED SYSTEM

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Introduction: Claw horn disorders, infectious diseases of hooves and leg injuries cause lameness in dairy cows (Olechnowicz and Jaskowski, 2011). A lame cow is easily recognized while walking. In tied system, hock and hoof injuries are common, and some of them is easy to spot. However, behaviour that indicates pain in the hooves often remains unnoticed which compromise welfare status of affected animals.

Aims: The aim of the study was to determine the incidence and character of the changes in the hocks and hoofs among tied dairy cows, and also behavior of cows with those changes.

Materials and Methods: The study was conducted at intensive dairy farm with tied system of keeping animals, observing total 150 cows from different production groups. Hock and hooves condition, as well as behavioral changes on standing animals were checked. For scoring of these parameters methods by Grandin (2013) and Leach and Whay (2009), respectively, were used.

Results: In all categories of examined cows changes were found: in hocks (mostly the loss of hair and redness without swelling), in hooves (usually redness in interdigital region and/or redness of the coronary edge), and in behaviour (mostly position the peaks of the hooves to the side). The most of the animals without changes in behaviour were in the category of heavily pregnant heifers.

Conclusion: Solving problems on cows' hooves and injuries in tied system is complex. It requires changes in farm management and significant engagement of employees. *Inter alia*, dairy cows' health and welfare can be improve by constant education and stimulation of personnel, as well as appliance of effective methods of recording and control of hoof problems.

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