

Classification and further work

- Herd breeding
- Training program
- Training
- Performance evaluation
- Breeding evaluation

Utilization of the Székely horse

Horse of our ancestors - the Hungarian Horse

Margus N. I. (1826)
National Knight
(Károlyi Levegő)

The Székely Horse

Pali
- a 12 years old mare of Székely breed (Hankó, 1943)

Results

Year	Number of horses	Number of foals
2010	10	12
2011	15	18
2012	20	25
2013	25	30
2014	30	35
2015	35	40
2016	40	45
2017	45	50
2018	50	55
2019	55	60
2020	60	65
2021	65	70
2022	70	75
2023	75	80
2024	80	85
2025	85	90
2026	90	95
2027	95	100
2028	100	105
2029	105	110
2030	110	115

Αγάθεια

SAVE

A possible rescue of Székely Horse
The breed 'Székely lo' is extinct, but the type 'Székely lo' lives on.
(in remote areas of the Carpathian Mountains)

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7th European Seminar on Agricultural University and Annual Meeting of the SAVE Network
20-23 September 2013
Lake Kerkira National Park, Greece

Hankó, B. (1943): Székely Horvok (Székely lovak)

Székely Land (Székelyföld)
- a historical region of Kingdom of Hungary and a present region of Romania

Features of the breed

• Dark brown coat
• Dark brown mane and tail
• Dark brown eyes

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• Dark brown mane and tail
• Dark brown eyes

- Recent rescue of Székely Horse
- Documentation of remaining horses
 - in few Transylvanian counties
 - Satisfactory appearance
 - Acceptable descent
 - Photo, body measurements (taken 2014)
 - Establishing of herd book
 - Desired characteristics
 - Utilization (equestrian tourism, children's riding and horseback archery besides classical work in forestry or in harness)

A possible rescue of Székely Horse.
The breed "Székely ló" is extinct, but the type "Székely ló" lives on.
(in remote areas of the Carpathian Mountains)

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9th European Seminar on Agrobiodiversity
and Annual Meeting of the SAVE Network,
11-13 September 2015,
Lake Kerkini National Park, Greece

Abstract

The ancient Hungarian Horse used to live in the historical territory of Hungary. However, it changed to several newer horse breeds as a consequence of upgrading over the course of centuries. The ancient Hungarian Horse is now extinct.

In Transylvania, the improvement of the local population with Spanish and Arabian horses started in the 16th century. The result was the Transylvanian Horse, a new fair saddle horse breed with great resemblance to the Lipizzan at the beginning of the 19th century.

In Székely Land, a remote mountainous region with elements of economic autonomy, the initial native breed kept its original characteristics, for official efforts barely reached this region for a long time. Thus, the Székely Horse remained (mostly in the counties Csík, Udvarhely and Háromszék) an undemanding smaller sized (height at withers typically under 147 cm) sure-footed packhorse with resistant hooves throughout the 19th and first part of the 20th century. It had a relatively small and dry head with larger eyes, longer trunk of the body with slightly overgrown rump. The Székely Horse had a correct posture, relatively short limbs, broader chest and distance between the hips. This breed was traditionally used in harness as well as under saddle. It was trotting and galloping well with a highly set head and high foreleg action. Béla Hankó in 1943 left us a professional description with measurements and photo documentation of the even then rapidly shrinking population of Székely Horses. However, decrease in the population size that started in the beginning of the 20th Century escalated after World War II, and the Székely Horse also transformed because official efforts continued to meliorate it with larger bodied horses. The most commonly used breeds for crossbreeding were the following: Lipizzan, Gidran, Small Nonius, Arabian, English Thoroughbred and Semigreu Romanesca. Relatives of Székely Horse were the Békás Horse and the Hucul Horse; the latter one saved from extinction thanks to a transboundary preservation programme. (Distinction between the Székely Horse and the Békás Horse has not been very clear and remains controversial.)

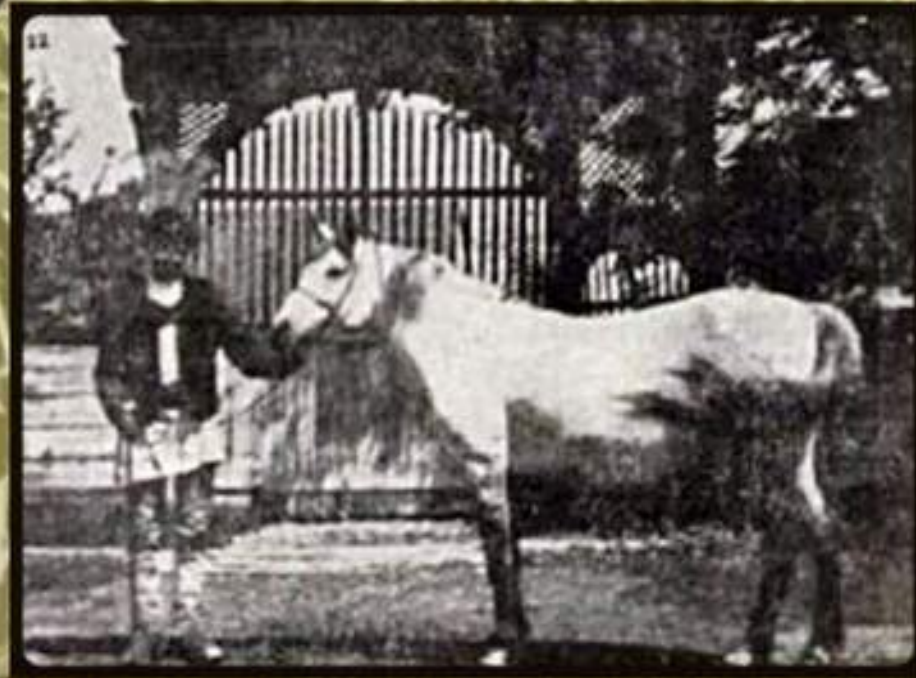
The Székely Horse was an identified breed with numbering and stud booking in the middle of the 20th century; but ceased to exist soon after World War II as an independent breed – studbooks were lost and the population was no longer identified. In recent years, new initiatives have begun to rescue the Székely Horse. Trips were organised to the few Transylvanian counties to document remaining horses with satisfactory appearance, and to collect information about their descent, start photo documentation, as well as to ascertain major body measurements. The registered Székely Horse could again be established by selecting the traditional type defined by desired characteristics and by careful mating strategies. Modern utilization of this small horse breed should be promoted and includes equestrian tourism, children's riding and horseback archery besides classical work in forestry or in harness.

Horse of our ancestors - the Hungarian Horse



Máttys N. J. (1828):
National Knight
(*Nemzeti Lovag*)

The Székely Horse



Pali
- a 12 years old mare
of Székely breed
(Hankó, 1943)

Székely Land (Szeklerland)
- a historical region of Kingdom of Hungary and
a present region of Roumania.



Székely Land in the XIXth century



Recent rescue of Székely Horse

- Documentation of remaining horses
- In few Transylvanian counties
- Satisfactory appearance
- Acceptable descent
- Photo, body measurements (taken 2014)
- Establishing of herd book
- Desired characteristics
- Utilization (equestrian tourism, children's riding and horseback archery besides classical work in forestry or in harness)

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Features of the breed



Szellő
- an 12 years old mare
of Székely breed
(Kászonjakabfalva, 2014)



Góbé III.
- an 8 years old stallion
of Székely breed
(Hankó, 1943)



Szellő
- an 12 years old mare
of Székely breed
(Kászonjakabfalva, 2014)



Góbé III.
- an 8 years old stallion
of Székely breed
(Hankó, 1943)

Hankó, B. (1943): Szekely Horses (*Székely lovak*)



42

II. Táblázat.

A „székely”-fajtájú

Sorszám	Legyek- lényviszony	A kancsa neve, kora, színe	Helye, gazdája	Magasság- cm	Hátmag- sága	Fehér- részesége
1	8	Linka, 6, alvászetrice	Csíkzentéskőre: Bálint József	140	130	142
2	9	Pali, 12, szepi, szürke	Gábor P.	136	127	137
3	10	Csillag, 9, pej	Békéscsaba: Darvas G.	143	137	142
4	11	Vidám, 12, v. pej	Kovács I.	131	124	131
5	18	Csinos, 7, pej	Szeged: Frescán G.	134	125	137
6	21	Dajka, 6, pej	Péter G.	130	125	128
7	22	Dajka, 4, pej	Erős I.	136	124	134
8	23	Vidám, 10, gesztenyepaj	Pátfalva: Sánta L.	132	124	129
9	25	Fecské, 5, sárga	Borsosváros: Kovács B.	130	124	134
10	26	Dajka, 5, gesztenyepaj	Szeged: József I.	131	130	130

ERDÉLYI TUDOMÁNYOS INTÉZET

SZÉKELY LOVAK

IRTA
HANKÓ BÉLA

28 KÉPPEL

DR. P.
TELEKI PÁL
TUDOMÁNYOS
INTÉZET
1941

MAGY JENŐ ÉS FIA KÖNYVNYOMDÁJA
KOLOZSVÁR
1943

42

II. Táblázat.

Sorszám	Jegyző- könyvi szám	A
1	8	Linka, 6
2	9	Pali, 12
3	10	Csillag,
4	11	Vidám,
5	18	Csinos,
6	21	Dajka,
7	22	Dajka,
8	23	Vidám,
9	25	Fecske,
10	26	Pulyka

II. Táblázat.

A „székely“-fajtájú

Sorszám	Jegyző- könyvi szám	A kanca neve, kora, színe	Helye, gazdája	Marmag- sága	Hátmag- sága	Farbó- magassága
1	8	Linka, 6, almásszürke	Csikszenzmárton: Bálint József	140	133	142
2	9	Pali, 12, szepl. szürke	Gábor P.	136	127	137
3	10	Csillag, 9, pej	Bánkfalva : Darvas G.	143	137	142
4	11	Vidám, 12, v. pej	Kovács I.	131	124	131
5	18	Csinos, 7, pej	Szépviz : Freucián G.	134	125	137
6	21	Dajka, 6, pej	Fekete G.	130	122	128
7	22	Dajka, 4, pej	Erős I.	136	124	134
8	23	Vidám, 10, gesztenyepaj	Pálfalva : Sánta L.	132	124	129
9	25	Fecske, 5, sárga	Borzsova : Kovács B.	130	124	134
10	26	Pulyka, 5, gesztenyepaj	Szépviz : Imre I.	138	132	138

Results

Table 1: Body measurements adjusted for 7 years of age (in cm)

Traits	n	Investigation	Gender	Mean	S.E.M.
Height at withers (by stick)	5	Hanko, 1943	stallion	135.4	1.76
	13	Hanko, 1943	mare	137.6	1.69
	2	own, 2014	stallion	140.0	2.78
	80	own, 2014	mare	135.2	0.44
p-value	100	0.537	0.141	137.1	1.52
Heart girth	5	Hanko, 1943	stallion	165.5	3.30
	13	Hanko, 1943	mare	172.3	2.65
	2	own, 2014	stallion	168.5	5.22
	80	own, 2014	mare	165.9	0.93
p-value	100	0.604	0.250	168.1	2.85
Cannon girth	5	Hanko, 1943	stallion	18.05	0.481
	13	Hanko, 1943	mare	18.14	0.298
	2	own, 2014	stallion	19.00	0.760
	80	own, 2014	mare	17.87	0.120
p-value	100	0.476	0.241	18.3	0.42

Table 2: Body indices adjusted for 7 years of age

Traits	n	Investigation	Gender	Mean	S.E.M.
Tension-I (Spannung-I)	5	Hanko, 1943	stallion	30.1	3.13
	13	Hanko, 1943	mare	34.7	1.94
	2	own, 2014	stallion	28.3	4.93
	80	own, 2014	mare	30.7	0.79
p-value	100	0.372	0.412	31.0	2.20
Tension-III (Spannung-III)	5	Hanko, 1943	stallion	122.2	2.38
	13	Hanko, 1943	mare	125.2	1.47
	2	own, 2014	stallion	126.4	3.76
	80	own, 2014	mare	123.8	0.59
p-value	100	0.376	0.452	122.7	2.65
Cannon bone load	5	Hanko, 1943	stallion	69.9	3.16
	13	Hanko, 1943	mare	65.5	1.56
	2	own, 2014	stallion	112.8	5.60
	80	own, 2014	mare	67.9	0.79
p-value	100	0.525	0.407	69.3	2.72

Tension-I (Spannung-I) = heart girth – height at withers (by stick)

Tension-III (Spannung-III) = (height at withers (by tape) – height at withers (by stick))*100

Cannon bone load = [cannon girth / heart girth]*1000

Results

Table 1: Body measurements adjusted for 7 years of age (in cm)

Traits	n	Investigation	Gender	Mean	S.E.M.
Height at withers (by stick) p-value/overall mean	5	Hankó, 1943	stallion	135.4	1.76
	13	Hankó, 1943	mare	137.6	1.09
	2	own, 2014	stallion	140.0	2.78
	80	own, 2014	mare	135.2	0.44
	100	0.537	0.141	137.1	1.52
Heart girth p-value	5	Hankó, 1943	stallion	165.5	3.30
	13	Hankó, 1943	mare	172.3	2.05
	2	own, 2014	stallion	168.5	5.22
	80	own, 2014	mare	165.9	0.83
	100	0.604	0.200	168.1	2.85
Cannon girth p-value	5	Hankó, 1943	stallion	18.05	0.481
	13	Hankó, 1943	mare	18.14	0.298
	2	own, 2014	stallion	19.00	0.760
	80	own, 2014	mare	17.87	0.120
	100	0.476	0.341	18.3	0.42

Table 2: Body indices adjusted for 7 years of age

Traits	n	Investigation	Gender	Mean	S.E.M.
Tension-I (Spannung-I) p-value	5	Hankó, 1943	stallion	30.1	3.13
	13	Hankó, 1943	mare	34.7	1.94
	2	own, 2014	stallion	28.5	4.95
	80	own, 2014	mare	30.7	0.78
	100	0.372	0.412	31.0	2.70
Tension-III (Spannung-III) p-value	5	Hankó, 1943	stallion	122.2	2.38
	13	Hankó, 1943	mare	125.2	1.47
	2	own, 2014	stallion	120.4	3.76
	80	own, 2014	mare	122.8	0.59
	100	0.370	0.452	122.7	2.05
Cannon bone load p-value	5	Hankó, 1943	stallion	108.9	3.16
	13	Hankó, 1943	mare	105.5	1.96
	2	own, 2014	stallion	112.8	5.00
	80	own, 2014	mare	107.9	0.79
	100	0.323	0.407	108.8	2.73

Tension-I (Spannung-I) = heart girth – height at withers (by stick)

Tension-III (Spannung-III) = [height at withers (by tape) – height at withers (by stick)]*100

Cannon bone load = [cannon girth / heart girth]*1000

Utilization of the Székely Horse

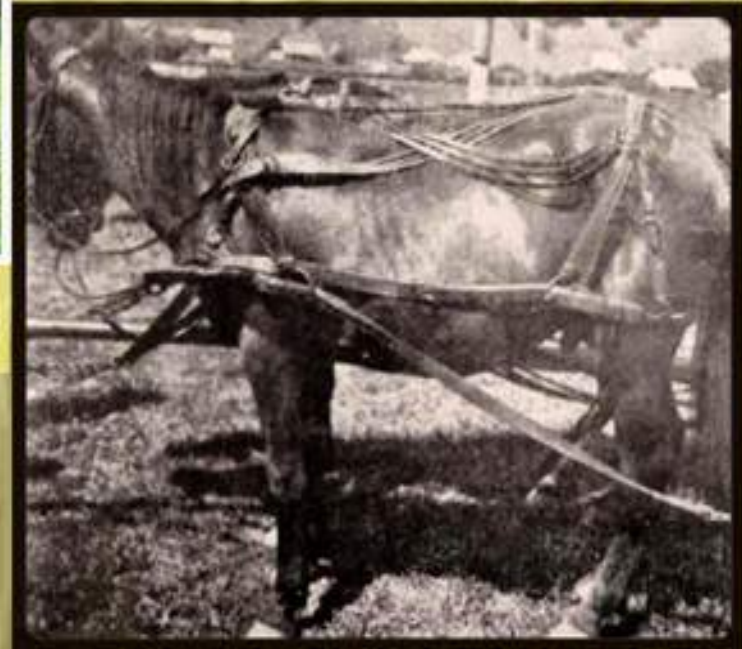


means of traffic



harness of Székely type

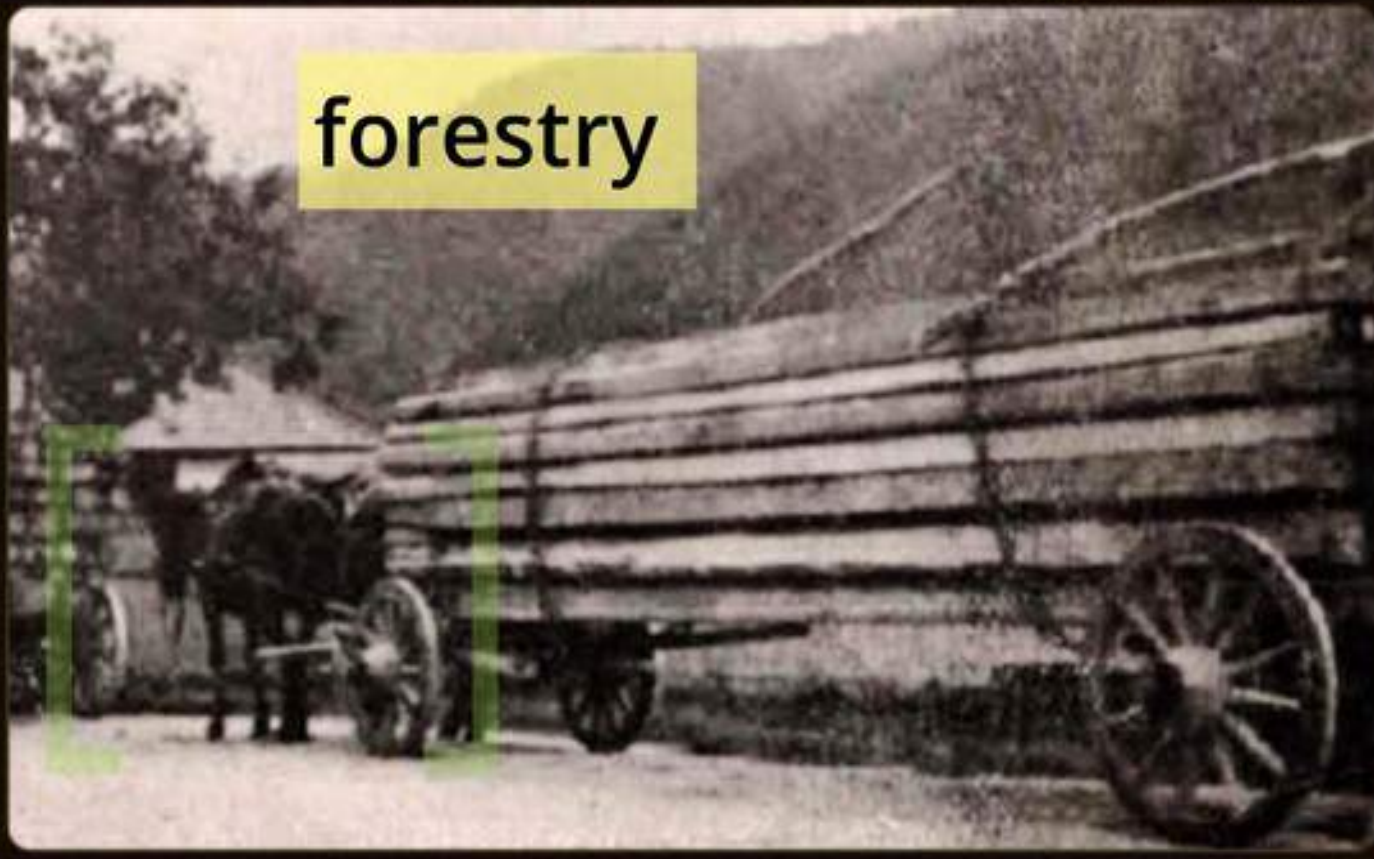
agriculture



pack-horse



forestry





children's riding



turism



Conclusions and further tasks

- herd booking
- breeding program (mating)
- utilization (modern)
- equipment (traditional)

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- breeding program (mating)
- utilization (modern)
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Thank you for your attention!