



HRVATSKI CENTAR  
ZA KONJOGOJSTVO  
DRŽAVNA ERGELA LIPIK

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# DONKEY BREEDING IN REPUBLIC OF CROATIA



- Intensive use of mechanization in rural areas of Croatia and the economic social movements cause disappearance of donkey usage and as a result a reduction of their number.
- The process of separating donkey types into separate registers starts in 2006.



- In accordance with the valid legislation, according to the Census of breed, strain and hybrids of domestic animals (NN 39/06), in the Republic of Croatia there are three registered types;
  1. Istrian type
  2. North Adriatic type
  3. Littoral Dinaric type



- For almost two decades horse and donkey breeding is organized and formed in national register - “Central equine register of Croatia” which is run by national head authority:

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- The process of separation of donkey population includes a complete audit of the status of breeding for all three types.





- Each donkey is measured by 11 body measures.
  - Measures taken by measuring tape:
    - wither height
    - chest circumference
    - tibia circumference
    - ear length
  - Measures taken by Lydtin stick:
    - wither height
    - hip height
    - body length
    - chest depth
    - chest width
    - croup length
    - croup width



- The sample of hair is taken.
- According to the Regulation of identification and registration of equidae (NN 74/07), microchips are applied on the left side of the neck and records are made on the identification of equidae.
- For each donkey detailed identification records are taken (diagram and textual identification).
- On the basis of these documents, the head authority issues an Identification document

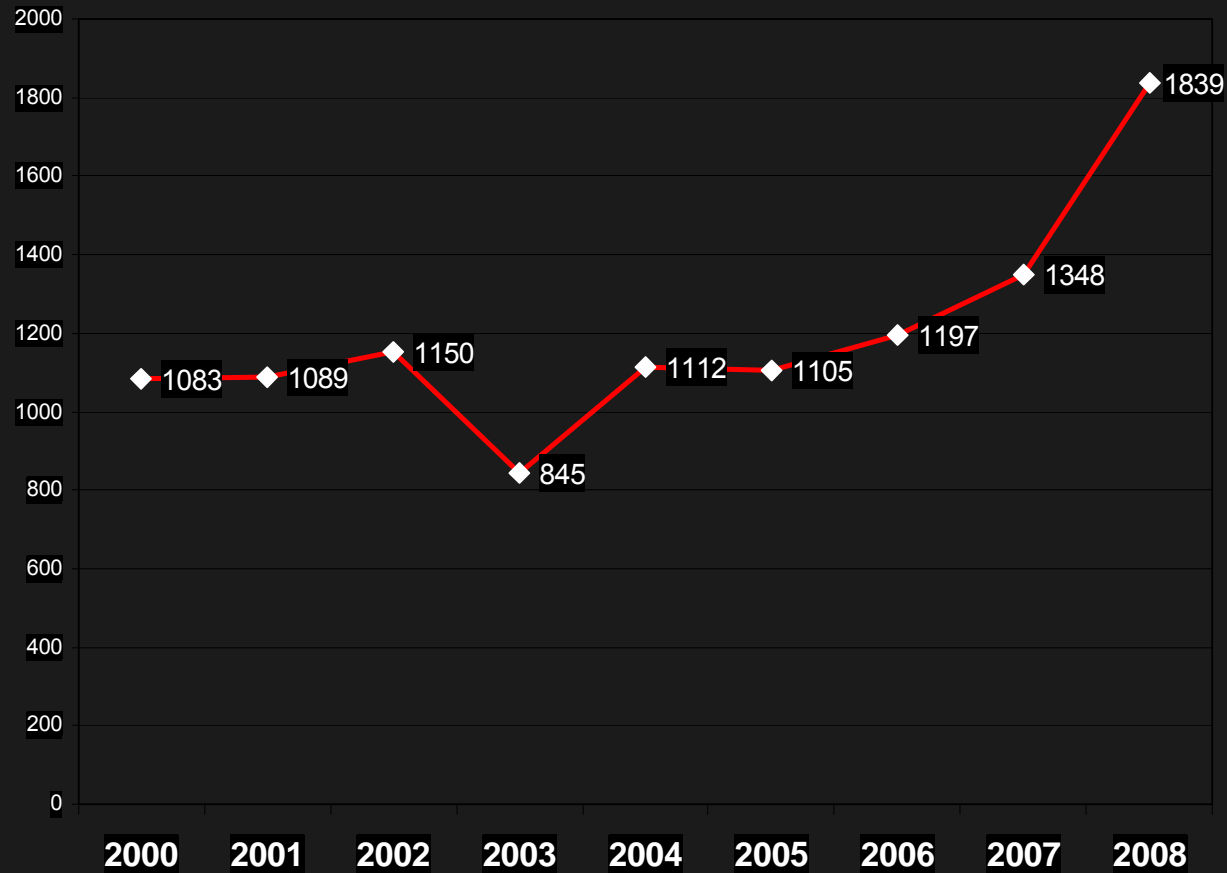


- First registration in the Central register of equidae started in 1997. At that time first 68 animals of different age and category were identified and branded.
- In 2007, the number of registered donkeys was 1348, and according to current data, the Central equine register of Croatia has registered the total number of 1839 donkeys of all categories in 2008.





- The number of donkeys under selection from 2000 to 2008:

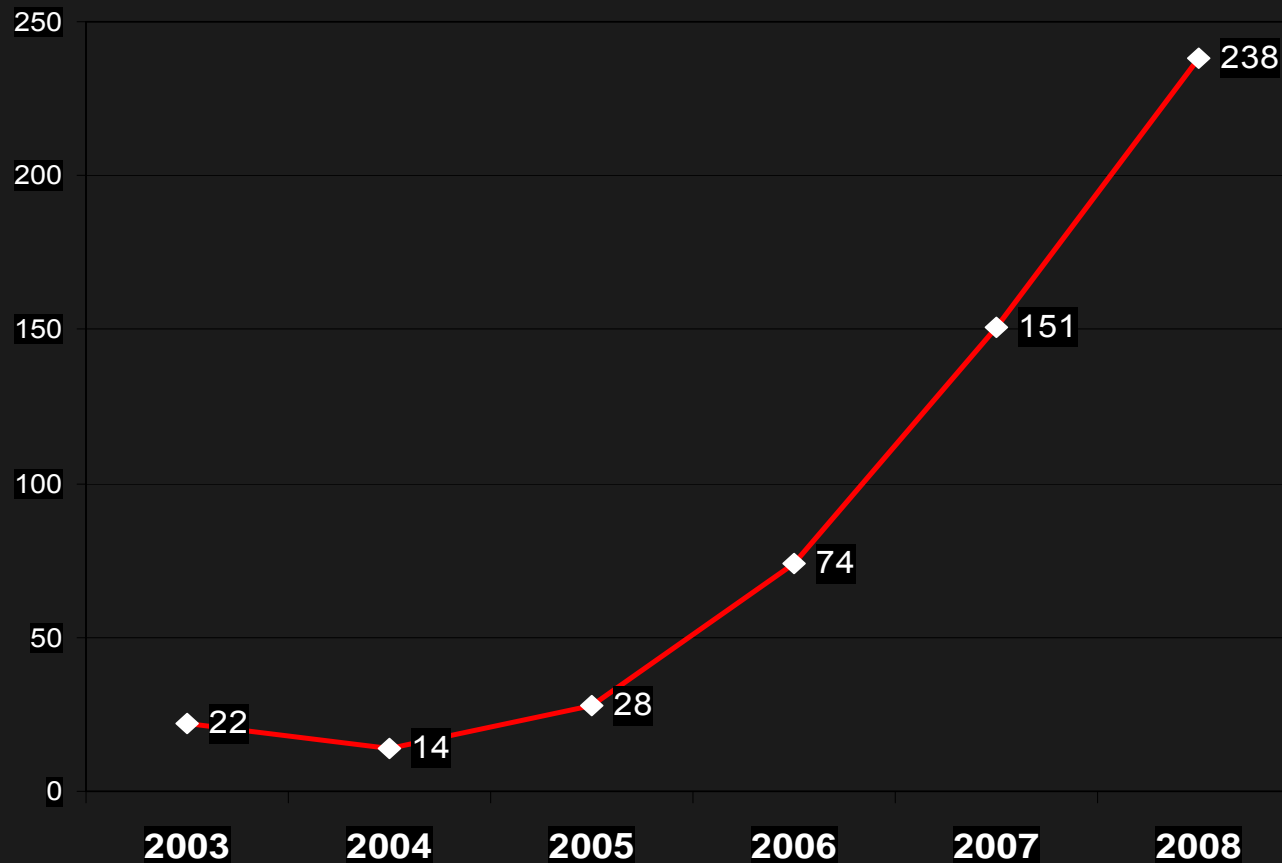




- In relation to the previous years, in 2008 there was an increase in the number of animals as a result of reproduction but also of registration of donkeys that were unregistered by then.



- Review of numerical strenght of newborn donkey offspring according to years:





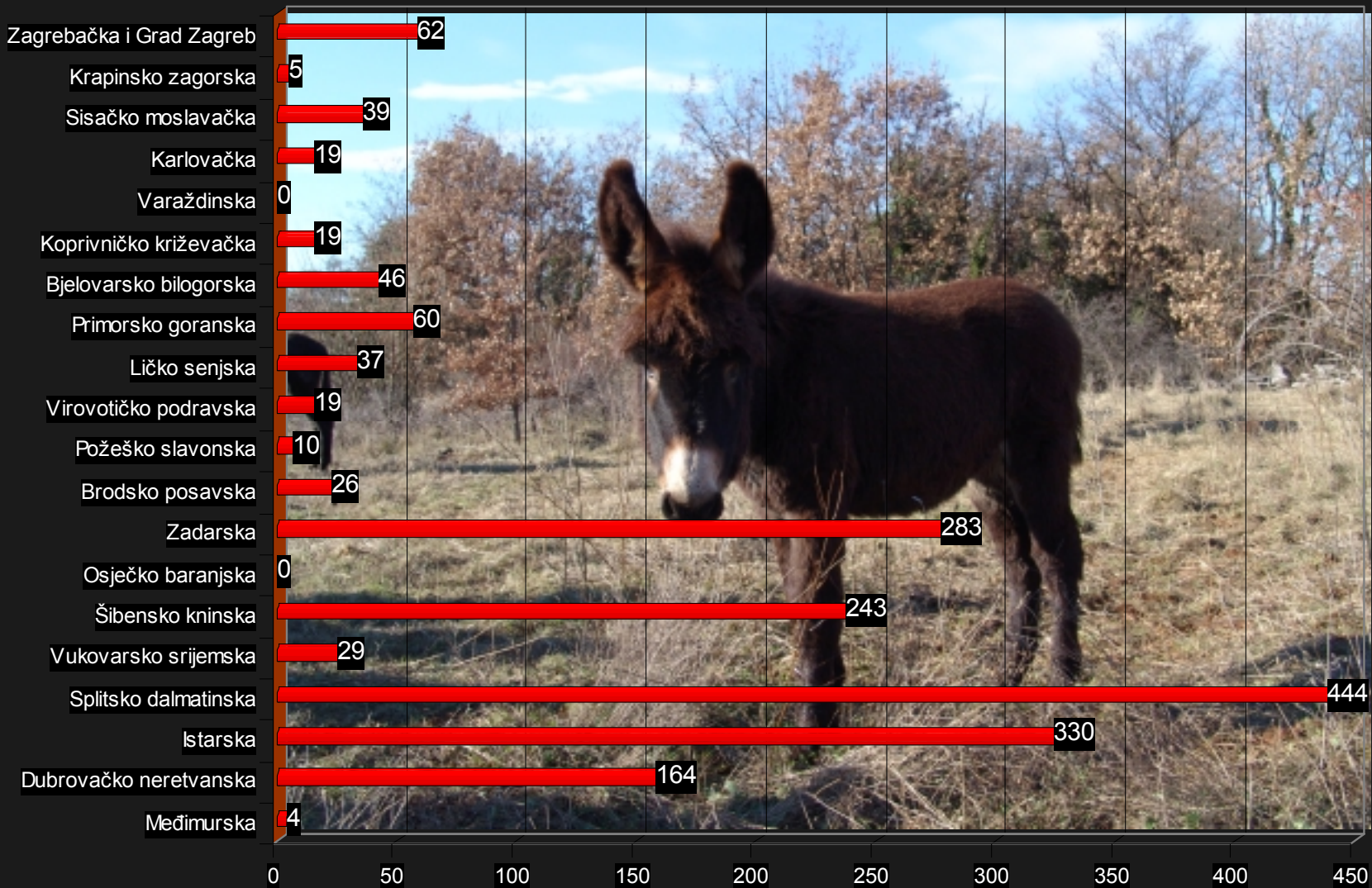
- 2007: 151 foals registered
- 2008: 238 foals registered





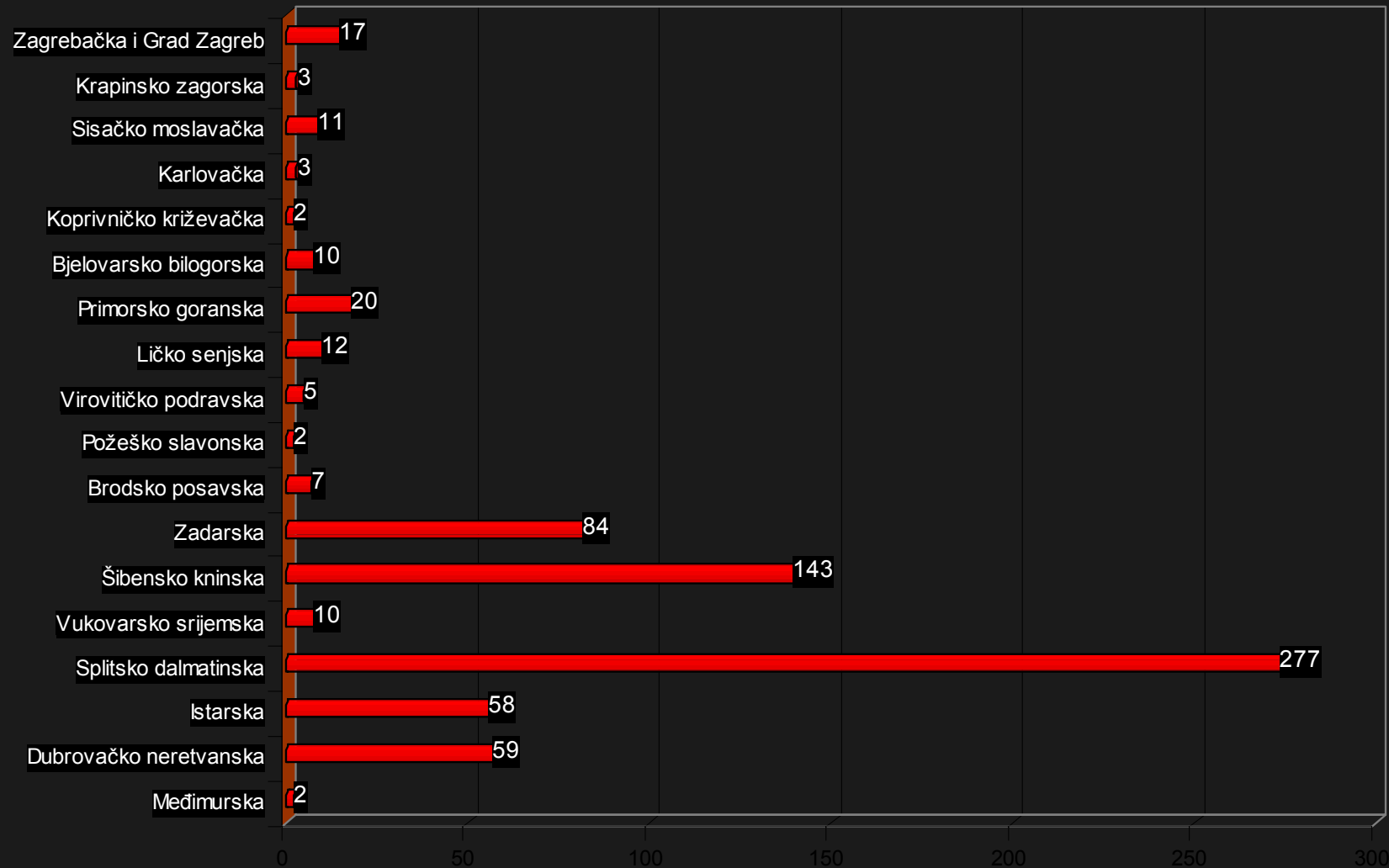
- According to data for 2008, the largest number of registered animals was in Splitsko dalmatinska county (444 head), followed by Istarska county (330 head), which was to be expected, because in the last three years an intensive breeding selection work was carried out in this county
- Educational programs were carried out for the donkey breeders

# Review of numerical strenght of donkeys under selection range according to counties in 2008:





# Review of numerical strength of donkey breeders/owners according to county



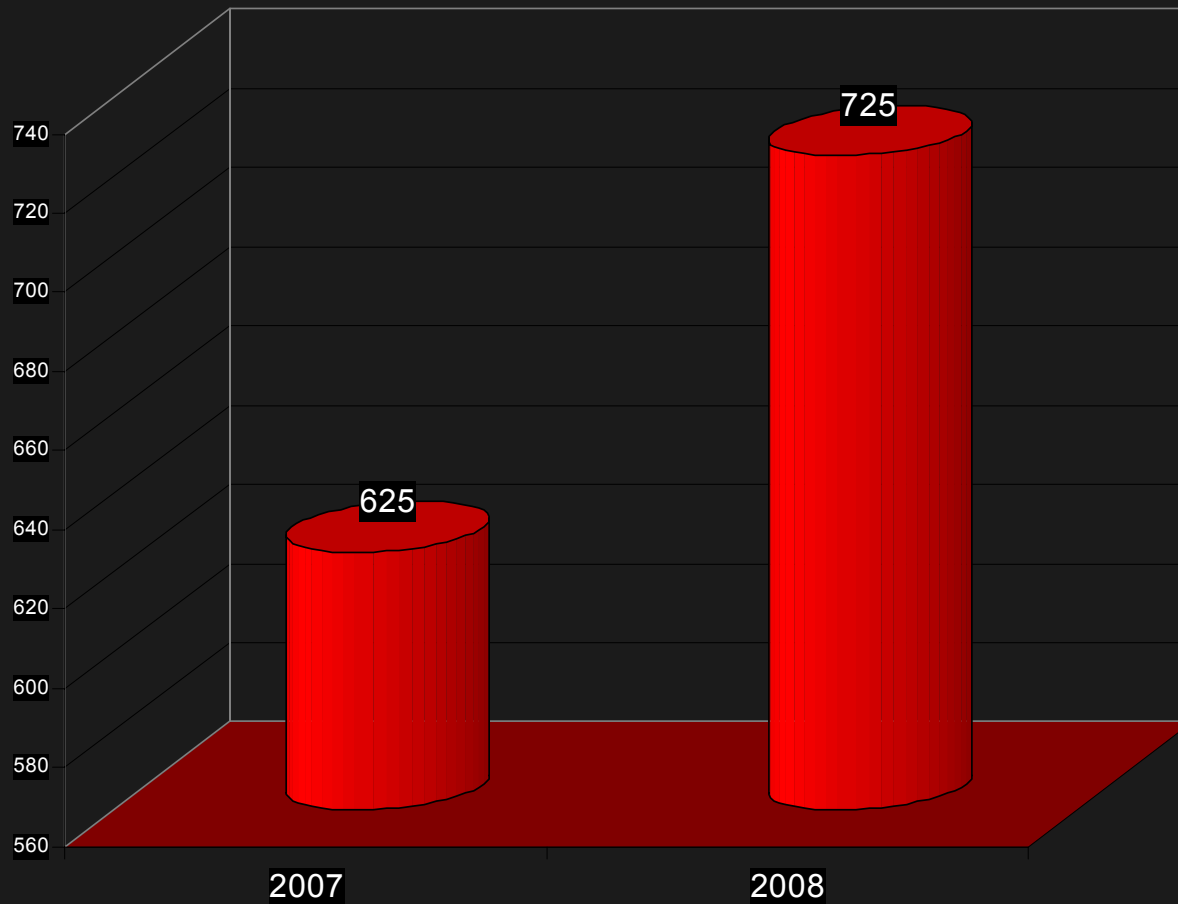


Splitsko dalmatinska county has the highest number of donkey breeders, 277, the next is Šibensko kninska county with 143 breeders, then Zadarska with 84, Dubrovačko neretvanska has 59 breeders, and Istarska county has 58.





## Total number of donkey breeders/owners in Croatia





- According to statistical data, there is an increase in the number of donkeys, as a result of reproduction but also of registration of donkeys that were unregistered by then
- The increase of the number of breeders shows an increasing interest in donkey breeding
- In the past, donkeys had an important role for people as working animals. Today, donkey breeding is mostly a hobby and a part of touristic and eco-ethnological offer of the areas they inhabit



- Appropriate and continuous registration, monitoring the level of inbreeding and improvement of the culture of breeding by education of breeders, are the basis for the progress of selection and finally preservation of cultural and genetical heritage and biodiversity



Thank you for your attention!