ERFP Ad Hoc Action

Network for small native horse breeds in the Baltic Sea region and Northern Europe

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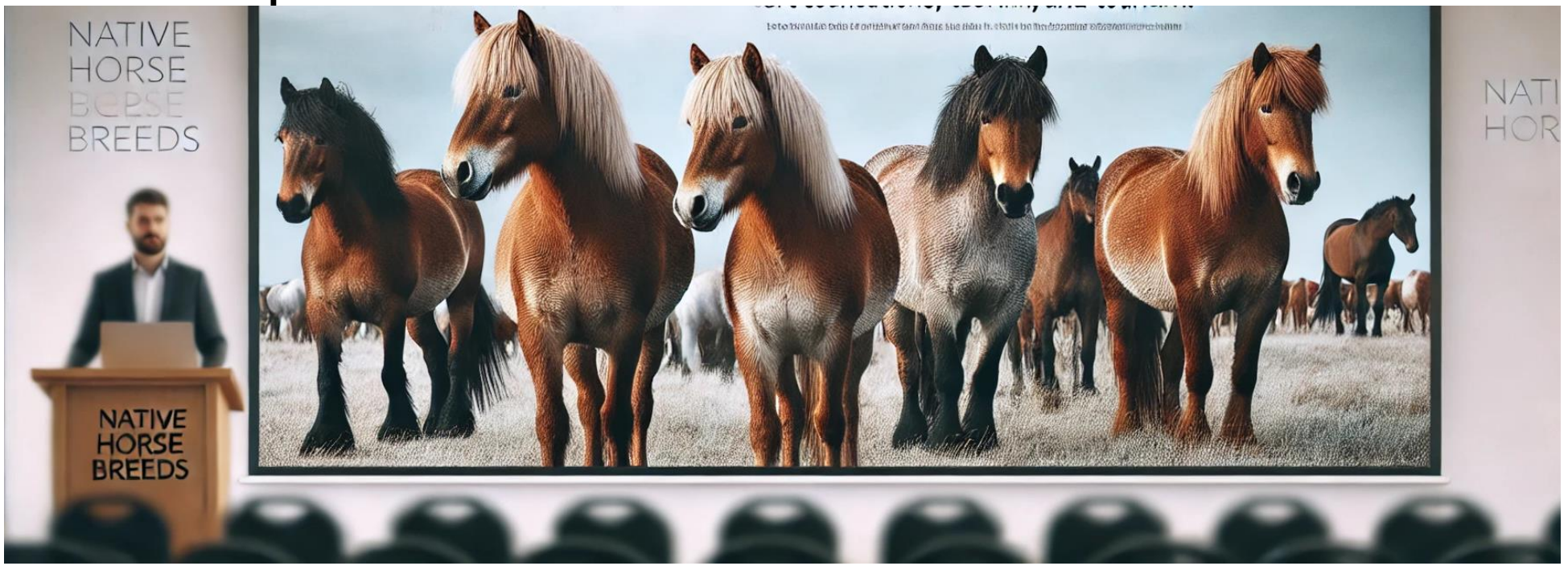
The Importance of Native Horse Breeds



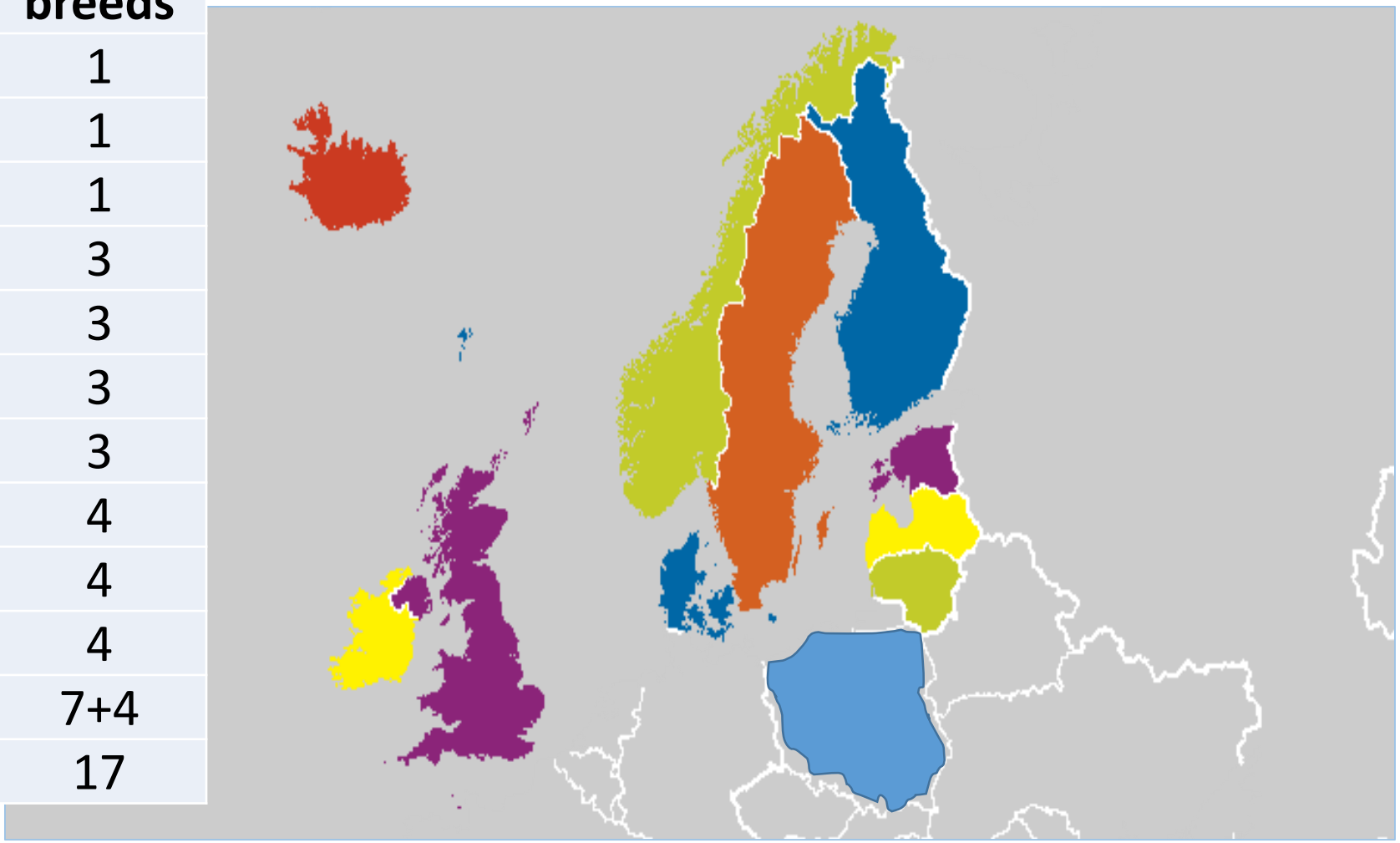
✓Native horse breeds have a ***long history*** and are more or less ***purebred***.
✓Breeding work focuses on ***small populations***, with efforts to ***avoid inbreeding***.

➢Exchange of information and best practices is vital for success across countries.
➢A common strategy could promote the value of native horse breeds, supporting breeders, sport associations, and tourism.

Baltic Sea region and Northern Europe (51 breeds)

Country	Horse breeds
Faroe Islands	1
Finland	1
Iceland	1
Latvia	3
Denmark	3
Estonia	3
Lithuania	3
Sweden	4
Ireland	4
Norway	4
Poland	7+4
UK	17

Worldwide - 12 countries



Small native horse breeds

Nordland/Lyngen horse (Norway)

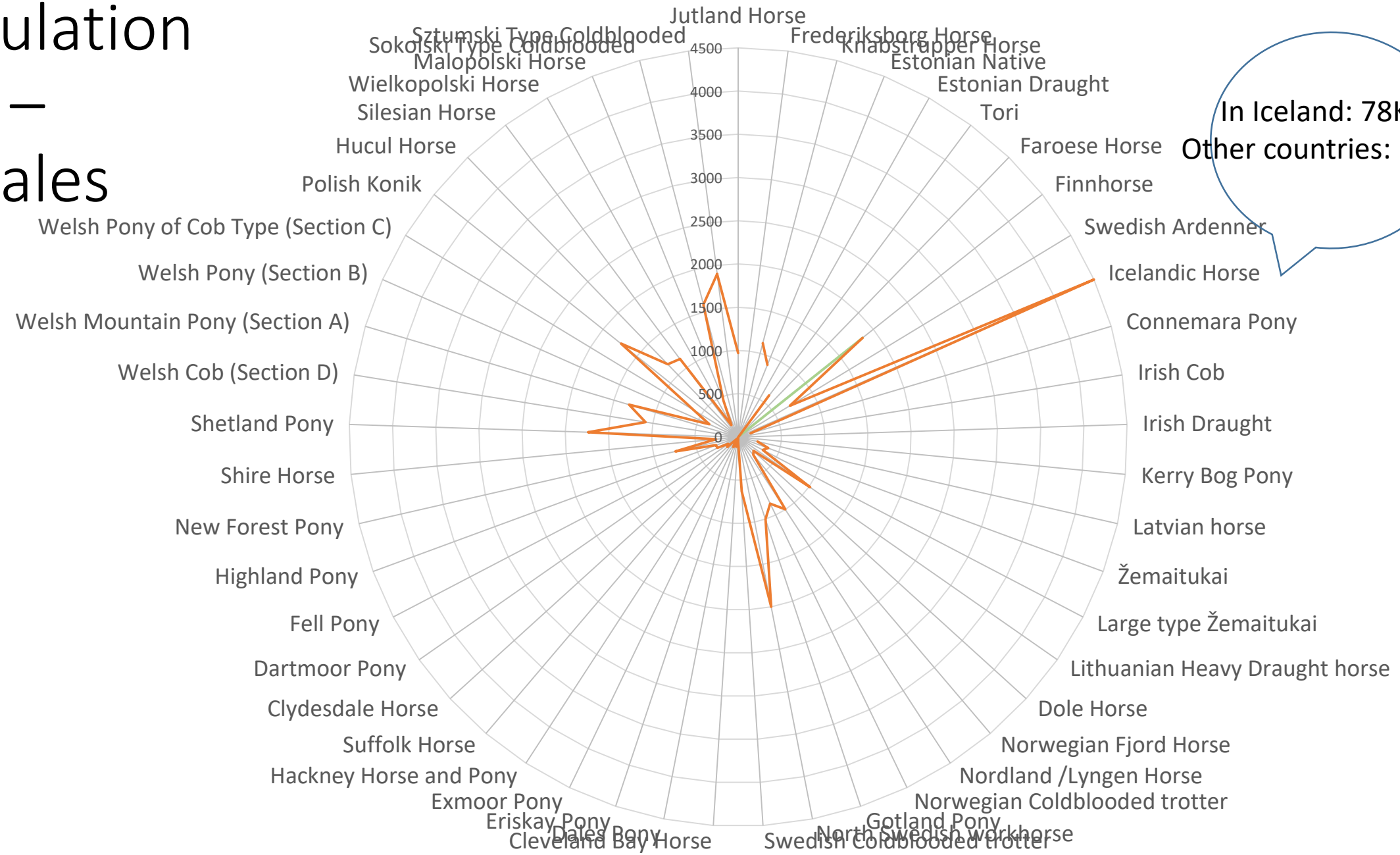
Finn horse

Dole horse

Faroese horse

Žemaitukai horse

Population size – females



In Iceland: 78K,
Other countries: 195K

Genetic variability within the breed

Genetic variability monitoring data

Breed	Population	Type	Status
Finnhorse	19000 (500 work horse type)	Pony	Not at risk
		Work	At risk
		Riding	Not at risk
		Trot	Not at risk

Recommendation:

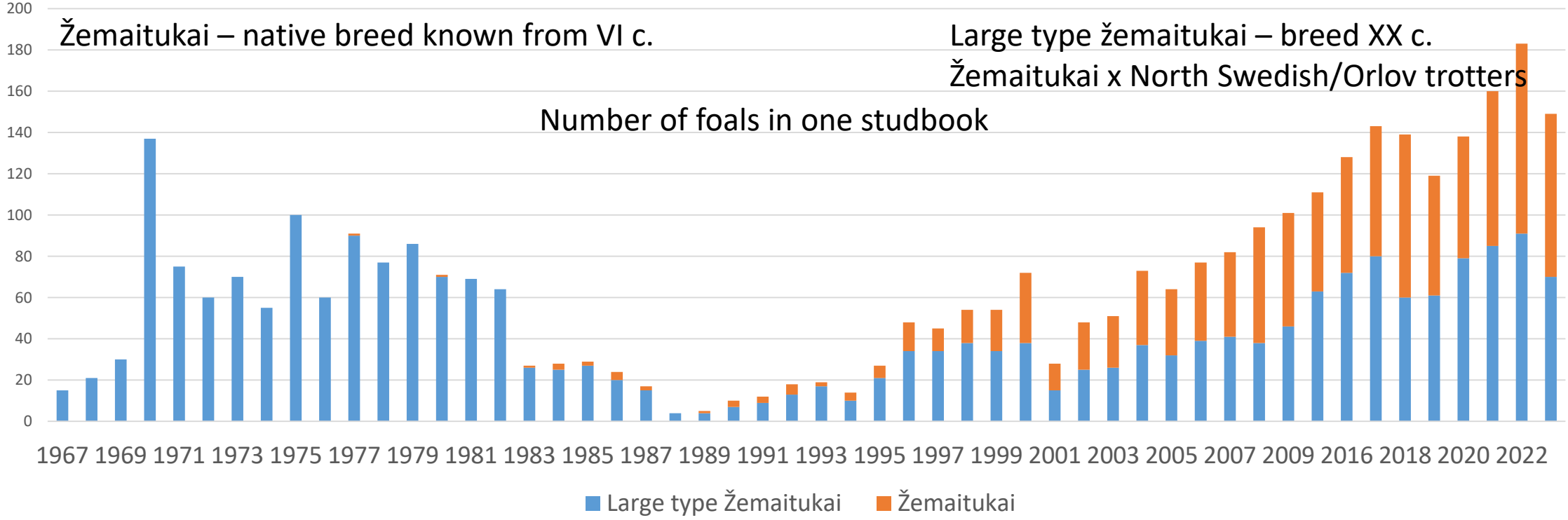
Based on the initial survey results, it is recommended to **clearly distinguish between** different breed **types** by detailing their internal varieties. Additionally, a separate assessment of their risk status, type, and other important characteristics is necessary.

„Žemaičiu“ 2 different types

Žemaitukai – native breed known from VI c.

Large type žemaitukai – breed XX c.
Žemaitukai x North Swedish/Orlov trotters

Number of foals in one studbook

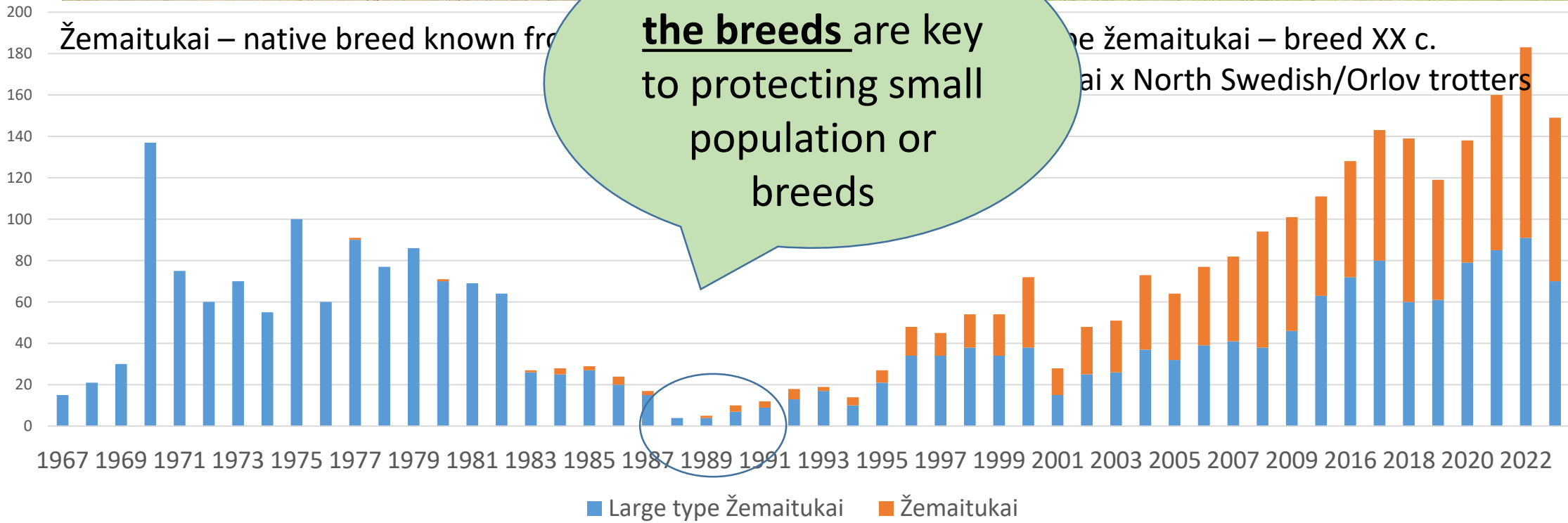


„Žemaičiu“ 2 different types

Diversity **within the breeds** are key to protecting small population or breeds

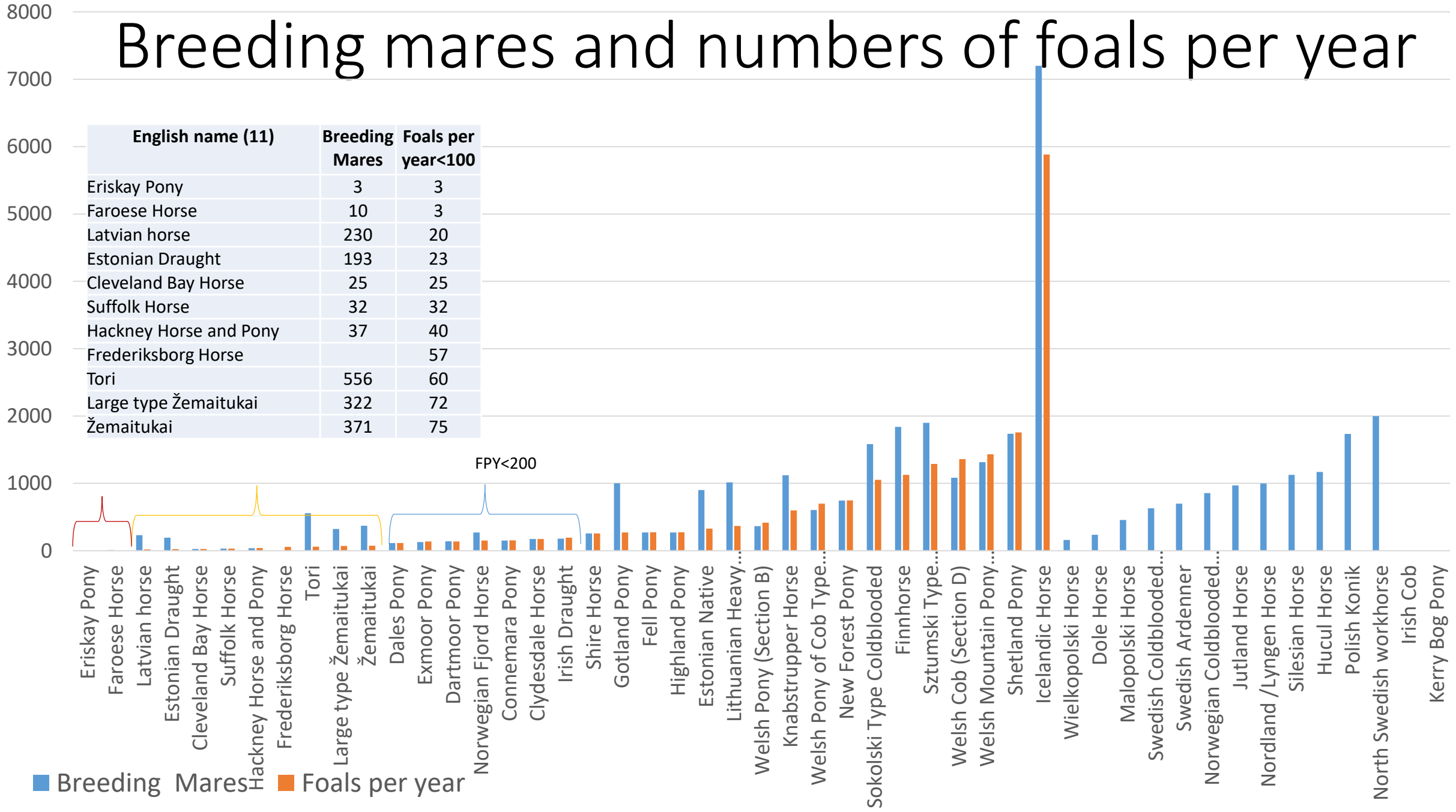
Žemaitukai – native breed known fr… …e žemaitukai – breed XX c.

…ai x North Swedish/Orlov trotters

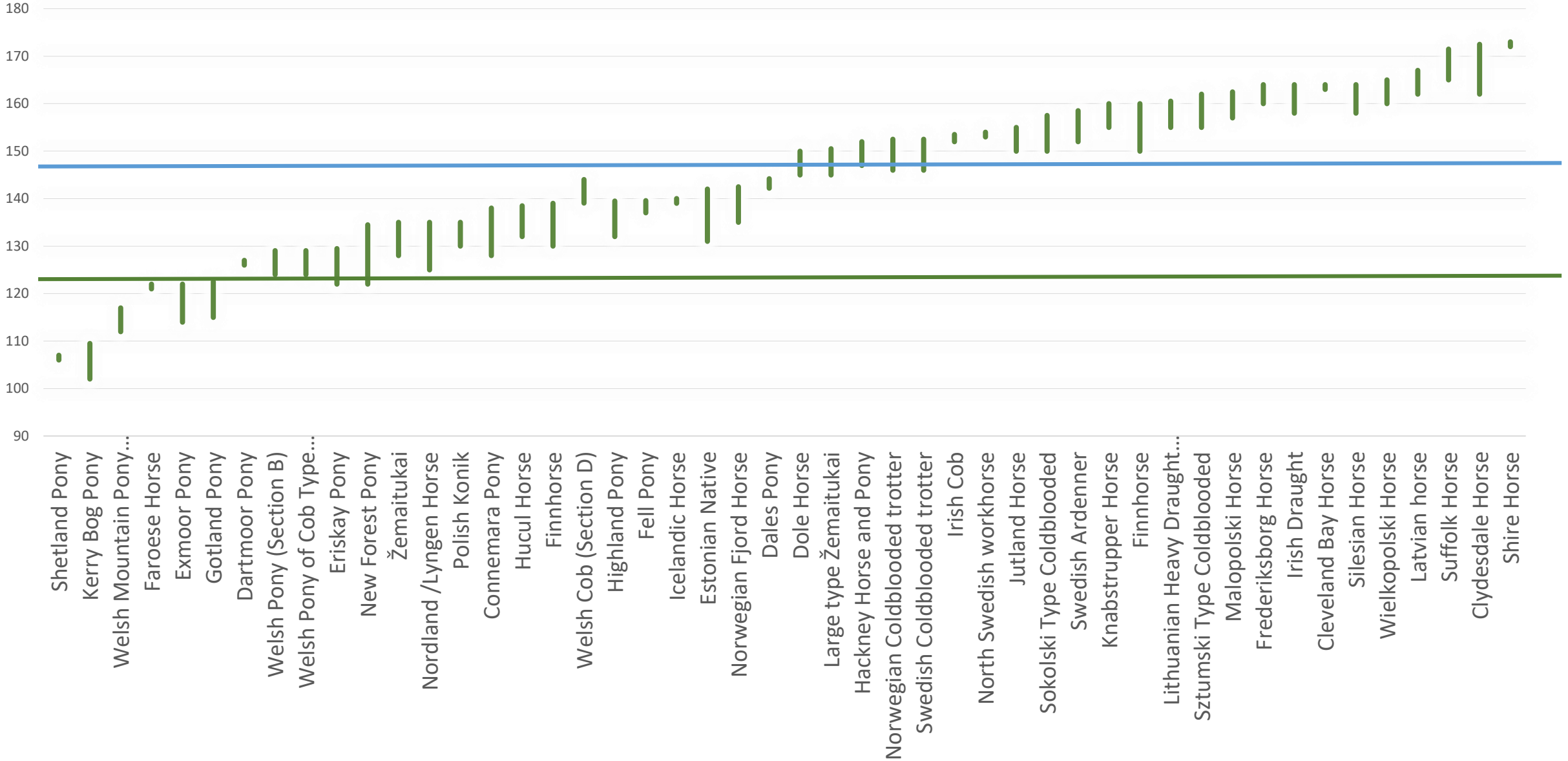


Breeding mares and numbers of foals per year

English name (11)	Breeding Mares	Foals per year<100
Eriskay Pony	3	3
Faroese Horse	10	3
Latvian horse	230	20
Estonian Draught	193	23
Cleveland Bay Horse	25	25
Suffolk Horse	32	32
Hackney Horse and Pony	37	40
Frederiksborg Horse		57
Tori	556	60
Large type Žemaitukai	322	72
Žemaitukai	371	75



Phenotype - Height at wither (cm)



Size-Based Classification

Horses can be further divided into three primary categories based on their size:

1.Large Horses: Typically draught and coach horses, these breeds exhibit significant size and strength.

2.Medium Horses: Includes both leisure and work horses that are of intermediate size, suitable for various tasks.

3.Small Horses: Consists of small work horses and universal small riding horses, which are generally agile and versatile.

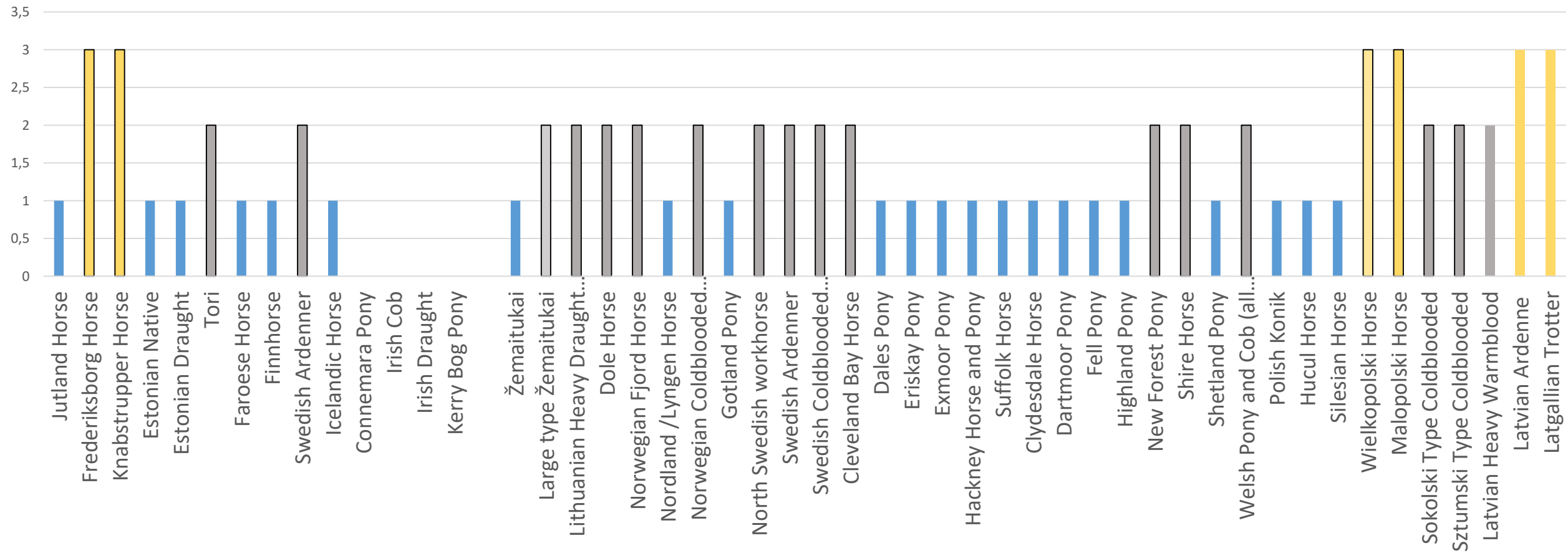
Phenotype	**Height at wither**
Group 1 - 18 breeds	- 150-178 cm
Group 2 - 6 breeds	- 140-159 cm
Group 3 - 18 breeds	- 107-150 cm

Classification of Horse Varieties Based on Size and Functionality

Horse diversity categorized:

- **Leisure Horses**: Breeds primarily bred for recreational riding and companionship.
- **Draught Horses**: Larger breeds specifically developed for heavy labor, such as pulling plows and carts.
- **Coach/Riding Horses**: Horses suited for both driving and riding, often utilized in recreational activities and transportation.
- **Medium-Sized Work Horses**: Horses that are versatile enough for both light work and leisure activities.
- **Trotters**: Breeds characterized by their ability to perform a specific gait (trot), commonly used in harness racing.
- **Driving and Riding Horses**: Horses bred for versatility in both riding and driving tasks.
- **Small Work Horses**: Compact breeds ideal for lighter tasks, such as small farm work or transportation of goods.
- **Universal Small Riding Horses**: Breeds that combine the attributes of riding and light work capabilities, often favored for their adaptability.

Stud books (45): Open (6), partly closed (17), closed (22)



Promotion and Management of NHB

- **Promotion of Native Breeds**:
  - Native breeds should be recognized as national treasures to enhance their desirability.
- **Purity of Breeds**:
  - There is an ongoing discussion regarding the purity of breeds across generations and the implications of pure versus crossbreeding strategies in small populations:
    - **Opposition to Crossbreeding**: Breed associations generally oppose controlled crossbreeding.
    - **Genetic Variation vs. Purebred Reduction**: While crossbreeding can introduce beneficial genetic variation, it also decreases the number of purebred individuals.
    - **Inclusion in Open Studbooks**: Controlled crossbreeding can result in offspring that may be included in open studbooks, as seen with:
      - Knabstrupper in Denmark.
      - New Forest ponies in Sweden and England, which transitioned from separate sub-breeds to being recognized as one breed.
- **Avoiding Multiple Studbooks in Exports**:
  - Strategies need to be established to prevent the creation of multiple studbooks in export scenarios.

THANK YOU