

## **Abstract**

Donkeys have been useful helpers to people especially at transporting burdens and in agriculture for thousands of years. Nowadays they make livelihoods of rural as well as urban inhabitants over all continents easier. The use of donkeys in agriculture and transport is vanishing in developing countries due to the mechanization. We know only little about how and why people keep breeding of donkeys in developing countries.

Theoretical part of the thesis tries to summarize previous basic knowledge about breeding and using donkeys. It focuses on domestication of donkeys, their use in history in different parts of the world, current position of donkeys and partly on relations between men and animals from the view of Human-Animal Studies.

A research in a part of Polabí lowland is added. The main practical aim of the thesis is to take a look at the phenomenon of breeding donkeys in the Czech Republic in the present and bring any findings about why do people breed donkeys in modern times in this developing country. Research finds how are donkeys bred, what reasons lead breeders to get donkeys and what their real use is.

The thesis contributes to popularization of this theme among experts and laymen and suggests methodology for research of breeding donkeys in other areas as well.