

Summary of Berner IWG Meeting held Sunday 27th September 2009
West Garda Hotel, Padenghe sul Garda, Italy

Persons present:

Steve Green BMDC of GB (UK)	Laura Bernetti CIABS (Italy)
Carla van Haute BKZS (Belgium)	Amy Baklund, Copan's Place, visitor (USA)
Joël van Haute BKZS (Belgium)	Silvana Vogel Tedeschi CIABS (Italy)
Inge Bibby DBSK (Denmark)	Ksenija Potočnik SKBPP (Slovenia)
Birgitte Damsgaard (Denmark)	Karl Huber VSSÖ (Austria)
Dr. Berndt Klingeborn SShK (Sweden)	Isabella Kraft VSSÖ (Austria)
Steve Dudley BMDCA (USA)	Lindy Kuntz visitor (Austria)
Martha Cehrs KBS (Switzerland)	Norbert Strahl visitor (Spain)
Satu Ylä-Mononen SSFS (Finland)	Bernie Mair visitor (UK)
Sivec Aurelija PILBPP (Slovenia)	Louise Harrington visitor (UK)
Ettore Menozzi Piacentini CIABS (Italy)	Pat Long Berner-Garde (USA)

Steve Green, President
Pat Long, taking meeting minutes

1. Steve opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. Briefly mentioned the web site. Thanked all the clubs for sending delegates. Thanked CIABS for hosting the meeting.
2. Meeting conducted in English.
3. Review of the last meeting was discussed. New constitution agreed. Part of the constitution agreed was the club would be the member and not the individual. B-IWG agreed to put info to the clubs. Still want some individuals with particular skills such as Matthew Breen and Catherine André. Will try and stay as informal as they can and share information openly. Clubs are the members. Individuals from different countries may attend meetings, but only the clubs would be the members. One vote for each club.
4. No committee or organization. President's role to organize the meeting and as a point of contact. Want website as resource for all people in the breed.
5. Catherine Andre and Dr Rutteman thanked and request for samples.
6. Malcolm Brearley and others were discussed and update will be later. Dr Butenar said he would send money back as he hadn't started his research yet.
7. Alberto Vittoni Award AVA
8. All prize winners were requested to give updates. The award has been postponed until next year. Award is to finance health research. Antonia Andrizzi SIBB
9. Vote of thanks to Birgitta for managing the web site. Birgitta has paid fees, they are all current and up to date.

10. Requested that those who had promised to do website updates then to please do them if they hadn't done them.

11. Club website links discussed. BMDCA wants to use presentations at symposium on their website. Felt info would be disseminated more easily. This would be helped by more links on the website. Most of speakers have already agreed to only put info on B-IWG website. Consensus was for all material to go on Berner-IWG website, with clubs providing links to the site.

12. Yahoo Group more of individual thing. LJH must get info via Pat Long. This is basically an e-mail group.

13. National Updates

- Belgium – Carla van Haute
 - o political issues, two clubs, one focused on health, one not.
 - o A lot of apathy.
 - o They want to do a t-shirt “BMD die of cancer. Are you an ostrich or do you participate in the health survey.”
 - o They would like to use Berner Angel pins as a way to get more info on dog deaths.
 - o Would like to contact vets to assist in getting more blood and tissue samples sent to Dr. Andre.
 - o Just feeling a great deal of frustration.
- Denmark – Inge Bibby
 - o apology for the cancellation of last year.
 - o In June had a successful festival as a fundraiser.
- Spain – Norbert Stahl
 - o two or perhaps three clubs, no official club, nothing being done.
- Sweden – Berndt Klingeborn
 - o have a 100 page document on breeding strategies.
 - o Policy document, not a requirement. But it seems well accepted.
- BMDCA – Steve Dudley
 - o club has committed \$91,089 for health studies in this fiscal year.
 - o Provided a list of all the grants.
 - o Detailed funds promised for BG.
 - o Mentioned the Histo task force and the DM task force.
- Swiss – Martha Cehrs
 - o politics of the health committee during the last year a disruption.
 - o Now have a new foundation, the members are outside of the club, includes two vets.
 - o Have problems with data collection.
 - Create a project, all dogs born in 2000 – 2001, find out what happened to each of them
 - incentive to gather data, a Golden Paw award used to kennels that provide death and cause, and xray a certain % of each litter
 - Health foundation to contact Arnis, a chip company, trying to get info from them about BMD deaths
 - Collection of life, 12 cards for each puppy buyer with instructions to send one in each year, signed by the vet
 - o Breeding values, using one for hips and elbows, but too few x-rays, only 16% (Sweden has 70%)
 - o DogBase being instituted, separate from the German/Austrian one

- U of Bern has collected some blood, will get them to share with Dr. André
- Finland – Satu Ylä-Mononen
 - only 1 club, register about 500 dogs each year, about 1200 club members
 - Have a hip and elbow index, want to develop an age index
 - New breeding policy, over 60 and done – males can't have more than 60 puppies; can have 2 more litters once they are over 8 years old
 - With cause of death, 44% are from cancer
 - Have about 300 public with cause of death, most are in BG
 - Club and health fund pay 100% of autopsy fee when the data is shared
 - Hip and elbows are x-rayed in about 50% of the dogs
 - Breeding program made every 5 years
- Slovenia – Sivec Aurelija
 - new club formed.
 - This club feels that requirements on hip and elbow values are too restrictive.
 - Also feel that there is too little flexibility with breeding requirements.
 - Difficult to plan breedings in the time frame specified.
 - Has a database of 1500 dogs, they would like to make this data available to Berner-Garde.
- Slovenia – Ksenija Potočnik
 - original club.
 - Agrees that requirements on hip and elbow values are too restrictive.
 - Stresses that breeding requirements are a Kennel Club issue, and not a breed club issue.
 - Stresses that database needs better verification process.
- Italy – Silvana Vogel Tedeschi
 - need to find way to collect data, owners seem more willing than breeders
 - Want to start a program like the Golden Paw, name on website and in the newsletter
 - Collected 30 samples for Dr. André
 - Breeders get puppy buyers to join, 5€ goes to the health fund
 - Encouraging use of older studs
 - Professor Gallo wants to contact BG for data
- Austria – Isabella Kraft
 - strict breeding rules, studs may only be used 4x / year; use only dogs with longevity in the pedigree; COI can't be higher than 3.5% in 5 generations, usually only 0 or 1%
 - Using DogBase, share data with Germany, but not with Switzerland
 - Get a lot of death info from breeders, but not much from private owners
 - Would like to enter data in BG
- Berner-Garde – Pat Long
 - USA auctions have raised \$193,000 for health research since 1998, Berner-L has raised another \$170,000
 - BMDCA has funded about \$190,000 in studies, Berner-L another \$150,000
 - Studies are funded through the CHF around the world
 - What we can use help with is finding unique items for auctions. Old items, unique items, items of interest to US audience
 - DM task force well on the way working with U of MO to determine if the gene test for DM is valid for Berners
 - We need a great deal of education to help people understand how to use genetic test results, allows carriers and affecteds to be bred, would just have to be bred to clear
 - Renal Dysplasia test is highly suspect, not considered worth pursuing.
 - Histo task force looking into possible non-heritable causes/triggers of histio
 - New foundation, Copan's Place, looking to use stem-cell treatment to cure histio and cancer. Has a paper published on treatment of a golden with t-cell

lymphoma, cured, lived 58 months and died of natural causes. Founder Amy Baukland present, spoke a few minutes about the foundation.

- BG has 1048 dogs in the repository, 65,000 dogs, and 12,000 litters
- UK – Steve Green
 - BBC show terribly misleading, quoted one part of a sentence, typical BMD succumbs to cancer at 4 years, this was from a US study that stated the typical age of onset for histio was 4 – 6 years.
 - KC dictated a new COE, the clubs may add-on to it; most will re-add their own, just have to vote and approve
 - All GB clubs come together in a breed council
 - Same problem with apathy

Next IWG symposium and meeting will be in 2011, in Great Britain

Steve Green closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Long.