

Summary of Berner IWG Meeting held Thursday 29th August 2013
Best Western Hotel, Geneva, Switzerland

People present:

Steve Green BMDC of GB (UK)	Iris van Deur VBSH (Netherlands)
Gerhard Kunz VSSÖ (Austria)	Vigdis Loken NBSK (Norway)
Lindy Kunz (Austria)	Sergey Morozov (Russia)
Carla van Assche BKZS (Belgium)	Olga Zilotina (Russia)
Joël van Haute (Belgium)	Norbert Strahl (Spain)
Inge Bibby DBSK (Denmark)	Dr. Berndt Klingeborn SShK (Sweden)
Tuuli Yrjonen SSFS (Finland)	Birgitte Damsgaard (Sweden)
Joëlle Bardet AFBS (France)	Martha Cehrs KBS (Switzerland)
Christine Malherbe (France)	Christine Irrgang Vogt (Switzerland)
Dr. Norbert Bachman SSV (Germany)	Julie Jackson BMDCA (USA)
Christian Schmid DCBS (Germany)	Julie Latterell Berner-Garde (USA)
Silvana Vogel Tedeschi CIABS (Italy)	Pat Long (USA)
Masaaki Tamada (Japan)	Janelle May (USA)
Sachiko Tamada (Japan)	

Steve Green, President
Pat Long, taking meeting minutes

1. Steve opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. Thanked the KBS for arranging the venue.
2. Clubs are members of the B-IWG, one representative each.
3. B-IWG isn't making a connection. The website can be used, need to use it to share information. We've discussed ways to be more effective, but haven't followed through.
4. Discussion of B-IWG function and purpose. There is no limit on information from the clubs. We can be more effective by sharing reports of what each club is doing. Each representative needs to act as a conduit for their club and share information about the B-IWG with their club.
5. Club representatives to the B-IWG should do the following. Keep a working email address on the Berner-IWG eList. Make sure the club link on the B-IWG website is correct. Arrange for a representative to attend the B-IWG meeting, or send a report. Come to the meeting with a prepared statement, and provide it for the website. Report back to your club.
6. Discussion of suggestions for being more effective:
 - L. Kunz: keep the club URL current, she provided a list
 - N. Strahl: Use FaceBook as a means of providing information
 - B. Klingeborn: FaceBook is more responsive than a static website
 - M. Cehrs: 2 years is too long for sharing information. Establish shorter checkpoints, report every 6 months. Report on projects and interim results, or just indicate

that there is no change, or a project has been cancelled and the reason for that cancellation.

7. Website can be used to host a page for each club, but each club would have to submit an update. Use the questionnaire used in 2011 to provide basic information about the club, as well as information about health initiatives.

- J. van Haute: everyone can use a similar layout
- S. Green: the questionnaire from 2011 can be resent
- B. Damsgaard: needs to research how to format logos
- I. van Deur: do the clubs have a link to the B-IWG website?
- B. Klingeborn: lectures should also be on the website
- B. Kunz: has the meeting minutes from 2005 in Salzburg, will provide them

8. The meetings need to be orderly and not chaotic. Observers are fine, but attendance needs to be by prior arrangement in order to have sufficient space. Notify the B-IWG with attendees, it may have to be limited to one attendee per club due to space availability, but only as a last resort. Presentations need to be prepared in advance and made available for the website. Don't need the basic club statistics each time, only the most recent updates in order to limit time. When the meeting is announced, please put items on the agenda if appropriate. There were no comments or dissent to these recommendations. The suggestion was made that more frequent meetings might be helpful, but it was considered impractical given the number and geography of all the clubs. Providing reports every 6 months to the eList and for the website was generally accepted as the best method.

9. There is a new pre-test for Histiocytic Sarcoma. The test was made available in April 2013, and more information is needed. The test is initially being offered to large breeders that will have a lot of offspring to track. More information is needed before breeding recommendations on how best to use the test can be formulated.

10. Steve Green is resigning as president, and Martha Cehrs has agreed to accept the position. Martha was given official thanks for taking on the position. Pat Long has agreed to continue as the secretary.

11. The next meeting is being planned for 2015, and one club is not yet ready to announce whether they will be able to do it, a Health Symposium is being considered. Iris van Deur said that the VBSH has their 35 year event in 2015, and she would see if the club would be willing to host a Symposium. [Note: Tuuli announced at the Symposium that the Finnish club had agreed to host the Health Symposium in 2015 in Helsinki.]

12. National Updates (to be sent in an email to Pat Long)

- England
 - o No updates
- Holland
 - o Testing for liver shunt, a gene has been found for small animals, but not yet for the BMD
 - o Blood samples are needed from parents of affected puppies (ideally from the affected puppy, but it's not always possible), samples to be sent to Utrecht.

(email will be sent to Pat Long for an update on the BMDCA website about samples information for the liver shunt study)

- France
 - o About 50 of the histio tests have been performed, there are a few A's, but most are C's
 - o Starting to test for degenerative myelopathy (DM)
- Austria
 - o The club has a new breeding manager from Entlebuchers
 - o There was a discussion about gene tests at the board meeting in Septembers, breeders are getting results, but only share them with the breeding committee – DM, histio, genome test
- Finland
 - o Age index was released last autumn. Gathering age data from Swiss and others. Similar to hip and elbow index. Collecting age and causes of death.
 - o Accidental deaths are accounted for in the age index calculation
- Italy
 - o Have HD/ED breeding value
 - o Study from University of Padua has been completed, not giving dogs a breeding value
 - o Write up of presentation of 6 months ago
- Sweden
 - o HD/ED breeding index introduced in January 2012, it is on the SKK website for each dog
 - o They have a tumor project with the Swedish University in collaboration with Dr. André
- Denmark
 - o They have about 50 litters per year
 - o There has been an increase of puppies without an FCI pedigree. This increases the possibility of unknowing inbreeding
 - o No matador tendencies
 - o Constant mating outside of Denmark - imports and exports
 - o Decrease in the percentage of dogs getting hip and elbow x-rays
 - o Collecting information on age and cause of death
 - In 2011 the average lifespan was 7 years
 - In 2012 the average lifespan was 6.5 years
 - 41% die of cancer (avg age 7.2), 10% die of old age (avg age 11)
 - Average age of cancer deaths was higher than the overall average
 - Autoimmune causes lower the average age
- Belgium
 - o Increased awareness of DM, people are starting to test
 - o Politics of FCI versus other “clubs” for the puppy mills – the other “clubs” want registration capabilities, and they have a better lobby
- Switzerland – Martha Cehrs
 - o Follow up study on mortality and morbidity
 - 1st study was for dogs born in 2001 & 2002, about 400 dogs participated
 - Now looking at dogs that had not died in the first study, report due at the end of 2013
 - o U of Zurich doing a study using Tran 2755 as a treatment for histio
 - Preliminary findings will be discussed in a presentation at the Health Symposium
 - o U of Bern doing a study on cause of death, want to know if it can be determined by imaging instead of by necropsy. During the study, the imaging is then followed by a necropsy. If the study is successful, it may help in getting cause of death for dogs that people don't want necropsied. U of Bern may offer this option in the future if it works.

- Golden Bäre Award – 26 out of 55 breeders are eligible for this designation
- A Health Booklet is being offered for owners to use through the life of the dog, the information will go to the KBS. Over sixty booklets have been distributed, and there has been exceptional acceptance by owners
- It is now compulsory to provide blood samples on all dogs to the U of Bern for future study. It is done when the puppies are 9 weeks, prior to going to their new homes
- Germany
 - Will be providing information in detail in their presentation at the Symposium
- United States
 - There are two genes for degenerative myelopathy, SOD1 and SOD1-B
 - In the U of Missouri study, 2 SOD1 carriers and 1 SOD1 clear were affected by DM
 - About 1000 BMDs were tested for the SOD1B gene, it was found in about 5% of the Berners
- Berner-Garde
 - DNA Repository started in 2006
 - About 2000 blood and cheek swab samples, about 154 tumor samples

12. Remember to send contact information to Pat Long

Steve Green closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Long.

Addendum: Dr. André and Dr. Hedan

- Histiocytic Genetics study began with Dr Ostrander and Dr Breen many years ago
- It's not the only study being done at Dr. André's lab
- A histio pre-test has been developed with Antagene
- Worked with AFBS to create the pre-test
 - Still in research
 - Complex disease, not a single recessive gene
 - The test results are not easy to interpret
- This test looks at multiple mutations on multiple genes, and it estimates a risk. It is not a diagnostic test
- The study was done using 500 French dogs
 - Compare affected to (hopefully) unaffected
 - Found several regions on several chromosomes
 - 20 loci, selected 9 markers on 5 chromosomes that discriminate
 - Chose A, B, C results based on FCI hip values
 - A – four times less likely to get histio, but 10% may get histio
 - B – neutral
 - C – four times more likely to get histio, but some may never get it
 - 181 dogs used to analyze the test
 - C dogs also had other cancers
- They want each club to assist with the validation of the test
 - Samples from 30 affected dogs
 - Samples from 30 older dogs that have never had cancer

- People who have sent samples for the older control dogs have to provide follow up on eventual cause of death. The samples are not useable if they don't know this information.
- Dr. André will be discussing United States sample base with Dr. Ostrander at the end of September.
- Dr. André will send a letter to Pat Long to distribute to B-IWG. It can be translated and used by the clubs.