



SUOMEN KENNELLIITTO  
FINSKA KENNELKLUBBEN RY.

# Finnish Kennel Club Breeding and Health in Focus

Kirsi Sainio 30.8.2015





# The Finnish Kennel Club: the past

- First dog show was held in 1887 in Vyaborg
- The Finnish Kennel Club was established two years after this, in 1889
- Hunting, club meetings, field trials and dog shows were in focus, as well as "import of purebred dogs and keep a stud book"





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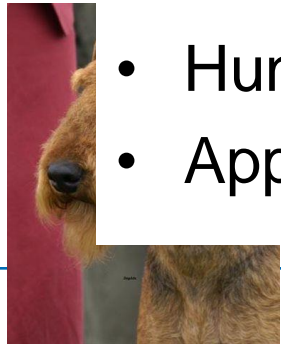
## FKK: the present





## FKK in numbers

- 150 272 individual members (27.8.2015)
- Also an umbrella organization to some 1800 clubs
- Two companies owned by the FKK: Showlink and Publishing Company Koiramme (Our Dog)
- Some 45 international/all breed shows yearly
- Hundreds of breed/club/group shows
- Hundreds of trials and other competitions
- App. 45000-50000 registrations/year





# FKK Organization

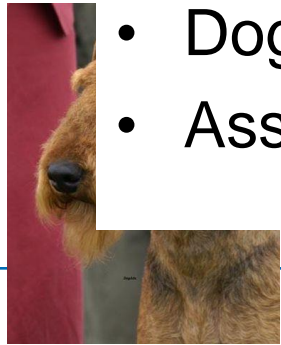
- General Assembly (every 3. years)
- Council ( twice a year)
- Board (once a month)
- Office – operations on daily bases





# Committees and Working Groups

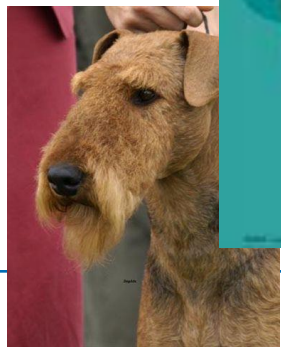
- Breeding/Scientific Committee
- Breeder Committee
- Trial and Competition Committee
- Youth Committee
- Show and Conformation Judges Committee
- Future Committee
- Antidoping Group
- Dognet Steering Group
- Assistance Dog Group (Kaverikoira project)







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## Breeding: health in focus





# General Breeding Strategy

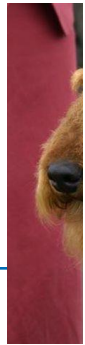
- Since 2012
- Concerns all breeds
- The breeding strategy provides detailed recommendations on how to select dogs for breeding in order to produce optimally healthy and good-tempered puppies
- These recommendations are based on 10 main principles





# General Breeding Strategy

- The strategy is in harmony with the Finnish Kennel Club's general regulations and guidelines for breeding
- Takes into consideration the Animal Welfare Act, Section 24 of the supplementary Animal Welfare Decree
- The Council of Europe resolution pertaining to the breeding of pet animals
- The breeding strategy complies with Fédération Cynologique Internationale's (FCI) Breeding Rules as well as the guidelines on the crosses of breeds and breed varieties
- It is also in line with the FCI's International Breeding Strategies







# The principals

- 1. Dogs that are used for breeding shall be above the breed average in desired characteristics in order to achieve genetic improvement**
- 2. A dog that is suitable for breeding is typical of its breed both in appearance and temperament, and it is free of ailments or characteristics that would make everyday life difficult**
- 3. Dogs that are used for breeding have sound temperaments and a breed-typical ability to function because this helps minimize the probability of their progeny inheriting mental traits, such as timidity, that make everyday life difficult and are detrimental to wellbeing**



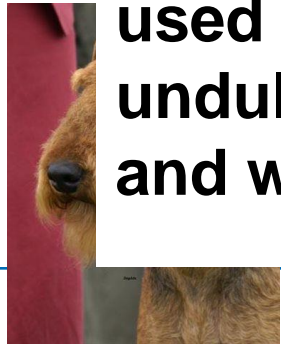




**4. The spread of defects and diseases that have a severe impact on the wellbeing of dogs (cause pain or discomfort or otherwise restrict the dog's ability to lead a normal life that is typical for the species) will be prevented. Only clinically healthy dogs can be used for breeding if such diseases are a concern.**

**5. Only dogs that can mate naturally and care for their puppies will be used for breeding**

**6. Dogs from bloodlines with maximal longevity will be used for breeding. The life length of a dog shall not be unduly prolonged at the expense of its health and wellbeing**





- 7. The genetic diversity of all breeds will be safeguarded. It must always be ensured that at least 50% of the breed's gene pool, all criteria considered, remains in breeding use**
- 8. The Finnish Kennel Club supports and produces activities that aim to increase knowledge of the heredity, health and diseases of dogs**
- 9. Cooperation with veterinarians and researchers in this field will be intensified. The actions undertaken by veterinarians also support the principles and objectives of the breeding strategy**





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**10. The Finnish Kennel Club influences the international community through the Nordic Kennel Union and the FCI with the aim of promoting greater knowledge of and competence in dog breeding.**

**Our actions within the international community always set the health and wellbeing of dogs as the most important goals**





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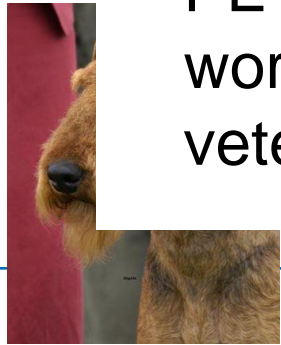
# How is the strategy implemented?





# Health Programmes

- **Health programme for canine genetic diseases and defects (PEVISA)**, which enables the Finnish Kennel Club to, at the initiative of a breed association, monitor the health and welfare of dogs that are used for breeding
- A breed can be included in the programme only on the basis of a decision by the breed association's general assembly
- The programme requires breeding dogs to be examined for specific hereditary diseases
- PEVISA health examination protocols are created by working groups, which include the best specialist veterinarians for each disease/group of diseases





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# Health Programmes

- Hip dysplasia was the first condition to be focused on
  - 1984 Golden and Labrador Retrievers
  - 1986 German Shepherd
- More breeds are joining the programme all the time
- Part of our **Dog registration guidelines**, which define the grounds on which dogs can be included in the Finnish Kennel Club's registers as well as impose requirements on breeding dogs that apply to all breeds with the aim of promoting the welfare of dogs.
- Our dog registration guidelines apply to all litters being registered, regardless of whether the breeder is a member, has a kennel prefix or has signed the Finnish Kennel Club Breeder Commitment.





# Health Programmes

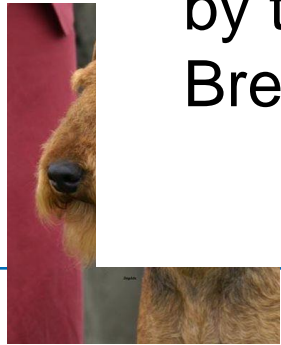
- Also for elbows, spine, knees, eyes, syringomyelia, heart diseases – more coming
- Some breed specific requirements or restrictions concerning DNA tests and amount of offspring





# Breed-specific Breeding Programmes

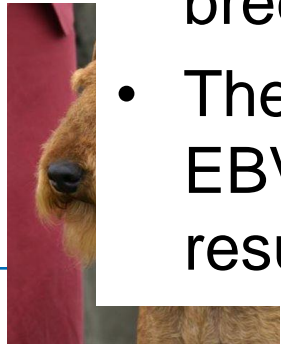
- **Breed-specific breeding programmes (JTO)**, in which breed associations set focal points for the breeding of their dog breeds as well as present recommendations for desirable characteristics in breeding dogs in order to make future generations as healthy as possible.
- Breeding programmes are inspected and improved first by the breed club and finally by the FKK Breeding/Scientific Committee





## Public database

- **The public [breeding database](#)**, which offers access to all official dog health examinations
- The system accumulates data on 60,000-80,000 health examination results per year
- New breeding tools and statistics are constantly being developed for the system
- For example, the breeding database contains estimated breeding values (EBV) for hip and elbow dysplasia
- The Finnish Kennel Club is a world pioneer in calculating EBVs as well as in the openness of health examination results







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# Dog Data - KoiraNet

<http://jalostus.kennelliitto.fi/frmEtusivu.aspx?Lang=en&R=4>

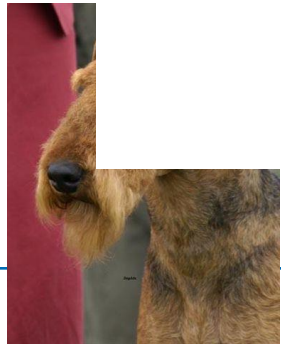
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## Other basic rules and guidelines

- Basic and advanced courses for breeders as well as courses for the breeding counsellors of breed associations
- Guidelines for show judges regarding exaggerated features in breeds – BSI (concerns all NKU countries except for Iceland)
- Health research funds
- Breeder Commitment (responsible breeder agreement)
- Volunteer-based kennel counselling activities





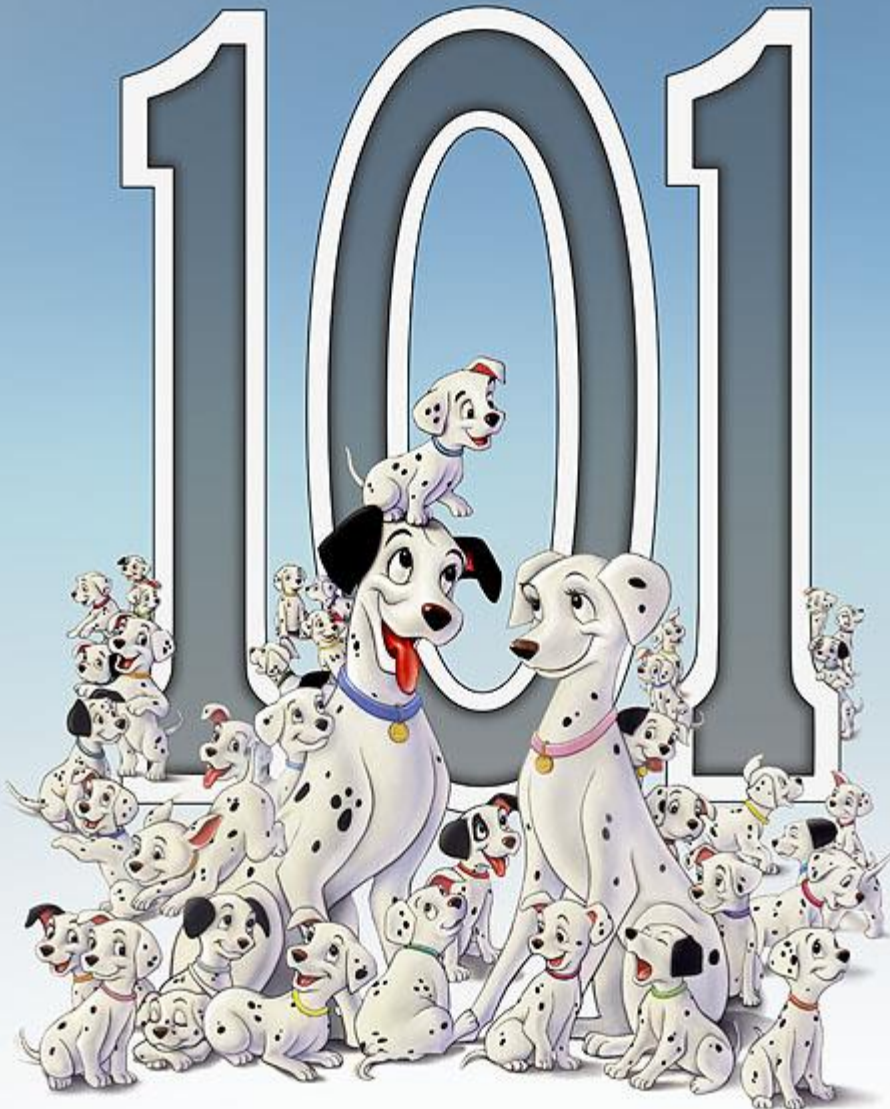
- **The fundamental statute for dog owners and keepers** that binds all Finnish Kennel Club members and non-members
- Among other things, it stipulates that the results of health examinations and information on hereditary diseases must be submitted to the Finnish Kennel Club, which is entitled to make this information public



Breeders ?

TO  
3BEN

The FKK?



Kirsi  
Sainio



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- Our aim is to help, guide, support all the breeders and breed club's likewise, but the focus has to be in breeding for health, both physically and mentally
- This is the only way to benefit the dogs, and their welfare







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