

Summary of Berner IWG Meeting held Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011  
Woodside Hotel, Kenilworth, England

People present:

Steve Green BMDC of GB (UK)  
Louise Harrington BMDC of GB (UK)  
Carla van Haute BKZS (Belgium)  
Joël van Haute BKZS (Belgium)  
Inge Bibby DBSK (Denmark)  
Birgitte Damsgaard (Denmark)  
Dr. Berndt Klingeborn SShK (Sweden)  
Julie Jackson BMDCA (USA)  
Martha Cehrs KBS (Switzerland)  
Ilona Jaanu SSFS (Finland)  
Sivec Aurelija PILBPP (Slovenia)  
Ettore Menozzi Piacentini CIABS (Italy)  
Laura Bernetti CIABS (Italy)  
Silvana Vogel Tedeschi CIABS (Italy)  
Ksenija Potočnik SKBPP (Slovenia)  
Gerhard Kunz VSSÖ (Austria)  
Lindy Kunz VSSÖ (Austria)

Isabella Kraft VSSÖ (Austria)  
Valerie Hughes BMDCI (Ireland)  
Linda O'Neill BMDCI (Ireland)  
Liz Doyle BMDCI (Ireland)  
Alison Erskine BMDCI (Ireland)  
Ron Smith BMDCC (Canada)  
Norbert Strahl visitor (Spain)  
Lluisa Moradell visitor (Spain)  
Elin Ankarback visitor (Sweden)  
Jane Ankarback visitor (Sweden)  
Lina Martinsson visitor (Sweden)  
Celia Cuellar visitor (USA)  
Lisa Ebnet visitor (USA)  
Ian Instone visitor (UK)  
June Miles visitor (UK)  
Pat Long Berner-Garde (USA)

Steve Green, President  
Pat Long, taking meeting minutes

1. Steve opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. Thanked all the clubs for sending delegates.
2. Meeting conducted in English.
3. Review of B-IWG for new informal gathering to facilitate information sharing between clubs. Last meeting conducted 2009, hosted by CIABS at Lake Garda Italy.
4. Clubs are members, one representative each. If you aren't giving feedback to the club, you need to drop out of the yahoogroup. Lindy Kunz suggested sending emails to each club president. Steve Greed sent invitations to every email he could identify. The yahoogroup contact is Pat Long, send her an email to join.
5. There seems to be a lack of interest. How can participation be fostered? This is not an action group, it's about sharing of health information. Martha Cehrs suggests a six month report cycle from each club representative.
6. Website discussed. Post the meeting minutes there, Pat Long to forward minutes to Birgitte. Six month report can be posted there. Presentations from the Symposium to be posted there. Birgitte is covering the cost of the website.

## 7. Fundraising:

- Martha Cehrs - no fundraising for KBS
- Berndt Klingeborn - SShK has about \$30,000, used for pilot studies. Funded by voluntary donations from breeders.
- Inge Bibby - DBSK has about 200,000 Kroner, they host a fund day festival. The fund is mostly for Lisle and her projects.
- Ilona - SSFS has a health foundation, breeders and pet owners donate. About 20,000€ - used for getting samples for epilepsy, and DM testing.
- Some clubs have health funds: Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Switzerland, GB, USA
- Steve Green - UK gets extra donations on member renewals, it was used for the seminar
- Silvana Vogel Tedeschi - CIABS is not directly collecting donations, has a small health fund; 5€ donated for new members. Collaborates using University Studies.
- Pat Long - BMDCA has an annual auction, please send any interesting items for that.

8. Degenerative Myelopathy. Pat Long provided a summary. 15 Berners with DM, 12 at-risk, 2 carriers, 1 clear. Clear had a second mutation which has not been found in any other breed. Carriers are still a question, slightly at risk, or an as-yet to be discovered mutation? Incomplete penetrance, need to determine how many at-risk Berners can be expected to get DM. Suggestion from geneticist: have the test done, try to breed with one partner clear, avoid carrier x carrier if there are any affected dogs in either lines.

9. Ron Smith (BMDCC) said that breeders are selling to disreputable breeders. Martha Cehrs (KBS) suggested letting breeding commission know who NOT to sell to, share facts, why are they bad. Clubs do have an unofficial blacklist. Lindy Kunz indicated that people are buying from disreputable breeders, people need to check for show results, club affiliation, and check with the club.

## 10. Discussion of issues.

- Lindy Kunz (VSSÖ) said there are too many dogs with missing teeth in Austria.
- Ireland - breed for longevity first
- Inge Bibby (DBSK): why not just fault a kink tail. Only Swiss can change the standard. DBSK breeding commission only goes by the standard.
- Martha Cehrs (KBS): change of the standard to allow eliminating faults as long as he brings substantial benefit. Would only change breeding decisions in Switzerland.
- Berndt Klingeborn (SShK): disapprove by health issues, conformation up to breeder.

## 11. National Updates

- Austria – Isabella Kraft
  - o 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year
  - o 1996 hip and elbow xrays compulsory
  - o 1997 breeding animals had to take a temperament test
  - o 2002 temperament test replaced by more comprehensive breeding evaluation, can be given over the age of 18 months; dog needs at least a



- DNA test in Canada, geneticist from Bern, Switzerland cannot recommend the test
  - Golmerulonephropathy – there is a DNA test for Cockers
  - Open registry for the last to years – male dogs
- Switzerland – Martha Cehrs
  - Small dogs becoming more popular
  - Golden Bâri Award – gathering information by breeders
    - X-rays for at least 60% of the litter
    - Consulted statisticians
    - Compulsory requirements for the award
  - Morbidity & Mortality
    - Had voluntary information, not statistically valid
    - Worked with statisticians, got sample to gather in scientifically valid manner
    - Gives base line
    - Then get health population to follow dogs from cradle to grave
    - Want to use dogs used for compulsory x-rays
- BMDCA – Julie Jackson
  - Power point presentation of club funded health studies
  - CD provided to all attendees, gives list and descriptions of health studies
- Denmark
  - Club is 34 years old, the KC controls pedigrees
  - Fewer registrations, about 350 puppies
  - Berner club has rules, works well with the Denmark KC
  - Hip index, only uses Danish data, not background from other countries
  - Breeding strategy, developing recommendations
  - It will be difficult to convince all the breeders to participate

12. Next health symposium in Switzerland. Martha Cehrs announced that the KBS will be coordinating with the European Dog show in Geneva in 2013, August 29 - September 1. The Swiss KC is organizing the International show.

- Thursday - Swiss KC show
- Friday - Health Symposium
- Saturday - Euro show
- Sunday - KBS show

Steve Green closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Long.