

Summary of Berner IWG Meeting held Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2013  
Rantasipi Hotel, Helsinki, Finland

People present:

Martha Cehrs KBS (Switzerland)	Sachiko Tamada (Japan)
Gerhard Kunz VSSÖ (Austria)	Iris van Deur VBSh (Netherlands)
Lindy Kunz (Austria)	Agnes Hauer (Netherlands)
Georg Kiedl (Austria)	Vigdis Loken NBSK (Norway)
B. Rossegger (Austria)	Malgorzata Szewczyk KSPP (Poland)
Carla van Assche BKZS (Belgium)	Sergey Morozov (Russia)
Inge Bibby DBSK (Denmark)	Olga Zilotina (Russia)
Ilona Jaanu (Finland)	Norbert Strahl (Spain)
Tuuli Rikama SSFS (Finland)	Dr. Berndt Klingeborn SShK (Sweden)
Joëlle Bardet AFBS (France)	Birgitte Damsgaard (Sweden)
Christine Malherbe (France)	Carina Karlsson (Sweden)
Dr. Norbert Bachman SSV (Germany)	Emelie Karlsson (Sweden)
Christian Schmid DCBS (Germany)	Björn Magnusson (Sweden)
Tanya Shields (Ireland)	Christine Irrgang Vogt (Switzerland)
Silvana Vogel Tedeschi CIABS (Italy)	Steve Green BMDC of GB (UK)
Letizia Virgili (Italy)	Gary Galunas, Berner-Garde (USA)
Laura Bernetti (Italy)	Pat Long (USA)
Masaaki Tamada (Japan)	

Dr. Brenda Bonnett (IPFD)  
Dr. Catherine André (Univ of Rennes, France)  
Dr. Benoit Hedan (Univ of Rennes, France)

Martha Cehrs, President  
Pat Long, taking meeting minutes

1. Ilona Jaanu opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. Gave details about transport to the show on Saturday.
2. Martha opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. Thanked the SSFS for arranging the venue. Gave Dr. Brenda Bonnett of the International Partnership for Dogs the floor first.
3. Brenda gave a short presentation, explaining the purpose of the IPFD:
  - a. Sweden's pet insurance company, Agria, has collected a great deal of health data
  - b. IPFD was registered in Sweden in 2014 to facilitate collaboration and sharing of resources.
  - c. Founders: SKK, AFBS, SSFS, SShK, NBSK, IKC, OFA, Agria
  - d. Across all breeds and clubs the same challenges exist, the same problems. The IPFD will share resources, experience, and expertise.
  - e. Learn the problems within a breed, what are the most common, most important, can they be improved. Use of a survey
  - f. IPFD brings together experts, supports communication and collaboration
  - g. The website, DogWellNet.com has public pages and behind the scenes expertise
  - h. IPFD wants to partner with members and develop the website
  - i. Initiatives include a Dog Health Workshop to discuss what's needed, genetic tests
  - j. Need population statistics for the breeds, and need international focus
  - k. Would like to collaborate with the IWG
  - l. The IPFD is only about health, well-being, and welfare of dogs
4. ? from Martha – how do you verify what goes onto the website?
  - a. Answer: staff vets it all, it won't be wide open, may also use trusted breed experts. Currently the blogs are only allowed for partners.
5. ? from Steve – wouldn't this be a duplicate of the IWG website?

- a. Answer: IPFD would link to the IWG website; wants to share information and help stimulate competition.
- 6. ? from Martha – how to you motivate people to submit information
  - a. Partners make a commitment, takes some hounding, but it helps that everyone realizes they have similar problems.
- 7. Martha initiated a discussion on how IPFD could assist the IWG in furthering its goals
- 8. Steve commented on the fact that IPFD has the same principals of IWG on a larger scale.
- 9. Martha and Pat will develop a proposal to bring back to the IWG about how the IPFD could be utilized in organizing and sharing information for the member clubs.
- 10. Martha - Communication within the IWG:
  - a. Very little communication over the last 2 years
  - b. No responses from many clubs about updating their club section of the website
  - c. Most people are not on the Berner-IWG yahooogroup, and it's difficult to maintain any type of contact email list
  - d. **Proposed and Agreed** – the yahooogroup will be the sole source of communication
  - e. To join the yahooogroup, ask Pat for assistance
    - i. Only FCI affiliated clubs will be allowed
    - ii. Will ask club contact for information if needed
  - f. Steve – the IWG is a club of clubs
  - g. Martha – bylaws allows for one voting member per club. There can be individual members, but they would not have voting rights.
  - h. Gary Galunas – advantageous to have more than one person per club as backup.
  - i. Martha – the country representative will be informed about any new member
- 11. Berndt K – would like country reports compiled and compared.
  - a. IPFD is working on a template of questions that allow for standardization and comparison
  - b. Perhaps the IPFD structure could be used.
  - c. Next time, lets report in a structured fashion.
  - d. Go ahead and send reports, we may want to change the timing.
- 12. Website issues
  - a. Not yet a place of pride.
  - b. Birgitte – some of the club pages have been updated, some have not. Why not?
  - c. Lack of time, not so good with computer skills. Birgitte will work with anyone needing assistance.
  - d. Health portion of the website is out of date, is there new material to post?
    - i. Norbert B – translation to English is difficult, many projects underway, difficult to do updates and translations
    - ii. Steve – UK has a link to their health section
    - iii. Berndt K – post reports
    - iv. Pat – post breeding requirements
    - v. Steve – see the booklet of questions and answers from 2011
    - vi. **Proposed and agreed** – standardize format for breeding requirements, Pat to do a template.
    - vii. IPFD – template allows for breeding requirements, and their database allows for it. Will discuss a breeding requirement template.
    - viii. Iris v D – 25% of BMDs bred within the club, the template needs to make that difference clear
    - ix. Silvana V – ENCI gives a pedigree to anyone
    - x. IPFD – all breeds, all countries have these issues. In the USA, AKC estimate is that 75 – 80% of all dogs registered are from commercial breeders. Need to find the numbers.
    - xi. Martha – 50% of BMDs are club bred.
    - xii. Carla v A – Belgium is looking at requiring a name for pedigree only
- 13. Short break
- 14. Country reports:

- a. 13 plus Berner-Garde are on the yahoo group
- b. Steve – the Great Britain club is interested in DM, wants to sponsor about 75 tests to find out the size of the problem
- c. Martha – KBS is doing something similar, a 7 year comparison, need to establish a baseline to measure success
- d. Lindy – Austria doesn't allow a clear x clear mating. Test is compulsory, 75% were carrier or at risk. Breeding commission will allow a clear x clear for new blood. [note: an Entelbacher was sold to a lawyer and the dog got PRA, the lawyer sued and got a \$12,000 award.]
- e. AFBS wants males over 9 years and females over 10 for free histio pre-test
- f. VSSÖ pays for histio pre-test for any dog over the age of 10
- g. Spain – clear bred only to carrier or at risk – smart to maintain diversity
- h. VSSÖ - don't want to produce at-risk puppies, but only test for exon 2
- i. SSV – exon 1 also important, have seen an affected compound heterozygote
- j. VSSÖ – using Laboklin, both exons are being tested
- k. SSV – nothing is compulsory.
  - i. The genomic test is recommended: longevity, HD, ED, vWD, DM, histio pre-test
  - ii. Results are on Dogbase, on website dog was tested
  - iii. Dogs more than 12 years old are tested for free
  - iv. The club provides statistics, about 730 have been tested
  - v. DNA extracted and sent to USA, gensynch – snip chips
  - vi. Dr. Distl develops the breeding values
  - vii. The breeder decides if the breeding value goes into Dogbase
- l. Berndt K – how many cases of DM were found on necropsy? We don't want to use a test just because it's available.
- m. Iris v D – social media is making it worse. DM worsens other symptoms. Need to communicate and look further: spinal issues, knee problems, etc.
- n. Inge B – Goldens have different mutations in different populations.
- o. Benoit H – DM is not an issue in France. Test well used sires, but DM is not a priority, keeping diversity is the priority.
- p. Catherine A – need to prioritize problems. IPFD can help geneticists recommend priorities, then help to decide what tests should be compulsory.
- q. Silvana – also a question of budget. More should be invested in cancer research.
- r. Martha – the KBS is happy with HD and ED being required. Testing DM just as a baseline to see how big a problem it is or is not.
- s. Inge B – ten years ago DKK said to talk of cancer to hide bad HD results. Now they say they need to focus on cancer. Allow for hips with D & E results to be bred with controlled requirements.
- t. Norbert B – focus on longevity and cancer. Test for DM is in the whole SSV genomic test. Not good as a single test, but good as part of the genomic test.
- u. Martha – the KBS doesn't ask for the genomic test, have the hip and elbow x-rays, know the longevity when the dog dies. Breeding Value generated for hips/elbows/longevity.
- v. Norbert B – added the genetic test for DM to the SSV genomic test.
- w. Catherine A – need baseline, prioritize based on the population, adjust to incidence and severity of the disease
- x. Martha – want baseline, look in 10 years and note if there has been any improvement.
- y. Steve – UK not recommending the DM test.
- z. Berndt K – it's a disease with incomplete penetrance, so not a yes or no test.

15. Information about tests:

- a. Iris v D – education for breeders every year for 1 disease on the website.
- b. IPFD – lots of tests, the hot topics distract from other issues. Flat Coated Retrievers want a glaucoma test.

- c. Benoit H – need breed to drive research. Limited funding is available, biggest funding if the issues are human issues as well.
- d. Pat L – MyDogDNA tests BMDs for Exercise Induced Collapse and Malignant Hypothermia. Not problems in BMDs as far as she has seen.
- e. Tuuli R – they test all breeds for all available diseases.
- f. Martha C – need to prioritize.
- g. Iris v D – need to explain why it's not a priority. The tests provide legal protection from lawsuits.
- h. Norbert S – didn't spend \$50 to prevent a disease, the puppy owner won't understand. The buyers need to be educated also.
- i. Martha – breeders have to educate the buyers.
- j. Catherine A – question of priority and education. Explain the frequency.
- k. Berndt K – the tests aren't always validated. The Histo Pre-Test developed by Dr. André is validated. The Renal Dysplasia test is a good example of a bad test.

16. The next meeting is being planned for 2017.

- a. Iris v D – 2018 the Holland club is having the 40 year celebration and could host the symposium. The World Show is in Holland in August 2018, will provide a date in August or the end of June. Have a location outside of Amsterdam.
- b. Steve – can't arrange for an interim meeting at Crufts.
- c. Martha – use the yahoo group as a better means of communication.
- d. IPFD – there is a Dog Health workshop in Paris in 2017, a meeting could be held there.
- e. AFBS – host a meeting at their national in 2017?
- f. IPFD – can try to coordinate so people could attend both.

Martha Cehrs closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Long.

Addendum: The next IWG meeting and Health Symposium will be held in 2018 in conjunction with the 40 year anniversary of the VBSH. This is a firm commitment.