



NKU/VK meeting 2017

Minutes

Time	31 May - 1 June 2017
Place	University of Copenhagen, the Veterinary Faculty, Denmark
Present	DKK Helle Friis Proschowsky, Birgitte Schjøth, Britta Sørensen FKK Kirsi Sainio (chair), Katariina Mäki (secretary) NKK Kim Bellamy, Astrid Indrebø, Kristin Wear Prestrud SKK Linda Andersson, Åke Hedhammar, Sofia Malm, Helena Skarp

1. Opening of the meeting

The chair Kirsi Sainio opened the meeting at 9:10 am.

2. Short presentation and organizational news from the national kennel clubs

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The participants represented themselves and discussed about organizational news in each kennel club.

3. Minutes and Things-to-do from the last meeting in Norway

- a. Minutes (Appendix 3a)
- b. Things-to-do from the last meeting (Appendix 3b)

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The NKU/VK went through the minutes and the list.

4. Decisions of the NKU/AU

a. Issues from the NKU/AU meeting in October 2016 (Appendix 4a)

- **Item 5.2: Recognition of new breeds**

Based on the decision on the last years' meeting of the NKU/VK, the NKU/VK proposed to the NKU/AU that the procedure from 20.3.2012 will be used when recognising new breeds.



The NKU/VD made its' proposal in October 2016 (see the Appendix 4a), and the NKU/AU approved this proposal.

• **Item 12: NKU/VK/ Breed standards – health and function**

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.-2.6.2016:

The NKU/VK agreed that it would be a good idea to propose that FCI Standards Commission reviews all breed standards and updates descriptions that may lead to reduced function.

Decision of the NKU/AU 12.10.2016:

NKU/AU is sending this proposal back to the NKU/VK and ask it to make with the Brachycephalic group a breed specific appendixes suitable to the Northern requirements of the animal protection laws. The NKU/AU underlines the use of BSI in educating new judges in the NKU countries and in the other hand inform judges invited to judge in our countries about the BSI.

The NKU/AU also discussed using more Nordic judges for the high-profile breeds.

• **Item 15.2: Minutes of the NKU/VK meeting 1.-2.6.2016, Uppsala, Sweden**

The NKU/VK as a working group for the NKU cannot send an inquiry to the FCI in any matters until approved by the NKU/AU. NKU/VK is allowed to send the inquiry regarding the list of large and gigantic breeds in connection of hip dysplasia screening.

The HD/ED panel: NKU/AU asks NKU/VK to make a proposal to NKU/AU about the matter of the time period between two HD/ED radiographs.

For the future, all the NKU working commissions should pay attention that the minutes will be published on the NKU website and they should be short and very clear, consisting only recommendations and proposals.

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

Recognition of new breeds:

The NKU/VK asks the NKU/AU to clarify the procedure and asks for an opportunity to give its' opinion about the breeds seeking for acceptance.

Breed standards – health and function:

The NKU/VK will review the brachy breeds' standards (Pugs, English Bulldog, French Bulldog, Boston Terrier). This work is going on also in the FCI.

The NKU/VK discussed also the breed standard of the Shar Pei. The traditional bone mouth type of the breed was accepted in the original breed standard by Hongkong, but this is not the case anymore with the FCI breed standard. The traditional shar peis have less wrinkles and are more often of the genotype which is less prone to SPAID. The opinion of the NKU/VK is that the types which originally come up in dog breeds, should not be excluded, but accepted/promoted in the breed standards.

Time between two HD/ED radiographs:

This issue was discussed during the item 8b.

4b. Issues from the NKU/AU meeting February 2017 (Appendix 4b)

- **Item 9: NKK/Registration of litters from outcross-projects in the Nordic kennel clubs (Appendix 4b1)**



The Norwegian Kennel Club has made a proposal for the protocol for the registration of puppies from outcross-projects of the rare national breeds within the Nordic countries. The proposal of the NKU/VD was approved by the NKU/AU, who asks the NKU/VK to provide a list of outcross projects that have already taken place in each of the NKU countries.

• **Item 13: Brachycephalic breeds (Appendix 4b2)**

NKU/AU thanks the working group of a very thorough and excellent job and NKU/AU sends the proposals and the conclusions to each national kennel club for further decisions and actions. NKU/AU expects kennel clubs' proposals for further actions by the next meeting in October 2017.

The media group will make a public presentation of the proposals of the working group and send it for approval to NKU/AU addressed to the NKU secretary.

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

Registration of litters from outcross-projects in the Nordic kennel clubs:

The NKU/VK will gather a list for the NKU/AU.

5. Update from each country regarding health issues (RAS, BSI, mentality, breeding programs, projects)

NKK has 160 finished RAS documents. Survey regarding the BSI to the breed clubs, feedback on how the BSI is working. First breed having mandatory mental testing.

DKK does not have any RAS system, but some breed clubs have made them anyway. BSI survey sent to judges and breed clubs. No breed has mandatory mental testing. Courses/seminars for judges of brachycephalic breeds.

SKK is discussing about evaluating RAS. Seminar for the show judges on brachycephalics coming winter, focus on the four main breeds. Template for evaluation of mentality in RAS. Evaluation of the breed-specific mandatory health programs and decision on whether keep them or not. Hands on -experience breed club seminar which handled breeding issues in an invented breed. New puppy certificate.

FKK has RAS for about 170 breeds. BSI seems to work well. Breeding inspections separately for mentality and conformation.

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The NKU/VK proposes that the NKU/AU Mentality group makes a list of breeds which in each country have mandatory mental testing.

6. Information on international activities and conferences

a. FCI Scientific and Standards commissions

Kirsi Sainio informed the NKU/VK about the news regarding the FCI commissions.

b. IPFD and DogWellNet

DogWellNet seems to be working quite well.



c. Dog Health Workshop 2017

The DHW was held in Paris in 21-23 April 2017. The workshop was successful. The follow-up-work is important. The next meeting will be held in the UK in 2019.

d. European Association for Animal Production (EAAP) Congress

Sofia was an invited speaker last year, but this year nobody from the NKU/VK is attending.

e. WSAVA (World Small Animal Veterinary Association)

The WSAVA congress will be held in Copenhagen 25.-28. of September. Healthy breeding is a major topic and a pre-conference for breeders will be held Sunday 23rd September.

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The NKU/VK noted the matters for information.

Reports:

7. Report from the DNA-group

The meeting of the DNA group was held the day before the NKU/VK meeting.

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

Kirsi Sainio informed the NKU/VK about the discussed issues.

8. Report from the HD/ED panel (Appendices 9)

a. Report of the panel meetings

Beslut från senaste mötet of the HD/ED panel 17.01.2017:

2.1. Omröntgen efter ankeprocedur

NKK tog upp frågan om en ägare kan röntga om sin hund som har gått igenom nordisk ankeprocedur. Det borde finnas gamla beslut om saken, men de kan vara svåra att hitta numera. Gruppen var av den uppfattningen att det inte skall vara möjligt att röntga en hund som fått resultat av nordisk anke. FKK har åtminstone i sina regler att ankeresultatet är slutgiltigt och hunden kan inte röntgas på nytt (undantag CT-undersökning av armbågsleder som kan göras efter anke, däremot kan anke inte göras om hunden redan har CT-undersökningsresultat).

Gruppen konstaterade att det inte står något om omröntgen efter anke i NKK:s förslag till NKU/VK "The Nordic Kennel Union Rules for evaluation and transfer of radiograph results between the Nordic countries"

Beslut: Gruppen vill uppmärksamma NKU/VK om att det inte står något om omröntgen efter anke i förslaget "The Nordic Kennel Union Rules for evaluation and transfer of radiograph results between the Nordic countries".



Gruppen misstänker också att utbyte av ankeresultat mellan ländernas kanslier eventuellt inte alltid fungerar och det betyder att någon hund skulle kunna röntgas om i ett annat land även om det redan finns ett nordiskt ankeresultat.

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The NKU/VK decided to check whether the referrals in use include a question to the owner of the dog regarding the possible earlier screening in another Nordic country or in the Nordic panel.

b. Time period between two HD/ED radiographs

After the last meeting, the NKU/VK asked the opinion of the HD/ED panel on the time period between two HD/ED radiographs: is 6 months sufficient or should it preferably be 12 months in every Nordic country?

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The panel has not discussed this. The FKK has 12 months and others 6 months. The NKU/VK decided that it would be better to have the same time period (6 months) in all Nordic countries.

9. Report from the FCI Scientific Commission

Kirsi Sainio informed the NKU/VK about issues discussed and/or proposed by the FCI Scientific Commission. The Commission has made a proposal to the General Committee regarding the procedure for approval of new breeds. Listing of breeds with phenotypic features which are genetically impossible to avoid in breeding will be put forward to the Standards Commission. Discussions about the colour coding system. Differences between HD screening systems in different countries: planning for an international meeting (see the items 11 d and e). Large/giant breeds in the HD breed list can be updated based on the height and the weight of the dogs (see the item 11 a).

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The NKU/VK noted the matters for information.

Discussions:

10. Services for breeders – index/breeding values, DNA profiles, biobank etc - commercial companies vs. scientific institutions/universities (NKK; Appendix 11)

Aggressive advertising in Norway for breed clubs about breeding tools, which are not necessarily suitable for dog breeding. Other countries have not had these issues. Other Nordic kennel clubs cooperate with scientific institutions and universities.

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The Nordic kennel clubs are cooperating with each other to achieve a joint Nordic database and develop new tools for breeding.



11. Hip and elbow dysplasia

a. General recommendations for minimum height and/or weight for a breed to be regarded as giant in HD screening (SKK, FKK; Appendices 12a & 12b)

The FCI Requirements for Official Hip Dysplasia Screening state the following:

The minimum age for official hip radiographs is one (1) year for most dog breeds and 18 months for large and giant breeds.

Katariina Mäki sent an inquiry to the FCI (in February), asking which breeds should be regarded as large and giant. She received the original FCI document *Hip dysplasia – International Certificate and Evaluation of radiographs* (1983), which states, that these breeds are Bullmastiff, Dogue de Bordeaux, Great Dane, Leonberger, Maremma, Mastiff, Mastiff Neapolitan, Newfoundland and Landseer, Pyrenean Mountain Dog and St. Bernard.

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

This issue has been discussed also in the FCI Scientific Commission. The NKU/VK decided that it would be wise to first check if using height and weight when stating the age-limit really have a scientific base. For instance, Labradors had, at least in one study, a later development of the hip joints than many of the giant breeds.

b. HD screening – effect of environmental factors, changes over time, different results on each side (SKK)

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The NKU/VK discussed about these issues.

c. HD index (SKK)

SKK has introduced HD-EBVs for more than 20 additional breeds. German shepherds wish to have breeding restrictions based on HD-EBVs.

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The NKU/VK discussed about experiences around that subject.

d. FCI's international HD certificates (NKK; Appendix 12d+e)

The term 'international certificate' has not been defined by the FCI. If certificates comply with the FCI regulations (marking, positioning of the dog etc), they can be accepted.

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

This issue should be discussed in the international seminar (see the next item). The Nordic panel could make a proposal on how these certificates should be validated. Validated scrutinizer and a validated process, which would authorize to an international, validated certificate.

The NKU/VK decided to gather information on how many foreign HD and ED results each country's database includes: 1) all foreign results 2) foreign results with Scandinavian ones excluded. For instance, the database of the FKK includes 211340 HD results, of which foreign 31667 (15 %, includes also Scandinavian results).



It was decided that each country gathers also the principles regarding what kind of results are accepted as official (=recorded in the database as official results and accepted for puppy registration).

e. International seminar on x-ray procedures for HD and ED (NKK)

The FCI Scientific committee has accepted this plan. The seminar will be held in 2019 (Helsinki). The Nordic HD/ED panel and the NKU/VK will be involved in the arrangements.

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The NKU/VK noted the matter for information.

f. ED-grading of dogs that have undergone surgery (SKK)

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

This issue was a follow-up from the last meeting and was not discussed further.

g. X-ray screening for ED in chondrodystrophic breeds: criteria and/or protocol (SKK)

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The SKK has adopted the Norwegian rules for x-ray screening in chondrodystrophic breeds. The entire rules/list is available in the appendix from the NKU/VK in Uppsala. The SKK does not give readings for ED x-rays in chondrodystrophic breeds, except for basset hounds.

h. X-ray procedures for dogs moving between countries (SKK)

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

This issue was discussed during the item 8 a.

12. Procedure for evaluation of patella status (SKK)

SKK made a survey among veterinarians on this and concluded that the instructive text in the current patella protocol is sufficient. In the future, the SKK grading system may be changed to be the Putnam grading (0-4).

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The NKU/VK discussed this issue.

13. Transitional vertebrae – breeding advice in each country (NKK; Appendix 14)

In Finland screening of the backbone is mandatory for the breeding dogs in German Shepherds. No limitations for registration of the puppies exist so far.

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The NKU/VK noted the matter for information.



14. Activities regarding brachycephalic dog breeds (SKK, FKK)

Kirsi Sainio informed the NKU/VK that the FCI Scientific Commission has suggested and Standards Commission accepted proposal to the General Committee to review the breed standards of brachy breeds, starting with EB and FB, Boston and Pug, and identify formulation, that still could mislead judges to reward exaggerated features. Wording to be included in the standards: minimum relative length of the muzzle.

If this process is too timely, guidelines for the interpretation of the BSI in this direction should be prepared.

Many projects and developments going on in the Nordic countries. FKK is starting routine walk tests. SKK is developing a health test including a walking test and plan to not let dogs with heavy respiratory noise attend. NKK has tested some dogs. DKK has a meeting with breed clubs.

In the DHW in Paris, there was a discussion on whether there is enough phenotypic variation in the three pilot breeds. Possibilities for breed crosses were also discussed. The working group of the NKU suggests doing an inventory of dogs first, also among non-registered dogs.

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The NKU/VK noted the matters for information.

15. Operated dogs taking part in dog shows, trials and competitions (FKK; Appendix 17)

The FKK asked for the other kennel clubs' opinion on allowing operated, now healthy dogs in shows and competitions in case a) the dog would have a veterinary certificate showing that the operation was done successfully and the dog is clinically healthy regarding that condition and b) the dog was transferred into a not-for-breeding register.

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The other kennel clubs were not positive about the idea and the SKK pointed out that their rules are based on animal welfare with the dog's best in mind.

16. Disease register for gathering general health information (clinical diagnoses) in kennel club databases (FKK)

FKK and DKK are going to adopt the Pyramidion system.

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The NKU/VK noted the matter for information.



17. Information from a Nordic meeting of veterinary cardiologists (FKK)

Finnish veterinary cardiologists Maria Wiberg and Anders Eriksson informed the FKK about this meeting, which was held in Uppsala, December 2016. The subject of the meeting was Nordic cardiac examinations. The meeting discussed the possible harmonization of heart examinations, forms, and diagnostic criteria. Establishment of a joint association received support. Every country is now going to list their veterinary cardiologists. The problem is that the requirements vary between the countries. There's also a question of who is going to maintain the lists (kennel clubs/veterinary associations/veterinarians/ - in Finland it is the FKK).

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The NKU/VK noted the matter for information.

18. ECVO Eye scheme (SKK)

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The SKK informed the NKU/VK that it is going to adopt the ECVO eye scheme. The practices in running the scheme was discussed.

19. Coat colors – regulations and limits regarding to breeding (was Merle – restrictions for breeding; SKK)

SKK is currently discussing a possible need to change the registration rules for breeds that currently have a ban on breeding certain colors with each other (or at all). Merle is of course regarded as a "disease" and not a color in this particular discussion. The aim is to not have limited registration for traits that are of no importance for health or welfare.

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The NKU/VK discussed about the issue. DKK and FKK do not have limited registration regarding coat colors/patterns, except for merle. They will not introduce new such rules, not even if a breed club asked for it. Limited registration has to be related to health problems.

20. New breeds to add to the FCI list on closely related breeds and breed varieties that can be crossed (NKK; Appendix 22)

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

Kirsi Sainio informed the NKU/VK that the FCI is in the process of updating the list. Proposals for new breeds included in the list can be sent to Kirsi.



21. Dispensregistrering/inmönstring (exemption registration of dogs without a known pedigree, SKK)

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

SKK will keep the others informed about this.

22. Issues in registering Broholmers (FKK)

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The NKU/VK discussed about the issue.

23. Cavalier king charles spaniel - update on the new health program for heart disease (SKK; appendix 25)

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The SKK informed the NKU/VK about the updated health program. For example, the minimum breeding age has been raised to three years and limitations have been put for males regarding the number of litters before the age of seven.

24. Registration of (and possibilities for breeding with) white Boxers (DKK)

SKK and FKK: no limitations for breeding and registration. It could, however, be unwise to breed white to white, but no limitations exist for that. NKK had limitations but removed them a while ago.

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The NKU/VK discussed about the issue.

25. Any other business

Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

There was no other business to discuss.

26. Next meeting



Decision of the NKU/VK 1.6.2017:

The NKU/VK decided to have the next DNA working group meeting at 20.3.2018 and the NKU/VK meeting at 21.-22.3.2018. These meeting will be held in Helsinki.

The meeting adjourned at 1st June 14:30 pm.