



NKU/VK meeting 2018 Minutes

Time 21-22 March 2018

Place Helsinki, Finland

Participants

DKK	Helle Friis Proschowsky
NKK	Kim Bellamy Maria Kjeldaas Johannessen Kristin Wear Prestrud
SKK	Helena Skarp Sofia Malm Tomas Bergström Åke Hedhammar
FKK	Kirsi Sainio Katariina Mäki

1. Opening of the meeting

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

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

A short presentation of each participant was made, and organisational news of each kennel club were heard.

3. Memory notes and Things-to-do from the last meeting in Denmark

The NKU/VK went through the Memory notes and the Things-to-do list. The latter will be updated by the secretary after the preparation of the Minutes of this meeting.

4. Decisions from the NKU/AU - for information or referred to the NKU/VK

- Issues from the NKU/AU meeting October 2017 (Appendix 4a)
 - **22 NKU/VK Update from each country regarding health issues (RAS, BSI, mentality, breeding programs, projects)**

The NKU/AU decided that each country makes a list of the breeds that have a mandatory mental testing and send it to the secretary of the NKU.



The NKU/VK was wondering about the current state of the mentality group and was interested in getting to know which issues it has been working with.

- Issues from the NKU/AU meeting February 2018 (Appendix 4b)

- **5.1. NKK/Registration of litters from outcross-projects in the Nordic kennel clubs**

- The NKU/VK decided that NKK makes a proposal about handling the situation.

- **5.3. DKK/Recognition of the Biewer**

- This issue was discussed as the item 19 in this meeting (see below).

- **8 NKK / Vaccination regulations**

- This issue was discussed as the item 21 in this meeting (see below).

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

SKK: Organised a seminar for brachy judges. VeTA-bolaget and SKK will arrange a genetics seminar for vets in October 2018. The yearly conference for breed club representatives (Avelskonferens) will be arranged on November 10-11, the theme this year will be conformation. Digital online education on breeding and genetics, based on the book Hundavel, is under development. SKK is running a hip dysplasia investigation. New publication from Shizhi Wang, regarding international collaboration in HD issues.

DKK: Three breeders' meetings around the country. Started recording cardiomyopathy for Great Danes. 1st March new law regarding commercial breeders. Authorities start to grade the breeders and give certificates for them. Commercial breeder in Denmark has been defined as a breeder with 3 or more litters per year or three or more bitches.

FKK: Brachy breeds much discussed in Finland. New animal welfare law coming. General breeding strategy updated. 134 breeds have obligatory health programs (PEVISA; restrictions for registration). Starting digital education this year. Updating the health questionnaire.

NKK: Regarding BSI: NKK has chairmanship of NKU's BSI group. The BSI program has been revised. NKK has started registration of cardiac screening (ultrasound/doppler) in all breeds, and the plan is to approve an auscultation program specifically for the cavalier breed. Seven vets doing the ultrasound, a longer list of vets doing auscultation. NKK has also started to register clinical diagnoses of all hereditary problems.

6. International activities and conferences

- **FCI**

- Breeding commission meeting will be held in next June (Switzerland). Breeding for longevity will be discussed.

- **IPFD and DogWellNet**

- New layout. Any contribution to the pages is welcome.

- **Dog Health Workshop 2019**

- The next DHW will be held in 30 May – 1st June 2019 in London.



- **WSAVA (World Small Animal Veterinary Association)**

The WSAVA congress was held in Copenhagen 25.-28. September 2017. Healthy breeding was a major topic, and a pre-conference for breeders was held on Sunday 24th September. Focus was collaboration between all stakeholders and influencing the consumers to do an informed and wise choice when purchasing a dog.

Reports:

7. Report from the DNA-group

The meeting of the DNA group was held the day before this NKU/VK meeting. The group went through currently available tests which the NKU kennel clubs record in their databases. Decided to make a list of the tests which have been declined.

Parentage testing with ISAG panel vs. SNP information was discussed.

8. Report from the HD/ED panel (Appendix 8)

The Finnish panellist, Liisa Lilja-Maula, participated in the meeting during this issue and gave a short report.

9. Report from the FCI Scientific Commission (Kirsi Sainio)

Kirsi Sainio gave a report. No major changes in the FCI organisation.

Discussions:

10. Proposals for new animal welfare legislation in Sweden and Finland

Sweden: SKK has had discussions with jordbruksverket, to ensure that the new legislation will be sensible. The changes will probably not be very large compared to the current legislation. However, hopefully more efficient in matters regarding extreme conformation, e.g., the brachycephalic breeds.

Finland: proposal for the new legislation exists. Animal protection law -> animal welfare law; stressing that the law should enhance welfare and not just protect the animals. The lower-level regulations have not been defined yet. Regulations regarding breeding will be more precise than in the current law.

11. Registration of health results

NKK has started to record clinical cases of hereditary problems, and the cause and time of death.

Registration is optional. In the clinical diagnoses the data are registered by the vet, whereas in cause of death the data are registered by the owner.

In Denmark a university project is underway aiming at gathering diagnoses directly from the veterinary clinics into a central database. In this way, diagnostic data will come from all dogs, also the dogs outside the DKK (all dogs are registered so this is fairly easy).



12. Index – update

SKK started publishing hip EBVs also for dogs which do not have their own screening result, if the accuracy is large enough. 22 new breeds in the EBV estimation for HD since January 2018 (in total 42 breeds).

NKK publishes the EBV for all dogs which have their own HD result, back to 1987. Accuracy is calculated for each dog, and a recommended minimum accuracy is calculated for each breed (calculated from the breed specific heritability). Hence, it is visible for each dog whether the accuracy of the dog's EBV is greater than the minimum accuracy for the breed in question.

DKK: same heritability estimate is used for all breeds. EBVs have been removed from breeds with too few new results per year. DKK considers to remove from the routine EBV estimation program breeds which have improved and now have very good hips.

FKK: four more breeds in the estimation of HD EBVs and one in the estimation of ED EBVs. Altogether approximately 65 breeds have HD and/or ED EBVs.

The NKU/VK decided to gather short EBV reports from each country.

13. Hip and elbow dysplasia

- **Registration of preliminary HD/ED results**
- **Criteria for ED evaluation**
- **Acceptance of OFA results for HD and ED**
- **ED-evaluation in chondrodystrophic breeds**
- **HD-investigations in SKK**; study of the influence of the breeding programs over time
- **HD project group in NKK**; with the aim of information sharing for the breed clubs
- **Time between two HD/ED radiographs – update from the FKK**
- **International seminar for HD scrutinizers, Helsinki 2019**
- **"SKK-play": new film about ED evaluation under production**

The NKU/VK discussed about these issues and decided to ask a few matters from the HD/ED panel. It also decided to ask the HD/ED panel to coordinate the list of chondrodystrophic breeds where the normal ED protocol is not suitable.

In Denmark there is an MSc project going on, about development of an IT-tool as an aid for scrutinizers. This is a project about using artificial intelligence, a field which is developing quite fast in the human medicine. The project will be done on HD x-rays from the last ten years. A computer algorithm will be developed to help in the grading. Asked data/input from the other Nordic countries. The NKU/VK is very positive about the study and is looking forward to the results. Most of the work will be done in the spring.

The NKU/VK decided to publish the document "The Nordic Kennel Union - Rules for evaluation and transfer of radiograph results between the Nordic countries" on the NKU webpage.

14. Extreme conformation



Extreme conformation in general: Report from SKKs Show Judges Seminar. Project aiming to reach consensus within the SKK and new working group for sound conformation.

15. Brachy-work

- **Evaluation of the breed standards in the FCI**

There is still some room for misinterpretations. Standard and Scientific Commissions going through the standards. The changes also have to be implemented somehow. The NKU/VK concluded that if the FCI standards are not compatible with the national animal welfare laws, the NKU kennel clubs cannot follow these standards.

- **Registration of surgeries and/or deaths due to BOAS, update**

SKK informed that a health examination form has been developed. Will be started after Easter. Operated dogs are banned from breeding, the new form makes it possible to implement this ban. Operations are not yet shown in Hunddata or Avelsdata, only the info that the dog has been banned from breeding.

- **Health examination (regarding BOAS and related structures) before breeding, update**

SKK presented a new health certificate including also a walk test. Examination, describing the state of health of the dog and anatomical features of importance to BOAS, registering the results into the database. First non-obligatory, but in some time mandatory.

- **Inventory of available phenotypic and genetic diversity, update**

Denmark and Sweden have each been able to enrol two master students to work on the inventory. It would be great if something similar could be arranged in Norway and Finland. One student focuses on genetics, the other one on welfare.

- **International communication, NKU brachy working group and media group**

The NKU/VK hopes that the report of the working group will be wider spread internationally.

16. BPH – update from SKK

Sofia Malm gave a presentation about BPH (the Swedish behaviour and personality test). Large heritabilities for different “personality traits”. Movie about BPH at SKK web page.

17. Dispensations to attend competitions

The DKK had asked other NKU kennel clubs whether it is possible according to their rules to attend competitions (not dog shows, but obedience, agility, dog dancing etc.) with a dog, which has gone through a surgery for orthopaedic problems like ED, patella, cranial cruciate ligament, fractures etc.

SKK: From SKK Show regulations:

“General regulations for shows, trials, competitions and behavioral assessments, 7 Doping and other undue circumstances



Participating dog may not be injured or sick. Nor may the dog have been subjected to measures aimed at improperly altering its appearance, performance or character, intended to conceal signs of injury or illness.

In addition, for detailed regulations outlining which treatments or actions that are not permitted in the SKK organisation, see the National regulations against dog doping (Nationellt dopingreglemente för hund).

Rules for applying for exemption can also be found from SKK organisation's doping regulations. This can be done for some but not all surgeries in the locomotor apparatus and will be regarded the same for all shows, trials, competitions and behavioral assessments.

The background of the anti-doping regulations is the dog's welfare."

Dogs treated with/for	Possibility of exemption
Surgical interventions of the musculoskeletal system	
Elbow operations	Available
Osteochondrosis of other joints than elbow	Available
Hip dysplasia	Available
Dislocation of the patella	Available
Perthes' disease	Available

"En deltagande hund får inte vara skadad eller sjuk och får inte heller vara påverkad på ett otillbörligt sätt dvs den får inte vara utsatt för åtgärd som otillbörligen kan påverka utseende, prestation, reaktion eller yttring av skada eller sjukdom. Detta omfattar även åtgärder som häver smärta, som påverkar hundens allmäntillstånd eller en sjukdomsprocess. Bakgrunden till detta förbud är djurskydd – en hund som behöver någon form av behandling är inte frisk och ska därför inte delta i aktiviteter. För ingrepp i rörelseapparaten finns möjlighet att söka dispens för deltagande."

NKK: no restrictions, the dog should be healthy at the time of the competition and free of medication.

FKK: same as NKK.

18. Breeds and varieties

The NKU/VK discussed about breeding between the Kleinspitz and the Pomeranian, which are included in the FCI list of permitted crosses between breed varieties. Currently these crosses are not made in the NKU kennel clubs. In general, the NKU/VK is positive about crosses between these two varieties.

19. Recognising a new breed – Biewer; appendix 20

In general, the NKU/VK thinks that negative effects of small populations should be taken into consideration when recognising new breeds. The first choice should always be considering the new breed as a variety of an existing breed.

20. Sable x merle combinations

Sable may hide the merle allele – hence breeders may accidentally do merle x merle combinations. SKK made a general statement in 2011 saying that merle should be taken into account and that it is not allowed breed two merle dogs together. Other regulations exist in some specific breeds. FKK has banned merle x



merle combinations. There is now a DNA test available, which could be used if the breeder is uncertain about a dog/bitch carrying merle allele or not. The NKU/VK will continue this discussion by email.

21. Vaccination rules

The NKU/VK discussed about differences between the NKU countries. It was concluded that the vaccination rules cannot be harmonized, since they are set by the authorities. In Finland, for example, rabies vaccination is more essential than in other NKU countries and regulated by the authorities. Each country may change their rules as they wish.

22. Breed standard of the Samoyed; appendix 23

The FCI breed standard of the Samoyed requires that the dewclaws of the dogs' hind legs should be removed. This is prohibited by the Finnish Animal Protection Act. The Finnish breed club and the FKK ask the NKU to further its' request to the FCI, to change the breed standard of the breed. The breed club states that many countries have made national changes to the breed standard, without the approval of the FCI. For example, England and the USA do not even mention the dewclaws in the hind legs.

In the opinion of the NKU/VK, it is obvious that the sentence should be taken out. The NKU/VK proposes that this issue will be taken to the FCI standards commission.

23. Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

The NKU/VK discussed the situation of the breed in different NKU countries.

24. Ichthyosis in the Golden Retriever

This issue was handled in the DNA group meeting.

25. Any other business

Deafness in Dalmatians

Some breed clubs have a policy stating that all bilaterally deaf dogs should be euthanized. Each NKU kennel club will research the policy on this matter in their own country for the next meeting.

Border collies from International Sheep Dog Society, ISDS

According to the FCI regulations, an imported border collie from the UK, registered in the ISDS register and with an export pedigree from the Kennel Club, can be registered into a normal FCI register. The majority of the ISDS import dogs are like this. In 2013, the FKK asked the FCI about the registration of the ISDS dogs and got as an answer the circular 36/2009 and the information that if the dog's three-generation-pedigree includes ISDS dogs, the dog should be registered in an appendix register.

The FKK asks about the practice in the other NKU kennel clubs.

SKK: all border collies are registered in an appendix, not allowed in international dog shows.

NKK: normal registration, as NKK does not yet have an appendix/side registry. NKK allows ISDS registered border collies imported from Great Britain to be registered if they have "certified pedigree" from ISDS.



Norwegian border collies are allowed in dog shows only after specified results in herding tests. Foreign border collies do not require herding test results before shows. For international dog shows, no herding merits are required for border collies. Unregistered border collies may be included into the official stud book after herding test (specific rules), if their herding is stated to be typical to the breed.

DKK: Border collies from UK and Ireland, registered in the ISDS register and with an export pedigree, are registered into our normal DKK register. Unless the father of the dog is a champion, DKK demands a certificate proving that the male has normal testicles (no cryptorchidism). The reason for this is that ISDS does not demand any proof of testicles status and the FCI rules does.

26. Next meeting

The meeting closed at 15:11.

The next meeting will be held in Iceland, at the time most suitable for the Icelandic Kennel Club. NKU chairmanship will be transferred from FKK to NKK in the autumn 2018.