

2 Feb 2015

Dear participant at the 2nd Dog Health Workshop!

The time for the event is approaching and it is time to prepare for a productive exchange of experiences and proposals for the enhancement of canine Health.

It is increasingly clear that many aspects of the dog world, in general, and dog breeding in particular take place on an international level. It is also very clear that cooperation and collaboration across the many and diverse individuals and groups who are stakeholders in the health, well-being and welfare of dogs are needed to effectively and efficiently address these issues. The International Dog Health Workshops (IDHW) provide an opportunity for exchange of experiences and views across a wide array of stakeholder groups. The overall aim is to boost the collaborative actions needed to support sustainable breeding of healthy dogs. One key need that was identified at the 1st IDHW was a platform to support international collaboration and that has come to fruition in The International Partnership for Dogs (IPFD) and DogWellNet.com being presented in Dortmund (see attached overview). We aim to build on several of the initiatives from the 1st IDHW that are described in: <http://www.skk.se/Global/Dokument/Dog%20Health%20Workshop/DHW-Report-Suggested-actions-130917.pdf>).

In addition to the information included with this mailing, there will be readings and other notices posted online at <http://www.vdh.de/dog-health-workshop/program/>. We strongly encourage you to visit there occasionally over the next two weeks, as we will be adding resources.

There are now over 110 participants registered representing at least 16 countries: many from Germany, the UK, and the Scandinavian as well as other European countries and the U.S.A. There are veterinarians, geneticists and epidemiologists, as well as show judges, breeders and representatives from various breed and kennel clubs. Altogether this will guarantee input from many, important perspectives.

Where possible we have assigned participants to their first choice of workshops. Some have been assigned to their 2nd choice, in an attempt to balance the numbers. Close to 50 people chose the workshop session on Breed Specific Health Strategies - too many for effective participation and discussion. Therefore, we have decided to split this workshop into 2 groups. Both groups are welcome to discuss a range of relevant topics, but for organizational reasons we have defined the split sessions as described below. Due to late registrations, we may also have too large a group in the genetics session. We will likely split into two groups, but we will do this at the workshop. If you very much want to be in a different session, please let us know with an email to ake.hedhammar@slu.se by latest **Friday 6 February**. We will try to accommodate your requests.

Schedule:

Please see the official Programme (included in this mailing) for times and locations for all events. In terms of content: after the plenary session with the speakers introducing the various themes, we will work in the separate workshops for 4 hours including a break for



lunch before reunion with all participants. Each workshop will start by input from workshop members on key issues. After lunch we should focus on what is lacking / needed, establish priorities, and discuss how to further foster international collaborations, including, how to take advantage of the International Partnership for Dogs and DogwellNet.com. The presentations and group discussion on Sunday will further focus on the potential of the latter developments to help address priorities and challenges raised during the Saturday sessions.

Moderators from the workshops will present summaries in plenum, as we engage the wider group in discussions and look for major emerging themes. Please be prepared to share your experiences in the workshops and participate in plenary sessions; as well as, networking and developing further opportunities for sharing and collaboration throughout the two days of interactions. During the Sunday session, we will have summing up discussions and identify key actions for Moving Forward.

Posters

To enhance information sharing, we will be able to display a number of posters – on projects, developments or relevant topics. If you would like to bring one, please let us know (ake.hedhammar@slu.se). (Poster display boards are 1,45 m x 1,18 m)

Further information on topics and content:

Saturday

Plenary Session (8:30-10:30):

Welcome and introduction (Peter Friedrich and Pekka Olson)... *10 min.*

Behavior (Selecting For Behavioral Characteristics) Stream:

Prof. Dr. Peter Friedrich (Germany) – Issues for application of behavioral testing; engaging breeders ... *15 min.*

Prof. Erling Strandberg (Sweden) – new developments and assessment tools; challenges and needs. ... *15 min.*

Genetic Testing Stream:

Prof. Dr. Jörg Epplen (Germany) – latest developments; and what can we learn from the human side? ... *15 min.*

Dr. Marie Abitbol (France) - Challenges to breeders and kennel clubs dealing with an ever-increasing number of tests; standardization and validation issues. ... *15 min.*

Breed-Specific Health Strategies:

Aimee Llewellyn (UK) – Latest developments in the UK and elsewhere; in and beyond the show ring; engagement of breed clubs; challenges and needs moving forward. ... *15 min.*

Göran Bodegård (Sweden) – The Breed-Specific Instructions (BSI) initiative (for judges regarding exaggerations in pedigree dogs); developments; metrics; next steps. ... *10 min.*



Motion:

Prof. Dr. Martin Fischer (Germany) - The importance of motion as an indication of health and well-being; methods of assessment; examples of breed-specific and intra-breed variations; challenges. ... **15 min.**

Summary and guidelines for the workshops ... **10 min.**

Topics for the workshops (suggestions / possibilities):

Workshop 1: Behavior (Selection for Behavioral Characteristics)

(Moderator: Claire Calder, Belgium)

- New developments / issues of validation of behavioral / mentality assessment
- Needs / concerns / opinions of breeders / owners
- Integration of behavior assessment in breeding strategies and breeding programs
- Moving forward and next steps.

Workshop 2: Breed Specific Health Strategies

Sub-session 1: **Overall breed specific strategies to handle health issues nationally and internationally** *(Moderator; Åke Hedhammar, Sweden)*

Sub-session 2: **Strategies to address exaggerated anatomical features.** (e.g. those impacting the ability to see, breath and move and including, but not limited to, initiatives related to dog shows. *(Moderator; Patricia Olson, USA)*

Workshop 3: Genetic Testing *(moderator Dr. Jerold Bell, USA)*

- Need for evaluation of ever-increasing numbers of tests and labs: quality and validation, application to general and specific breeding strategies and breeds
- National and international needs /strategies / initiatives
- Moving forward and next steps.

Workshop 4: Dogs in Motion *(Martin Fischer)*

- General principles, methods and studies of dogs' locomotion and motion
- Towards a functional understanding of joints and the skeletomuscular system of dogs

Sunday

Participants at the 1st IDHW identified the need for both an organization to bring diverse stakeholders together and an internet platform to facilitate sharing information and supporting collaborative efforts. On Sunday we will present the International Partnership for Dogs and launch the DogWellNet.com website. Speakers from various stakeholder groups will profile the collaborative efforts that are a focus of this initiative. We will also review and discuss the achievements and issues from Saturday's workshops and discussions and examine how the proposed action items may be supported by the IPFD and DogWellNet.com.

Topics will include:

DogWellNet.com: a public face and a sharing space... This is a community building platform with a great potential to bring together those working to support breeders and enhance dog health. The presentation will include a tour of the website, highlighting topics and functionality, in concert with the topics below. The resource will include guidance-based information and the potential for expert and experienced commentary on important topics.

Population data on health and disease – How and where do we get better information on breed-specific risks, share existing data and improve data resources? Exploring a potential forum for monitoring and comparing international registration data at a breed level

.... Dr. Dan O'Neill , Vet Compass, UK

What are the hot topics in *dog welfare, human-dog interactions and legislation* that impact breeders, cynological organizations and the larger dog community? DogWellNet.com plans to disseminate information and support working groups to address internationally relevant issues, e.g. commercial breeding and trade of dogs and breed-specific legislation with an aim to reduce redundancy of effort and improve actions. Dr. Patricia Olson, USA

Molecular genetic tests and testing – How do we address the challenges of an ever-increasing number of molecular-genetic tests from many sources; how can we help breeders, breed and kennel clubs, veterinarians and others find the best evidence and use it appropriately in breeding decisions? This is a complex issue and one needing international collaboration from a wide group of stakeholders. A new initiative is proposed from IPFD, building on ongoing work of others, e.g. WSAVA, kennel clubs, research institutions.

.... Dr. Jerold Bell, USA

(International) Breed-Specific Strategies and Collaborations – Is it time to start looking at the global population of dog, especially for certain breeds? How can DogWellNet.com bring information and people together to support action? ...Prof. Åke Hedhammar, Sweden

Education and Outreach – So many organizations are producing and presenting similar information on ethical principles, breeding guidelines; behavior and human-animal interactions; education for judges, breeders, youth, dog owners; and at community events. DogWellNet.com will direct people to the best sources of information and our partners will share not only descriptions and materials, but expertise and experience.

... Dr. Brenda Bonnett, Canada

Next Steps:

Naming names: Who move forward on specific initiatives?

3rd International Dog Health Workshop, France, fall 2016?

