

Annual Report 2014, FCI Breeding Commission

The annual meeting of the Breeding Commission was arranged in Riga, May 31st, with the most excellent hospitality of the Latvian Kennel Club.

Representatives from the following member countries were present at meeting: Austria (Mrs Heliane Maissen-Jarisch), Belgium (Mr Roger van Hoenacker), Finland (Dr Kirsi Sainio), France (Dr Frédéric Maison), Italy (Ms Maria Ceccarelli), Latvia (Ms Inga Cerbule), Luxembourg (Mr Nicolas Schwab), Norway (Dr Astrid Indrebø), Portugal (Mr Luís Gorjão Henriques), Slovakia (Mrs Nora Takacova), Switzerland (Ms Yvonne Jaussi) and Sweden (Ms Annica Uppström).

President: Dr Astrid Indrebø, Norway

Vice president: Ms Yvonne Jaussi, Switzerland

Secretary: Dr Kirsi Sainio, Finland

Breed Specific Instructions (BSI) regarding exaggeration in pedigree dogs

Several important issues were discussed at the meeting. Among them was the Nordic project Breed specific instruction (BSI) regarding exaggerations in pedigree dogs, presented by dr. Astrid Indrebø. BSI was initiated by the Swedish Kennel Club (SKK) in 2009, and the Nordic BSI project started in 2012. The Nordic Kennel Union (NKU) is responsible for this project. There has been extensive collaboration between dog show judges, breed clubs, veterinary surgeons and health insurance statistics in the Nordic countries. The NKU BSI document was finished in April 2014.

The BSI document is in accordance with the FCI Basic statement for show judges: *Dogs fit for their original function*. Health and animal welfare for all pedigree dogs, based on the breed standards, are the basic elements in BSI. The intention is to raise the awareness of the judge regarding exaggerations and soundness. This will have great impact on the selection of dogs for breeding. There has been a lot of negative focus on dog shows and pedigree dogs the last years. The use of the BSI program will promote healthy dog breeding, based on healthy breed standards.

The FCI Standard Commission, together with the countries of origin for the specific breeds, has done excellent work during the last decades to improve the breed standards. If judges and breeders follow the FCI standards, without exaggerating of the breed specific features, there should be a healthy future for pedigree dogs. Among the most serious problems seen in many popular pedigree dogs to day, caused by exaggeration, is the respiration problems and eyelid problems. These are specially described in the Appendix of BSI.

The BC made the following decision: *The Breeding Commission fully supports the NKU Breed Specific Instructions (BSI) regarding exaggeration in pedigree dogs; BSI is fundamental in the work of preventing unhealthy breeding. The BC encourage all kennel clubs to work in accordance to the BSI guidelines. The BC encourage FCI to publish the NKU-BSI on their web-site and to work for similar instructions within all FCI countries.*

DogWellNet – a unique platform for sharing information concerning dogs, breeding and animal welfare

The president and secretary gave a short presentation of the background and current development of DogWellNet.com and the International Partnership for Dogs (IPFD), which represents an exciting new development to support cooperation, collaboration and sharing of information and resources across the global dog community. This groundbreaking collaboration between Kennel Clubs, veterinary organisations and other stakeholders in dog health will serve to highlight the good work that is ongoing to enhance dog health, well-being

and welfare and human-dog interactions. It will help us to identify the gaps in our knowledge and to identify the important next steps in this important work.

The BC made the following decision: *The FCI Breeding commission supports the work of the International Partnership of Dogs and the DogWellNet.com to enhance dog health, well-being and welfare and human-dog interactions across the global dog community, and request to FCI to be an active partner in the partnership, both ideologically and financially. The Breeding Commission also stresses that we should not only point out problems and issues concerning the pedigree dogs but all dogs, also dogs without a pedigree. The problems are the same in all dogs.*

Crossing of breed varieties

The new proposed text from the joint meeting of Scientific and Standard Commission in Amsterdam in April, where the president of BC was invited by FCI to be present, was discussed and approved by the BC.

In addition, the BC agreed to propose to GC that the coat, colour and size should be added in the three generation pedigree, including the export pedigrees. This was approved by the GC at their November meeting.

Registration of imported dogs that would have been registered with limited registration (not allowed for breeding) if it was born in the country to where it is imported

This issue has been discussed also at the 2013 meeting, and the following proposal was then sent to the GC: *Standing Orders, art 5.2 should be change to (the proposed addition to text is bold and underlined): Any member or contract partner can refuse to (re)-register in its studbook, **or register with limited registration not to be used for breeding**, a dog suffering from hereditary defects or featuring defects which go against Art 2 in the Statues or a dog which does not comply with the rules of selection defined by the member or contract partner in question.*

At the GC meeting in April, the proposal was turned down.

The BC had a long discussion on the issue at our meeting in May 2014, and all the delegates agreed to send the proposal to GC once more, as they find the matter of major importance for the breeding of healthy pedigree dogs.

Summary of the discussion: There is clearly now contradictory to regulations in some of the FCI countries vs. FCI regulations (Finland, Switzerland and France, and Norway will probably do the same). Belgium also pointed out that if FCI do not allow limited registration also on imported dogs like BC has proposed, the national political authorities might start to interfere, especially when it comes to health issues.

Background

Some national kennel clubs register dogs with a limited registration (not no be used for breeding) due to e.g.:

- increased risk for diseases of the dog
- or increase risk for diseased offspring
- or disqualifying coat colour
- or to prevent matador breeding which will increase the risk for narrowing the gene pool which in turn will increase the risk of inbreeding.

According to the FCI rules (**Standing Orders, art. 8.2**), *a member or contract partner can refuse to (re)-register in its studbook a dog suffering from hereditary defects or featuring*

defects which go against Art 2 in the Statutes or a dog which does not comply with the rules of selection defined by the member or contract partner in question.

The FCI International Breeding rule, Art.1, point 1-3:

1. The International Breeding Regulations of the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI) are binding on all member countries and contract partners.

- These FCI breeding regulations apply directly to all FCI member countries as well as the contract partners. This means that breeding may only be carried out with pedigree dogs which have a sound temperament, are healthy in functional and hereditary terms and are registered with a studbook or register (appendix) recognised by the FCI. In addition, they have to fulfil the requirements specified by the relevant FCI member or contract partners.
- The only dogs which are considered to be healthy in hereditary terms are those transferring breed standard features, breed type and temperament typical of that breed without displaying any substantial hereditary defects which could impair the functional health of its descendants. The members and contract partners of the FCI are required in this regard to prevent any exaggeration of breed features in the standards, which could result in impairment of the dogs' functional health.
- Dogs with eliminating faults such as e.g. unsound temperament, congenital deafness or blindness, hare-lip, cleft palate, substantial dental defects or jaw anomalies, PRA, epilepsy, cryptorchidism, monorchidism, albinism, improper coat colours or diagnosed severe hip dysplasia may not be bred.

Questions that were discussed:

- How do we register imported dogs that are registered without limitations in the country from where they are imported, but would have limited registration if they were born in our country?
The unanimous opinion of all the delegates FCI Breeding Commission is that the rules for registration and limited registration should be the same for all dogs registered in the national kennel club, independent where the dog is born.
- Are the kennel clubs allowed to register an imported dog with limited registration, according to Standing Orders 8.2, even though it has a normal registration (without limitation) from the export country?
The unanimous opinion of all the delegates FCI Breeding Commission is that this must be allowed!
- Or are the kennel clubs only allowed to refuse registration of the imported dog?
It is the opinion of the Breeding Commission that it is much better to register these dogs with limited registration than to refuse to register them.
- Does the Standing Orders allow the national kennel clubs to register these dogs with limited registration (not to be used for breeding) due to our national rules?
As the Breeding Commission understand Standing Orders, Art 5.2, the kennel clubs are not allowed to do this.
Then it is clearly now contradictory to regulations in some of the FCI countries vs. FCI regulations (Finland, Switzerland and France, and Norway will probably do the same). If FCI do not allow limited registration also on imported dogs like BC has proposed, the national political authorities might start to interfere, especially when it comes to health issues.

Some examples:

- If one (or both) parents have severe hip dysplasia or elbow dysplasia, offspring in some countries are registered with limited registration.
If a dog from parents with severe HD/ED is imported, can it then be registered with limited registration?
- Some kennel clubs issue pedigrees with limited registration on offspring if the stud dogs has more than a certain number of offspring/litters (and some kennel clubs refuse to register these puppies). If the stud dog has puppies in another country after exceeding the number of puppies/litters and these puppies are imported to a country where his puppies would have been registered with limited registration, are the recipient country allowed to register the dog with limited registration?
- Some kennel clubs register e.g. two coloured poodles, white boxers etc, with a limited registration. In accordance to FCI International Breeding Rules, Art 18, *all litters are to be fully registered at the same time; this includes all puppies reared to the date of application for registration*. This implies that it is not allowed to refuse registration of puppies with disqualifying coat colour born in a litter with accepted colours.
Can an imported e.g. two coloured poodle with a full registration from the export country be registered with a limited registration in the country to which it is imported?

The GC discussed the matter again in their November meeting, and the board approved the proposal. The point will be on the agenda of the next General Assembly in 2015.

The use of FCI approved kennel names

This issue has been discussed several times in the commission. The proposal has also previously been sent to GC: The following should be added in Art 9.4 of the Standing Orders (underlined):

FCI approved kennel names should only be used on litters registered in the stud book of the national kennel organizations.

Based on this proposal from BC, the General Committee sent the following proposal forward to the General Assembly in 2013, to be added to the FCI Standing Orders (art 9.4,c):

A national canine organisation can add the FCI registered kennel name on the pedigrees if the breed in question is recognised by the national canine organisation issuing the pedigree and/or by the FCI.

The proposal was approved by the General Assembly. It is, however, the opinion of the BC that the present Art 9.4.c do not cover our proposal. The point of the proposal is that a breeder with an FCI recognized kennel name **are not allowed to use this FCI recognized kennel name** on unregistered puppies (meaning puppies that are not registered in the stud book of the national kennel organization), when selling the puppies or announcing them for sale, or register them with unofficial pedigrees in unofficial registries.

The BC decided once more to send the proposal to GC. The Board discussed the matter again in their November meeting: "The Board keeps understanding that the decision made by the General Assembly in 2013 is correct and covers the point raised by the Breeding Commission. It "protects" the breeds recognised at national level only as they are allowed to have the FCI logo on their pedigrees. In addition, unregistered puppies do not get pedigrees. »

Owners name at the pedigree – or separate owner's certificate

Article 8 in FCI Standing Orders gives instructions concerning owners name on pedigrees:

- Art 8.8 states that "each dog of a litter has to be provided with only one export pedigree, which must include the name of the owner of the dog."

- Art 8.9 states that *“For each dog registered with an FCI member or contract partner and then exported, the national canine organisation that last registered the dog shall certify the transfer of the ownership to the new owner by stating his name and address on the export pedigree.”*

Several countries do not include the name of the owner at the pedigree, but issue a separate owner certificate for the dog.

The BC decided to propose to GC that the FCI Standing Orders, Art 8.8 and 8.9 should be changed: if the export pedigree does not include the information about the owner, there must be a separate owner's certificate:

*Art 8.8 (the proposed changes are bold and underlined): each dog of a litter has to be provided with only one export pedigree, which ~~must~~ **should** include the name of the owner of the dog; **if the name of the owner is not written on the pedigree, there must be a separate owner's certificate issued by the national kennel organisation.***

*Art 8.9 (the proposed changes are bold and underlined): For each dog registered with an FCI member or contract partner and then exported, the national canine organisation that last registered the dog shall certify the transfer of the ownership to the new owner by stating his name and address on the export pedigree **or by a separate owners' certificate.***

The issue was discussed at the board meeting of GC in November; the board agreed on the proposal which will be on the agenda of the next General Assembly in 2015.

Studbook Initials on pedigrees

Art 8.3 in Standing Orders says that “the registration numbers and the initials should be provided for at least three generations.” Austria presented three examples of pedigrees with missing studbook initials. This makes it very difficult to figure out where the dogs come from.

The Breeding Commission decided to ask the FCI Secretariat to send a circular to remind the national kennel organisations that is of uttermost importance to add the initials to the registration numbers and not only the numbers, as stated in Standing Orders, Art 8.3.

The FCI Secretariat has reported back to the commission that a circular will be issued.

Date and place for the next meeting

The German Kennel Club (VDH) has kindly invited the commission to have our next meeting in Dortmund February 13th 2015, in connection with the 2th International Dog Health Work Shop. The delegated are all encouraged to attend the work shop.

Astrid Indrebø
President of the FCI Breeding Commission

Illustrations:

In connection with BSI, please set in the following text and photo:

The FCI Standard Commission, together with the countries of origin for the specific breeds, has done excellent work during the last decades to improve the breed standards. One example is the description of the fontal in breed standard of Chihuahua. It takes generations to change a breed, and the changes in this breed standard has been step by step to give the breeders time to select against a very unhealthy feature: the fontanel.

1985: *The molera (a fontanel) is typical for the breed, but not absolutely necessary*

1996: *Well rounded "apple domed" head, without or only with a small fontanel.*

2004: *Preferably without fontanel, but a small fontanel is accepted. Large fontanel is disqualifying.*

2009: *Well rounded apple head. Disqualifying faults: Dogs with an open fontanel.*

A three months old Chihuahua puppy was brought in coma to the Small Animal Clinic of the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science. It had been playing on the floor when it bumped into a chair. Examination showed severe head trauma, due to a large fontanel. The puppy was euthanized.

Why are puppies like this still born? Changes in the breed standard only have impact on pedigree dogs, and most impact on show dogs. When a breed gets popular, there often is a major rise in unregistered puppies and commercial breeding. Healthy breed standards has little impact on unregistered dogs....

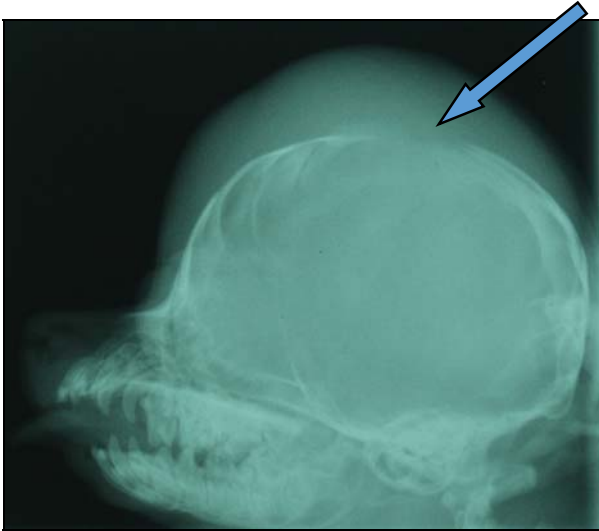


Photo of the delegates

