



Icelandic Sheepdog International Cooperation

19th of February 2014

Minutes

The 18th International seminar for the Icelandic Sheepdog Copenhagen, Denmark, 25th – 27th of October 2013

Participants

ISIC/Executive committee (ISIC/exec)

ISIC/exec, chairman	Guðrún Ragnars Guðjohnsen
ISIC/exec, treasurer	Wilfred Olsen
ISIC/exec, secretary	Hans-Åke Sperne
ISIC/exec, secretary	Svend Brandt Jensen

Club representatives:

DÍF, Iceland	Guðríður Valgeirs dóttir Helga Andrésdóttir
ISAA, USA	B. M. "Spike" Williamson, Jr.
Islanninkoirat, Finland	Katariina Jarkko Anne Vaskio
NIHK, Norway	Ellen H. Tangen Lill-Hege Nygaard
SIFK, Sweden	Ingbritt Sannel May-Britt Sannerholt
IF-DK, Denmark	Jørgen Metzdorf Else Westermann
DCNH, Germany	Susanne Schütte
VdIL, Netherlands	Natasja Hagemeier Helma van Rijswijk
Switzerland	Pia Stämpfli
Austria:	Susanne Götzinger

Guests:

ISIC/breed	Wilma Roem, Netherlands
IF-DK, Denmark	Helene Qvistgaard Heidi Poulsen Nete Trorup Kate Palmquist Anja Sørensen

Agenda

1. Opening of the 18th ISIC seminar
2. Announcement of a chairman and secretary
3. ISIC/Executive report
4. Homepage report
5. ISIC Finances
6. ISIC/Fund and additional Fund
7. Club reports and topics
- 8a. Chairman Group topics
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9. Joint meeting
10. Announcement of an ISIC/Executive member for 3 years
11. Next and futures ISIC seminars
12. Others

1. Opening of the 18th ISIC seminar

The chairman of the Icelandic Sheepdog Club in Denmark, Jørgen Metzdorff welcomed, as the host, the delegates to this year seminar in Copenhagen.

The Chairman of the Icelandic Sheepdog International Cooperation, Guðrún Ragnars Guðjohnsen, ISIC/exec, opened the seminar with a special welcome to the new members and thanked the Danish club for hosting. Guðrún explained the purpose of cooperation, namely that "ISIC is an international cooperation between the Icelandic sheepdog breed clubs; every member belongs to their national Kennel club and has their own rules and regulations. ISIC's goal and concern is cooperating internationally to protect and preserve the breed as the homeland standard describes it. Every breed club has the same status in ISIC; ISIC is not a club. There is no ISIC board just an executive committee with the task to ensure yearly seminars as well as assist and preserve between seminars. ISIC – the cooperation – has its Rules of Procedures".

Guðrún went on to the topic herding, pointing out that herding was the duty of the dog and it simply learned it from the people around according to the jobs at the farm or in the family. It should not be barking at anything that moves – that would be more a stress symptom.

2. Announcement of a chairman and secretary

Katariina Jarkko was suggested as Chairman and Svend Brandt Jensen, ISIC/exec, as Secretary of the Seminar. Both were elected.

Hans-Åke Sperne, ISIC/exec, invites every Club to leave behind internal miscommunication behind and focus on the breeding of our small breed. We must be aware of the good things; the good is happening and not just focus on the negative. Other small breeds have been forced to work with health matters. A small breed is a breed in danger when talking genetics. Other dog breeds are in the process of examining options to add new blood from other breeds. We must bear this in mind when we talk about our own breed.

Then Katarina Jarkko welcomed as Chairman of the seminar.

3. ISIC/Exec report

Hans-Åke Sperne presented the ISIC/exec report that had been sent to the ISIC contact person in each partner country, i.e. the chairman in each club. Hans-Åke noted that it is the responsibility of each chairman to forward messages from ISIC/exec to other delegates in their respective clubs.

Hans-Åke Sperne went through the document. At the subject Health Breed Profile the suggestion that the Swedish and Danish Club and other clubs as well work together to secure better statistics from the insurance company Agria. It is an interesting topic, and we will find out if we in the future have the possibility to have a homepage including the statistics of the health of our breed through the insurance company Agria.

Mentality: Discussion about the possibility and will to make identical Mental Test in different countries. Denmark is using this area actively in the breeding. A possibility is presented that we can send a team of test people from the Danish Test Group to member countries.

The topic will be discussed later in the Breeding Group.

4. Homepage report

Wilfred Olsen presented the updated version of the ISIC homepage and explained the structure and content. The new website is built and designed by Hans Thollef Bergan, who is also the Webmaster.

The website contains a pure "gold mine" of information, including submissions from individual lectures / presentations by each year. There has over the years been the talk of what information must be on the website, including on the minutes to be on the page. However, this should be decided by the chairman group as part of a policy for the homepage.

Texts will be examined subsequently, e.g. the historical part of the texts and checked for spelling errors.

5. ISIC Finances

The annual report for 2012 was presented and discussed point by point by the Treasurer Wilfred Olsen. The financial statements for 2012 were approved.

The financial statements for 2013 to date were presented.

Contribution of the year 2014 will be discussed in the chairman group (agenda point 8a).

6. ISIC/Fund and additional Fund

Hans-Åke Sperne: Fund and additional Fund are designed for lectures and education at the meetings.

The Fund's only income is the jewellery from Gusti. The collection for the fund is coming primary for the ISIC logo sticks.

Helga Andrésdóttir recommends bringing items for sale and - like her - donating a portion of the income from the sale to the ISIC Fund.

The premiums received for the lottery until now was presented (mentioned) in this item.

Special fund: The Fund in memory of Catalin Westenheim - the so-called additional Fund – was mentioned in the ISIC Newsletter – March 2013.

7. Club reports and topics

Comments from the clubs to the yearly reports:

Austria:

Hopes to get much information at this ISIC seminar to be able to inform the breeders. One of the major problems in Austria is that there is usually only one to two dogs in the ring at shows and that judges are not familiar with the breed. You get excellent/champ and even with dogs that are less good become BOB in exhibitions.

Denmark:

"From restrictions to recommendations". It is too early to draw conclusions. Exhibitions are now only recommendations, but there is no reduction in the number of dogs shown.

Finland:

Good health situation. In terms of breeding there are too many recommendations that are difficult to understand, especially for a new breeder. They need to be simplified and made clearer.

Germany:

Many dogs are x-rayed, which gives a lot of information about breeding in Germany. It is expected that the number of puppies rise.

Iceland:

Several breeders and buyers have financial problems and many puppies are therefore out of the country. There are a small number of males available for breeding.

Danish ophthalmologists are doing the eye studies and breeders do not always get their dogs' eyes checked in time (due to time of year /geography).

Norway:

All board members are new people. A few puppies born - are working on it.

Recommendations are amended to make it easier for the breeder.

The Kennel Club does not have many regulations. Not everyone follows the recommendations of the breed club.

The Norwegian club's board members are spread over long distances.

Sweden:

The number of members is reduced, but we are hoping for an improvement.

Only a few pups born - very low - because fewer dogs are a part of the breed. There is also a problem with the number of pups per litter. But we will not lose genetic variation.

Talked about the outcome of MBH, which now also introduced a new / different description. Both are also used for Icelandic sheepdogs. The new one is more behaving of social life in towns and states: "Behaving and personality description".

Switzerland:

Only one breeder is producing most of the puppies - also in view of the colours. In Switzerland there are great demands on breeders and their physical environments. Many travel to neighbouring countries to buy puppies where it is cheaper and easier.

The Netherlands:

Regulations are the same as before. Numbers of litters are small / litter sizes are higher.

X-rays: Good results

X-rays + HIP: Every year

USA:

No comments

The meeting was then split into two parts, namely a separate meeting of the chairmen and a separate meeting of the Breeding representatives, the following points 8a and 8b

8a. Chairman Group topics (Rules of Procedures §7)

"How come that ISIC has survived during 18 years?"

This was one of the questions for the extra Chairman Meeting that was cancelled. Because of that, questions linked to "ISIC in the future" will be the main topic for the Chairman Group (ISIC/chair) during this seminar.

1. Approval of the register of participants

The register of participants was approved.

Germany, Switzerland and Austria were not represented in the meeting.

2. Presentation of ISIC/exec's activity report, including balance sheet and profit and loss account for the previous year

The activity report was approved.

3. Presentation of the auditor's report

The auditor's report was approved.

4. Adoption of the documents mentioned in item 2 and 3 in this list as well as actions of ISIC and ISIC/Executive committee is not subject to personal liability

Approved and accepted.

5. Appointment of a person to be one out of three members of ISIC/exec for three years

Hans-Åke Sperne resigns from the Executive Committee this year and Guðrún Ragnars Guðjohnsen and Wilfred Olsen in 2014. In order to ensure a proper transfer of knowledge from the "old" members of the committee, the executive committee proposes that the committee until the next seminar consists of four people.

The following was decided:

Katriina Jarkko was elected for a period of 3 years.

In 2014 a new person will be elected for 3 years.

6. Appointment of an auditor for three years every third year when applicable

Jan Erikson was selected as auditor last year. Re-election of the auditor must take place in 2015.

7. Decision upon the contributions to be paid the following year

Agreement was reached on a future formula for calculating the annual contribution from the collection of fees for 2014:

Each member club must send a statement of the number of members to the Treasurer each year by February.

The calculation applies to the membership at the end of last year - for 2014 so the number of members at the end of December 2012.

8. Presentation of an updated profit and loss account for the current year

The profit and loss account for the current year was approved.

9. Presentation of ISIC/exec planned activities for the next year and a cost estimate for these activities

At the preparatory meeting before the seminar ISIC/exec has worked with four proposals (A-D) for activities the next and subsequent years:

A: Every second year seminar's can be open seminars for all club members and

B: Arranging an "Icelandic Sheepdog festival show (exhibition)" with the participation of all countries and lectures. The "festival show" will take place in a summer period and will be organized by ISIC and with support from ISIC / exec. Any profit goes to the Fund.

The aim is also to learn more about international cooperation and what we have succeeded over the years. If we wish, we can start by finding some participants to such a working group. We want to introduce to our members what ISIC is and what we have succeeded, including that we are talking about only one breed.

The establishment of a working group of three people to come up with content for this: Two from the chairman group and one from the breeding group to form the ideas. Hereto, to develop proposals for other chairmen and ISIC/exec. Wilfred Olsen will support (e.g. for shows), but does not participate in the working group.

It is a brainstorming group consisting of: Ingbratt Sannel, Natasha Hagemeier and Else Westermann. Deadline for ideas is the 1st of March 2014 and it will be sent to ISIC/exec who shall transmit them to all clubs.

C: ISIC/exec prepares an article on the work of ISIC, which can be brought into the club magazines.

Gudrun and Hans-Åke write the article as their own description and history.

The Fund pays a flight ticket so that they can write the story together either in Sweden or Iceland.

D: Publication of the database and records of seminars on ISIC website.

ISIC/exec believes that information about the work of cooperation should be made public to all members of clubs and other interested parties to create greater transparency and a greater awareness of our work. Examples could include the minutes from seminars, annual reports and the new web-based database of all Icelandic sheepdogs.

The Chairman group agrees to the database as well as annual reports and minutes are placed on the ISIC homepage.

Minutes:

We continue to select a secretary (a “note-taker”) who writes the minutes. These are sent to ISIC/exec for perusal. From these there will be made a statement, as may be published on the website (without names). The minutes from 2012 can be published in the same way.

Annual reports:

Suggestions: Each club removes, before the 1st of December 2013, the information from the annual report, which should not be published, and send the report to ISIC/exec. Countries may choose to bring the full reports on their own websites, if it is secured that there is only access for members.

10. Discussion and other proposals

Meeting activity and frequency of each country and the logistics were discussed. As an extension to this, the numbers of annual meetings of the executive committee to follow up seminars and arrange new were discussed. Also, the possibility and the need to hold the meetings face to face or whether they can be held via Skype were discussed. Finally, the frequency of the seminars was discussed, whether they are held annually or at two-year intervals.

Guðrún Ragnars Guðjohnsen noted that the reason that the members of the executive committee participated in so many years is that there has been great interest in performing the work and meeting for seminars each year as well as meet 1-2 times a year for work meetings. These meetings also provide the necessary energy.

Guðrún suggested that a lava rock is given to Pieter Oliehoek and Jan Erikson for their work for the cooperation to appreciate the work carried out for the benefit of the ISIC cooperation. The proposal was adopted.

Decided: ISIC/exec continues meeting activities as before. If possible, through online services, such as Skype..

Frequency of seminars:

Wilfred Olsen pointed out that there are new people in the clubs each year and that the best human contact is achieved by meeting face to face.

Spike expressed that if the seminars should be held every two years, it would be seminars with a huge content. This speaks for the holding of annual meetings.

8b. Breeding Group topics



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Main topics in the Breeding Group (BG) are linked to our always important matter “Breeding in small populations”. Such topics are announced by ISIC clubs and ISIC/Breeding Committee (BC).

Following topics were discussed. A rich note of the meeting of the breeding group can be found in Appendix A:

ISIC/Database:

Requests from Guðni Ágústsson

DIF:

- a. *Information on the current situation regarding hereditary eye diseases in Icelandic sheepdogs in their country.*
- b. *What are the regulations that dogs and bitches have to fulfil regarding health before being allowed to be used in breeding by both the breed club and the national kennel club?*
- c. *What are the recommendations that dogs and bitches have to fulfil regarding health before being allowed to be used in breeding by both the breed club and the national kennel club?*

VIJHN:

Information about the other club in The Netherlands.

Important to open up for a breed related perspective!

Hans-Åke referred to the challenge to preserve “Norsk Lundehund”. It is important to focus on the cooperation – mostly it is necessary to be rational about the breeding.

IF-DK Breed type differences – strategy?

Recommendations vs. restrictions.

Genetic diversity and selection.

How can the clubs work for more males in breeding?

Mentality descriptions?

The number of mentality described dogs has decreased. What can we do to change this development?

Herding.



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9. Joint meeting

All proposals from both the chairman and the breeding group adopted.

10. Announcement of an ISIC/Executive member for 3 years

Hans-Åke Sperne resigns from the Executive Committee this year and Guðrún Ragnars Guðjohnsen and Wilfred Olsen in 2014. In order to ensure a proper transfer of knowledge from the "old" members of the committee to the new, the Chairman group has decided that the ISIC/Executive, also for the period until the next seminar, will consist of four people.

The following was or is elected:

2012 Svend Brandt Jensen for 3 years (secretary)
2013 Katariina Jarkko for 3 years
2014 A new person will be elected for 3 years

11. Next and future ISIC seminars

The seminars are in principle rotating among the countries and the following has been decided for the coming years:

2014 Sweden
2015 Iceland
2016 ?
2017 USA

12. Others

At this point, Hans-Åke Sperne praised and thanked for his participation in the ISIC / Executive Committee since the cooperation started in 1996 and to have been one of the people who helped to start the cooperation between clubs for Icelandic sheepdogs.

Note-takers: Svend Brandt Jensen, Helene Qvistgaard and Wilma Roem