



Icelandic Sheepdog International Cooperation

22th ISIC seminar Everett, Washington, USA 27th – 29th of October 2017

Traditionally the ISIC seminar took place during the last weekend of October - so also in 2017. This ISIC seminar was the 22th seminar that the ISIC/Executive Committee has had the honour of organizing since the Icelandic Sheepdog International Cooperation started in 1996. The seminars have been arranged yearly, always in cooperation with a hosting breed club in one of the ISIC countries.

The seminar this year was hosted by the The Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America. We are grateful to ISAA, hosting the ISIC seminar for the first time.

The seminar took place at The Inn At Port Gardner, 1700 West Marine View Drive, Everett, WA 98201. Very nice surroundings and a friendly atmosphere, many interesting conversations during the actual meeting as well as on our free time.

Participation

As usual, each club was welcome to send two delegates; usually the club president/chairman and the breeding committee responsible person in the club. These two delegates represent their club in the "chairman group" and the "breeding group". Some countries were not represented at all during this meeting and some had only one representative present.

Spike Williamson and Peg Johnson ISAA were our hosts



Agenda

Friday 27th of October 2017

No-Host Dinner

Scuttlebutt Brewing

We all met for a nice dinner and conversations.

Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th of October 2017

Opening of the 22th ISIC seminar

Spike Williamson greeted us all and wished us a nice stay and an interesting seminar. *Svend Brant Jensen* offered the traditional small Danish drink of "Gammel Dansk" and we made a toast to ISIC.

Svend Brandt Jensen made a speech where he reminded us of how ISIC all started and how this meeting in the USA has been planned for some years and now we are here. *Svend* pointed out for us that ISIC is a voluntary cooperation between clubs, not a club on its own. He then went on to welcome our guests from Canada who are not members yet, but we hope for that in the future and he announced that after the formal decision be made in the Chairman group ISIC would have a new member since France has applied for membership.

Since some years back *Spike W* has performed a lottery where you could win a contribution to the trip to USA for this meeting. You could only claim your win if you attended the meeting and since some winners from previous years were not present, their sums were divided between the countries who had not won earlier, and a sum also went to ISIC exc.

Spike W was then announced Chairman and *Ingbritt Sannel* Secretary for the seminar

Svend gave a short report of the ISIC/Executive committee and it's work. To save money meetings have only been on Skype but suggested at least one meeting each year should be a meeting face to face.

Katariina Jarkko then presented the economic situation and our auditor *Jan Ericson* was present and could verify that they were in good order. After some discussion concerning cost and where to hold meetings etc the budget was accepted.

Each country could highlight something from their reports and Iceland told us that the breed is getting more popular in Iceland and they realise they need "new blood" to avoid inbreeding. They have had a good year and have new ideas- From Holland *Natasja* the genetic diversion research done there, more closely described in the report. They will invite ISIC countries to a seminar in 2018 concerning this.



ISAA has had a good year. Hans Åke Sperne judged the club show there as well as in Iceland. The AKC has introduced a new form of competition that could be suited for our dogs, Farm dog Denmark informed of more members in the club and that many Danish dogs take part I obedience and rally competitions.

From *Finland* we were told that they now have a recommendation of only 18 puppies /dog, both male and female. And they have a new webpage www.islanninkoirat.se

Sweden is also slowly growing and getting more members. They are worried that few puppies are being born in Sweden.

Pat Putman Lecture was next on the agenda, but she fell suddenly ill just a few days before the seminar and we did not have the opportunity to hear her very much longed-for speech about her days working for Mark Watson at Wensum Kennels in Nicosia, California, but we got her handouts and could read them.

Hans Åke Sperne was present, just as a bystander, but we were lucky that he was there and could give us a lecture on the breed and his long experience with the Icelandic sheepdog

After lunch we split up in *Chairman Group* and *Breeding Group*
Notes from the Chairmangroup:

Chairman group meeting

To be discussed and decided in the Chairman meeting (RoP §7)

- Approval of the register of participants
- Presentation of ISIC/exec's activity report including balance sheet and profit and loss account for the previous year
- Presentation of the auditor's report
- Adoption of the documents mentioned in item 2 and 3 in this list, as well as actions of ISIC and ISIC/Executive committee are not subject to personal liability
- Decision upon the contributions to be paid the following year
- Presentation of an updated profit and loss account for the current year
- Presentation of ISIC/exec planned activities for the next year and a cost estimate for these activities.
- CFCNSJ, France. Membership application to ISIC from 2018
- The web-based Database in the future
- Seminars 2018 (Denmark) and 2019 (Denmark?)
- Overhaul of the ISIC RoP, status by Spike Williamson
- Appointment of a person to be one out of three members of ISIC/exec for three years. Ingbritt Sannel is willing to be re-elected



1. Approval of the register of participants

Svend Brandt Jensen, ISIC/exec (chairman)
Katariina Jarkko, Finland and ISIC/exec (secretary)
Jan Erikson, Sweden
Gitte Baalkilde, Denmark
Natasja Hagemeier, Holland
Nancy Letkeman, Canada
Margrét Bára Magnúsdóttir, Iceland
Spike Williamsson, USA (chairman of the meeting)

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

Katariina made a presentation of ISIC/exec's activity report including balance sheet and profit and loss account for the previous year in a joint meeting.

3. Presentation of the auditor's report

Jan Erikson presented auditor's report to everyone. According to the auditor all documents and bookkeeping was in good order and according to professional accounting standards.

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

The ISIC/ ISIC exec. report and documents were approved.

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

Basic fee € 50 + € 1,20 per member, as agreed on 31. December 2012. The clubs will send the number of members by 31.12.2017 to the cashier. Katariina will remind about this by email.

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

Katariina presented of an updated profit and loss account for the current year and it was approved.

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

Katariina presented ISIC/ISIC exec. planned activities for the next year and a cost estimate. The ISIC exec. is willing to have one face-to-face meeting next year. The meeting could be held in Katariina's house in Finland. The cost of flights for three members of the ISIC exec. committee would be approximately 500€. The meeting costs were accepted by seminar members, as well as the rest of the cost estimate for 2018.

ISIC/exec. meeting in Finland	500 €		
Seminar in Denmark	1000 €		
Web page	400 €		
Other expenses	250 € (bank card, post cost etc.)		
TOTAL EXPENSES	2150 €	2 394,35 USD	15 531,49 DKK



8.The web-based Database in the future

There are some things that the members would like to improve in the Database. Holland would like to have a filter where you can search dogs by date. Holland has been creating their own database for genetic variation and they are active users of several databases.

Svend noted that ISIC needs to know more about how things are taken care of and if there is a backup for the data. ISIC exec. committee will contact *Jørgen Metzdorff* and *Guðni Ágústsson* about the practical things concerning the database.

Natasja noted that in the database inbreeding calculations are sometimes incorrect. Margret and Natasja will work together and get in touch with *Guðni* about the problems.

9.Seminars 2018 (Denmark) and 2019

The seminar in 2018 will be held in Denmark, and seminar 2019 will be decided later. The seminar in 2019 could be held in 1)Malmö, Sweden, 2)Finland, 3)Iceland or 4)Denmark.

The work load on organizing a seminar was discussed. There will be an estimated budget for arranging a seminar and then we need to decide how much ISIC will supplement the club that is responsible for taking care of the seminar. Some financial support from ISIC is necessary to have the yearly seminars.

10.Overhaul of the ISIC RoP, status by Spike Williamson

The language mistakes in the text itself have been corrected. The work as to the content of the RoP continues and is discussed in next year's seminar in Denmark. *Jørgen Metzdorff, Jan Erikson and Spike Williamson* continue working on that.

11.Appointment of a person to be one out of three members of ISIC/exec for three years. Ingbritt Sannel is willing to be re-elected

In the seminar in Reykjavik 2015 it was agreed that Iceland always has a representative in the ISIC executive committee as it is the breed's home country. In that same seminar 2015 it was also decided that there will be a trial period of three years (checked each year) with four members in the committee.

The importance of having an Icelandic member in the exec. committee is to get all breed-related information from Iceland effectively and all the time.

Ingbritt Sannel was elected for one year and in the seminar in Denmark this matter of three vs. four persons in the exec. committee will be taken up again.

12.CFCNSJ, France. Membership application to ISIC from 2018

Svend read the France membership application out loud. France would like to become a member starting from 1.1.2018. France was unanimously accepted as member of ISIC starting 1.1.2018. The membership fee for France will be the basic fee 50€. The ISIC exec. committee will inform the French contact person about all the necessary things (reports etc.).



13. Canadian participation in ISIC

In this seminar we have very welcomed guests from Canada - *Nancy Letkeman and Ron Harmer*, both members of Canadian Kennel Club CKC and ISAA.

Nancy Letkeman told that they were contacted by Terry Warnock in January 2017. Historical stud book information was needed in the ISIC database since that knowledge may be a base for other dogs.

There have been a lot of male dogs that have come to the States through Canada but perhaps have not been registered. CKC has been contacted to get information about Icelandic sheepdogs. The ISD stud books in Canada go back until 2005, the stud book for each year needs to be paid for and the cost is around 40 Canadian dollars.

The information that can be got by paying a stud book from CKC:

- name
- registration number
- date of birth
- colour
- litter number
- litter size
- individual puppies if they are registered individually

Nancy and Ron have generously offered to buy a ISD stud book for 2015 and see how much it entails and let ISIC know about that. Svend and Nancy will make a letter to CKC from ISIC. Margrét Bára Magnúsdóttir will work with Nancy Letkeman in exchanging information.

Nancy has good contact with several Canadian ISD breeders. There have been some attempts to get ISD breeders and owners come together and share common interest in the dogs and form a group. There are some national breed clubs in Canada but none for Icelandic Sheepdog.

It was decided in the meeting that for now Canada will attend seminars as very welcome observers and will strive to form a national breed club or at least have people get together for the good of the breed. Canadians will be sent the ISIC newsletters, the club magazines, addresses are nancy@ronanicelandics.ca and ron@ronanicelandics.ca

14. Homepage

There is a need to make the ISIC homepage more interesting and to have more information of the clubs there. *Svend* suggested that the exec. committee send questions to clubs and the answers are put on the homepage. In that way we would have some information of each club. *Natasja* reminded that all the country reports should be added to the homepage. The executive committee will take care of that.

15. Others

Natasja made a note that there are some dogs that cannot be entered to the database without their ancestors being entered first. Guðni can most likely help in entering these dogs separately.



Margrét will ask Guðni how to do that and contact Natasja, who is willing to add the information on the database.

Svend reminded that it is very important for ISIC to get as much information from the clubs as possible. Not only reports before the seminar, but also information in between seminars. So if there is anything the clubs want to share, the information can be sent to isic@icelanddog.org

Breeding group meeting

To be discussed in the Breeding Group:

- Review of the Annual reports
- Reports from the committees
- The web-based Database now and in the future
- Changes to the breed standard – status
- Closer cooperation on 'day-to-day' basis between the seminars - status

Notes from the breeding group Saturday afternoon- Sunday morning:

As always there was a review of the annual reports in more detail.

We spent a lot of time on the Danish report. *Else Westermann* pointed out that her statistics about artificial insemination and of caesareans shows an alarming increase. It is worrying if our breed cannot give birth the natural way. We discussed what could be the reason for these figures and came up with some explanations, but we cannot be sure before we know more of the situation in all other countries. *Else Westermann* and *Ingbritt Sannel* will construct a number of questions for the other countries to provide answers to and then we can continue the discussion and perhaps come up with suggestions for improvement. We saw inexperienced breeders who are in a hurry to get a mating at a certain day and who perhaps also feel sorry for their dog and seeks help from veterinarians a little too early when she is having the litter as one possible reason. But this is only speculation, we need to know more.

We all agreed on the fact that we need as many dogs as possible in breeding to keep the genetic variation and then early neutering is a serious problem. Neutering is becoming more common due to such things as dog care or behaviour. In most day care centres, they will only accept neutered male dogs and often neutering is recommended when a male dog shows "teenage behaviour". There is more of this in some countries, but it is growing almost everywhere. We hope that the Breeding Committee can come up with a information sheet to be given to dog owners to show to veterinarians, where we explain the importance of keeping males intact in breeds with a small number of dogs.

The web-based database was discussed, and some countries told of their difficulty to find out data of registered dogs. The Nordic countries can usually get information from their kennel clubs but that is not the fact in e.g USA. However, it is very important that we get all dogs into the database and we must try to find a way to include Canadian dogs there as well. The work must continue.



From Holland we were told more about research and the seminar and workshop that has been going on there. Here we will get a new tool for calculating the inbreeding of dogs. Based not just on 5 or 6 generations but on all dogs. A program used in Zoo's can be used if we put our data in and we can then classify dogs in groups with dogs of more or less similar genes. The meeting agreed that it would be very interesting for all countries to learn more about this and the Dutch representative told us we will be invited to a seminar in Holland in spring 2018 and then we can continue discussions on impressions from that seminar when we meet in Denmark in October 2018.

A suggestion from Iceland that the ISIC breeding committee be changed to include one member from each ISIC member country was discussed as well as the question from 2015 about closer day-to-day cooperation. It was decided that it would be a good idea to start a closed Facebook page for quick communication. For matters of more serious content, names of dogs and owners etc e-mail should be used but a short message on Facebook that an e-mail is coming helps to speed the reactions. The small breeding committee consisting of *May-Britt Sannerholt* and *Wilma Roem* will continue their work as before but exchange of ideas etc can happen in this new group that was started on the Sunday and Iceland is responsible for keeping it running.

Large group meeting

Reconvene for Large Group Meeting:
Decisions from the Chairman meeting
Decisions suggested by the Breeding Group

Traditionally the two groups meet at the end to close the meeting and inform each other of what has been discussed and decided. What took place in the breeding group was reported as you can read in these notes and you can also read the notes from the chairmen to find out what was decided there.

Finally Iceland informed us about changes in the breed standard- that is not the actual changes- nothing was said about that. We were informed of the long process dating back to 2006. We were informed of the working process and the formalities. A lot of people have been involved and they are trying to use words that will clarify parts that have been perhaps a bit obscure and hard to interpret. In October this year 2017 they have now come up with a final standard that is now in the hands of the Icelandic kennel club and if they say yes it will be sent to FCI.

That concluded our meeting and we said fare well and see you in Copenhagen next year.

Ingbritt Sannel