

Discussions in the ISIC Breeding Group

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Participants:

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Received Reports: The Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, Norway, Iceland, Denmark and Finland

Agenda

1. Review of the annual reports
2. The ISIC database
3. Dogs Global
4. Any other business

Discussions:

Review of the annual reports.

We had received seven annual reports before the meeting. Some came very late and therefore it was difficult to include the reports in the preparation for the meeting. We want to pay attention to the late reception and the reports that were missing. The annual reports are very important for the collaboration in ISIC. It is through the reports that we share and gather important information about the breed at a national level and in the whole population.

This is what we have agreed upon and in the Rules of Procedure of ISIC it says: All clubs compile a yearly report about breeding results and health statistics. **To be able to read these reports before the ISIC meeting, we request the countries to send their reports well in advance and at least one month before the ISIC meeting starts.**

There was not much discussion about the content of the reports. We have highlighted the eye examinations because there has been an increase in cases of PHTVL/PHPV from Iceland (See DÍF report). Worldwide we know of 25 Icelandic sheepdogs with this disease from official examinations.

Next to this, we highlighted the working abilities. Both Sweden and Finland use the FCI Natural Herding Aptitude Test (NHAT) and FCI Herding Working Test (HWT) Traditional style. As much as 58 dogs in Finland and 10 in Sweden have official results from traditional style tests. Because these are FCI tests, they will be available in other FCI countries as well in the future.

For the seminar in 2021, **we decided to add information about the estimated average mean kinship (MK) and inbreeding coefficient calculated (COI) over all generations in the format for the report.** This in addition to the average inbreeding coefficient calculated over five generations as we have now. To be able to follow the inbreeding level in the breed, it is important to follow the numbers over time and therefore we decided to continue with the current calculation model and add the new data to be able to compare the old with the new data.

We decided to ask ISIC/exec. to attach the new format for the report together with the invitation for the seminar 2021 and to remind all countries to use the format and to send it in time before the start of the next seminar.

ISIC data

There are still problems with incorrect data in both databases. (ISIC database and Dogs Global). There are dogs with missing pedigrees and because of this, the inbreeding coefficient will be miscalculated. The ISIC database has been offline for a period of three months and breed representatives in some countries started to add data into Dogs Global. These data had to be updated in ISIC database afterwards.

The difficulty with maintaining two databases with the same Icelandic sheepdogs in them, is to avoid differences between the databases that are not connected databases and hosted in two places. They both require maintenance and regular updating and because they are not connected, it will easily happen that differences appear.

A proposal has been sent by the ISIC Breed Administrators (ISIC database and dogs Global) to the Chairman group. They propose to stop with the current ISIC database and to make Dogs Global the one and only database for the ISIC data. We agree that Dogs Global is an appropriate database for ISIC and it should not be necessary to have more than one database. But the advantage of ISIC database is that it is free and everyone can do test matings and get the inbreeding coefficient (over 5 generations) for the potential future puppies. This is something many breeders still want to do.

When we continue with maintaining two databases, we need to agree upon the policy for updating the data. The breed representatives in the ISIC clubs should follow the official policy that says: The appointed breed representatives in the member clubs of ISIC upload official data to ISIC database only and ISIC will verify data and export them to Dogs Global.

Dogs Global

Wilma showed a presentation of Dogs Global.

In Dogs Global the inbreeding calculation (COI) goes back to the founders. This gives the real inbreeding (COI) for the breed. This tells us how the genes of the founders are distributed in the current population.

Inbreeding over 5 generations can be deceptive. It tells us about recent relationships only. It does not give a complete picture as all generations does.

Dogs Global provides a scheme with contributions of the ancestors under each dog's pedigree. This shows which ancestors that dog has and what the contribution of each ancestor in this dog is. When you are looking for a dog to mate with yours, you can see which dogs are common in both dogs' pedigrees.

The average inbreeding coefficient back to the founders for Icelandic sheepdogs is currently around 22%. This seems to be high figures, but when you compare this to other breeds it is not so high.

Mean Kinship calculates the relationship between dogs and how this dog is related to the entire population of living animals. This has to be recalculated annually when the new litters born that year have been add to the database.

The dogs with low mean kinship (MK) are less related to the rest of the breed – those genes are less present in the population.

1/3 of the population has a MK that's lower than 21,46% and this refers to green dogs.

The second 1/3 of the population, yellow dogs, have a MK value that is > 21,46% < 22,42% - their genes are in between/common.

The third 1/3 of the population, orange dogs, have a MK value that is > 22,42% - they are the most related to the majority of Icelandic sheepdogs.

The red dogs are orange dogs that already have more than ten offspring. From the point of view of genetic diversity of the breed, these red dogs are no longer contributing to diversity. It is better to use a sibling that has not yet produced in breeding.

Grey dogs do not get MK because they are dogs that could not be breed. They are too old, dead, neutered etc. When a dog dies, it is possible in Dogs Global to notify it. The ISIC Breed Administrator can go to update a dog and indicate that it died. When it is time to update the database again, the dog will change to grey.

The Health Data module is still under construction. The ISIC administrator will add HD data and later on eye data and other official health data. It is planned that also data from official mentality and working ability tests can be added. For the time being the clubs' breed representatives can upload the HD results in ISIC database, otherwise they will not be entered to Dogs Global.

The Breed representatives on today's meeting will ask Dogs Global to use only the main ancestors in the scheme of ancestors. This will benefit the clarity of the scheme. We will also ask: Is there a fixed date for the calculations so that we can get all litter info in prior to the calculation. Wilma will take this into consideration and inform about this date.

Any other business.

In Belgium a new club has been established for Nordic breeds. The Islandic sheepdog is one of the breeds in this club. The name of the club is Nordic Spitz Belgium and they have recently received official recognition by the Saint Hubert, the Belgium Kennel Club.

A litter is born in Slovenia after a German bitch and an Austrian stud dog from Iceland. This litter will be in the ISIC database soon.

We discussed Covid -19 issues according to breeding. Artificial insemination could be a good tool to overcome some of the Covid -19 issues.