

# **Breeding group notes, ISIC 2022, Finland**

Notes: Louise Roer

## **1. Members of the breeding group and members of Breeding Committee ISIC**

### **a. Breeding committee: May Britt, Wilma and Louise**

Wilma recommends that Louise helps from this year. Louise agrees to help with the notes.

### **b. Breed representatives and breeding committees in the countries**

Wilma – Breeding committee, breeding representative Netherland

Louise – Denmark – Breeding committee

Tove – Denmark – breeding representative

Jenny – Sweden – breeding representative

Tulla – Norway – breeding representative

Rósa – Iceland – observer

Ragnhildur – Iceland – breeding representative (online)

Heidi – Finland – breeding representative

### **c. Countries that are not in contact at the moment like France, Switzerland, Belgium**

It is important to include dogs from France, Switzerland and Belgium, in our database.

Dogs with French pedigree are used in Belgium. We need to get the French dogs included in ISIC database, otherwise the dogs exported to Belgium will miss the parents in ISIC database.

In Switzerland, few breeders are now breeding without FCI pedigree.

We need to warn our breeders, so they do not export to breeders breeding without FCI pedigree.

Breeding group recommend that the breeding group get acceptance from the chairman group, to contact the breeders outside FCI in Switzerland, to get a dialogue on how to get the breeders included again.

Belgium joined ISIC in 2021. In Belgium they have a new club for Nordic breeds. The breed representative for Icelandic sheepdogs resigned from the board and stopped breeding. We still have a breed representative in Belgium, and litters are still added to the database. Wilma will approach the breed representative to figure out how we can keep Belgium included in the future.

### **d. Canada**

Around 500 dogs, from Canada and USA, are missing in ISIC database compared to DG. As the Canadian dogs are missing in the database, that will have influence on the American dogs, as the Canadian dogs are parents and grandparents for some of the dogs in America.

The data are in DG and should be valid. If we want the data directly from the Canadian kennel club, we must pay a fee for each year of information/pedigrees we want.

One of the problems is that the Canadian breeders cannot access the ISIC database.

The breeding group will recommend the chairman group, that an appointed Canadian breeder get access to the ISIC database, so the data can go directly into ISIC database.

## **2. Annual club reports**

### **a. Summaries and questions + b. Overview statistics last 6 years**

#### ***Iceland***

Positive that more people are breeding on their females. Even if it is one or two litters. It adds to diversity. More people are interested in the breed. Good fit as a family dog.

Not only the numbers of females included are increased. The number of sires is also increasing. DIF are doing an active job on collection photos of sires that could be included in breeding.

#### ***Sweden***

In Sweden, there are many new breeders. Sweden is trying to work on information for new breeders, to help them in the beginning of their breeding program.

There was a short talk about the possibility of ISIC doing more to inform new breeders across countries. The breed committee will look into that during 2023.

#### ***The Nederland***

In Netherlands, "old" breeders function as mentors for new breeders. The club hosts a yearly meeting for breeders, where they introduce breeding recommendations and ISIC.

#### ***Denmark***

Denmark is focusing on adding to diversity in the breed, but states that we need to be very aware of the temper for the dogs. More males are getting unsecure, with lack of curiosity.

#### ***Norway***

Breeders are not that critical. They are only looking at HD results and eye examination. They will breed on traits that we do not want in the Icelandic sheepdog. We need to keep thinking on preserving or improve the breed.

Overall, the breeding group agreed, that we need to breed within the standard.

We should be critical, especially with that high number of litters. Is the litter adding to the breed?

We should breed for the breed and not for the breeding.

### **c. Health issues: HD, eyes**

#### ***Hips:***

The changes in hip results are partly according to better x-ray photos.

There are still problems in Denmark. More are breeding on C and few on D hips.

In the Netherlands you cannot breed on D and E hips.

DIF: D is allowed, but do not recommend it. E is forbidden.

The breeding committee agreed that you should never breed on a dog that suffers (physical) from bad hips.

Denmark suggests getting Helle Friis Prowchowsky to host a webinar in English for ISIC. Helle is hosting webinars on the subject in Denmark. She is a veterinarian.

**Eyes:**

Iceland – The high number of examined dogs from last year is a reflection on the lack of examinations during covid.

### **3. The cooperation between ISIC and Dogs Global**

#### **a. Dogs Global database**

Wilma updates the breeding committee on new from DG. The system was transferred to another server, to be able to host more data. The tool has been updated with an import tool, to be able to do bulk import of dogs.

Mistakes with test-mating on relatives giving a good hit has been repaired.

The data in DG has not been updated for many countries.

Some breed representatives do add data to ISIC database, and then DG. But not all. Some only add ISIC database.

**Iceland** states that they are not interested in paying for DG, and do not want to put data into two databases. Iceland do not have any interest in participating in the work with DG. Iceland do not wish ISIC to spend any money on DG. DIF do not want to discuss the issue with DG in every seminar. Want to see ISIC database grow.

**Denmark:** Want a database where they can breed with genetic diversity, so they still can keep a healthy breed. Denmark wants the chairman group to take action and find a solution. DG are used by the breeders, and they want to use the statistics that are available with DG.

## **Breeding group continued (Sunday)**

Participating:

Rósa – Iceland

Ragnhildur – Iceland - online

Jenny – Sweden

Tulla – Norway

Heidi – Finland

Wilma – Nederland

Tove – Denmark

Louise – Denmark

Sabine – Austria - online

Jo-Ann – USA - online

### **a. Dogs Global database – continued**

**Norway:** are not using the DG database – they are not comfortable with using the database due to mistakes. Will not use a lot of money on something they do not use.

**Finland:** Both databases have good qualities at this moment. Finland is updating in both databases, first ISIC and then DG.

**Nederland:** ten breeders, all have a breed plan and DG are used a lot in the Nederland. The breeders want to work with DG. The board are facilitating that and are in favor for the DG. The kennel club in the Nederland are working with DG, which makes it possible to import the litters from the kennel club directly into DG. The litters are also added to ISIC database.

Want the databases to work. Want to use the DG and transfer the data to ISIC database.

**Austria:** The litters are added to both DG and ISIC – only four litters. Using ISIC for calculating the inbreed in 5. generations, and DG for MK and other things.

**USA:** Not a problem entering the data to DG and ISIC, both are simple. Had some problems with adding dogs missing Canadian parents to ISIC database, but that is now solved with the help from Gudni.

**Summary:** Norway and Iceland are not using DG, and do not want to spend money on DG. Other countries are using the database to some extent.

Iceland: To create a database that are workable. Want to be paid for adding data to DG. Against adding resources into DG. Nothing against DG and nothing against people using it.

### **b. ISIC database**

The data group suggest adding a third person to the group.

The focus should be on correcting one database. When the data is valid, and the database is correct, we can talk about the future.

Wish to have auto import in ISIC database, to prevent typos.

ISIC database is calculating the inbreed on four generations, but litters are show 5 generations. That is the reason that some litters are shown with 0% inbreed. This should be fixed or stated clearly on the test-mate pedigree.

Jimmy updates the breeding group on the work in the data group. They are working on fixing the mistakes in the ISIC database. Countries will receive spreadsheets with dogs to look into. Further it is possible for the breeding group to wish for information, search functions etc. included in the tool provided with ISIC database.

### **c. Differences between the databases**

The two tools are calculating the numbers differently, which are the main reason for the different numbers.

### **d. Genetic diversity**

In Sweden, they trying to educate breeders. They see a higher number of “small” breeders with one or two litters on their dogs – instead of many litters on the same dogs. This adds to diversity.

In Iceland, they experience big problem with people neutralizing the males, also at a young age. Trying to work with breeders to include part in the contract for males, saying people can only buy the dog if they do not neutralize them.

All countries should be aware of the problem with veterinarians wanting to neutralize the males. It is suggested to add a field in ISIC database with knowledge about males being neutralized or males that cannot be used in breeding.

ISIC breeding group should produce information for breeders, vets, male owners on the importance on keeping the males intact for the genetic diversity.

Information could include information on how to train their male dog, to prevent unsecure males.

What is typical behavior of an Icelandic sheepdog.

Breeding group recommend making a working group making the material: Sweden, Iceland and breeding group member. If accepted by the Chairman group, the working group will start on the material.

To preserve genetic material, USA suggest that ISIC should start a semen bank. This could ensure not losing genetic material in the future. USA is good at funding, which could be a possibility. USA might produce idea on what and how.

Austria states that even though diversity is important, then we need to take the standard more into account when breeding.

#### **4. Founders and foundlings**

##### **a. What do we need to know about dogs without parents?**

We will get the data in the ISIC database as complete as possible, with knowledge from the individual countries. The breeding committee will look into missing data / dogs without parents.

If the breed representatives find issues with foundlings / missing parents / incomplete pedigree, the breeding committee will help with solving the problem of the dogs.

ISIC breeding committee will describe a workflow for this procedure.

#### **5. Inbreeding coefficient and MK**

The breeding group think ISIC should have a recommendation on the inbreed for all generations, maybe as well a recommendation on MK in the future. But the ISIC database will have to be complete and valid before we can evaluate on the level for recommendation.

Further, the breeding group think it could be a good idea to collect the recommended level of inbreed, on 5. Generations, from kennel clubs and breed clubs from all countries, to compare.

#### **6. Updating dogs that cannot produce offspring any more**

The breeding group think it would add value to the ISIC database, if information on dogs that cannot produce offspring are added to the database.

#### **7. Any other business**

Iceland is interested in knowing, how far in the process USA is on updating the standard. USA is working on getting the standard similar to the FCI standard.

#### **8. What we want to bring up in the combined meeting**

##### **Recommendations, questions for ISIC chairman group**

1. The breeding group ask for permission to approach France and Belgium.  
France and Belgium are exchanging dogs. Missing data in ISIC database from France, will have influence on registration on the litters from Belgium.  
Further, we will make sure, that the breed representative from Belgium will continue to register the litters in ISIC database.
2. The breeding group ask for permission to approach the breed representative in Switzerland.  
In Switzerland, few breeders are now breeding without FCI pedigree.  
We need to warn our breeders, not to export to breeders not breeding without FCI pedigree
3. The breeding group ask for permission to approach countries not part of ISIC, to find ways of including them in the work of ISIC.

4. The breeding group ask for permission to approach and appoint a Canadian breeder, who can add data to ISIC database, even though they are not part of ISIC.  
One of the problems are that the Canadian breeders cannot access the ISIC database.
5. The breeding group recommend, that there should be a focus on getting the ISIC database complete, with data of birth, health data etc.  
The breeding group recommend, that a working group with representatives from both data group and breeding group can work to improve the data in the database.  
The breeding group recommend, that an import function is added to the ISIC database, to eliminate typos.
6. The breeding group ask for permission to construct a working group that will focus on developing/constructing/gathering information material for breeders, veterinarians, male owners etc. on the importance to keep males intact for genetic diversity. Including material on how to train with your young males.
7. Will get the data in the ISIC database as complete as possible, with knowledge from the individual countries.  
The breeding committee will look into missing data / dogs without parents.  
If the breed representatives find issues with foundlings / missing parents / incomplete pedigree, the breeding committee will help with solving the problem of the dogs.  
ISIC breeding committee will describe a workflow on this procedure.
8. The breeding group will have a recommendation on the inbreed for all generations, maybe as well a recommendation on MK in the future. But the ISIC database will have to be complete and valid before we can evaluate on the level for recommendation.  
  
Could be an idea to collect the recommended level of inbreed from kennel clubs and breed clubs from all countries, to compare.
9. US will look into possibility of having long term storage of semen. With two different purposes:  
1. Long term storage for preserving the breed in the future. 2. Possibility for cross-border breeding in the future.  
US will come up with a proposal on how to do this in the future.