



Icelandic Sheepdog International Cooperation

## Notes from the 26<sup>th</sup> ISIC seminar Lillehammer, Norway Friday 29<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2021

### **Participating ISIC countries:**

Denmark: Louise Roer and Tove Møller Christensen

Finland: Marika Rajala and Jonna Savukari

The Netherlands: Natasja Hagemeyer (on Teams) and Wilma Roem

Iceland: Stefania Sigurðardóttir (on Teams)

Norway: Jimmy Brastad and Helene Ström Kraabøl

Sweden: May Britt Sannerholt and Hans Åke Sperne

USA: Tina Carney (on Teams)

**Visitors:** UK: Ailsa Stott (on Teams)

**ISIC executive:** Gudridur Þorbjörg Valgeirsdóttir, Helga Andrésdóttir, Svend Brandt Jensen and Ingbritt Sannel

The meeting (the seminar) started traditionally with a welcome to the participants and a thank you to our hosts in Norway from the ISIC executive chairman Svend Brandt and a toast for our cooperation's 25 years and the future to come.

We were all happy that this year it was possible to meet physically, at least for some of us, and that others could take part using Teams on the internet.

Hans Åke Sperne who was one of the instigators 25 years ago gave us a short history of what happened at the start, you find more about this on the ISIC website

[ISIC – Official homepage for Icelandic Sheepdog International Cooperation \(icelanddog.org\)](https://icelanddog.org)

### **Lectures with PhD Peer Berg**

First on the agenda was a lecture on Mean Kinship followed by a lecture on Breeding in small populations based on the Lunde Hund project. This you find on the ISIC homepage Mean Kinship – What, Why and How. Lecture by PhD Peer Berg.

[\(the presentation](#) – 5,6 Mb)

### **Common Group**

After lunch the seminar then continued with a common group meeting with Hans-Åke as chairman and as usual starting with short presentations/summaries from each country to highlight things for further discussion. The presentations can be found in full at the ISIC webpage



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DENMARK: Louise Roer- chairman and Tove Møller Christiansen - breed group.

As for all countries the pandemic influenced the club work in many ways, but Denmark managed to arrange their "Træf" and that was a good thing. They had 33 litters but only 14 litters with 0 inbreeding. Most worry for the Danish club is caused by bad HD results. The club is working closely with the Danish Kennel Club (DKK) and are thinking of using index again and more information is needed.

Those who are interested to take part of dog statistics please contact the breed group in the Danish breedclub.

FINLAND: Marika Rajala and Jonna Savukari

Anne Vaskio had written the report but is not present. Many activities were cancelled also in Finland because of Covid but as far as herding was concerned, they were able to make an internet show with pictures. No special health problems among the dog population were noticed.

ICELAND: Guðriður Þorbjörg Valgeirsdóttir and Helga Andrésdóttir (these two are part of ISIC executive and presented the report at the seminar instead of the chairman and breed representative)

The positive thing this year was that a lot more litters and also bigger litters were born. But it was hard to get dogs tested in Iceland because vets were not able to travel there so litters were given "amnesty" if the parents did not have the right tests because of this. The HD results are discussed as Iceland can choose to send to OFA instead of the national tests in the Nordic countries. Results seem to be more C dogs in Iceland as well. As there have always been a fair number of C dogs, in other countries as well, it is probably quite normal for the breed. Why this is so, needs to be checked.

SWEDEN: May Britt Sannerholt chair and/or breed group

Some Swedish dogs are good at herding, many owners participate in training, tests and competitions. ([SVENSKA KROPPSVALLARKLUBBEN, SvKV \(kroppsvallarna.se\)](http://svenska.kroppsvallarklubben.se) ) and this is the kind of herding that the Icelandic sheepdog is good at.

Many litters were born with quite a good number of puppies and relatively low inbreeding. There were no changes in the health situation.

NETHERLANDS: Wilma Roem – breed group

The breeders are well aware of Mean Kinship and inbreeding is going down. The health situation is about the same as before. There was no ordinary show but an online photo show.

NORWAY: Helene Ström Kraabøl – breed group

During 2020 there was very little activity, few litters and few puppies were born. Club members are quite good at following regulations and recommendations.



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USA: Tina Carney – chairman

USA sent us the reports from 2019 as well as 2020 this weekend. Fewer litters and puppies were born due to the pandemic restrictions, travel and meetings were not possible. There seems to be more dogs imported than can be found within the club statistics. The HD results are good. More information about dogs with hearing problems are an issue, optional BEAR testing discussed in the US and questions need to be answered if it is really connected to the color of the dog. A lecture held 2010 on this can be found on the ISIC webpage. (2010 K. Sainio)

All reports sent to the seminar will be put on the ISIC webpage and you can find them there [Reports – ISIC \(icelanddog.org\)](https://icelanddog.org) and old lectures can also be found on the webpage.

There was a lot of talk during this part of the seminar that emanated from what was said from each country and commented on from some of the participants. Here is a summary:

In the Swedish report it is easy to see that if we look at the grandfather or grandmother lists some dogs that in themselves followed the recommended number of litters has produced a lot of grandchildren. This is not possible for breeders to control, once a puppy is sold the new owner can of course use it for breeding if it is healthy etc. This effect occurs even if no matador breeding is taken place.

When a country is accepted into our cooperation ISIC make sure that the Rules and recommendations we have are known to the clubs that wish to be part. But it seems that the French club is having problems with breeders overusing the dogs with males producing far too many offspring, it is called “matador” breeding. Natasja asked for rules against “puppy mills” and matador breeding that is taking place in France and think that ISIC should remind France of what is good for the breed. Svend added that all countries should be aware of and try to implement the International breeding recommendation all countries agree on as a part of ISIC. [Int. Breeding Recommendations – ISIC \(icelanddog.org\)](https://icelanddog.org)

The USA and probably most of the other clubs need help to find a good way to explain to breeder how essential careful breeding is for the future of the breed and Wilma Roem suggested that it can be a good idea to write down what males should not have any more litters.

One question concerning the dogs and how old they are was discussed. Do we know when dogs die? It is important for the breed to have knowledge about this if we wish to have correct facts when looking at Mean Kinship, just as we need to know other things that can exclude dogs from being used for breeding such as castrated dogs, or infertile dogs etc. But this is knowledge that is very hard to get even to know if dogs are alive or not. Dogs Global has a function where about that according to Wilma Roem but things like that can only be added by those who have a breed plan in DG.



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Herding was something mentioned from some clubs. In Sweden and Finland dogs can now even earn the title Champion when they do well in FCI Traditional style. But for some countries it is hard to find places to practice and the animal protection laws can prove a hindrance.

Hopefully the ISIC seminar in Finland 2022 will give a lot of inspiration and information how this can be achieved in other countries as well.

The last item discussed in the common group on Saturday was the HD situation. It is obvious that in many countries and not only in our breed, results from breeding almost only A and B dogs are not giving an improved situation, as could be expected, but an increasing number of dogs with C or even worse. The Nordic Kennel club union has now decided to investigate results from the Nordic countries to try to find out what is happening and why. Very few Icelandic dogs suffer from bad hips, a few do but even dogs with good hip scores can be affected when they reach old age. So perhaps we need to stop focusing too much on HD and use a more holistic approach and look at all aspects that affect the health of the breed.

The countries use different ways to check the HD and Hans Åke points to the fact that it is hard to compare results unless the same method is used but at the moment it is what we must accept. Iceland uses the American OFA or the Swedish kennel club method. The UK will most probably use the BBA system that is used with The Kennel club. If OFA is used the owner must inform about the result to the kennel club but the Swedish results are sent directly to the kennel club. It would be good if more dogs in all countries were checked to be able to check what happens to the health in the countries, you can follow the development so far in the old reports found on the webpage. Patella is examined in some countries as well. Holland does it because they have two clubs there and in one of the clubs it is considered very important. In many countries only dogs used in breeding are examined due to very high costs both for HD and eye examinations. Helga reminds us that is not good if regulations stop dogs from being registered.



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**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2021**  
**Chairmen group**

This meeting follows the agenda concerning matters to be discussed and decided in the Chairman meeting as stated in Rules of Procedure §7

*1. Approval of the register of participants*

Denmark: Louise Roer

Iceland: Stefania Sigurðardóttir (on Teams)

Holland: Natasja Hagemeier (on Teams)

Norway: Jimmy Brastad

Sweden: Hans Åke Sperne

USA: Tina Carney (on Teams)

And ISIC executive: Gudridur Þorbjörg Valgeirsdóttir, Helga Andrésdóttir, Svend Brandt Jensen and Ingbritt Sannel

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

During the year the ISIC executive was affected of the pandemic just like the clubs in both good and bad ways. The exec has had many meetings using, zoom and messenger. We arranged a digital Seminar instead of the one that should have been held in Finland. We have fixed a webpage in WordPress with the help of Jimmy Brastad. A very popular seminar on the breed was held by Soley Ragna Ragnarsdóttir (twice) on the executive initiative. The executive group has also had meeting and other contact with the data group concerning the ISIC database and Dogs Global.

Helga showed the economic situation. Not very much happened, no travel expenses due to the pandemic. The report has been sent to all countries and is added to these notes.

*3. Presentation of the auditor's report*

Our auditor had not sent in his report. He was contacted after some difficulty after the meeting, and he will send his report to us all, but he would like to do it in a letter. He has no formal complaints concerning the work of our treasurer Helga.

*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*

As stated in the rules of procedure RoP&7 the meeting agreed to agree that ISIC and ISIC/exec are not subject to personal liability.



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

The ISIC exec suggested that we keep the fees for the coming year the same as last year and that was also the decision made by the chairmen.

*6. and 7. Presentation of an updated profit and loss account for the current year and Presentation of ISIC/exec planned activities for the next year and a cost estimate for these activities.*

The budget was discussed based on what Helga sent to all countries and the budget was accepted without changes.

Hans Åke informed us that he had been in contact with Spike Williamson, who has been an important supporter also financially over the years, and Spike has most kindly offered to support us also in the future.

*8. The web page and suggestions for a new webmaster*

Our web page is now made in WordPress, and it can be used more actively as one way of informing the clubs. As new webmaster the meeting appointed Jimmy Brastad and as his "deputy" Natasja Hagemaijer was appointed.

*9. Belgium as a new member of ISIC*

The meeting decided to accept Belgium as a new member. They are welcome in the cooperation and will be country number 12 to join.

*10. Helping UK to form a breed club and to be a member in the future.*

The meeting also decided that ISIC exec will continue informing and helping UK to form a breed club and to be a member in the future.

*11. Information from and to ISIC*

The chairmen discussed how information from ISIC to the clubs can be improved but also how clubs can be better at informing ISIC of what goes on in the clubs also in between writing the yearly report.

*12. Evaluating the cooperation between ISIC and Dogs Global and*

*Future collaboration with Dogs Global and the web-based Database in the future*

Then the discussion continued with a discussion about the contract between ISIC and Dogs Global. ISIC has received an invoice and that is not something to be found in the contract signed in 2019 in Iceland. When the ISIC exec wrote and asked for an explanation they received an answer from the company, Cathrienke Brandt (October 21) saying that the data sent from ISIC data needed 3,5 hours of work due to that there were mistakes and double entries and that would then cost ISIC 80 euros per hour and probably this will happen again next time data is transferred.



ISIC exec of course asked the data group how they sent the data, and it was sent the way Pieter had asked them to.

Other problems with the Dogs Global and the use of it came up from the chairmen.

There seem to be unknown founders in the data and from we learned in the lecture this can cause faults in the calculations of Mean Kinship (MK). This needs to be explained.

If a breeder uses Dogs Global (DG) to find a good match for his dog it is possible to be told that a match between siblings will contribute to the genetic variation in the breed.

A lot of discussion followed and discussions on what is happening. How can a small cooperation like ISIC with very little income, only fees and some donations, pay to a company that is creating a nice product using data from the small cooperation more and more despite the agreed contract.

From Holland we heard the solution that ISIC should use Dogs Global, and all new dogs should be entered first in DG and then ISIC could get the data from DG. Jimmy from Norway then replied that is not according to the contract and that ISIC will then lose ownership of the ISIC data.

Natasja then said that it is not so but even if it was a fact, Pieter can get the ISIC database elsewhere. Louise from Denmark then pointed to the fact that the ISIC database is protected by law and copyrighted so using it as Natasja suggested is against the law.

A lot of discussions followed and it was hard to keep note of it all but at the end the conclusion was that the ISIC gives Guðni Ágústsson and Jimmy Brastad in our present data group the mandate to compile several questions for Pieter and demand proper answers and this will be in the form of a letter signed by the ISIC exec chairman Svend Brandt Jensen, who also signed the contract 2019. After we receive the answers the Exec will evaluate the answers, inform the chairmen and after that there might be a possibility to have a face-to-face meeting.

### *13. Appointment of a person to be one out of three (or four) members of ISIC/exec for three years (Annex 1).*

No new person was put forward to be a member of the ISIC executive, so Svend and Gauja were elected again for a new period.

When the invitations for the seminar each year are sent a reminder should to be sent to all clubs to suggest possible new persons to the executive or subcommittees.

### *14. Seminars 2022 and 2023*

The seminar in 2022 will be held in Finland and in 2023 Sweden or the Netherlands.

### *15. Proposed changes to the Rules of Procedures (Norway) (Annex 2)*

Based on the Norwegian proposal the meeting suggested that we shall have sub-committees, and this must be entered into rules of procedure and regulations and clear descriptions of what the sub-committee is supposed to do, their way of working and for how long they are elected. Each sub-committee must also report their job once a year and new members can be elected to be part.



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ISIC executive will formulate detailed rules and send it to the chairmen soon after this meeting. Every sub-committee will be formed using the same framework and that will be written in the Rules but they will of course have different jobs to do and that will be described in an appendix. Committees should have three members to secure the flow of knowledge. It is good if we appoint members in the sub-committees and do it the way we elect executive members, see the example in this year's agenda.

After the ISIC exec has written down the framework we will ask Spike Williamson and Jan Eriksson to check what we write before we add it to the RoP.

As of today, we have two subcommittees, the data committee with Guðni and Jimmy and the breed committee with Wilma and May Britt. It would be very good to add one further member to each sub committees.

The chairmen decided to discuss the proposal from the breed committee when they join the chair meeting.

### **Common meeting**

The participants discussed the proposal from ISIC/breed and the breed committee declared that some changes were needed to the document and after some further discussion it was decided that any addition to the international breeding recommendations will have to wait until all problems and uncertainties are clarified and then a new proposal can be written and discussed. The chairmen informed the breed group about the discussions concerning Dogs Global and the way it works at the moment. When the chairmen informed about problems with transferring of data and costs Wilma Roem gave an explanation and a solution: When the contract was signed 2019 Dogs Global did not know all the problems. To uphold two systems is costly. The problems were discussed between Guðni, Jimmy, Pieter, Wilma and the ISIC/executive in April 2021. ISIC data group promised to send data in a form Pieter asked for. But this still was not working well, and Pieter had to work a lot to add the data to DG, hence the invoice to ISIC this autumn.

According to Wilma Pieter proposes a solution. To use DG as first entry for the data would be much easier and cheaper and ISIC could then get copies of the data so the two databases would be the same. All problems solved.

This is not what is written in the contract and Jimmy reminds us that if that is done Dogs Global will own the data.

If data is not correct that is used in the databases Mean Kinship will not be correct, we learned this during the Peer Berg lecture, so in order to protect the breed we must make sure these problems are solved that can be found before we recommend the use of "green" dogs. Svend hoped for two well working databases when the problems are sorted out.

Stefania suggested we look at the possibility to add MK to the ISIC database and offer it without cost to member clubs and Marika think we should use only the ISIC data base.

All decisions taken in the chairman group were reported shortly to the breed group.





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*The conclusion was that ISIC need to have a new meeting soon* to sort out the present problems and decide how we can get a tool that we can trust to help us make the best possible decisions when we breed for the future.

The days in Lillehammer were spent in nice surroundings and we were well looked after by our Norwegian hosts, thank you ever so much.

Notes: Ingbritt Sannel