

Notes from discussions in the breeding group, Lillehammer 2021

Sunday morning 31 October 2021

Participants: Helene Ström Kraaböl (N), Tove Mällér (DK) May Britt Sannerholt (SE) and Wilma Rooem (NL).

Visitors: Tulla Schmedling, Caroline Knutssen, Elisabeth Brastad and Peer Berg from the Norwegian club

1. Country reports: they have been discussed yesterday.

2. Evaluating the cooperation between ISIC and Dogs Global.

Lots of work has been done to prepare the two databases for the future. Data has been corrected with help from the breed clubs and by comparing data from both databases. Mutch has been corrected and improved. The work continues and discussions need to be held about how to reduce the incidence of errors and how to avoid that old errors appear again in new updates.

The last update of Dogs Global includes dogs and litters until the end of year 2020.

We discuss what experiences there are in the countries with ISIC database and Dogs Global.

Norway: The Norwegian breeding committé does not use Dogs Global because they have found imported dogs registered in Norway without backgrounds in their pedigrees. We suggest that the Norwegian breeding committee finds out which dogs this affects and sent the improved data to ISIC datagroup for corrections.

Sweden: In Sweden some breeders have their own breed plan and the club has a breed plan. The club uses both databases and informs the members about mean kinship in the magazine and assists breeders with lists of green dogs.

Netherlands: In Netherlands the breeders have been very interested in mean kinship and many breeders have their own breed plan. The breed club and the breeders use the mean kinship values and follow how the figures change from one year to another. Breeders take mean kinship in account when breeding and this has resulted in a decrease of mean kinship in the litters of last year compared to the year before.

Denmark: Denmark has the experience that it is very easy to work with both databases. They use them both a lot and take care that they are equal.

In all countries that participate in ISIC the breed club and several breeders own a breed plan for Dogs Global. They have access to the mean kinship data that Dogs Global provides. Also in several countries not yet ISIC breeders have taken a breed plan. There is one exception and that is Finland.

Finland: In Finland no breeder has a breed plan and the breed club has not continued their breed plan offered by ISIC. The reason is that Finnish Kennelclub offers a lot of data. During the seminar the new breed representative for Finland got an introduction in Dogs Global and found out that the current population in Finland includes 170 green dogs.

A question from the ISIC/BC: In the discussion we discovered that looking for dogs with low mean kinship Dogs Global sometimes provide you with relatives of your own dog. The question is: would it be possible to search for green dogs f.ex. that are not related?

3. Genetic diversity. The web-based database now and in the future.

ISIC/BC has produced a list of average inbreeding for dogs born 2020. This list is shown to the breeding group and is published below:

Average inbreeding for litters born in year 2020

Country	Average inbreeding %, 5 generations	Average inbreeding %, Dogs Global	Average Mean Kinship %
Iceland		25,5	23
Norway	0,759	23,438	25,357
Sweden	1	23,59	22,55
Finland	0,98	21,89	21,85
Denmark	0,97	21,84	21,71
Germany	0,82	21,74	21,95
The Netherlands		20,9	20,83
Austria		24,29	22,77
Switzerland		20,91	21,67
France		25	22,5
USA		17,74	22

We discuss this overview.

A question from Norway is about the influence of dogs without known parents on the mean kinship values. What will happen with the mean kinship value when we find out about these dogs that are "foundlings"? Will it make a big difference in the mean kinship after correcting these dogs or will it not effect the mean kinship? In general it is very important to try hard to find any missing parent and correct the pedigree data as well as possible to get reliable mean kinship data. Dogs Global data are based on ISIC database which means that mistakes in ISIC data will have influence. On the other hand Peer Berg and Pieter Oliehoek have both stated that foundlings that are many generations back will not have much influence on mean kinship values now. This is work in progress for the breeding committees in ISIC to find out about missing links in pedigrees. And for ISIC to ask the experts how to deal with the problem of foundlings.

The ISIC/datagroup is working on the synchronisation of the two databases. A proposal for a system that automaticaly update data from ISIC database is submitted. This will reduce the costs of updates. The idea is to have ISIC database as a back up of data in Dogs Global. In this case the two databases will be identical.

4. Proposal from ISIC/Breeding committee (ISIC/BC) for addition to ISIC International Breeding Recommendations.

ISIC/BC has sent in a proposal to add mean kinship in the list of breeding recommendations. This proposal is discussed in the breeding group. We all agree that it is a good idea to add mean kinship to the breeding rules because it is important to take MK in account when breeding. What has to be discussed further is how to formulate the recommendation. The breeding group agrees upon the recomendation that green dogs should be used more and red dogs should be used less in breeding.

A reflection from the discussions of yesterday:

There are dogs in the database that belong to the group of useful individuals for breeding but for various reasons can not breed. For example, the dog is dead, neutered or for other reasons can not breed. For the future we would like to be informed about these dogs for two reasons: Calculations of mean kinship will be more accurate when the living dogs that will not reproduce are taken out of the

breeding population. The database will be more useful when individuals that are not available for breeding will not pop up in green-, yellow-, orange- or red lists.
The question is: How can breed clubs get correct information from the breeders about this?

Notes taken by

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