

Discussions in the ISIC Breeding Group

26 and 27 October 2019

Agenda Saturday

1. Review of the annual reports
2. Genetic diversity. The web-based database now and in the future (ISIC database and Dogs Global)
3. How can the ISIC co-operation assist in getting the breed recognized in the UK (DIF)
4. Discussion on the lack of recognition of the Icelandic Pedigree (export) by the Canadian KC (DIF)

Discussions Saturday:

Review of the Annual reports.

The annual reports provide us with information about what is happening with the breed in the different countries. There was not much discussion about the content of the reports this year. Fortunately there were no problems mentioned in the reports that needed attention.

But we want to pay attention to the fact that the reports arrived late and most of them arrived just shortly before the meeting started.

According to the rules of procedures of ISIC, 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. This is what we have agreed upon.**

Genetic diversity. The web-based database now and in the future (ISIC database and Dogs Global)

We discussed the need for the additional information about our breed that Dogs Global can offer. Most of the participants in the breeding group are convinced that this need exists. And that co-operation between the ISIC database and Dogs Global should start as soon as possible. We suggest to have the two databases both to start with.

Discussion on an ISIC cooperation to get the breed recognized in the UK KC (DIF).

DIF is trying to get our breed recognized in the UK because it is not at the moment. To make this possible Helga Andresdottir (IS) is collecting information about pure-bred Icelandic sheepdogs that currently live in the UK. When DIF can prove that enough of these dogs are available in the UK, recognition is possible.

Helga asks for help with finding all Icelandic sheepdogs living in UK. **The representatives of the countries are asked to inform Helga when they know of any Icelandic sheepdog exported to the UK or living in the UK. She needs to know their pedigree, date of birth, registration number and name of the owner. Please send this information to Helga within the coming month.**

Discussions on a lack of recognition of the Icelandic (export) Pedigree by the Canadian KC (DIF).

DIF experiences problems with the recognition of HRFI pedigrees by the Canadian KC when exporting dogs to Canada. We cannot explain this, because HRFI is member of FCI and FCI pedigrees are normally recognized by the Canadian KC. Our suggestion is that HRFI contacts FCI for support in this matter. If ISIC/exc can support this, they will assist.

Sunday

Agenda Sunday

1. Mentality testing, what is done since the presentation last year
2. Herding tests, what is done in the different countries
3. Discussion about breeding rules in the future.
 - First litter with less regulations? Healthy dog
 - What is really necessary
 - Number of litters, number of grandchildren
 - Get more dogs tested to make the group that you can use bigger
4. DNA swaps, what is done in the different countries

Mentality in dogs.

During last year's ISIC meeting a presentation about mentality testing was provided by Sweden. We discussed what was done in the different countries regarding mentality testing. There is no mentality testing taking place any more in Iceland. There are no testers available. Maybe some MH test can be organized in the future.

Finland has a character test for dogs. They have the MH test but it isn't used much. They are interested to learn more about BPH.

Denmark has been carrying out the MH test for many years. The DKK is responsible for the description. The Danish club has educated people themselves to arrange descriptions in-house. The same is true for Sweden.

In Norway *it is* possible to do MH tests and some dogs have passed the test.

In Germany the situation is different. The responsibility for the mental tests is delegated to the breed clubs. This means that everything has to be done by the breed club alone. DCNH is not active in mentality testing.

In Belgium the kennelclub does offer different tests, but the breed club has to take care of the arrangement. As Belgium does not yet have a breed club, nothing happens.

In the Netherlands mentality testing is not done because there are not enough people in VIJHN that will/can take the effort of organizing tests.

The breeding group discussed about the use of mentality testing for the breed. After many years of testing mentality in Denmark and Sweden we would like to know more about the inheritance of mentality traits in our dogs. **The breeding group is proposing this topic for next year ISIC seminar. We would like to have a presentation about inheritance of mentality in Icelandic sheepdog.**

Herding

Icelandic sheepdog is a herding breed. We discussed what is done in different countries to preserve the herding capacity of our dogs.

In Germany a herding test was organized for Icelandic sheepdogs. About 30 dogs participated and the results were very interesting and informative about herding behavior in our breed.

In Finland there is an official instinct test for herding breeds that do not belong to the Border collies and Kelpies breeds. Everyone can take part in this and 16 Iceland dogs took part last year. You don't have to train before this test. It is just to sign up and come. They have different levels and possibilities to take part in completions in different levels.

Denmark: They have an official instinct test and have arranged several tests in many years. Islandsk farehund club recommends their members to attend to the instinct test.

Norway: NIHK is planning to arrange an instinct test next year.

Netherlands: The official FCI instinct tests are organized in the Netherlands and the Icelandic sheepdog can take part, but there aren't many members who do this.

Ragnhildur Sigurdadottir suggests that ISIC produces a pamphlet about herding in the breed. This pamphlet could be translated into different languages.

Discussion on breeding rules in the future

After Pieter's lecture yesterday we discussed about useful breeding rules for the future.

We discussed the possibility to involve more individuals in breeding and the possibility to stimulate one litter breeding. For the time being the member clubs of ISIC have very different requirements in their breeding regulations. Some clubs have strict rules, others have weakened the strictness of the rules. We agree that it is useful to have an overview of all the requirements in the different countries to compare the rules within ISIC. The ISIC breeding committee offers to make a list of all the rules per country. **We agree that all the clubs will send their breeding requirements to the ISIC/BC: avel@islandshunden.se**

DNA swabs, what is done in the different countries

Yesterday Ragnhildur Sigurdadottir had presented about the DNA collecting project for Icelandic sheepdogs that she is working on. In some countries DNA swabs are collected by the Kennel Club already and stored for future use. Ragnhildur will inform ISIC about the developments in her project and she can get information from members of ISIC about the DNA swabs and arrangements.