



Minutes from the NKU/VK meeting 2016

Time	1-2 June 2016
Place	SLU Uppsala, Sweden
Present	FKK Kirsi Sainio (chair) Katariina Mäki (secretary)
	SKK Linda Andersson Karin Drotz Åke Hedhammar during 1-4, 5-6, 8, 14, 23 Sofia Malm Helena Skarp Erling Strandberg during 5-6, 8, 14, 23
	DKK Helle Friis Proschowsky
	NKK Kristin Aukrust Kim Bellamy Astrid Indrebø Frode Lingaas during 1st June Kirstin Wear Prestrud

1. Welcome, short presentation and organizational news from the national kennel clubs

FKK

- No organizational changes.
- Registrations at the same level as last year (47.000). Number of members is approximately 150.000.

SKK

- Registrations are stable (50.000).
- Organizational review is going on.
- The registration requirements for the puppies are being reviewed: breed clubs have to have a look at their programs and update them. This is a two-year project.

NKK

- No changes in the organization, however an organizational review has been started.
- Registration numbers are increasing this year (approx. 26.000).
- Health problems in brachycephalic breeds is a priority.

DKK

- No organizational changes.
- Registrations are stable after a small decline, although the overall number of dogs in Denmark is decreasing. Approximately one third of the Danish dogs have a kennel club pedigree.



2. Minutes and Things to do from the last meeting in Norway and decisions from the NKU/AU

a. Minutes (Annex)

Issue number 7 of the last meeting: DKK now registers HD/ED/OCD results from dogs that are euthanized or operated before the age of 12 months, but these results are not included in the EBV estimation.

b. Things-to-do from the last meeting

The NKU/VK went through the list. Many of the issues in the list are included in the agenda of the current meeting.

c. Decisions from the NKU/AU

19 Working routines of the NKU/VK

The NKU/VK discussed at its last meeting, that a one-day meeting is too short to be able to deliberate issues thoroughly. It would be rational to have two-day meetings. The first day would be for general matters and the second for discussions. In addition, half a day will be reserved for the DNA group.

Decision of the NKU/VK 4.-5.11.2015:

The NKU/VK informs the NKU/AU that from now on, it intends to have longer meetings: two days for the VK and half a day for the DNA group.

Decision of the NKU/AU 13.4.2016:

The NKU/AU advises the NKU/VK not to talk politics but concentrate on health issues at their meetings. Finland, Norway and Sweden were prepared to allow if needed by agenda a two-day meeting for the NKU/VK. Iceland was neutral on this matter. In addition, half a day will be reserved for the DNA group.

20 For Information

Decision of the NKU/AU 13.4.2016:

20.1. Minutes of the NKU/VK meeting 4.-5.11.2015, Oslo, Norway; enclosure 20.1.

The meeting suggested an ad hoc group to discuss mentality. This group reports to the NKU/AU. Each country will appoint one or two representatives.

The NKU/AU turned down the panel for spinal diseases.

The meeting is of the opinion that the x-ray screening must take place according to the FCI protocol.

3. Update from each country regarding health issues (RAS, BSI, mentality, breeding programs, projects)

FKK

- Mandatory breeding programs (PEVISA) exist in 125 breeds, and 170 breeds have made a RAS. FKK arranges meetings with breed clubs if they are having difficulties with issues included in RAS.



- Nordic BSI started in Finland a year ago. Before this FKK had its own BSI for number of years, but no reports were collected. Some feedback has been received on about how to develop the reports further – to make it easier for the judges to give more detailed information on the features they see. Some breeds seem to have problems, others not so much.
- Next year is the centenary birthday of Finland. FKK is starting a national genetic resources program: sperm bank for the national breeds.
- FKK is in the process of renovating its registration system and policy.

SKK

- BSI: SKK is developing teaching material about dog's eyes and movements, for instance how to recognise lameness.
- SKK has developed a new form for the veterinary inspection of the puppies (up to six months of age). This new form set more focus on exaggerations in appearance prevalent for example in brachycephalic breeds.

NKK

- RAS has been published for 140 breeds. Number of breeds with requirements/restrictions for breeding is increasing.
- NKK is working on including heart examinations and DNA profiles in their breeding database, as well as other serious diseases without a screening program (clinical diagnosis).
- Lundehund crossbreeding project is proceeding slowly: two litters so far (one with Buhund and other with Icelandic Sheepdog). The Lundehund dams have difficulties in getting pregnant.

DKK

- RAS is not compulsory. Some breed clubs make their own RAS which is not conducted by the DKK.
- The Nordic BSI is in use in every dog show.
- Breed-specific breeding programs have been evaluated and updated.

4. International activities and conferences

a. FCI

FCI European section meeting has given the FCI a proposal about dividing the European section into four.

b. IPFD and DogWellNet

Board meeting was held in the beginning of May, putting together the strategy and the vision for the IPFD. New member, American Kennel Club, has joined the Partnership.

c. Dog Health Workshop 2017

The DHW will be held in Paris in 21-23 April 2017. The program is under development. DHW is expected to be of a great help regarding brachycephalics and DNA test matters.

d. European Association for Animal Production (EAAP) Congress

The EAAP will be held in Belfast in August. Sofia Malm is an invited speaker.

e. WSAVA (World Small Animal Veterinary Association)

The WSAVA congress in 2017 will be held in Copenhagen 25.-28. of September. Healthy breeding is a major topic and a pre-conference for breeders will be held Sunday 24th September.



Reports:

5. Report from the DNA-group

The meeting of the DNA group was held the day before the NKU/VK meeting.

6. Report from the Index group (Annex)

Estimated breeding values for HD and ED are at the moment in use in the Nordic countries as well as in Germany (some breed clubs), and in the UK Kennel Club.

Results of the PhD research project by Shizhi Wang show that the UK EBVs for HD correlate well with the Swedish ones, although the countries use completely different scoring system and phenotypes. Shizhi is investigating also how many genetic connections are needed between countries for having an efficient international EBV estimation. This kind of a system is being used in production animals (Interbull).

7. Report from the HD/ED panel (Jessica Ingman, SKK)

a. Minutes/report of the panel meetings

No minutes are being written of the panel meetings. The most important decisions are marked in a "Faktaruta", which is notified to the NKU/VK and the offices of the Nordic kennel clubs.

b. X-ray for ED in chondrodystrophic breeds – opinion of the HD/ED panel and development of a common protocol

HD/ED panel has made a document concerning ED screening in chondrodystrophic breeds. A summary of the document is as follows:

Med tanke på att det är en skillnad mellan de utvecklingssjukdomar som ses vid ED och "short ulna syndrome" så anser SKKs röntgenpanel att det är olämpligt att screena för ED när det gäller de chondrodystrofa raserna. Om screening av dessa raser bör ske så behövs ett helt annat graderings- och avläsningssystem.

See also paragraph 12.

c. Other issues from the last meeting of the panel

Regarding general recommendations for minimum height and/or weight for a breed to be regarded as giant in HD screening, the HD/ED panel felt that it is not at all an easy task and that the panel is not able to categorize breeds according to these criteria. See also paragraph 9.

8. Report from the FCI Breeding Commission and the Scientific Commission

Astrid Indrebø gave a report from the Breeding Commission. She is going to retire from the chair position. The NKU/VK thanked Astrid for the excellent job she has done in the commission to increase welfare of dogs.

Scientific Commission: Kirsi Sainio is the new chair. Two members are still to be elected.

Discussions:



9. General recommendations for minimum height and/or weight for a breed to be regarded as giant in HD screening (2 Annexes)

The FCI Requirements for Official Hip Dysplasia Screening state the following:

"a) The minimum age for official hip radiographs is one (1) year for most dog breeds and 18 months for large and giant breeds."

The NKU/VK decided to ask the NKU/AU to send an inquiry to the FCI, asking which breeds should be regarded as large and giant.

10. X-ray procedures for dogs moving between countries (NKK; Annex)

NKK has prepared a document suggesting common Nordic rules for X-ray procedures for dogs moving between countries. The NKU/VK edited the document further and accepted the common procedures.

11. ED-grading of dogs that have undergone surgery (SKK)

NKK has an agreement with Agria that in order for the owner to receive insurance compensation due to ED/HD, x-rays have to be sent to the NKK. NKK records an ED/HD grade 'severe' for the dog.

DKK has a similar agreement with Agria. However, the DKK requires only a certificate from the vet, not the x-rays. DKK does not give the dogs an HD/ED grade, but registers that the dog has been euthanized or has undergone surgery for severe HD/ED.

12. X-ray screening for ED in chondrodystrophic breeds: criteria and/or protocol (SKK, NKK; Annex)

FKK is having a new protocol for X-ray screening of elbow incongruity in chondrodystrophic breeds. The official screening of the dogs is planned to start in the beginning of next year.

FKK will collect experiences about this kind of screening and share them with others.

NKK does no longer offer ED screening for the following breeds: bassets, except the Basset Hound, corgies, dachshounds, Drever, Lhasa Apso, Pekingese, Shih Tzu, Skye Terrier, Tibetan Spaniel and Swedish Vallhund.

13. Procedure for evaluation of patella status (SKK; Annex)

NKK has added new instructions in their new patella examination form. In the new form the vets are asked to take into account also dog's movements on the ground and not only the evaluation on the table.

NKK intends to change the wording in their protocol somewhat so that dogs with luxation on the ground will get scored as 2.

FKK uses Putnam grading (0-4) and other kennel clubs a different scale (0-3).

NKK has a system where veterinarians can send them information about operated dogs. This is possible also in the FKK. The operated dogs are marked into the database, but the operation does not influence their patella score.

14. HD Index (FKK, NKK; Annex)



The NKU/VK discussed about the transformation of HD phenotypes (A-E) into numerical values and its influence on the EBVs. In the EBV estimation, most important is to rank the dogs correctly. The scale itself is not that important. For example, HD EBVs for the same individual predicted in the UK and in Sweden, respectively, correlate well with each other, despite of completely different scoring systems.

The reference population differs between countries. FKK plans to include dogs born during the last 10 years (at the moment all dogs are included). Denmark include dogs born during a 10-year period (1 – 11 years old). Norway and Sweden include dogs born during a 5-year period (2 – 6 years of age).

15. Activities regarding brachycephalic dog breeds (SKK, NKK, FKK; Annex)

The NKU/AU has decided to form a Working Group:

Decision of the NKU/AU 13.4.2016:

A Working Group will be called from scientists and breed specialists. Every country will name two persons to this group, chairman will be Finland. The group has to define what breeds are in the need of an immediate action and to define the necessary procedures and collect the existing data from member countries.. Secondly we need a Media group to co-ordinate and combine the strategies from member countries. Sweden will call up the Media group. Both groups must be nominated 1st of May at the latest and the results must be presented in September. Thirdly we take these issues to judges training. Denmark was proposing to use only Nordic judges for these breeds in dog shows.

Åke Hedhammar, Kirsi Sainio, Helle Friis Proschowsky and Kristin Wear Prestrud have been assigned as scientist members into the Group. Kirsi Sainio is the Chair.

The NKU/VK decided to make an inventory of ongoing activities in each Nordic country. A lot of material has already been gathered in the DogWellNet.

The planned actions should be such that can be spread all over the world. The English Bulldog for example, is the third most numerous breed in the USA.

16. Breed standards – health and function (NKK; Annex)

Breed standards have been revised through the last decades, in order to promote health and function and remove descriptions that could predispose to illness or reduced function/welfare. However, looking into the individual standards, there is still a need to change certain descriptions. The majority of descriptions predisposing to reduced function are about short muzzles. There are also some that describe other traits.

The NKU/VK agreed that it would be a good idea to propose that FCI Standards Commission reviews all breed standards and revises descriptions that may lead to reduced function. Standards should be more specific regarding these traits.

17. Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, update on project (SKK, Annex)

The SKK project has been running since early spring 2015. An agreement about a revised health program regarding screening for heart disease now exists between the breed club and the SKK. Currently very young males are used extensively for breeding. The new health program implies higher age for breeding and also a restriction on the number of litters for young males (max 5 litters for males younger than 6 years). The new health program will start from January 2017.



18. Developing a disease register for gathering general health information (clinical diagnoses) in kennel club databases (FKK)

This issue will be discussed in the next meeting.

19. Tail docking in breeds with natural bobtails (FKK)

As an example of the issue is a dog show in France where 400 Australian shepherds were shown, and only one of them had a normal tail: http://bergeraustralien01.eu/NE_2016/. It is obvious that docking has not stopped although it is prohibited.

FKK requires a DNA test for the imported dogs in breeds where T-Box mutation exists.

NKK does the same in the Australian Shepherd.

20. Recognition of new breeds

a. General discussion (SKK)

The NKU/VK agreed that breeds are at the moment recognized quite easily although one should avoid establishing new, small populations. This is a difficult question, since the yet unregistered populations can be quite large in size and if not recognized, a large amount of dogs stay out of registries.

The NKU/VK concluded that breeds should be distinguished on the basis of whether they are recognized in some FCI country or not. The NKU/VK agreed that new breeds could also be recognized in one Nordic country only, but it would be important to first discuss the recognition of each new breed in the NKU/VK meetings.

The NKU has made a decision on breed recognition in 2012:

NKU 20.3.2012:

Beslut: NKU-länderna godkände listan för icke FCI-erkända raser att gälla i Norden vilket innebär att de nya raserna kan få en stamtavla samt utställnings- och tävlingsrätt. Inget land inom NKU kan utfärda en stamtavla för en icke FCI-erkänd ras förrän rasen presenterats vid ett NKU/AU möte. Beslutsordning är enligt följande:

- 1. Något NKU-land anmäler frågan för beredning till NKU/VK*
- 2. NKU/VK lämnar sitt förslag till NKU/AU*
- 3. NKU/AU beslutar i frågan*

Rätt att döma dessa raser är nordiska allrounder och gruppallrounder.

En förutsättning för att en ny ras ska presenteras för NKU/AU via NKU/VK, är att det i Norden finns ca 50 individer av den aktuella rasen.

The NKU/VK proposes to the NKU/AU that the procedure from 20.3.2012 will be used when recognising new breeds.

b. Miniature Australian Shepherd (SKK)

This breed is being registered by the AKC.

21. Crossing of varieties and breeds (FKK, NKK; Annex)

The FCI list of varieties and breeds that can be crossed was updated last year.



FKK: The rules of the FKK say that the breed club is responsible for the breeding matters of its breed. If the breed club wishes to adopt the crossing system, it can be done routinely. Litters do not have to be approved one by one.

DKK: Same procedure as FKK.

SKK: Do not require a statement or opinion from the breed clubs.

All NKU kennel clubs, except NKK, consult the breed clubs only on the general procedure, not on each litter. NKK is working to establish the same procedure.

The NKU kennel clubs may suggest additional breeds to the FCI list, for example the German Shepherd and the Collie. Suggestions can be sent to Kirsi Sainio.

Breeders should be encouraged to make crosses between varieties stated in the FCI list.

22. Colour registration (NKK; Annex)

The NKU/VK is against putting limited registration on dogs based on colours, when no health problems associate with them. Scientifically only a few colour combinations are known to cause health problems. No breed should have an automatic 'not for breeding' due to improper coat colour. Colour should be a minor issue in dog breeding.

FKK registers disqualifying colours as they are. Disqualifications should be done in dog shows, not in registration.

If possible, colours should be registered in a similar matter in the whole NKU. Ideally, there should not be too many options within each breed. The dog should be registered with the colour that it actually has – regardless of the colour being allowed in the breed standard or not. Information on 'Improper coat colour' can be printed on the pedigree for the colours that are false according to the breed standard.

23. Behaviour in dogs (SKK; Annex)

The NKU/AU has agreed on having a working group to discuss mentality (see paragraph 2 c.). The NKU/AU decided that the group reports to the NKU/AU and that each country will appoint one or two representatives.

SKK has put together a document including topics that could be addressed by the group.

24. Recommendations and proposals from the NKU/VK to the NKU/AU

To the HD/ED panel

The NKU/VK will ask the opinion of the HD/ED panel on the time period between two HD/ED radiographs: is 6 months sufficient or should it preferably be 12 months in every Nordic country?

To the NKU/AU

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b. Miniature Australian Shepherd (SKK)

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25. Any other business and next meeting (Annex)

Border Collies from ISDS (see the Annex) – Kirsi Sainio finds out where the FCI wording is from and whether it is possible to change.

The meeting adjourned at 2 June 15:30 pm.

Next meeting will be in Denmark 31.5 – 1.6 2017