

International
Partnership
For Dogs



Annual Report 2016

FROM THE CEO



Dr. Brenda N. Bonnett
Chief Executive Officer

The International Partnership for Dogs (IPFD) was initiated in August 2014 by leading national kennel clubs and other stakeholders in dog health to address common goals and needs; to enhance the sharing of information and resources to support purebred dogs and all dogs; and to build a sustainable, international organization through leadership and sharing.

In 2016, our second full year of operation, we worked to solidify

and expand our partnerships, to continue to address our key functions, to launch new initiatives, and to expand our presence within the dog community.

IPFD is all about participation and partnership. We are happy to report that all Partners who were due for renewal signed on for three more years of support. We maintained and engaged new collaborating sponsors. We continue to look for more input from the dog community and have initiated proactive outreach for further kennel club, corporate, and other partners and sponsors.

The following activities/content is further highlighted on subsequent pages:

- Organization of the IPFD 3rd International Dog Health Workshop together with host Société Centrale Canine (the French Kennel Club).
- Launch of the Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs initiative, including engagement of key leadership sponsors and international experts.
- IPFD launched our Summer Student projects with an outstanding veterinary student from Colorado State University, generously sponsored by the Skippy Frank Fund (which is funding our 2017 student, based on the success in 2016).
- On DogWellNet.com we expanded our Breed Database, engaged breed clubs from numerous countries, health representatives, and experts in providing new content and expanding existing content.
- DogWellNet.com served as the hub for international efforts on various Hot Topics, including health and welfare in brachycephalic dogs, cross-breeding for health, and highlights and resources from various countries.
- Communication expanded with four issues of the Digest and increased presence on Facebook.

A Community Growing Strong

In addition to the benefits of sharing information and resources, we believe there is an added strength for promoting programs locally when stakeholders/ collaborators see their good work profiled internationally. We know that we all gain when we learn from others' experience. IPFD Partners and Collaborators are truly leading by example.

FROM THE CHAIR

The IPFD Board comprises high profile, internationally renowned members of the dog world, including, among the 8 full- and 2 ex-officio members: 4 veterinarians; 5 PhDs (1 double-boarded in Theriogenology and Animal Welfare); several dog breeders (including one two-time winner of Westminster; one Breeder of the Year, AKC); 4 current/former tenured professors; 2 Presidents of national kennel clubs; 5 judges; 8 current/former CEOs/Executives. In 2016 IPFD welcomed our latest board member, Alan Kalter, USA.



Dr. Pekka Olson
Chair

The Board held two teleconferences in 2016 and one face meeting which included a full day Strategic Planning meeting in the UK. Activities in 2016 included revision of Statutes and development of a Strategic Plan. New fundraising initiatives are in place, and we are looking forward to an exciting 2017.

Various challenging issues for the global dog community arose or were ongoing in 2016. IPFD, through our CEO, Board members, Partners, and DogWellNet.com were integrally involved in helping veterinarians, breeders, cynological organizations, researchers, regulators, and others come together nationally and internationally to discuss, e.g., health and welfare problems in brachycephalic dogs; challenges to advancing breed health; and collecting and collating information to support evidence-based decision-making.

We look forward to an exciting 2017 with the 3rd International Dog Health Workshop and the Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs initiative.

IPFD remains committed to bringing together decision-leaders in the dog world to facilitate the international actions needed to support dogs and human-dog interactions, globally. We are still a young organization, but we are growing strong and the future is bright.

*"The world is a better
place because we
share it with dogs."*



Image courtesy of Petra Österreich

2016 IPFD BOARD OF DIRECTORS [View Board bios](#)

The IPFD Board is comprised of individuals with respected international reputations, who represent a broad array of stakeholders in dog health, well-being, and welfare, and who bring a range of backgrounds and abilities that support the goals and mission of the organization. They sit on the Board as individuals with commitment to the mission, vision, and goals of the International Partnership for Dogs.

Pekka Olson
DVM, Dr. hc
Chair, Sweden

Eddie Dzuik
MBA
USA

Jean-Pierre Genevois
DVM, PhD, Professor
Emeritus
France

Patricia Olson
DVM, PhD, DACT,
DACAW
USA

Caroline Kisko
Vice Chair, UK

Peter Friedrich
PhD, Professor
Germany

Alan Kalter
USA

Kirsi Sainio
PhD
Finland

IPFD OFFICERS [View Officer bios](#)

Brenda N. Bonnett
DVM, PhD
Chief Executive Officer, Canada

Ulf Uddman
Chief Financial Officer, Sweden

IPFD CONSULTANTS

Ann Milligan
Content Manager

Dave St. Louis
Communications Specialist

Robert Simons
Web Manager

Provisionists
Web Hosting/Support

A Year in Pictures: Our People in the Spotlight



Alan Kalter, IPFD Board

AKC honored **Alan Kalter** and Dr. Chris Lezotte with the AKC 2016 Breeder of the Year award for their accomplishments in the sport and efforts to incorporate soundness, structure, and "happy legs" into the Bullmastiff breed for generations to come.

After 40 years judging Beagles, IPFD Board member **Eddie Dzuik** had the honor of judging the National Beagle Club Specialty Show in the fall of 2016. Here he is walking out to make the final pick. Eddie has been co-owner/breeder of two Westminster-winning Beagles, Uno (2008) and Miss P (2015)!



Eddie Dzuik, IPFD Board

Our first IPFD Student, **Kelly Arthur's** Colorado State University Veterinary Animal Welfare Judging Team took first place in the veterinary division at the international Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment Contest (AWJAC) in November.



Kelly Arthur, IPFD Student



Caroline Kisko, Vice Chair, IPFD Board

Our Vice Chair, **Caroline Kisko**, takes part in dryland sled dog racing in the UK with her team of purebred Siberian Huskies. In 2016, she won the bronze medal in the 6 dog Championship and won the gold medal in the current winter racing season.

(Image courtesy Chris Wellstead)



Dr. Patricia Olson, IPFD Board

Dr. Patricia Olson (Ph.D., '81) was named Colorado State University's College of Veterinary Medicine & Biosciences Distinguished Alumna for 2016; Dr. Olson has been a teacher, a researcher, and a consultant, but regardless of her role, she has been a tireless champion for animal and human welfare.

Our Chair, **Pekka Olson**, is also President of the Swedish Kennel Club. In that role, he helped spearhead multi-stakeholder work on important health issues in brachycephalic dogs including two symposia - one for breeders and one for veterinarians - in Sweden in 2016.



Dr. Pekka Olson, Chair, IPFD Board

"An enduring global collaboration enhancing dog health, well-being and welfare, and human-dog interactions."



2016 IPFD Partners, Sponsors, and Collaborators

IPFD Annual Report 2016

Several national kennel clubs – Sweden, Finland, Germany, France, Norway, Ireland, the UK, and the USA – and other stakeholders in dog health, the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (USA) the Agria Pet Insurance-SKC Fund (Sweden), and Agria Pet Insurance (UK), have made formal, multi-year commitments to move IPFD's work forward. The Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI), representing 92 national kennel clubs, is an Initiating Patron and Partner; VetCompass (UK) is a Collaborating Sponsor as is Australian Shepherd Health & Genetics Institute (ASHGI). [Read more about our Partners and Sponsors](#)

IPFD Partners:



IPFD Collaborating Partners:



OVERVIEW

The International Partnership for Dogs is a non-profit organization, registered in Sweden, initiated by a group of independent stakeholders in dog health, well-being, and welfare. It was officially launched in August 2014.

MISSION

The mission of IPFD is to facilitate collaboration and sharing of resources to enhance the health, well-being, and welfare of pedigree dogs and all dogs worldwide.

VISION

An enduring global collaboration enhancing dog health, well-being and welfare, and human-dog interactions.

VALUES

- Dog health, well-being and welfare, and human-dog interactions contribute to the quality of life for both species.
- The world is a better place because we share it with dogs.
- Dog issues are important around the globe, and international sharing and cooperation is needed.

GOALS

The general goals of the IPFD are to:

- Enhance the health, well-being, and welfare of dogs and enrich human-dog interactions.
- Facilitate sharing of knowledge, information, experience, and resources across stakeholders, e.g., kennel clubs, veterinary and other professional organizations, health foundations and others, to improve health and well-being of purpose-bred dogs.
- Provide structure, evaluation, and interpretation of information to support the actions of stakeholders in dog health, well-being, and welfare.
- Facilitate specific actions to improve health and well-being of dogs, e.g., supporting globally relevant breed-specific breeding strategies.
- Run the web platform, DogWellNet.com.
- Bring the dog community closer together through DogWellNet.com.

"IPFD Partners and Collaborators are truly leading by example."



Administration

IPFD is legally registered as a non-profit organization in Sweden and is a member of IDEA, an employers' federation for non-profit organizations.

AUDITOR

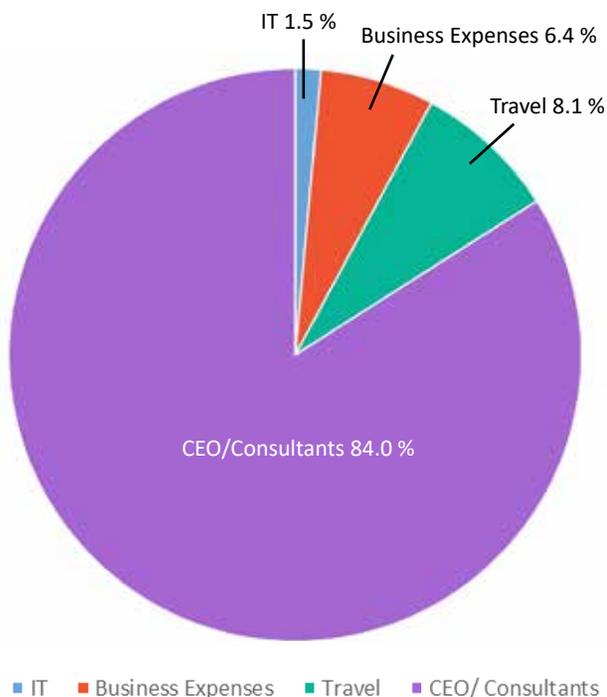
BDO International

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

2016 Budget and assets: € 219,692

- Revenue from new initiation and membership fees 2016 and carryover from 2015.

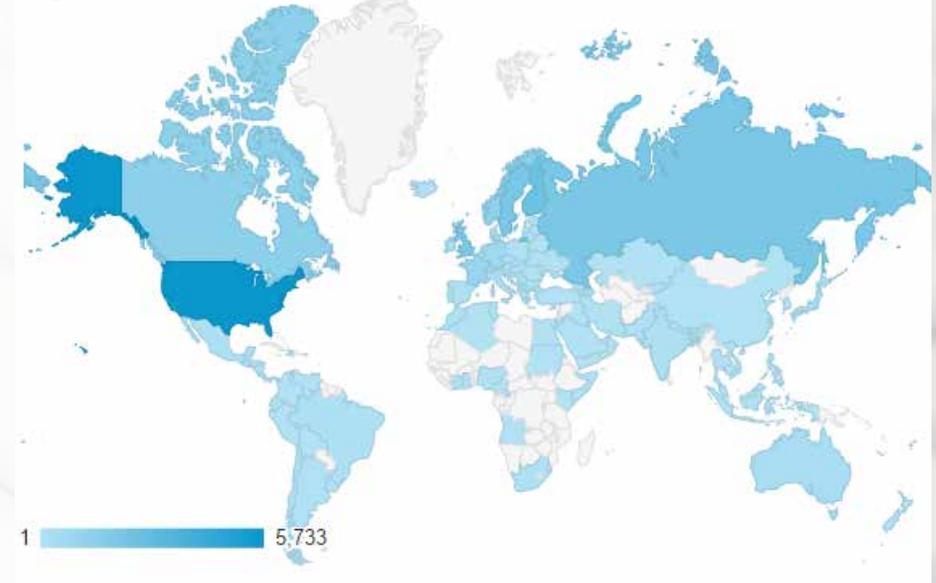
Expense Breakdown 2016



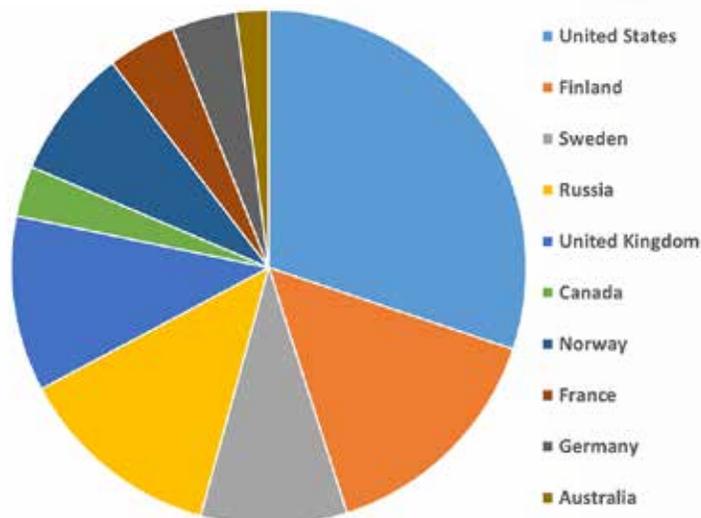
Although DogWellNet.com raw numbers are not as high as we would like, progress from 2015 to 2016 was encouraging.

- There was an overall 48 % increase in sessions and 57 % increase in new users between 2015 and 2016.
- Increased numbers and percentages for all Partner countries, except Sweden, possibly because there was very high uptake for Sweden in 2015.
- Particularly good increases in Finland (201 %), UK (127 %), USA (72 %), and France (88 %).
- Good increase also in non-Partner countries (45 %).

DogWellNet.com: Users in 128 Countries



DogWellNet.com: New Users 2016 (Top 10 out of 128 Countries)



COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION: TRANSLATIONS – AN INTERNATIONAL DIALOG



Health and welfare management of purebred dogs is a primary focus of kennel clubs and breed clubs. Global awareness of different countries' approaches to implementation of effective strategies for education, breeding and health helps all organizations to build on each other's efforts. Translations serve to open up international dialog and to highlight the amazing work going on in many national kennel clubs.

[Explore translated breeding strategy documents, illustrated standards, health programs and club educational materials](#) offered on DogWellNet.com to gain a deeper understanding of priorities and approaches that enhance the quality of life for owners, breeders, and the dogs themselves.

Although we were able to increase the sharing of information from many kennel and breed clubs in 2016, we hope to engender even more collaboration from our Partner organizations in the future.

So many throughout the dog world can benefit from seeing the important work being done elsewhere, by being able to build on others' good ideas, finding like-minded collaborators – even in knowing they are not alone. And, members of breed clubs will be further energized to 'keep up the good work' as they see that their material is of interest to an international audience.



TRANSLATIONS
BREEDING STRATEGIES
CLUB PROGRAMS
ILLUSTRATED STANDARDS
MENTALITY EVALUATIONS

IPFD
DogWellNet

PEDIGREED DOGS DATABASE



There were 30 breeds added to the Pedigreed Dog Breeds Database during 2016,

bringing the total number of breeds represented to 139. The addition of these breeds to the database was suggested by new or contributing Members and Club Health and Breeding Committee representatives. Our contacts from Sweden, Finland, and France have provided us with translations of breed-specific health documents for numerous breeds. During 2016, many of the previously created breed pages were updated.

The DogWellNet.com breed pages contain standards, health information, breed-specific research, statistics, and links to clubs. Breed-specific articles located on DogWellNet.com and elsewhere, as well as videos and other materials focused on health and welfare in pedigreed dogs, can be found on DogWellNet's [Pedigreed Dog Breeds Database](#).

HOT TOPIC: BRACHYCEPHALIC DOGS - THE STAKES - HEALTH AND WELFARE

In 2016, DogWellNet.com continued to build a wealth of articles, materials, presentations, and analysis of stakeholders' efforts related to health and welfare issues in brachycephalic dog breeds. Showing compassion and developing an understanding of human-dog relationships is

no less important than gathering evidence-based information to serve as the foundation of efforts.

This is truly an issue that involves all of the stakeholder groups served by IPFD. Breed popularity, supply and demand considerations, the questioning of breeders' attitudes and decision-making, the effectiveness of judges' education, and increased scrutiny of the terminology presented in breed standards are on the Brachy 'health discussion table'.

In 2016, veterinary professionals in Sweden and the UK issued petitions which included calls for government-based legislation to regulate breeding of such breeds. Kennel and breed club-sponsored brachycephalic educational opportunities and conferences, newly adopted fitness programs in Germany, Finland, and France, as well as an increasing interest in breed-specific health research design and effectiveness, offer hope for an improved health future for these popular and beloved dogs.

International communication and collaboration is needed for this global issue.



"While being grounded in an evidence-based approach, DogWellNet.com offers a mode of profiling challenging, forward-thinking, and positive developments underway throughout the dog world."



CROSSBREEDING PROGRAMS

X BREEDING



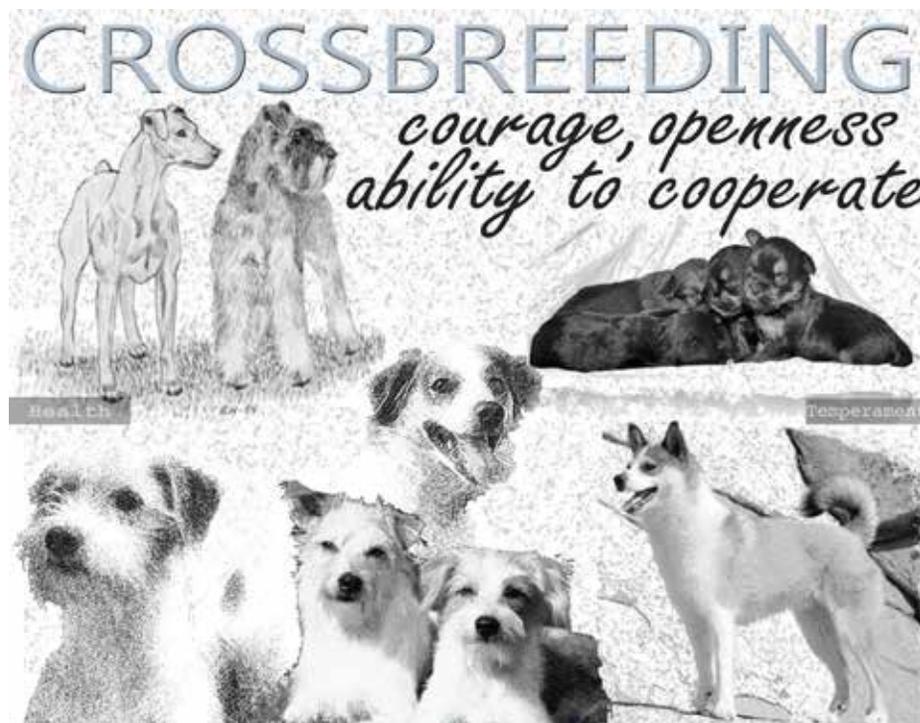
Crossbreeding Programs *Stakeholders' Processes, Approaches and Methods*

Many kennel and breed clubs are considering how crossbreeding for health might be included in health strategies. DogWellNet.com is developing resources on this challenging area with contributions from various collaborators. Effects of limited genetic diversity are prevalent in many breeds. Why are breed crosses being explored? Crossbreeding programs are about gathering knowledge and evidence and implementing appropriate breeding choices to address human, political, and practical factors. Crossbreeding done thoughtfully can, e.g., improve or restore working traits, decrease the incidence of inherited problems or undesirable genetic mutations, and improve the health/fitness in the breed. Haphazard approaches to breeding and crossbreeding, however, are of great concern.

Collaborators taking on crossbreeding as a breed-specific health strategy have shared their experience, approach, and results. Some of our collaborating experts have weighed-in on this important issue in their blogs.

Featured breeds

- Norwegian Lundehund Outcross - Norwegian Kennel Club
- German Pinscher X Schnauzer Cross - Finnish Kennel Club
- Kromfohländer Crossbreedings - Finnish Kennel Club
- Brussels Griffon X Australian Terrier Crossbreeding - Henny van den Berg, supervised by researchers Clare Rusbridge and Penny Knowler



IPFD STUDENT PROJECT (SUMMER 2016) – GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY THE SKIPPY FRANK FUND

We welcomed our first IPFD Student – Kelly Arthur, now a third-year veterinary student from Colorado State University. From June through August, Kelly developed a blog, articles, and interactive modules that explore a veterinarian’s role in the ethics and welfare of breeding dogs. The materials illuminate animal welfare complexities, cover student educational opportunities, and examine the role veterinarians and breeders can play to impact dog acquisition and care decisions. It is hoped that Kelly’s work will be used by veterinary students, veterinarians, and other purebred dog stakeholders. Deliverables are available at [A Veterinarian’s Role in the Ethics and Welfare of Breeding Dogs](#).



Kelly’s experience helped her to coach a team from CSU to win the [Welfare Judging Competition](#). We are pleased Kelly continues to contribute to DogWellNet.com, fostering IPFD’s values of communication and collaboration leading to actions that improve health and welfare of dogs. The success of the first IPFD Student Project has opened the door to a 2017 IPFD Student Project, also generously funded by the Skippy Frank Fund.

DOGWELLNET.COM: AROUND THE WEB AND MEMBER OUTREACH

For DogWellNet.com News & Highlights, check out [IPFD's Facebook page](#) and our [Digest](#). The latter was implemented in 2016 and is posted on the website every four to six weeks. DogWellnet.com Members receive The Digest by email. Stay Informed! Get Tips and Hints! Sign up to receive News from IPFD.



The *Spotlight* appears in each Digest. There you will find links to the latest breed updates, events information, newly released research, breeding strategy translations, and IPFD Partners' work for health and welfare.

Many talks given by our CEO at various conferences and meetings are available on DogWellNet.com, as are educational videos from our Partners and various breed organizations.



One of the main activities of the CEO involves delivering lectures and workshops at various symposia, conferences, and other venues in support of IPFD continuing education and outreach and for current and potential partnerships.

In 2016 Brenda attended breed gatherings, veterinary meetings and a welfare symposium.

Examples:

- Breed Club Conference, Helsinki, Finland, Feb. 2016
- 'Population data on brachycephalic breeds' at breeder conference in Sweden, Feb. 2016
- ['How Beliefs and Attitudes about Dog Health and Welfare Limit Behaviour Change'](#) Human Behaviour Change for Animal Welfare, Dorking, UK, Sept. 2016
- Breed Health Coordinators meeting, Surrey, UK, Sept. 2016
- 'International Efforts to Address Health and Welfare in Dogs', London Vet Show, UK, Nov. 2016

Topics Included:

- Population breed-specific statistics and their incorporation into evidence-based decision making on health and breeding
- International developments; communication and collaboration across stakeholder groups
- Veterinarians' role in health and welfare
- Human-animal interactions
- Latest research findings

Take home messages from Dr. Bonnett's lecture to the Human Behaviour Change for Animal Welfare Conference:

- We must understand the **humans** behind these problems
 - Accept diversity; broaden our understanding
- Use **empathy** and motivational communication
- Learn from other fields: **change theory** and **complex systems**
- Simplifying (oversimplifying) the complexity of health and welfare in dogs might help us focus on specific problems; however – can it be truly effective in the long run?
- People may have deeply seated psycho-social reasons for their behaviours around buying and keeping dogs – **more innovative strategies are needed if we want to change human behaviour to help the dogs.**



"...more innovative strategies are needed if we want to change human behaviour to help the dogs."

IPFD 3rd International Dog Health Workshop (IDHW) 21 - 23 April, 2017 - Paris

- Organized by the International Partnership for Dogs (IPFD) and the Société Centrale Canine (SCC), in cooperation with other partners.
- As of March 2017, more than 130 representatives of 23 countries have registered to participate.
- Plenary talks focus on priorities, needs and actions to advance within six themes; sharing sessions share goals and convergence across themes and a final summary to identify key actions moving toward the 4th IDHW (in the UK in 2019).

Themes:

- Breed-Specific Health Strategies: By breed, nationally and internationally
- Exaggerations and Extremes In Dog Conformation: Health, welfare and breeding considerations; latest national and international efforts
- IPFD Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs Initiative: Selection, evaluation, and application of genetic testing
- Behaviour and Welfare: How can we better integrate concepts of welfare, behaviour, and health in breeding and raising dogs?
 - Education and Communication – Antimicrobial Resistance/ Prudent Use of Antibiotics: How can international collaboration support education and communication within and across stakeholder groups (especially between veterinarians and breeders)?
 - Show Me The Numbers: Integrating information from various sources for prevalence, risks, and other population-level information

[Read more about the IPFD 3rd International Dog Health Workshop](#)



From our beginning, addressing the challenges of DNA testing was a key objective for IPFD. After years of building international, multi-stakeholder collaboration, these efforts came to fruition in 2016 with launch of the [Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs](#) initiative. IPFD will oversee a multi-stakeholder, collaborative effort to create an open access, sustainable online resource to:

- Catalog information provided voluntarily from commercial test providers (CTPs) on e.g., expertise, quality assurance, activities, and resources; tests, validity, and application
- Coordinate a program for standardized proficiency testing and potentially peer review and audit

- Collate/assemble existing and new resources for genetic counselling and education; and provide the foundation for further developments

IPFD, our Partners and other stakeholders recognize the input and work of many other experts and organizations in addressing the use of DNA tests in dogs. The Harmonization initiative is working to foster international collaboration to develop the resources needed to help realize the full potential of genetic testing to advance health and welfare of dogs and to support their caring owners and breeders.



Harmonization of
Genetic Testing
for Dogs

Sponsors of the Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs Initiative:



A prototype of the first phase of development will be presented at the IPFD 3rd International Dog Health Workshop, Paris, France (April 2017), the 9th International Conference on Canine and Feline Genetics and Genomics, in Minnesota, USA (May 2017) and the AKC CHF Parent Club Canine Health Conference, St. Louis, USA (August 2017).



"Looking ahead..."



As we move forward, we are pleased with our development to-date. However, it is worthwhile to examine challenges that remain and opportunities to expand and improve.

The **Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs** promises to be an extremely important project, and it is certain that it will be online this year. That initiative has three major elements: quality description of Commercial Test Providers; description and evaluation of the tests offered; and genetic counselling. Engagement of sponsors and contributors is off to a great start. The challenge will be in building a sustainable resource. At IPFD we look for creative and effective ways to maintain and support the collaboration that is necessary to initiate and maintain this key development.

And then there are **challenges similar to those faced by many of our Partners**: How do we engage, motivate, and sustain the efforts of the many (often volunteer) participants in efforts for health and welfare in dogs? How do we encourage ongoing and expanded collaboration across stakeholder groups while ensuring that collaboration is open, compassionate and effective?

One of the capabilities on our DogWellNet.com platform is for **Forum discussion groups** – as restricted or open as required by participants. Although embraced by many of our

collaborators as perfect for bringing people together, the full potential for this function has not been realized. In 2017, we will continue to facilitate the groups who have asked us to help them, but we will be carefully evaluating whether this time-intensive resource is working well.

One specific piece of the dog health puzzle will be an **increased focus on the source of dogs** – e.g., from commercial breeders. Even if we can continue to profile and promote the great activities of kennel and breed clubs, what about the global majority of dogs, 'purebred', pedigree and otherwise, that may not be under the direct influence of health- and welfare-minded individuals and groups?

We will look to consider all these challenges as opportunities as we move forward in 2017, following our Mission and Vision. As we move from Paris and the 3rd International Dog Health Workshop toward the 4th in the UK in 2019, we do so with the support our great Partners and collaborators; including our early 2017 additions, Mars Veterinary/Royal Canin and the Canine Genetics and Epidemiology journal. Together, we work to enhance the health, well-being, and welfare of dogs and to promote the best in human-dog interactions. 

International Partnership For Dogs



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