

International
Partnership
for Dogs



Annual Report 2017

About IPFD

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 the 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.



Did you know...
that the International Partnership for Dogs is a non-profit organization, legally registered in Sweden?

Our People

2017 IPFD Board of Directors

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

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

Ulf Uddman
Chief Financial Officer, Sweden

[View Officer Bios](#)

IPFD Consultants

Aimee Llewellyn-Zaidi
HGTD Project Manager

Ann Milligan
Content Manager

Dave St. Louis
Communications Specialist

James Skinner
Recording Secretary
(Time provided courtesy
of The Kennel Club, UK)

Robert Simons
Web Manager

Michael Edwards
IT Development

Provisionists
Web Hosting/Support

Building for the Future

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 2017, our third full year of operation, our efforts focused on two major initiatives – co-hosting the 3rd International Dog Health Workshop (IDHW) with the French Kennel

Club (SCC) in Paris in April and developing the Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs initiative. We also worked to solidify and expand our partnerships, to continue to address our key functions, and to expand our presence within the dog community.

The 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:

- Report on the highly successful IPFD 3rd IDHW and ongoing work arising from priorities established by the decision leaders who participated.
- Initiation of the Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs initiative, building on engagement of key organizations, international experts, and an increasing number of Leadership Sponsor genetic test providers.
- Our second Summer Student project grew out of the 3rd IDHW addressing issues of antibiotic resistance. Our 2016 veterinary student from Colorado State University

actively participated in the 3rd IDHW. Both projects were generously sponsored by the Skippy Frank Fund.

- On DogWellNet.com, we expanded our Breeds 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 nine issues of the Digest (our monthly re-cap of highlights on DogWellNet.com) and increased presence on Facebook and Twitter.

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, and together, we will build on collaborations in the demanding and diverse world of dogs as we advance our mission to enhance dog health, well-being, and welfare. IPFD Partners and Collaborators are truly leading by example.

Building for the Future

From the Chair

The IPFD Board comprises high profile, internationally renowned members of the dog world, including, among the eight full- and two ex-officio members: four veterinarians; five PhDs (one double-boarded in Theriogenology and Animal Welfare); several dog breeders (including one two-time winner of Westminster; one Breeder of the Year, AKC); four current/former tenured professors; two Presidents of national kennel clubs; five judges; and eight current/former CEOs/ Executives.



Dr. Pekka Olson, Chair

The Board held three teleconferences in 2017 and two face meetings – in Paris at the 3rd IDHW and again in November in Leipzig at the World Dog Show. We continued to revise and enact our strategic planning initiatives, including striking an Election and Selection Committee and further defining Board roles and responsibilities. The Board was also active in fundraising and outreach aimed at engaging new partners.

Our major event, the 3rd IDHW, was a resounding success. Our thanks to our co-host, The Société Centrale Canine (the French Kennel Club), for a perfectly organized event in a stunning locale. The intense work done beforehand by our CEO, other IPFD consultants, and our collaborators resulted in a provocative and relevant program, attendance by an impressive group of decision leaders from many stakeholders in the dog world, and a stellar group of speakers. The issues addressed in the themes are those challenging the global dog community.

The results of this workshop continue to support and inform a wide array of activities in many countries; specific actions arising will help us move ahead to advance dog health and welfare, globally. The IDHWs continue to support and influence various stakeholder groups, including, veterinary initiatives and international conferences. Although topics

like health and welfare in brachycephalic dogs are controversial and challenging, we must meet these challenges head on and collectively.

The Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs initiative has a great potential to support breeders, veterinarians, kennel clubs, breeding advisors, and more, and it was exciting to see this progress to a reality in 2017. We anticipate a successful launch in early 2018.

The 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.

A strong, committed effort by a wide array of stakeholders in the dog world is needed to advance common goals for the well-being of our canine companions.

Did you know...

our Chair, Pekka Olson, is also President of the Swedish Kennel Club?



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"A strong, committed effort by a wide array of stakeholders in the dog world is needed to advance common goals for the well-being of our canine companions."

– Dr. Pekka Olson, IPFD Chair

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

– Dr. Brenda Bonnett, IPFD CEO

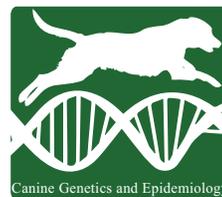
2017 IPFD Partners, Sponsors, & Collaborators

IPFD Annual Report 2017

IPFD Partners:



IPFD Collaborating Partners:



Sponsors of the Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs initiative are listed on Page 20.

[Read more about our Partners and Sponsors on DogWellNet.com](http://DogWellNet.com)





A Year in Pictures: Our People in the Spotlight



Jean-Pierre Genevois, DVM, PhD, Professor Emeritus, presented 'Bone and Joint Problems, ADN Tests Are Not a Panacea' to breeders and vets at a major education symposium & participated in a program involving a team of three judges for Group 8 dogs at the Concours Général Agricole dog show in Paris.

Jean-Pierre Genevois, IPFD Board



In 2017, Dr. Olson completed her 2nd 3-year term as Advisory Board Member for the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park & Conservation Biology Institute; helped wildlife biologists & cat advocates advance a study on cat populations to help cats, birds & the people who love them. She continued her work in animal welfare & human-

Dr. Patricia Olson, IPFD Board

animal interactions at the 3rd IDHW; by assisting former IPFD student Kelly Arthur in developing a new animal welfare course at Colorado State University; & participated in a working group on challenges to accessible & affordable veterinary care for dogs.



Board Member Alan Kalter also serves as chairman of AKC Reunite, North America's largest not for profit pet ID and recovery service. In 2017, AKC Reunite helped launch the Working Dog Project at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard to Improve Breeding of Military and Service Dogs.

Alan Kalter, IPFD Board

On top of being active at the 3rd IDHW & starting to organize the 4th in the UK (2019), Caroline Kisko's work in 2017 included organizing an international conference of kennel clubs at the Kennel Club in London attended by some 70 delegates - representing 30 governing bodies from as far afield as Australia, Canada, Malaysia, & the Philippines.



Caroline Kisko
Vice Chair, IPFD Board



After Ecuador was forced to cancel their plans, the German Kennel Club came to the rescue & organized the 2017 World Dog Show in under two years. It took place in Leipzig & 90K visitors & 30K+ dogs joined the world's biggest dog show! Events highlighted the diversity of dogs & their relations with humans; a real positive for the global world of dogs.



Peter Friedrich, IPFD Board



A Year in Pictures: Our People in the Spotlight

In addition to serving on the IPFD Board, Eddie Dzuik leads the work of the OFA, including the growth of the Canine Health Information Center. He also continues to promote responsible dog ownership & breeding practices through presentations to breed clubs and other key stakeholder groups.



Eddie Dzuik, IPFD Board

IPFD Board Member Kirsi Sainio continues her distinguished work as an international judge (shown here judging the 2017 Terrier Group at the Finnish Winners Show) & is the President of the FCI Scientific Commission.



Kirsi Sainio, IPFD Board

A major event in 2017 for UIF Uddman was the move of the Swedish Kennel Club offices to a fantastic new location in Rotebro (Stockholm). The lakeside facility includes the spectacular SKK Museum. UIF also continues his work as President of the Dog Shelter Organization of Sweden.



UIF Uddman, CFO, IPFD Board

IPFD CEO Brenda Bonnett connected with veterinarians, breeders, & other stakeholders through various outreach opportunities (see pg. 22), and she finds their passion & compassion for dogs & appreciation for IPFD truly gratifying. She was honoured to receive the Award of Merit from the SKK, alongside others who support the club's work.



Dr. Brenda Bonnett, CEO, IPFD

At the 3rd IDHW, IPFD Chair Pekka Olson chaired the 'Exaggerations of Conformation' workshop on the brachycephalic issue - a top agenda item for many attendees. He is also particularly excited about the development of the HGTD project & its role in breed-specific testing & breeding decisions.



Dr. Pekka Olson, Chair, IPFD Board

2017 IPFD Milestones



3rd International Dog Health Workshop in Paris co-hosted by the IPFD & French Kennel Club (SCC).



HGTD online resource enters Beta Testing phase.



WSAVA Conference & DSAVA Outreach Symposium: Presentations by IPFD CEO and expert collaborators from 3rd IDHW.



IPFD 4th International Dog Health Workshop



Dates: Thurs. 30 May to Sat. 1 June 2019
Location: Windsor, UK

The IPFD & The Kennel Club begin planning for the 4th International Dog Health Workshop.



2nd IPFD Summer Student, Ariel Minardi, completes "B.A.R.K" project on global public health threat of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).



Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs

Engagement of 17 Leadership Sponsor Genetic Test Providers/Labs for the HGTD initiative.



Our Collaborating Partner, Canine Genetics and Epidemiology, publishes IPFD paper: "Moving from information and collaboration to action: report from the 3rd International Dog Health Workshop, Paris in April 2017".



Administration

The IPFD

The IPFD is legally registered as a non-profit organization in Sweden. It is truly a "people-driven" service organization. We allocate the bulk of our financial resources to maintain a small but dedicated team to manage our modest infrastructure and facilitate the activities of our stakeholders – with the aim of achieving our collective goals.

Financial Statement

2017 Budget and assets: € 219,692

- Revenue from new initiation and membership fees 2017 and carryover from 2016.

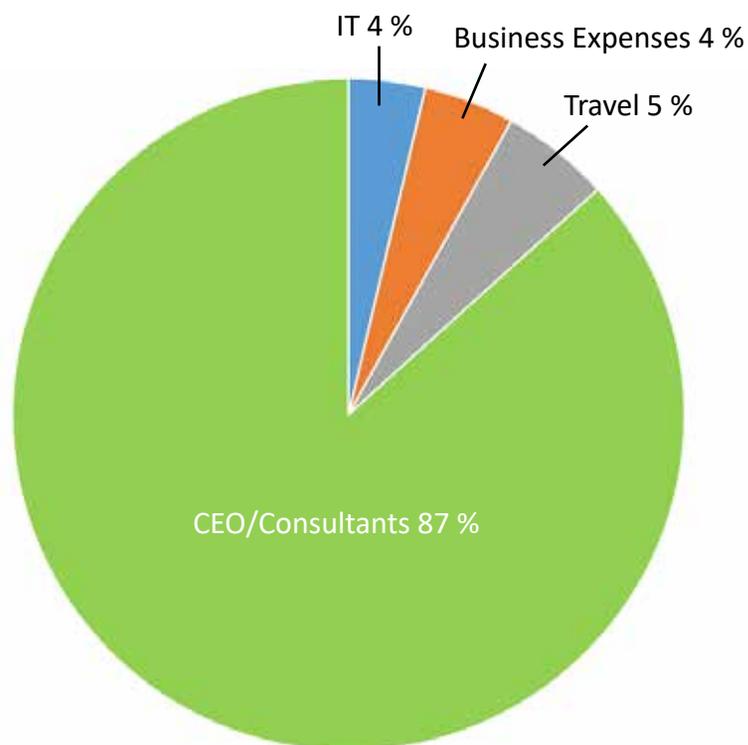
Auditor

BDO International

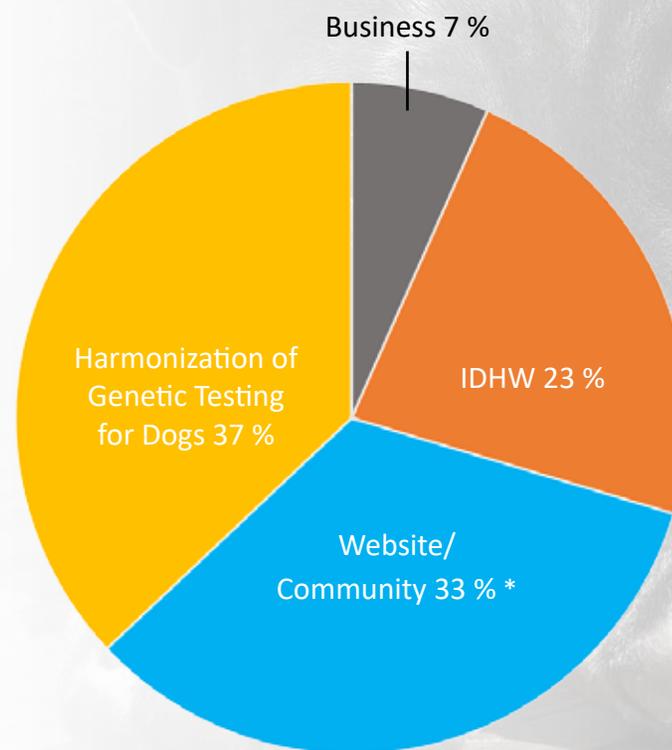
Accounting

We thank the Swedish Kennel Club (SKK) for providing bookkeeping and accounting services.

Expense Breakdown 2017



Areas of Emphasis 2017



**Website and community efforts underpin and support the HGTD initiative, the overall work of the IPFD, as well as ongoing work for the IDHW.*

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A Growing Web Resource

The internet platform of the IPFD functions as an information hub, providing links, documents, and additional resources to a broad range of audiences, including: breeders, breed club health advisors, veterinarians with interest in specific breed & health issues, and others in the dog world.

In 2017, DogWellNet.com showcased international efforts on various [Hot Topics](#) – including health and welfare in brachycephalic dogs, cross-breeding for health, and antimicrobial resistance – while

expanding our library of resources from various countries and organizations around the globe.

Among the highlights from 2017:

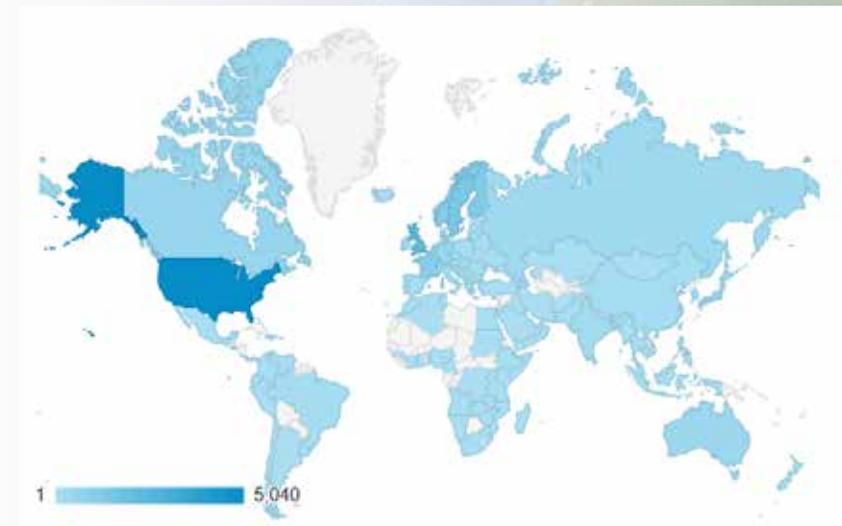
- Following the 3rd IDHW, we set up Forums for working groups from the IDHWs, as well as for international breed discussions.
- A Beta Test version of the Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs database for collaborators and Leadership Sponsors went online in December, with a public launch planned for the first quarter of 2018.

- Over 150 breeds are now in our Breeds Database; 18 new breed clubs are providing data; more international data is being added in several languages.
- Our global reach increased, with website users in 144 countries, up from 128 countries in 2016.

DogWellNet.com Users: Top 10 Countries in 2017

1.	 United States	5,040	 27.59%
2.	 United Kingdom	2,258	 12.36%
3.	 Sweden	1,403	 7.68%
4.	 Finland	1,218	 6.67%
5.	 France	1,047	 5.73%
6.	 Norway	1,042	 5.70%
7.	 Canada	558	 3.05%
8.	 Germany	547	 2.99%
9.	 Australia	407	 2.23%
10.	 Japan	403	 2.21%

DogWellNet.com 2017: Users in 144 Countries



More Contributors

In 2017, we engaged new contributors from kennel and breed clubs and our Partner organizations.

We have an ever-increasing number of translated Breeding Strategy documents (e.g., Swedish Vallhund and Borzois in Sweden, Irish Wolfhounds in Norway, Bulldogs in France, Dachshunds in the UK, Pugs in Finland, and more). These can be found in our [Breeds Database](#) and in breed highlights in DogWellNet.com Digest.

Such content sharing has been crucial to the growth of DogWellNet.com, and we will continue to actively solicit content from around the world. We thank all of our contributors, and we invite all breed and dog health/experts to share their content with the DogWellNet.com community to inform and strengthen international efforts.



DogWellNet.com Digest

 DogWellNet

Digest

We published nine issues ([posted on DogWellNet.com](#) and promoted via Member emails, Facebook, and Twitter) in 2017, summarizing the latest news and content on the site, including:

- DogWellNet.com Spotlights highlighting events, emerging issues and other important developments in the dog world.
- New or updated Pedigreed Breed Database entries (32 breeds featured in 2017).
- Latest articles posted on DogWellNet.com.
- New blog entries by IPFD staff and our growing roster of contributors.
- Helpful hints for using the site.

Social Media



We more than doubled our Facebook "likes" in 2017 and further increased our social media presence with the addition of IPFD Twitter and YouTube accounts.

The first IPFD-produced videos were posted by our second IPFD Student as part of her project on Antimicrobial Resistance (see page 17 for more info on Ariel Minardi's project).

Did you know...
that we had 18 new breed clubs providing info for our Breeds Database? We continue to welcome new contributors!



IDHW Paris 2017

International Dog Health Workshops: Overview

Breed-related health problems in dogs have received increased focus over the last decade. Responsibility for causing and/or solving these problems has been variously directed towards dog breeders and kennel clubs, the veterinary profession, welfare scientists, owners, regulators, insurance companies, and the media. In reality, all these stakeholders are likely to share some responsibility, and optimal progress on resolving these challenges requires all key stakeholders to work together.



CNRS researcher Catherine André speaks on validation of genetic tests at the 3rd IDHW.

IPFD, together with an alternating host organization, holds biennial meetings: the International Dog Health Workshops (IDHWs).

These meetings bring together a wide range of stakeholders in dog health, science, and welfare to improve international sharing of information and resources, to provide a forum for ongoing collaboration, and to identify specific needs and actions to improve health, well-being and welfare in dogs.

3rd IDHW: April 2017 - Paris

IPFD Partner, The Société Centrale Canine (French Kennel Club),



hosted the 3rd IDHW in Paris. The workshop included 140 decision leaders from 23 countries and was structured around six important issues facing those who work to improve dog health:

- **Breed-Specific Health Strategies:** Needs and opportunities; innovations, nationally and internationally.
- **Exaggerations and Extremes In Dog Conformation:** Health, welfare, and breeding considerations; national/ international efforts.
- **Education and Communication:** How can international collaboration improve education and communication within and across stakeholder groups (esp. between veterinarians and breeders, using the example of antimicrobial resistance)?

- **Behaviour and Welfare:** How can we better integrate actions to address issues in welfare, behaviour, and health in breeding and raising dogs?
- **IPFD Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs:** An international, multi-stakeholder initiative to address selection, evaluation, and application of genetic testing.
- **Show Me The Numbers:** Integrating information from various sources for prevalence, risks and other population-level information; latest national and international strategies to collect data and disseminate information.

Did you know...

the next IDHW will be in the UK in 2019, hosted by the UK Kennel Club?



IPFD 4th International Dog Health Workshop

DogWellNet
IPFD



Dates: Thurs. 30 May to Sat. 1 June 2019
Location: Windsor, UK

International
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IDHW Paris 2017



IPFD, together with an alternating host organization, host the biennial International Dog Health Workshops.

Did you know...

that 140 decision leaders from 23 countries attended the 3rd IDHW?



Materials from the 3rd IDHW

Pre- and Post-Meeting resources from the 3rd IDHW are [available for download](#) on DogWellNet.com.

Pre-Meeting Resources:

- Pre-Meeting Program, Theme Resources, and Reading Material.
- Pre-Workshop Reading Lists by Theme.

Post-Meeting Resources:

- Links to plenary presentations and sharing sessions.

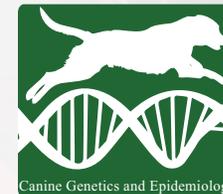
Moving from Information and Collaboration to Action

A number of exciting actions were agreed to during the IDHW. These included setting up working groups to create tools to help breed clubs accelerate the implementation of breed-health strategies, review aspects of extreme conformation, and share useful information on behavior.

The meeting also heralded the development of an online resource of relevant information describing quality measures for canine DNA testing.

A demand for more and better data and evidence was a recurring message stressed across all themes.

The IDHW confirmed the benefits from inclusion of a diverse range of stakeholders who all play relevant and collaborative parts to improve future canine health. Firm actions were set for progress towards improving breed-related welfare.



IPFD submitted a paper on the 3rd IDHW to *Canine Genetics and Epidemiology*, which published it in December:

[Moving from information and collaboration to action: report from the 3rd International Dog Health Workshop, Paris in April 2017](#) (O'Neill et al. *Canine Genetics and Epidemiology* (2017) 4:16)

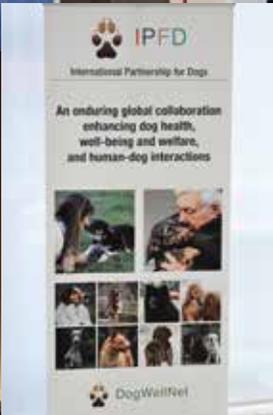
We wish to thank The Société Centrale Canine, our speakers, sponsors, and all participants for making the 3rd IDHW a resounding success!

3rd IDHW Sponsors:



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IPFD Student Projects

Update: A Veterinarian's Role in the Ethics and Welfare of Breeding Dogs



Kelly Arthur at the 3rd IDHW in Paris, April 2017.

In the summer of 2016, we welcomed our first IPFD Student, Kelly Arthur – now a 4th year veterinary student from Colorado State University. The 3rd IDHW in Paris was the culmination of [Kelly's project](#), where her poster (above) was displayed alongside an array of canine research projects from around the world. Kelly actively participated in the Welfare and Behaviour theme.

The success of her project was instrumental in securing support for our 2017 IPFD Student Project, which was also generously funded by the **Skippy Frank Fund**.

Kelly continues to contribute to IPFD and DogWellNet.com, fostering IPFD's values of communication and collaboration leading to

actions that improve dog health and welfare, including spearheading efforts that resulted in a new, required course in animal welfare at CSU.

Antimicrobial Resistance and Prudent Use of Antimicrobials in Dogs: Developing Novel Education Tools for Behavior Change



IPFD Student:
Ariel Minardi, Ohio State University (OSU)

Mentors:
Jason Stull, VMD, MPVM, PhD, Assistant Professor, OSU; Brenda Bonnett, DVM, PhD



Ariel Minardi's vlogs address a range of AMR issues.

Growing out of priorities identified at the 3rd IDHW, Ariel developed articles about Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and published The B.A.R.K. Blog | Bacterial Antimicrobial Resistance Knowledge on DogWellNet.com.

Ariel's posts also included vlogs (video blogs), which featured filmed interviews with experts in AMR and video shares from various stakeholders addressing interesting and controversial aspects of the AMR issue. The objectives of [Ariel's project](#) included:

- To research the epidemiology of antimicrobial resistance in dogs on an international level.
- To use a 'One Health' approach as a means of integrating knowledge for gathering information from experts in the veterinary, human medical, and environmental fields related to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and behavior change.
- To integrate alternative media methods of on-line learning as an educational experience for veterinarians, breeders, dog owners, and others involved with canine care.
- To persuade stakeholders to change behaviors to a more prudent use of antimicrobials (PUA).

We thank Ariel (and little Nina!) for her contributions and wish her the best of luck in her continuing studies!

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***"There is no psychiatrist in the world
like a puppy licking your face."***

— Ben Williams



Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs

The Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs: Background



Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs

From our beginnings, addressing the challenges of canine DNA testing has been one of IPFD's key objectives.

We have long recognized the input and work of many other experts and organizations in this area; however, the total lack of oversight or standards for DNA testing results in many challenges for dog breeders, veterinarians, and breeding advisors. An initiative was envisioned 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.

After years of building international, multi-stakeholder collaboration, these efforts came to fruition in 2016 with the launch of the [Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs](#) (HGTD) initiative. Once fully implemented, this open access, sustainable online resource will:

- Catalog information provided voluntarily from genetic test providers (GTPs) on 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.

2017 Milestones

2017 was a pivotal year for the HGTD initiative, with the achievement of several key milestones – including the allocation of additional financial and staff resources, database development and the enrollment of an initial group of 17 Leadership Sponsor Genetic Test Providers.

Summary of 2017 HGTD Milestones:

- Funding for 2017 allowed us to hire a Project Manager (Aimee Llewellyn-Zaidi).
- 17 Leadership Sponsor Genetic Test Providers (GTPs; 'labs') have been enrolled and have provided financial and expert support to the project.
- The prototype for the Quality Database was successfully demonstrated and profiled at the 3rd IDHW and the Canine and Feline Genetics and Genomics meeting in Minnesota.



HGTD Project Manager, Aimee Llewellyn-Zaidi, presents a session on the initiative at the 3rd IDHW in Paris.

Did you know...
online resources for the HGTD will be available to the public on [DogWellNet.com](#) in early 2018?



Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs



The HGTD landing page on DogWellNet.com will offer several search options and links to key genetic testing resources.

- Development has continued and a beta-test version has been online for collaborators and Leadership Sponsors since December 2017; public launch planned for the first quarter of 2018.
- Development on the Genetic Counselling portion of the initiative has begun and is on track for quick expansion in 2018 after the launch of the GTP database.

For more information on the Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs initiative, please visit DogWellNet.com.

Sponsors of the Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs Initiative



***"From Information and
Collaboration to Action."***



CEO Activities & Outreach

"Many hands make light work"

– John Heywood

Through our work to promote multi-stakeholder, collaborative international work on dog health and welfare, it is my privilege to engage with many people with a true commitment to dogs and their well-being.

I especially appreciate those opportunities to address assemblies of veterinarians, dog breeders, judges, regulators, researchers, and others, simultaneously (for example, at the 3rd IDHW in Paris and the Outreach Seminar in Denmark).

The complex issues we address need a collective effort to improve, and we generally get resounding agreement from those with whom we share this message. We also get strong approval for the IPFD mission, vision, and goals.

Where we sometimes lose our momentum, is where our pledge to work together meets the reality of the "busy-ness" and "business" of individual and organizational pursuits.

But I remain optimistic, sustained by those I meet with enduring passion for dogs and human-dog interactions, and I trust that the IPFD's international framework will help them navigate through the "busy-ness" and "business" to achieve our collective goals.

Selected 2017 Outreach Events

3rd International Dog Health Workshop
IPFD and The Société Centrale Canine
April 21-23, Paris



9th International Conference on Canine and Feline Genetics and Genomics
May 21-24, Saint Paul, Minnesota



The National Parent Club Canine Health Conference
American Kennel Club – Canine Health Foundation
August 11-13, St. Louis, Missouri



Outreach Seminar on Healthy Breeding
(for dog and cat breeders)

Also: **DSAVA Healthy Breeding Stream for Veterinarians**

Danish Small Animal Veterinary Association
and WSAVA
September 25-28, Copenhagen



Breed Health Symposium
The Kennel Club
October 4, Stoneleigh, UK



THE KENNEL CLUB
Making a difference for dogs

International
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IPFD 2018: Opportunities & Challenges

IPFD Annual Report 2017



Looking ahead...

2017 was a challenging and exciting year. The organization and its activities continue to expand in terms of content and influence.

The Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs (HGTD) made great strides in 2017 and will be public early in 2018. The collection and management of data from respected Genetic Test Providers (GTPs) has proved challenging, although this is not entirely unexpected given the unregulated nature of this field and lack of standardization, on many levels. All this, however, underlines the need for the initiative. 2018 will present both opportunities and challenges.

Content on DogWellNet.com continues to expand. Many individual breeders, breed clubs, and health representatives contact

with an interest in sharing material, and we offer them as much guidance and technical support as they need to get their resources onto our website. These opportunities are limited only by the amount of time and effort volunteers are willing and able to contribute.

We have instituted a revamped Partner engagement strategy, and our major partners have identified "Liaisons" to link with us, to share their important work with IPFD, and to take full advantage of their partnership. They are very excited about the potential for the HGTD to support their members.

We have been quite successful in gaining Sponsorship for the HGTD, and we continue efforts to engage new Partners for the initiative and the IPFD. In 2018, we will bolster our fundraising strategies to move forward in strengthening our organization and making this important work for dog health and welfare truly sustainable.

We stepped up our social media presence through our Facebook page, and, toward the end of the year, we implemented new promotion strategies to expand our reach. Those accessing our page find it relevant and useful, and we anticipate increased growth across all social media platforms in 2018.

The 3rd International Dog Health Workshop (IDHW) was a tremendous success. Great

thanks are due to our co-host, the French Kennel Club; all the participants; and our sponsors, Agria Pet Insurance and Royal Canin. However, organizing the program is a highly time-, energy-, and resource-intensive process for IPFD. This event is a working meeting, not a typical conference. Its success hinges on engaging theme leaders to define and prioritize topics that will inspire attendees and to assemble resource materials. A lot of time and effort also goes into promoting IDHWs to decision leaders.

Clearly this work paid off. The attendees, most of whom are engaged in demanding and influential positions in the dog world, embraced the overall workshop and their topics, identified key actions, and committed to making things happen. Similar work must go on during 2018/2019 to ensure an equally successful 4th IDHW in the UK in June 2019 with our hosts from The Kennel Club.

IPFD's model and resources (a modest budget and small group of consultants and Board Members) are intended to facilitate the activities of our stakeholders to achieve their priorities for the health and welfare of dogs. We must continue to refine this model to sustainably support these important collaborative international efforts.

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