

IPFD 4th International Dog Health Workshop (IDHW): Outline for Participants

General Goals and Outcomes - all Themes:

By the conclusion of the 4th IDHW participants should leave with a clear sense of key decisions on priorities / needs within the theme; remaining gaps/ challenges/ controversies; List of specific tasks/ actions to be undertaken over the next two years, by whom; and a clear understanding of how they, personally, will help achieve the desired outcomes.

Please see: [4th International Dog Health Workshop Pre-meeting Resources](#) including:

- current overview of entire workshop; schedule; speakers list and poster invite, as well as,
- page for each theme with links to more resources.

.... **Please note this is still evolving... check for new updates until the workshop...**

Supply and Demand Theme

The complexity of sourcing, distribution, consumer behaviour and attitudes. Including: national vs. registered/ pedigree populations, transport, online sales; commercial breeding: the reality of supply, new developments in health and welfare management, e.g. in the USA and Ireland; 'rescues' / marketing; the role of different stakeholders.

- **Working Group Coordinator(s):** Garret Arnott, N. Ireland; Brenda Bonnett, Canada
- **Resource persons:** Candace Croney, USA; Tory McIvory, N. Ireland, Jim Stephens, Ireland; Sarah Ross, Germany.
- **Facilitator:** Garret Arnott, UK
- **Note Taker:** Jenny Weiler, N. Ireland

Context for the Supply and Demand theme:

At the 3rd IDHW, the complexities and impacts of the source of dogs came up in almost all themes. We remain unsure of the total numbers of dogs within regions and countries, the proportion of pedigreed/registered dogs vs. unregistered/apparent purebreds vs. designer breeds vs. mixed breeds. Information is also lacking on imports/exports of dogs and online trade is a great concern. The definition and role of shelters and rescues is evolving; with reports of questionable behaviour including buying of dogs from puppy mills, resourcing dogs from auctions, shelters importing dogs from foreign countries because of lack of inventory, and even rumours that some shelters are breeding dogs to supply the demand for puppies.

Within many countries, the percentage of dogs coming from breeders associated with the health programs and standards of the national kennel and breed clubs is decreasing. Although countries like Finland and Sweden have a high percentage of pedigreed dogs, many countries report that less than 20% of dogs, yearly, are associated with the purebred registry body, and, for e.g. in the UK, as few as 3% of puppies come from breeders who are part of the Accredited Breeders scheme. And yet, most pressure is put on the kennel clubs (KCs) to control or address the source and quality of dogs. This may be appropriate to some extent as many of these organizations specify that they are stewards for all dogs and many register dogs from sources like large commercial breeders. But assuming that the KCs have the influence to 'fix' the problem is unrealistic. Many stakeholder groups have a role and responsibility to address issues of supply and demand.

Equally unrealistic is the continued call for the total elimination of commercial breeders by welfare organizations or the public in the face of the massive demand for dogs.

Key activities/ desired outcomes for this theme include:

- Identify issues and actions relative to the broad issues of Supply and Demand.
- Prioritize those with major impacts on health and welfare of dogs and those amenable to interventions/actions.
- Identify synergies in existing work across regions and stakeholder groups.
- Create a working plan for the next two years, including, e.g.:
 - Sharing information, e.g. via DogWellNet.com
 - Building working relationships among those present at the 4th IDHW and others.
 - Prioritize needs for communication and partnership building.

Organisation of Breakout Session:

Preliminary Time frame

- Breakouts: 15:00-18:00 on Friday and 8:15-10:45 on Saturday morning.
- Reporting/ sharing from breakouts is from 10:45-12:45 on Saturday.
 - This will include both priorities, gaps and action plans

Focus (tentative) for each Breakout Session:

1. 15:00-15:50 – Friday

- Who's in the group and what they would like to achieve
 - Summary of pre-workshop responses (brief survey to registrants).
- Definition of the main challenges of supply and demand; List of topics to be prioritized; e.g., with the goal to identify those for which actions can be identified:
 - Identifying synergies and differences across countries and regions
 - Transport/import/export of dogs; similar problems in Europe and elsewhere?
 - Location of sources of greatest concern.
 - Say you could eliminate all poor quality sources of dogs, will we then council the public to reduce the demand or accept the markedly reduced supply?
 - How do we communicate this reality to welfare/other organizations and get them to adjust their narrative OR how do we proceed in the face of unchanging resistance?
 - What are the health and welfare risks to dogs of the continuing ignorance/misunderstandings around supply and demand?
 - Are we ready to accept that dogs are a commodity? What are the numbers coming from various sources?
 - If so, are good commercial breeders appropriate sources? What is needed to support them in producing quality stock?
- Briefing for the next session

2. 16:15-18:00 – Friday

- Identifying/prioritizing key challenges that need multi-stakeholder/international cooperation and for which specific actions can be envisioned.
 - These could include education/raising awareness/effective communication.
 - Specific actions on key issues

3. 08:15-10:15 – Saturday

- Recapping on Friday's outputs & focusing on actions for the next two years.
- Specifying goals for action items
- Identify working groups to address actions; Assigning people to actions to be completed after 4th IDHW
- Reviewing the outputs
 - Each participant to identify 2-3 practical takeaways to adopt/adapt
 - Agree any gaps/needs
- Preparing the theme presentation to share at 10:45 in plenary

Pre-workshop resources:

Please keep checking as resources will be updated at:

- [Pre-meeting resources](#)
 - Others?
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- Presentations and outputs from previous IDHWs.
 - Refereed publication: [Moving from information and collaboration to action: report from the 3rd International Dog Health Workshop, Paris in April 2017](#)