



2nd International Conference of Kennel Clubs 25-27 June 2019

The 2nd International Conference of Kennel Clubs was hosted by the Swedish Kennel Club (SKK) in Stockholm on 25-27 June 2019 to consider a number of aspects of dog breeding with reference to the use of DNA testing to address inherited diseases of dogs. The rapidly expanding number of genetic tests for various conditions is not always accompanied by the required evidence for appropriate applications making it more difficult for both kennel clubs and dog breeders to establish priorities and to determine relevant actions. There is also an increasing commercial interest in DNA testing in dogs with major companies promoting wide-scale DNA testing for identification, parentage and health and disease.

The conference recognised that the application of genetics and genomics is complex, developing quickly and while based in science it is also influenced by many factors including local attitudes, cultural differences and social media. The need for collective strategies which are globally relevant and able to be adapted to individual situations and countries was supported by all present.

The development of these strategies would take into account:

- Availability of shared data and information such as any existing breed health strategies, breed specific prevalence of disease, severity and relevance
- Processes by which genetic health tests are approved for use in breeding
- Exploring and making best use of existing tools and platforms such as the International Partnership for Dogs (IPFD) and www.dogwellnet.com, alongside the outcomes and actions of the International Dog Health Workshops
- Information regarding which countries are already undertaking various activities including parentage testing, the pros and cons of existing strategies, opportunities and challenges.

Pekka Olson, SKK and IPFD Chairman said; "We considered both the challenges and the potential presented by genetic testing to dog health, welfare and breeding and came to the agreement that increased collaboration, sharing of information and harmonisation is the way forward worldwide."

