

Structure/Function for Expert Panels

A key goal of DogWellNet.com is to promote and facilitate international collaboration and to provide expert commentary and guidance on interpretation and use of information. Our Expert Panels will bring together leading authorities from around the world to help clarify controversial and complex issues in dog health. The first panel will review the use of genetic tests in breeding.

How does this work?

- A topic requiring commentary or section of content requiring evaluation will be identified.
- Members of the appropriate Expert Panel (see below) will be notified that a Discussion Topic is active.
- Material (papers, links to information online, specific questions) will be posted to the Members-only Forum on DogWellNet.com
- Expert Panel Members (EPMs) will be asked to review the material and comment/fill in survey forms at a time of their choosing while the Discussion Topic is active (dates will be given). EPMs will have sign-in access to the Members-only Forum and/or for specific Discussion Topics.
- The Moderator for the Topic will collate / summarise the information provided by the EPMs.
- Responses may be posted within the Members-only Forum for further comments by the EPMs.
- To this point, the discussion will have been asynchronous (i.e. EPMs work at their own convenience).
- As necessary, there may be webinars, live discussions or online meetings to review and summarise findings.
- When the discussion period is over or at the Moderator's discretion, a final summary will be sent to the contributing EPMs and then posted in the public section of DogWellNet.com.
- NOTE: it is not necessary that consensus be reached on all topics – if the experts disagree then various opinions will be shared. These issues are expected to be complex, interpretation may vary by situation in which the information is to be applied, etc. Guidance will be provided as possible, controversies and disagreements will be described, concerns and limitations will be made clear.

Who are the Expert Panel Members (EPMs)?

- EPMs will be nominated by peers/collaborators or self-nominated. All will have advanced credentials and relevant experience to the topic area. Participants may be part of more than one Expert Panel. Each Expert will agree to:
 - Participate on a voluntary basis.
 - Provide and keep updated a Personal Profile outlining credentials and experience, including affiliations and potential conflicting interests.
 - Further clarify any conflicting interests for each Discussion Topic. It is recognised that many EPMs will not be free of bias or relationship to pertinent issues. As long as these are made clear, they may provide input to the discussion and only recuse themselves, as necessary. In addition, other EPMs should raise any concerns about affiliations/conflicts of other EPMs to the Moderator. The Moderator will further investigate or act as necessary.
 - Not every EPM is expected to respond to every Discussion Topic. However, the Moderator for a Topic will monitor the participation of all EPMs.

Who is the Moderator?

The Moderator will be, in general, a member or staff or recognised collaborator of the IPFD. The Moderator will not necessarily be an Expert in the Discussion Topic. The Moderator's role will include to:

- Identify important Discussion Topics. These may relate to content being developed on DogWellNet.com, or be suggested by EPMs, contributors to the website, other collaborators, partners, etc.
- Organise the asynchronous discussions, inform EPMs, collate responses, organise live discussions/online meetings, etc. to facilitate an effective and timely discussion resulting in a Summary / Position Paper or recommendations.
- Arrange for information to be posted in a timely fashion on the website.
- Maintain an ongoing list of current EPMs;
- Coordinate with IPMs, answer their queries, etc.

Preliminary First Expert Panel

Topic: Use of Genetic Testing in Dog Breeding

Moderator: Brenda N. Bonnett, DVM, Phd;

Preliminary EPMs (PEPMs): Åke Hedhammar, Cathryn Mellersh , Jerrol Bell (OFA), Urs Geiger, Aimee Llewelyn (The KC))

Discussion Topics:

1. Background material for evaluation of genetic tests; use in breeding...
2. Appropriate validation; template/criteria
3. Specific recommendations for a popularly recommended test

Beta-test format:

- The test group will go through the process as described above.
- Additional live meetings will be held to have discussions on content and function.
- The PEPMs will brainstorm and test best practices to address the goals.