

International
Partnership
for Dogs



ANNUAL
REPORT

2019

A Growing Voice

“A LOT TO
CELEBRATE
AND **GREAT**
POTENTIAL
ON WHICH TO
CAPITALIZE”



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From the CEO

In our fifth full year of operation, we made significant strides in several key initiatives, and 2020 promises to be a pivotal year for IPFD.

As a start-up non-profit five years ago, we represented a good idea with an admirable mission. Many of our supporters were enthusiastic about the concept, but perhaps unclear about the details of what could be accomplished. IPFD has developed based on a strategy of 'if we build it, they will come'. The progress has been gratifying, and the achievements remarkable.

The acknowledgement of the need for multi-stakeholder, international collaboration and action is widespread and consistent. In addition, the impartial, balanced, big-picture, and inclusive approach of IPFD has led to the recognition of how important it is to have such a voice speaking on the complex challenges of dog health and welfare. However, the realities of the dog world and the demands of local, regional, and national responsibilities of our volunteers and collaborators means that there is increased demand on IPFD, not only to be the integrating hub for resources, but also for us to provide more person-power to make this happen.

As we move into a phase of enhancing stability and sustainability, we have a lot to celebrate and great potential on which to capitalize.

Dr. Brenda N. Bonnett

CEO, International Partnership for Dogs

From the Chair

Thanks to everyone who supported IPFD in our work in 2019. And we look forward to a stellar 2020...as together we leap ahead with great aspirations!

The IPFD Board has gone through a transformation in 2019, with three members transitioning off the Board and five enthusiastic new Board members joining. [The Board](#) now comprises both old friends and new faces with renewed energy and purpose to help launch IPFD into the new decade, capitalizing on existing strengths and addressing ongoing challenges.

I look forward to working with the Board in 2020, and you can look forward to getting to know them too, through their articles, blogs, and other contributions to IPFD and DogWellNet.com.

Thanks to everyone who has supported IPFD and participated in our work in 2019.

Dr. Pekka Olson

Chair, International Partnership for Dogs



International Partnership for Dogs



Mission

The mission of the International Partnership for Dogs (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 are 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 the 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.



Who We Are

The International Partnership for Dogs (IPFD) is a non-profit organization leading a global, multi-stakeholder effort to address issues affecting dog health, well-being, and welfare.

Our people include a [Board](#) comprised of individuals with respected international reputations, and a small but committed [team of consultants](#) in several countries. Volunteers from our Partners and Collaborator organizations and a network of experts are integral to what we do.

Our [Contributors, Partners, and Sponsors](#) include national kennel clubs, international cynological organizations, groups with breed specific interests, educational/academic and professional organizations, and key players in the pet industry.

Together with other participating organizations, companies, and individuals, we foster collaborative action to achieve our shared goals, support human-animal interactions, and benefit all dogs worldwide.

[Learn more about IPFD](#) on DogWellNet.com

“The IPFD is open, inclusive, and transparent in its structure and function. It is truly a people-driven service organization.”

Dr. Brenda Bonnett, CEO

What We Do

Coordination

The issues of dog health, well-being, and welfare are extremely complex and extend across international borders to include organizations and individuals from numerous jurisdictions, sectors, and disciplines. IPFD is an essential coordinating mechanism bringing these stakeholders together, harnessing their strengths, and facilitating collaborative efforts. Without IPFD, we would continue to see duplication of effort (i.e. parallel, but isolated initiatives), weakened or unfocused international/multi-stakeholder projects, and many other missed opportunities – all to the detriment of dogs (and humans) around the world.

Information

We collect, collate, clarify, and create resources to provide evidence-based information and expert opinion on a broad range of issues affecting dog health, well-being, and welfare. As curators, we ensure that key resources needed to inform actions are accessible to all stakeholders, from owners to experts, individuals to organizations, and local to global efforts for individual dogs and populations.

Collaboration

We encourage, initiate, and facilitate collaboration among our Contributors, Partners, and Sponsors – and other stakeholders in the dog world.

Action

We provide a global platform for all stakeholders in dog health and welfare. We share information – most of it free to all – through our online channels (e.g. DogWellNet.com) and provide a framework for collaboration, including the IPFD International Dog Health Workshops (IDHWs), key initiatives (e.g., Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs (HGTD)), working groups, expert panels, event presentations, and other outreach activities.

How We Work

IPFD is a truly people-driven service organization. Our structure and resources (a modest budget and small group of consultants, volunteers, and Board Members) facilitate the activities of our stakeholders to achieve our individual and collective priorities for the health and welfare of dogs.

As a growing, independent voice within the global dog community, we aim to provide the best possible information and advice to assist our stakeholders in making optimal decisions for their members, customers, and breed(s) of interest. IPFD provides and supports a 'big picture', balanced, transparent, and integrated approach to the complex challenges for dogs and the people who care about them.

Our key audiences are, first and foremost, committed and health-conscious breeders, as well as those who support and advise them (kennel and breed club health committees, breeding advisors, veterinarians, researchers, etc.), but also include essentially all those involved in the world of dogs, including kennel/breed clubs, dog owners, the pet industry, and more. Our consultants work tirelessly to engage others who embrace our vision and are willing to share their information, expertise, and passion for dogs.

We connect with these stakeholders through our online platform, DogWellNet.com, social media, and direct correspondence – in addition to hosting/attending face-to-face meetings, conferences (e.g. the IPFD IDHWs), seminars, and other educational/networking events.

Where We Work

As a “virtual” organization, we have no physical headquarters/offices and, therefore, minimal fixed costs; over 90% of our budget goes to programs. Essentially, we work wherever we are and with those who share our mission and goals.

IPFD is registered in Sweden and legally overseen by the Swedish Kennel Club. Our consultants work from their homes (Canada, USA, Sweden, Spain, etc.) or wherever they are traveling in the world advancing the mission of IPFD.

We have collaborating experts, partners, and contributors from Europe, North America, Australia, and Asia, but we are continuing to expand our reach, with members of and visitors to DogWellNet.com from all continents and dozens of countries.

“We look forward to a stellar 2020...as together we leap ahead with great aspirations!”

Dr. Pekka Olson, Chair



Our Board & Officers

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 comprise a range of backgrounds and abilities.

We were delighted to welcome five new Board Members in December 2019: Dave Eikelberg, Marty Greer, Bill Lambert, Gregoire Leroy, and Barbara Thiel.

The first teleconference of the new Board was held in December, and we are already seeing the great things that their diverse backgrounds and experiences can bring to IPFD.

Please also join us in thanking three friends and colleagues who transitioned from the Board in December for all of their contributions:

Jean-Pierre Genevois – France

Caroline Kisko – UK

Patricia N. Olson – USA

[Detailed bios](#) for IPFD Directors and Officers are available on DogWellNet.com.



Dave Eikelberg PhD (Candidate), MSc
USA



Pekka Olson DVM, Dr. hc
Chair, Sweden



Bill Lambert
Vice-Chair, UK



Peter Friedrich PhD, Professor
Germany



Marty Greer DVM, JD
USA



Gregoire Leroy PhD, HdR
France



Kirsi Sainio PhD
Finland

Officers (Ex-officio on the Board)



Barbara Thiel DVM
Germany



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



Ulf Uddman
Chief Financial Officer, Sweden



Our Consultants

We allocate the bulk of our budget to maintain a small team to manage our modest resources and facilitate the activities of our stakeholders – with the aim of achieving our collective goals.

People are always the strength of an organization, and now is a good time to acknowledge and thank the small but committed team of consultants in several countries who do the lion's share of work at IPFD.

[View their profiles](#) on DogWellNet.com.



Aimee Llewellyn-Zaidi

HGTD Project Manager, USA



Monique Megens DVM

Chief Operating Officer, Spain



Ann Milligan

Website Content Manager, USA



Dave St. Louis

Communications Specialist, Canada



James Skinner

Recording Secretary, UK



Provisionists

Provisionists

Web Hosting/Management

<?=\$CodingJungle;?>

Michael Edwards

PHP Developer

Our Contributors

Partners of the International Partnership for Dogs and Sponsors of specific IPFD initiatives

2019 Contributing Partners



2019 Collaborating Partners



2019 HGTD Contributing Leadership Sponsors

Agria Djurförsäkring (Agria Animal Insurance)
American Kennel Club
AKC Canine Health Foundation
Canadian Kennel Club
International Partnership for Dogs

Irish Kennel Club
The Kennel Club
Norsk Kennel Klub (Norwegian Kennel Club)
Raad van Beheer (Dutch Kennel Club)
Suomen Kennelliitto (Finnish Kennel Club)

Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen
(German Kennel Club)
Société Centrale Canine (French Kennel Club)
Svenka Kennelklubben (Swedish Kennel Club)

2019 HGTD Leadership Genetic Testing Providers - Initiators



2019 HGTD Genetic Testing Providers - Sponsors



2019 HGTD Leadership Collaborators

University of Sydney OMIA

Vetstream

WSAVA

DogWellNet.com

DogWellNet.com functions as an information hub, providing links, documents, and additional resources to breeders, owners, veterinarians, and others in the dog world.

[DogWellNet.com](https://dogwellnet.com) is an open access, ever-expanding information hub. For an overview of the site, including an explanation of key content areas and features, please visit the article [DogWellNet Basics](#).

Although almost all DogWellNet.com content is available to guests, we encourage readers to [sign up](#) (free). As of the publishing date for this report, more than 1,200 people have registered, including more than 500 Members and 700+ Advanced Members.



About IPFD & DogWellNet.com

Everything you need to know about [our organization, IPFD](#), and [our online platform, DogWellNet.com](#)



Breeds Database

Our Breeds Database lists 175 breeds. Information includes breed standards, population data, club newsletters, breed databases, videos, and more. In 2019, we added 12 breeds and updated 46 breeds. Native Breeds and Additional Resources sections are also provided. We thank our breed experts and clubs for sharing information on their breeds with our community.



Hot Topics

Highlights of current issues and timely discussions for consumers, breeders, veterinarians, researchers, and other members of our community



Welfare

Welfare issues related to the breeding and distribution of purposely bred dogs, issues and legislation related to health and welfare, and human-animal interactions



Health & Breeding

Topics of interest for anyone involved in breeding dogs, including those providing advice to breeders, breed clubs, or kennel clubs



International Actions

Resources and initiatives arising from topics at the IPFD International Dog Health Workshops (IDHWs)



Research

Peer-reviewed research, research projects/clinical trials, and research articles and reports not published in refereed Scientific journals



Education

Resources, approaches, and events focused on education related to health, well-being, and welfare in dogs



IPFD International Dog Health Workshops (IDHWs)

Materials from the IPFD International Dog Health Workshops, which bring together stakeholders from around the world to improve the health, well-being, and welfare of dogs



Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs (HGTD)

Database, articles, and other resources associated with the IPFD's Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs initiative



Stay Informed!

 DogWellNet _____
Digest

Published several times a year, our online newsletter, [DogWellNet Digest](#), features the latest news from IPFD and DogWellNet.com.

Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs (HGTD)



Harmonization of
Genetic Testing
for Dogs

The HGTD arose from discussions at the IPFD International Dog Health Workshops (IDHWs); it is a proud achievement, exemplifying the IDHW tagline: Information – Collaboration – Action!

In 2019, the [HGTD project](#) could be summarized in one word: **Growing**. We've consistently grown our list of genetic test providers (GTPs). Participating GTPs have provided information on their accreditation, expertise, and practices – all of which helps individuals find a GTP that has the quality measures most important to them.

The generic phenes database provided a centralized resource for researchers, vets, and owner/breeders, spurring unexpected benefits. We've seen more consistency in test naming among international providers, benefiting owners seeking testing information. It also allowed international researchers to spot industry-wide challenges, and have them addressed through a centralized platform.

To better support dog owners, the veterinary community, and dog health advisors, we introduced *Breed Relevancy Ratings* across genetic tests. The

HGTD database relevance rating indicates the amount of available evidence supporting the relevance of a specific genetic test for a specific breed/type. Currently, the relevance rating is based on a wide variety of evidence sources. This includes peer-reviewed research papers, recommendations from the original researchers/test developers, input from additional experts including veterinary specialists, and breed experts.

It is hoped that, by being more informative about what we currently know or do not know about a specific test for a specific breed, that dog health advisors and owners can make more informed decisions.

The collaboration across the dog world, and the participation of those in the testing industry, dog owners, and experts around the globe, has helped to shape our achievements for 2019 and develop exciting plans for 2020.

Learn More:

<https://dogwellnet.com/ctp/>

HGTD GOAL: *Improve standardization of, and access to, robust genetic testing to support health improvements and a sustainable future for healthy dogs. The portal for information on Genetic Testing Providers (labs), genetic tests, and tests by breed. There are two major components: the Quality Testing Database and Genetic Counselling Resources.*

76

A GROWING LIST OF GTPs

The HGTD Database now includes 76 academic and commercial genetic test providers (GTPs) in 22 countries.

42

PARTICIPATING GTPs

The Database currently includes information on accreditation and tests for 42 collaborating GTPs; 37 non-participating GTPs are also listed.

300+

PHENES/TESTS

There are 300+ phenes/tests across all breeds/types in the searchable Database.

2

KEY COMPONENTS

- Database searchable by Breed, Test/ Disease, and GTP/Lab
- Genetic Counselling Resources



IMPROVEMENTS IN 2019

- Clearer information on outsourced testing
- Improved visibility of GTP data updates
- Automation of data update process and other enhanced functions

2020

COMING IN 2020

Look for expanding engagement of GTPs, Integration of Expert Panels, Health Strategies Database (HSDD), and the Get a GRIHP Program to enhance breed-specific information and outputs.

IPFD International Dog Health Workshops (IDHWs)

From Information to Collaboration to Action: The IDHWs bring together a wide range of stakeholders in dog health 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.

IPFD is responsible for the [International Dog Health Workshops](#) and partners with other organizations who manage meeting logistics. We continue to see the dividends of the important work done at the first three IDHWs ([read more in our publication from the Paris 3rd IDHW](#) and look for a new publication in the *Journal of Canine Epidemiology and Genetics* in 2020), and Working Groups are now tackling issues addressed at the 4th IDHW.

4th IDHW – May/June 2019, Windsor, UK

The 4th IDHW, co-hosted by the IPFD Contributing Partner, [The Kennel Club](#), included more than 130 decision leaders from 17 countries, who joined us to share their experiences and expertise across five Themes addressing some of the most pressing issues in the dog world.



Photo courtesy of Helena Skarp



2012 (Sweden)



2015 (Germany)



2017 (France)



IPFD 4th International Dog Health Workshop

DogWellNet
IPFD



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

2019 (United Kingdom)

The overall consensus is that the IDHWs just keep getting better and better. This is due in great part to the efforts of the attendees, representing all stakeholders in dog health and welfare – including representatives from research, the veterinary world, welfare organizations, kennel and breed organizations, and more.

Stellar plenary speakers set the tone for intense and productive breakout sessions in the various Themes. The Themes were: *Genetics, Breed-Specific Breeding Strategies, The Concept of Breed and its Impact on Health, Supply and Demand, and Extremes of Conformation*.

4th IDHW Pre- and Post-Meeting Resources

From pre-meeting reading material to posters and slide presentations from the workshop, we've compiled materials from the 4th IDHW, so that participants can refer back to them – and so that those who were unable to attend can also benefit from this impressive collection of downloadable resources.

[Pre-Meeting Resources](#) | [Post Meeting Resources](#).

As seen in the word cloud from our participants (right), a key aspect of this meeting was collaboration and networking. Coming together with others who are dealing with similar challenges – and who share a commitment to health dogs – provides a boost of energy for both cooperative efforts as well as the day to day work by these committed dog people.



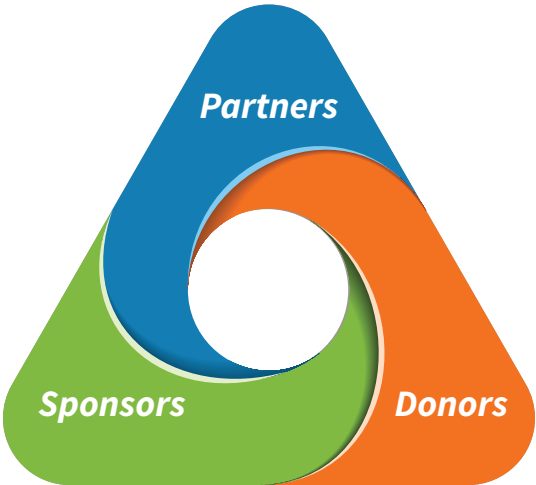
Stay tuned for details of the 5th IDHW!

Administration

IPFD's model and resources (a modest budget and small group of consultants and Board Members) facilitate the activities of our stakeholders to achieve their priorities for the health and welfare of dogs.

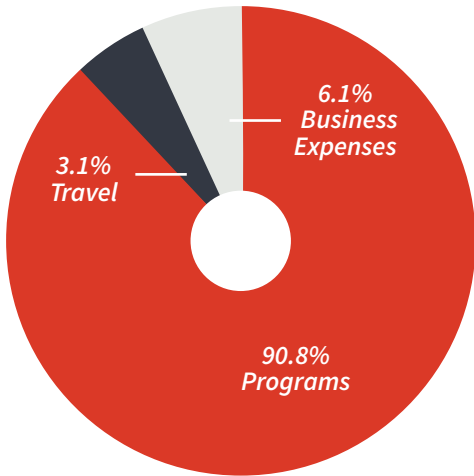
2019 Income Overview

2019 Income:
€ 255,120



2019 Expense Summary

2019 Expenses:
€ 230,112



Administration Notes

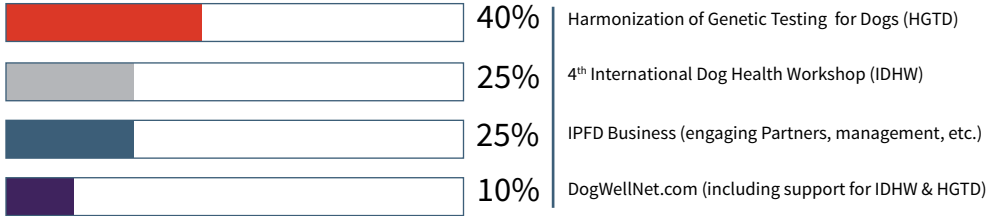
Total Assets (end of 2019): € 156,014

Auditor: BDO International

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

Programs Breakdown

Approximate distribution of effort within Programs in 2019





*IPFD'S model and resources
(a modest budget and small
group of consultants and
Board Members) facilitate the
activities of our stakeholders to
achieve their priorities for the
health and welfare of dogs.*

Into the Future

With several key IPFD initiatives building momentum, our revitalized Board, and ongoing outreach with our Partners and Sponsors...the possibilities for 2020 are truly exciting!

In the beginning, the main focus was creation of an online platform – DogWellNet.com – to share the important work being done for dog health and welfare around the world. The aim was to bring together a wide array of stakeholders – veterinarians and researchers, breeders, breed and kennel clubs, regulators, and more – to support the common goals and address the diverse and complex challenges faced by all in the dog world. The goal was not primarily about creating a new organization – IPFD – even if the organisation was needed to underpin the work on the platform.

DogWellNet.com has flourished and expanded. The Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs has been launched and is serving crucial needs related to genetic testing. The International Dog Health Workshops have continued to support and expand collaborative actions. However, beyond the success of our platforms, it has become clear that IPFD – the organization – has become a needed force and a respected, impartial voice.

Also in the beginning, there was optimism that IPFD would be able to collect, collate, and share the information – and support the efforts of our Partners and Collaborators – with a very small core of consultants. And we have. But the reality is that, although many stakeholders are truly committed to the need for and benefit from the international approach, even our most engaged collaborators are overwhelmed by their local and national responsibilities. Therefore, IPFD needs to provide more proactive and sustained efforts than was initially envisioned. The network of collaborators is established; but a larger IPFD workforce would mean much more could be accomplished more quickly – still intently focused on the shared goals and needs of our community.

Into the Future

In 2020, one of our goals is to further strengthen our branding of IPFD to enhance our ability to deliver the resources mentioned in this report. With an even greater presence for IPFD, we can further address our mission of dog health, well-being, and welfare, and support of human-dog interactions. In addition to enhancements to the website, we look to expand our membership globally, building from the grassroots of our target stakeholders and those already collaborating with IPFD, while maintaining our close alliance with the decision leaders represented by our Contributing Partners. All these developments will be good for our ultimate target group – the dogs who enrich our lives.

Postscript

As we publish our 2019 Annual Report, it is April 2020, and the world is in the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic. As IPFD does the vast majority of our work virtually, we are well-placed to carry on with little disruption. We have proactively canceled all planned travel, without substantive impact.

However, we are compassionately aware of the changing situation for our many Partners, Collaborators, Sponsors, and stakeholders, and we, like everyone, will see what 2020 will bring. Through all our channels, we will find creative and practical ways to support our stakeholders in this challenging time.



CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

Going into 2020, we have renewed or continue ongoing contracts with all existing Contributing Partners!



HARMONIZATION OF GENETIC TESTING FOR DOGS (HGTD)

In addition to expanding engagement with Genetic Test Providers (GTPs), we will integrate various projects including the Expert Panel, Health Strategies Database (HSDD), and the Get a GRIHP Program to enhance breed-specific information and outputs.



IPFD INTERNATIONAL DOG HEALTH WORKSHOPS (IDHWs)

We continue to see the dividends of the important work done at the first three IDHWs, and Working Groups are addressing actions identified at the 4th IDHW. Stay tuned for details of the 5th International Dog Health Workshop!



NEW IPFD BOARD

Building on the outstanding work of the initial IPFD Board, the new Board will continue to guide IPFD's work to improve the health, well-being, and welfare of all dogs worldwide.



A GROWING TEAM

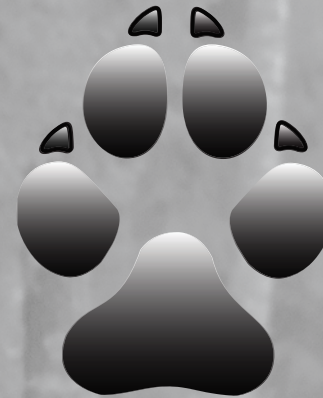
We've added our first Chief Operating Officer, whose impressive credentials will help us streamline our administrative functions and ensure IPFD's continued growth and sustainability.



STAY CONNECTED

Be sure to sign up as a member (free) to get the most out of our web platform, DogWellNet.com, and follow IPFD on our social media accounts (see back page).

International Partnership for Dogs



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