Table of Contents

Introduction .................................................. 3
From the CEO .................................................. 4
From the Chair ............................................... 5
Who We Are .................................................. 6
Our Guiding Principles ..................................... 7
Our Board and Officers ...................................... 9
Our Consultants ............................................ 11
Our Contributors ......................................... 13
IPFD: Promoting the Balanced “Big Picture” .......... 15
Our Platform: DogWellNet.com ......................... 16
International Dog Health Workshops (IDHWs) and
Virtual Meetings .......................................... 18
Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs (HGTD) ... 20
Health Strategies Database for Dogs (HSDD) .......... 23
End of an Era ............................................. 25
Administration ........................................... 26
Looking Ahead: 2023 .................................... 27
Introduction

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 (view bios). 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.
I joined IPFD as its new CEO in October 2022, a time of significant transition for the organization – IPFD’s founding CEO Dr. Brenda Bonnett having recently retired, and our Business and Project Coordinator Katariina Mäki leading the organization capably as Acting CEO.

In the months since, I’ve had the pleasure of getting to know and work alongside a dedicated team of consultants, our distinguished Board, and IPFD’s outstanding partners and supporters around the world. And one of the things I look forward to most in 2023 is building new relationships with the diverse group of organizations we are reaching out to now.

I come to IPFD at a time of great change within the dog world as well, and I have been tasked with adapting our growing organization to this new reality while also continuing IPFD’s role in providing an unbiased voice for the health of all dogs. I must offer a heartfelt thank you to our longtime Chair, Pekka Olson, and our colleagues at the Swedish Kennel Club for their indispensable help in getting me up and running as CEO and for their ongoing administrative support of our team and the organization as a whole.

I’m excited about the initiatives underway in 2023 and for what is to come in the next chapter for the International Partnership for Dogs!

MARC RALSKY
Chief Executive Officer
Canada

Marc joined IPFD as its new CEO on October 3, 2022.

He has broad experience as a not-for-profit leader and has worked extensively with fundraising and corporate sponsorship with various organizations.

Marc is a national board member of the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC). He owns and breeds Siberian Huskies, and co-owns Toy Manchesters and Samoyeds and shows them in conformation shows worldwide.
From the Chair

What a difference a year makes...

In 2022, we marked the end of an era with the retirement of our esteemed colleague and founding CEO, Brenda Bonnett, without whom IPFD may never have come to be (read more on Page 25).

I must begin by thanking Katriina Mäki for stepping up to serve as Acting CEO while we conducted an exhaustive worldwide search for Brenda's permanent successor. We were rewarded for our efforts with the appointment of Marc Ralsky (Canada), who brings to IPFD a true passion for dogs along with new ideas and business expertise.

2022 brought change to the IPFD Board as well. We welcomed Eva Leijdbrandt (Sweden) to the Board in December and bid a fond farewell to our colleague James Skinner (UK), who served as our Recording Secretary since IPFD’s earliest days.

And I’d be remiss if I didn’t thank our Board and consulting team for helping IPFD navigate a sea of change within our organization and in the global dog community. I’m truly confident that we have the talent, knowledge, and vision to take IPFD to a new level in 2023.

I share the Board’s sense of optimism as we refocus our efforts and offer even more value to a community needing IPFD’s unique capabilities and leadership more than ever.

PEKKA OLSON
Chair
Sweden
Currently Board member, Hundstallet (Swedish dog shelter and humane organization)
On the boards of the Agria/SKK Research Fund. Former Chair, Swedish Kennel Club.

Photo by Måns Engelbrektsson
Who We Are

The International Partnership for Dogs (IPFD) and DogWellNet.com came into being following a long history of efforts by many stakeholders to address dog health and well-being. We’ve posted an abbreviated timeline of key developments highlighting the complexity of issues addressed by the IPFD and DogWellNet and listing many of the supporters and collaborators that have contributed directly or indirectly to this important work.

The IPFD Approach

IPFD is a truly people-driven service organization. Our structure and resources (a modest budget and a 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.
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.

An enduring global collaboration enhancing dog health, well-being, and welfare, and human-dog interactions.

- 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.
The general goals of 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.
Our Board and Officers

Pekka Olson DVM, Dr. hc
Chair, Sweden

Bill Lambert
Vice-Chair, UK

Peter Friedrich PhD, Professor
Germany

Kirsi Sainio PhD
Finland

Marty Greer DVM, JD
USA
Alexandre Balzer DMV, CEAV, DU
France

Dave Eikelberg PhD (Candidate), MSc
USA

Barbara Thiel DVM
Germany

Eva Lejdbbrandt
Sweden

Marc Ralsky
Chief Executive Officer, Canada

Ulf Uddman
Chief Financial Officer, Sweden
Our Consultants

Ann Milligan
Website Content Manager, USA

Dave St. Louis
Communications Specialist, Canada

Jenni Uski
Consultant, Finland
(Through April 2023)

Katariina Mäki PhD
Business and Project Coordinator, Finland

Aimée Llewellyn-Zaidi
HGTD Project Manager, USA

Photo by Michael Darby
Previous years’ Annual Reports can be downloaded at DogWellNet.com.
Our Contributors

2022 Contributing Partners

![Agria](image1.png)
![IKC](image2.png)
![CKC](image3.png)
![Centrale Canine](image4.png)
![VDH](image5.png)
![The Kennel Club](image6.png)
![SVS Kennelklubb](image7.png)
![Agria Pet Insurance](image8.png)
![Wisdom Health](image9.png)
![Royal Canin](image10.png)
![Canadian Kennel Club](image11.png)
![Raad van Beheer](image12.png)
![MARS Petcare](image13.png)

2022 Collaborating Partners

![VetCompass](image14.png)
![A.S.H.G.I.](image15.png)
![v3etstream](image16.png)
![FECAVA](image17.png)
![DBRG](image18.png)
![WSAVA](image19.png)
![EASVS](image20.png)
Get Involved!

• Organizations interested in IPFD partnerships and sponsorships can contact CEO Marc Ralsky at marc.ralsky@ipfdogs.com.
• GTPs wishing to participate in the HGTD can contact HGTD Project Manager Aimée Llewellyn-Zaidi at aimee.llewellyn-zaidi@ipfdogs.com.
• Organizations or individuals can visit DogWellNet.com to make a donation to support IPFD and/or HGTD.
The International Partnership for Dogs was initiated by major kennel clubs and key pet industry groups – true leaders in the world of dogs – who shared a commitment to maintaining and improving the health of all dogs.

IPFD takes a multi-stakeholder, Big Picture approach to the complex challenges of dogs, breeds, and human-dog interactions; works to provide resources, inform, assist in actions for health and welfare, and bring these stakeholder groups into collaboration and cooperation. IPFD is a unique international organization that can operate at arm’s length, independently and transparently, to address the breadth of challenges in dog (pedigree and non-pedigree) health and welfare.

Via DogWellNet.com, IPFD’s outreach, and International Dog Health Workshops/Virtual Meetings, our aim has been to collect and present evidence-based data, highlight Kennel and Breed Club tools and programs and resources, and share common sense content that promotes health and wellness for purebred dogs and all dogs.

We have engaged experts in breeds, involved genetic and canine researchers, as well as featured materials from health and welfare sectors, industry/pet insurance/genetic test providers, and veterinary organizations/fields.
A New, Improved DogWellNet.com!
We’ve begun significant updates to our website to provide an improved user experience. Key areas of DogWellNet.com include:

Who We Are: Learn more about our history, structure, and work.

Purebred Dogs: IPFD’s Pedigree Breeds Database includes breed standards, population data, videos, and more for 180+ breeds. Additional resources include Native Breeds, Globally Relevant Integrated Health Profiles (GRIHPs), and Agria Breed Profiles for many popular breeds.

Genetic Testing: The Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs (HGTD) section includes a searchable database, genetic counselling resources, and other key information for breeders, veterinarians, and owners.

Health Strategies Database: The Health Strategies Database for Dogs (HSDD) is a searchable database that includes breed-specific health/mentality testing requirements and recommendations established by Health Strategy Providers (HSPs) including kennel clubs, breed clubs, veterinary organizations, and others.

Photo by Pfenningbergerw
**Articles | Education:** This area offers a vast collection of resources on breeding, health and welfare, IPFD’s Virtual Meetings and International Dog Health Workshops, and our DogWellNet Digest e-newsletter.

**Blogs:** Written by the IPFD team and contributing experts, posts in our Blog community focus on issues relevant to key stakeholders.

**2022: A Growing Online Community**
444 new members signed up on DogWellNet.com in 2022, bringing our membership total to 2556. Website use continues to improve year over year. See the breakdown by website section and country-specific website user stats to the right for details.

Key site metrics all increased significantly from the previous year: Pageviews (+15.84%); Unique Pageviews (+29.52%); and Average Time on Page (+25.39%).

Site usage from our top 10 countries (listed below) also increased in 2022: Users (+53.28%); New Users (+54.40%); and Sessions (+47.26%).

1) USA 6) Sweden
2) UK 7) China
3) Germany 8) Australia
4) Canada 9) France
5) Finland 10) Norway

Top five most popular pages/sections on DogWellNet.com in 2022 (Pageviews / % increase over 2021):

1) Articles (37,938 / +14.68%)
2) Pedigree Breeds Database (28,498 / +15.96%)
3) Blogs (28,109 / +119.11%)
4) HGTD Homepage (21,313 / +37.70%)
5) Homepage (19,184 / +8.23%)
International Dog Health Workshops (IDHWs) and Virtual Meetings

In the midst of the pandemic, we moved our collaborative events online. They have been well-received by our participants and will continue in 2023. However, we are returning to hosting our signature in-person IDHWs in 2024.

Virtual International Dog Health Workshops
IPFD’s virtual meetings address the interests and needs of our diverse international canine health community. The discussions and information directly impact and improve information to benefit canine health and welfare through supporting evidence-based decision making by leaders in health and informing the development of IPFD’s resources.

Our first Virtual Meeting took place on September 28, 2021. The aim of the workshop was to discuss and share relevant information around challenges relevant to standardizing genetic reports and identify outcomes and agree on actions towards improving genetic reports, ultimately to the benefit of dog health and welfare.

On May 3, 2022, we hosted our second online session, which focused on genetic diversity, primarily from a genetic tests/tools view.

A third workshop, Parentage Profiling for Kennel Clubs, was held on Match 15, 2023. More than 90 participants from around the world took part in our online discussion on Parentage Profiling for Kennel Clubs.
International Dog Health Workshops (IDHWs)
IPFD’s signature events, the IDHWs, bring together decision makers from professional, regulatory, national and regional, and other stakeholder organizations under the tagline: ‘From Information and Collaboration to Action’.

There have been four International Dog Health Workshops to date:

- The 1st International Dog Health Workshop was organized by the Swedish Kennel Club (SKK) and held in June 2012 in Stockholm.
- The 2nd IDHW was co-hosted by IPFD and the German Kennel Club (VDH) and held in Dortmund, Germany in February 2015.
- The 3rd IDHW was co-hosted by IPFD and French Kennel Club (SCC) in Paris in Spring 2017.
- The 4th IDHW was co-hosted by the Kennel Club in Windsor, UK in 2019.

Just Announced:
5th IPFD International Dog Health Workshop:
13-16 June 2024, Finland

We are excited to announce that the 5th IDHW will be co-hosted by the Finnish Kennel Club in June 2024.

Stay tuned for more details!
Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs (HGTD)

Since its launch in 2018, IPFD’s Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs (HGTD) searchable database has grown to include information on 82 international genetic test providers (GTPs) and global research information on genetic testing for dogs.

The HGTD is the only comprehensive, transparent, and unbiased resource focused on improving access to genetic testing and counseling and bringing together national and international stakeholders, including researchers, veterinarians, genetic test providers, kennel club advisors, breeders, and owners.

The HGTD database is searchable by GTP and by hundreds of regularly updated disease and trait genetic tests integrated with latest research and clinical information, with additional breed-specific information on test usage or application in the breed(s). Additionally, breed-specific genetic testing information compiled for HGTD is being integrated into Get a GRIHP! documents, a series of articles on the Big Picture of health and welfare within specific breeds. HGTD is also the overarching topic of several international virtual meetings covering subjects important to genetic test development and usage – responding to real-world priorities and needs across the canine health community.

Further genetic testing and counseling resources are available in articles and blogs by HGTD Project Manager Aimee Llewellyn-Zaidi on DogWellNet.com. (Ask Aimee | HGTD & Genetic Testing)
GENETIC TEST PROVIDERS
The Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs Database now includes 82 academic and commercial Genetic Test Providers (GTPs) in 26 countries across five continents.

PARTICIPATING GTPs
The Database currently includes information on accreditation and tests for more than 40 collaborating Genetic Test Providers (GTPs).

INDIVIDUAL TESTS
More than 25,000 individual laboratory and breed-specific tests are tracked to allow users to search for who is providing breed-specific tests.

UNIQUE BREED-SPECIFIC ENTRIES
The database includes 1892 unique breed-specific test entries, with 557 having specific test usage instructions or warnings.

UNIQUE GENETIC TESTS
349 unique genetic tests are included, with detailed clinical information. New tests are added as discovered, and a full update and review is done twice a year to ensure HGTD is the most accurate resource.

BREED RELEVANCE RATINGS (BRR)
All 1892 breed-specific entries have breed relevance ratings assigned. This is reviewed as needed, and at least twice a year undergoes a full review.
**BREEDS REPRESENTED**
503 Breeds are included – with the majority being FCI recognized, and the remaining being national breeds. Pedigree breeds are our core, but genetic testing access and information is available for all types of dogs with specific information for common crosses.

**VIRTUAL MEETINGS**
IPFD has hosted three Virtual Meetings to-date on canine genetic testing, including Standardizing Genetic Testing, Genetic Diversity, and Parentage Testing for Kennel Clubs.

**DATABASE SEARCHES**
HGTD Database searches were among our most utilized areas on DogWellNet.com in 2022. Total records viewed for each search category: Breed Search (1,276); Test/Disease (9,409); and GTP/Lab (2,961) for a combined total of 13,646.

**DATABASE SEARCH OPTIONS**
The HGTD Database offers three search functions: Search by Breed; Search by Test/Disease; and Search by GTP/Lab.

**VISITS TO THE HGTD HOMEPAGE**
Since its launch in 2018, IPFD’s Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs (HGTD) resource has seen a steady increase in traffic. In 2022, there were 6,870 pageviews of the HGTD homepage by individual breeders, breed clubs, leaders, and decision makers in canine health, reflecting our expansive reach.

**EASY WAYS TO DONATE ONLINE**
There are two options for individuals and organizations to make a one-time donation quickly and securely via PayPal:
- Support IPFD General Activities
- Support the Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs
Use the new Health Strategies Database for Dogs (HSDD) to get a sense of the international ‘picture’ of work being done to identify health and temperament issues of concern for a given breed.

Breed-specific health testing strategies are created by the groups responsible for the sustainable health and welfare of a breed – generally kennel clubs and (national) breed clubs. These groups examine the evidence available on the occurrence, severity, commonness, heritability, and overall importance of various conditions known to occur within a breed. They then determine whether there are health tests available to characterize the sire and dam, and/or puppies, to provide information to direct breeding decisions by breeders.

Health Strategy Providers (HSPs) have different goals, different priorities, and different authority in terms of recommending or requiring health testing and may design different strategies. Some have long lists of conditions of interest, some shorter lists. This depends also on the breed.

Photo by Varjag
Those HSPs who control registration of dogs/puppies or who control membership to a group (e.g., OFA CHIC registration) may make some of these health screening tests mandatory (required, R1 in HSDD breed charts) for e.g., hip dysplasia screening in many breeds.

In other cases, health testing or other consideration of the condition may be ‘recommended (R2)’ or

It may be that the condition is simply on the radar of breed representatives, and it is ‘recognized (R3)’ as a potential issue in the breed.

Health conditions included in the breed listings are those covered in the Nordic countries’ RAS & JTO documents, obtained via links to US breed clubs’ use of OFA CHIC testing information, concerns addressed in the UK’s Breed Conservation Plans, and from an array of impactful health & welfare tools, programs, and initiatives.

There is a breed-specific component to the frequency of disorders in particular dog breeds or in ‘groups’ of dogs; for example, large sized dogs, working breeds, herding breeds, short-muzzled or short-legged breeds’ groups can have similar health disorders or shared welfare management concerns.

Using a breed-specific approach to identify which health issues occur in a breed and how many dogs are impacted by a given condition(s) guides any breed manager’s focus and efforts to address and improve the situation for individual dogs and the breeds at a population level.

Note: Conditions are listed as general categories (to provide a manageable presentation); details of specific conditions are contained within the breed-specific data provided by HSPs. More information is available by following URLs to the HSP.

Special thanks to Jenni Uski and Brenda Bonnett for their efforts in making the HSDD a reality!
Ever since Dr. Brenda Bonnett proposed the development of a canine health and welfare information network in 2011, she has been the driving force behind the IPFD and DogWellNet.com.

As IPFD’s first Chief Executive Officer, Brenda was responsible for the development and operation of the IPFD, including its technical infrastructure, partnership building, programs and projects, and more. She stepped down from the CEO role on October 31, 2021, and continued to share her expertise with the international dog community as IPFD’s Veterinary Science Officer until July 2022. The wealth of information that Brenda and IPFD the team created during her tenure remain on DogWellNet.com as an enduring resource to support the health and welfare of dogs.

Brenda played a major role in organizing and presenting the first four IPFD International Dog Health Workshops (IDHWs) and subsequent virtual IDHW sessions on canine genetics. She has also been a frequent speaker on topics of animal health, welfare, and human-animal interactions at scientific meetings, as well as to many stakeholders in the dog world (i.e., breed and kennel clubs, judges, and veterinarians). Most recently, Brenda made virtual presentations at the April 2022 Embark Canine Health Summit and the July 2022 Symposium on Healthy Dog Breeding (presented in collaboration with the Canadian Kennel Club and Canadian Veterinary Medical Association).

We are hopeful that Brenda will have many more opportunities to continue supporting the health and welfare of animals with her extensive knowledge and experience. We thank Brenda for her tireless efforts in the creation of IPFD and for her immense contributions in advancing dog health, well-being, and welfare throughout her distinguished career.
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 all dogs.

2022 Income/Expenses Overview

2022 Income: € 186,070
2022 Expenses: € 239,928
Auditor: BDO International

2022 Expenses Breakdown

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

Approximate distribution of expenses in 2022:

- Programs: 95.5%
- Business Expenses: 4.5%
Looking Ahead: 2023

IPFD demonstrated great resiliency during the COVID pandemic, thanks to unwavering support from our international contributing partners and sponsors. As we emerge from these challenging years, IPFD continues to expand our collection of free resources, including the new Health Strategies Database for Dogs (HSDD) and a growing list of Globally Relevant Integrated Health Profiles (GRIHPs) for popular breeds. Our team is working on significant improvements to the navigation and functionality of DogWellNet.com to make it easier and quicker for users to find the resources they need.

We aim to build upon the success of our recent Virtual Meetings and are looking forward to reuniting with our friends and colleagues at the 5th IPFD International Dog Health Workshop in Finland in 2024.

IPFD has grown steadily since its humble beginnings in 2014, and we’re stepping up our outreach to prospective partners and sponsors to ensure our long-term sustainability. We’ve already welcomed the Italian Kennel Club (ENCI) as new Contributing Partners in 2023, and we’re currently in advanced discussions with several prospective sponsors for IPFD in general or to support specific initiatives.

We’re excited about what we’ve accomplished so far in 2023, and this promises to be a very busy and pivotal year for IPFD.

Stay tuned for updates through our social media and Digest e-newsletter. We look forward to working with all of our colleagues in 2023 for the health, well-being, and welfare of dogs around the world!

Photo by AnjaGh