

COIN VÉTO

Three days of collaborative dog health workshops

INTERNATIONAL DOG HEALTH WORKSHOP



This 5th edition took place around the theme "Partners in canine health".

In mid-June 2024, the International Partnership for Dogs (IPFD) held its 5th International Dog Health Workshop in Helsinki. Centrale Canine's scientific team was there to meet its counterparts and take part in the discussions.

The last edition of the IPFD workshop took place before the health crisis, in 2019. Since then, the IPFD community had mainly been animated online via the DogWellNet website, but no physical meetings had been held.

Over 100 people from some twenty different countries travelled to Finland to attend the 2024 meeting, representing a wide range of companies and associations, from kennel clubs to canine genetic testing laboratories, including the insurance company Agria, Mars Petcare and the Royal Canin branch.

The objective of the IPFD is to propose actions to improve the health and well-being of all dogs. This objective has been broken down into different topics for this congress, divided into four themes:

- Supply and demand: every dog counts;
- Breeding for health and well-being;
- Big data;
- Is color important? Definition of breed and variety.

The event's sponsors were able to take part in several plenary sessions. Royal canin presented its "Choose health" initiative, implemented in France by the Pôle expert canin. Agria also presented its "Agria breed profiles", statistical data derived from insurance processing in the Nordic countries.

*By the Health and
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The interpretation of these data was discussed in the room, in particular the importance of always comparing them with empirical data from owners and breeders of different breeds, in order to draw the best conclusions.

Breeder Dilemmas

The supply and demand working group has had many discussions on the evolution of demand and on the expectations of the new generation of dog owners, now known as “pet parents”, whose relationship with the animal is different from that of previous generations. This new generation aspires to gather more information before buying or adopting a dog. One conclusion was the importance of breeding label systems, whose standards could be shared between different countries.

A second working group focused on the heart of the matter: how to breed healthy dogs. This group worked on the definition of hypertype and the sharing of information about hypertype, in particular concerning the content of scientific studies already published. The group also stressed the importance of complying with legislation, which has evolved considerably in recent years in the direction of responsible breeding and health as a selection criterion, but which is not always respected, leading to major differences between breeders who are monitored by kennel clubs and those who are not.

Data Analysis

The subject of data, formulated as “big data”, was explored in depth. A great deal of data on the health of dogs exists in various databases around the world. The question is how to analyze and cross-reference all this data. Indeed, different sources could have complementary data, as was presented during the Agria data analysis.

Another noteworthy topic was the subject of a workshop: re-tempering programs, which exist mainly in Nordic countries.

HYPERTYPE: BREATH DATA

La Centrale Canine presented a poster on data from BREATH, the functional test for brachycephalic breeds, developed in coordination with the various clubs of the breeds concerned. We were able to discuss brachycephalic syndrome and selection strategies with several kennel clubs and veterinary health organizations. BREATH, adopted in Italy and Spain, could become an important basic selection tool for dogs of brachycephalic breeds.



The Centrale Canine's scientific poster on BREATH aroused the interest of the participants.

The participants discussed the different regulations that may exist in each country for the registration of dogs from tempering programs. It is important to bear in mind that, before starting any tempering program, an analysis of the current population must be carried out to assess whether the approach is appropriate for resolving the problems identified (inbreeding too high, disease or trait to be eradicated, etc.).

And what's next?

Following the meeting, the various stakeholders each came up with a number of ideas for future collaboration. The idea of a database listing the dog research projects being carried out by each partner around the globe was one of the ideas approved by the meeting. Other information-sharing projects have yet to be developed with the various partners.

The three-day meeting of industrialists, kennel clubs, dog research teams, veterinary surgeons and breed club representatives provided an excellent cross-fertilization of ideas and projects, and promises a promising future of collaboration for the well-being and health of dogs.

For further information

The IPFD website is www.dogwellnet.com, where you can find a wealth of information: breeding strategies for different breeds, genetic tests available by breed, the laboratories that offer them and the prevalence of disease in a breed, summaries of the work carried out during the workshops, etc.

