

Backgrounder: International Partnership for Dogs (IPFD) and DogWellNet.com

The International Partnership for Dogs (IPFD), legally registered in Sweden, is a non-profit organization and its mission is to facilitate collaboration and sharing of resources to enhance the health, well-being and welfare of pedigreed dogs and all dogs worldwide. Several national Kennel Clubs (Sweden, Finland, Germany, France, Norway, Ireland, the UK and the USA (AKC)) and other stakeholders in dog health [The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (USA) and the Agria Pet Insurance-SKC Fund (Sweden)] have made formal, multi-year commitments to move this work forward. The Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI, who represents 91 national kennel clubs) is an Initiating Patron and Member; VetCompass (UK) is a Collaborating Partner). The IPFD is open, inclusive and transparent in its structure and function. We are working to engage more Partners from throughout the world, including additional cynological organizations, professional and academic groups, welfare organizations and corporate/industry partners.

DogWellNet.com, the internet platform of the IPFD, functions as an information hub, providing links, documents and additional resources to breeders and others in the dog world. However, it is much more than 'Google-for-dogs'. The whole design and structure of the platform revolves around 'building community' – bringing people together. This will be accomplished both by the way the IPFD is developing the site, i.e., using IPFD staff as well as volunteers from partner institutions, and from functionality inherent in its design. For example, the software allows for the creation of 'Forums' where groups can effectively communicate, share information, reach consensus, etc. Much of DogWellNet.com is available to the public now, but the site is still in a building/ beta-test phase. Full access is restricted to Partners/Members who are helping build content and functionality.

Having grown out of the 1st International Dog Health Workshop (IDHW), in Sweden in 2012, IPFD was hailed as a major development at the 2nd IDHW (Germany, Feb. 2015) by participants representing many stakeholder groups from approximately 20 countries. Together with the French Kennel Club we will present the 3rd International Dog Health Workshop (21-23 April 2017, Paris). IPFD and DogWellNet.com are also being received enthusiastically by the dog community, (e.g.: <http://www.dogworld.co.uk/product.php/132065/> and <http://issuu.com/dognews/docs/020615/64>).

For additional information, visit DogWellNet.com, or please contact Dr. Brenda N. Bonnett, CEO, International Partnership for Dogs (brenda.bonnett@ipfdogs.com). We welcome interest from all those who share our desire to enhance dog health, well-being and welfare, worldwide.