

Global Canine Data Alliance (GCDA)

Overview (2026–2027)

What is GCDA?

The **Global Canine Data Alliance (GCDA)** is an international coordination initiative under the International Partnership for Dogs (IPFD) that connects organisations holding canine health, pedigree, clinical, genomic, and population data to enable collaborative research and evidence-based improvements in dog health and welfare.

GCDA does not act as a data repository or infrastructure provider. Instead, it focuses on connecting data holders, aligning standards, and enabling responsible collaboration across the canine health data ecosystem.

Why is this needed?

Large volumes of canine data already exist across:

- Kennel clubs and breed registries (pedigree and health screening data)
- Veterinary clinical databases
- Academic and genomic research projects (WGS, SNP data)
- Insurance datasets (morbidity and longevity data)

However, these datasets are fragmented across organisations, countries, and systems. Differences in standards, identifiers, and governance limit their combined use for research and breeding decisions.

GCDA addresses this by improving coordination, visibility, and interoperability across existing data sources.

What does GCDA do?

GCDA focuses on enabling collaboration through:

- Connecting organisations that hold or use canine data
- Mapping existing data resources and identifying linkages
- Supporting alignment of data standards and metadata practices
- Promoting responsible and ethical data sharing frameworks
- Facilitating research collaboration across sectors

Communication and updates are shared via DogWellNet.com and related channels.

Core Areas of Work

1. Data Mapping & Connectivity

Identifying and describing major canine data resources and how they can be linked.

2. Standardisation & Interoperability

Supporting alignment of phenotype definitions, genomic metadata, and identifiers.

3. Governance & Ethics

Promoting responsible data sharing, consent frameworks, and GDPR-aligned practices.

4. Research Collaboration

Enabling connections between data holders and researchers to support cross-population studies.

5. Pilot Studies (Feasibility Phase)

Exploring small-scale pilot approaches integrating kennel club, veterinary, and genomic data.

6. Education & Capacity Building

Supporting understanding of EBVs, genomic risk, and population genetics among stakeholders.

Vision

A connected international ecosystem where canine health and genomic data can be used more effectively to support:

- Discoverability of data resources
- Interoperability across systems
- Ethical and responsible data use
- Collaborative research and evidence-based breeding decisions

2026–2027 Focus

- Establish GCDA coordination structure
- Strengthen engagement across key stakeholder groups
- Map global canine data resources and access conditions
- Define priority pilot study opportunities
- Explore alignment with established data standards and infrastructure approaches
- Develop shared communication and educational resources

Key Stakeholders

- Kennel clubs and breed registries
- Veterinary clinical data systems
- Academic and research institutions
- Genetic testing laboratories
- Animal health and insurance organisations

Outcome

Improved ability to connect existing canine data resources to support research into disease, genetic diversity, and population health—ultimately improving dog health and welfare worldwide.