

6th IDHW Online Event: 16-17 April 2026



INTERNATIONAL 6TH DOG HEALTH WORKSHOP

All Roads Lead to Dog Health

16 – 17 April 2026
Online

30 May – 1 June 2026
Bologna, Italy

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Theme Updates from the 5th IDHW

INTERNATIONAL
6TH DOG HEALTH
WORKSHOP
All Roads Lead to Dog Health

Workshops:

- 5th International Dog Health Workshop, Helsinki, Finland (2024)
- Virtual Dog Health Forum (2025)

Themes:

1. Supply and Demand
2. Breeding for Health and Well-being
3. Big Data
4. Does the Colour Matter? Defining Breed vs Variety

Presentations, post-workshop information, and other resources are primarily within the Workshops section on dogwellnet.com. References for any cited or mentioned laws, articles, and research can be found in the Education section of dogwellnet.com

Theme 1: Supply and Demand

- *Illegal activities such as illegal importation need to be addressed through more effective legislation and enforcement.*
- *Explore new opportunities for better collaboration between researchers and other interested parties with greater access to consumers and breeders to provide the data and information on dog buyers needed to guide action.*
- *Explore new opportunities for better collaboration between researchers and other interested parties, with greater access to consumers and breeders to provide the data and information that dog buyers needed to guide action.*
- *Meet virtually on a regular basis, to ensure continued collaboration and exchange of ideas.*
- New UK laws are in development to address improved regulation of imports from EU (and beyond).
- Public misinformation and lack of knowledge around risks of (illegal) dog importation contributes to illegal puppy trade
- New data indicates underage (less than 6 weeks) puppies being bought and sold is still commonplace in the UK, despite being illegal. Ref. “Lucy’s Law”
- The first ever EU legislation on the welfare of dogs and cats, due to be applied in 2028, has the potential to crack down on illegal breeding and sales practices, including traceability, minimum standards for breeding establishments, and harmonized standards for puppies imported from
- IPFD is collecting information on relevant EU, UK, and global laws related to supply and demand in a dedicated Education section – please help!

Theme 2: Breeding for Health and Well-being

- *It is imperative that the welfare and lives of dogs are prioritized in all canine activities. Discussions need to continue, but the solutions improving canine health and welfare need to be found urgently.*
- *Kennel clubs need to communicate better and more forcefully with their judges to make them understand their role and responsibility in protecting the health and welfare of all breeds.*
- *More effective education and understanding within puppy buyers, breeders, and show judges is needed to ensure research and evidence are put at the heart of the action.*
- *All stakeholders who care about dogs should strive to be champions of canine health and welfare first and then to consider how this relates to maintaining existing breed concepts.*
- Launch of self-assessment/health assessment tools: E.g. All-Party Group on Animal Welfare (APGAW) in the UK, Innate Health Assessment (IHA). www.innatehealthassessment.org. RKC Nose-to-Tail assessment.
- The ISAG/WSAVA standardization/pathogenicity effort is moving along; validating a small number of pathological variants (all simple autosomal at this time) – additionally, focusing on the parameters/algorithm to classify variants as pathogenic.
- Royal Canin "Choose Health" initiative
- IPFD developed more breed/type-centered and “holistic” approach to global dog health and breeding programs, testing, etc. on dogwellnet.com (ongoing data population)
- IPFD Genetic Testing Survey Dec 2025

Theme 3: Big Data – Global Canine Data Alliance

- Launch a pilot project to test data collection and analysis.
- Set up a working group to identify which traits have currently Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) in different countries and how these EBVs can be used more effectively.
- Create an online resource on DogWellNet.com to list key datasets held by different organizations for research purposes.
- Project-specific funding being sought to “speed up” development of GCDA
- KC’s have shown support for GCDA
- Project outline and proposal developed, by working group
- Pilot project: dogwellnet.com structure in place to host database catalogue – exploring additional supportive options
- Agria provided “seed” money

Global Canine Data Alliance

*Connecting Health, Genomic, and
Clinical Insights for Better
Breeding and Research*



Background

- Over recent decades, large volumes of phenotypic and genomic data have been collected:
 - Health screening (Hips/elbows)
 - Pedigree; parentage
 - Clinical records
 - Morbidity and longevity
 - Genomic (SNP, WGS)
- This data represents millions of dollars of investment, but is often inaccessible for maximized usage by kennel clubs and researchers

GCDA seeks to bridge these divides through collaboration, interoperability, and ethical data governance.

Strategic Goals

1. Global Data Mapping & Registry

Create a searchable Canine Data Registry (on DogWellNet.com) listing available datasets, metadata, and access policies from kennel clubs, researchers, veterinary networks, and industry partners.

2. Standardisation & Interoperability

3. Governance & Ethical Frameworks

4. Education & Communication

5. Research Collaboration Enablement

Theme 4: Does the Colour Matter? Defining Breed vs Variety

- *Routine crossbreeding between varieties of the same breed should be allowed and even promoted.*
 - *Move towards harmonization of rules and terminology regarding breed varieties and crossbreeding.*
 - *Gather information about the rules on crossbreeding in different countries.*
 - *Make a series of webinars available globally through DogWellNet.com covering the history of breeding and experiences with crossbreeding, including best practices and common pitfalls.*
 - *All stakeholders should give more attention to work to increase genetic diversity in dog breeds.*
- Several new cross-breeding studies published, on brachycephalic, and Poodles
 - More discussion about cross breeding but no formal discussion of harmonization, of International crossbreeding in regard to brachycephalic breeds
 - Finnish Kennel Club (2023 –) Strategic crossbreeding of the French Bulldog with: American Staffordshire Terrier, Jack Russell Terrier, Mittel Spitz, Swedish Farm Dog and Papillons/Phalènes; F1 puppies initially registered in a special "no-breeding" register; After health testing and temperament assessment, suitable individuals transferred to the special crossbreed register; Fourth-generation dogs can be registered as French Bulldogs
 - German Kennel Club (VDH) (2022 –) Application for controlled crossbreeding approved by VDH board in late 2024; Selected female dogs undergo health examinations for hereditary diseases; Selection of potential mating partners based on weight, size, health and genetic checks; Multiple litters to date registered in an appendix to the studbook
 - Danish Kennel Club (2024 –) Opened breed registries for English Bulldog, French Bulldog and Pug to dogs without FCI pedigree; Entry into registry requires a phenotypic evaluation and a maximum RFG grade of 0 or 1

Theme 4: Does the Colour Matter? Defining Breed vs Variety cont...

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- *Make a series of webinars available globally through DogWellNet.com covering the history of breeding and experiences with crossbreeding, including best practices and common pitfalls.*
- *All stakeholders should give more attention to work to increase genetic diversity in dog breeds.*
- German Kennel Club (VDH) “Pug 2.0 project”; Opening the club's studbook to Pugs outside the VDH; Aiming for moderation: longer muzzle, open nostril, smaller nose fold, less wrinkling, ‘sportier’; Disorder testing of breeding dogs, including RFG
- Leonberger Development Register for F1 crosses in Leogen project up and running in UK
- RKC history of closed breed registers in the UK – webinar held June 2025, now on YouTube (1.5K views as at Feb 26).
- RKC breed health day, September 2025, talk by Sharon Springel about the Leogen project, now on YouTube
- RKC – Joanna Ilska leading work on numerically small populations – series of workshops in 2026 to discuss problems and strategies, also developing international group of experts in canine population genetics to advise and help coordinate these efforts in the future.

All Themes

- *Compile a list of studies related to the four workshop themes to be shared on DogWellNet.com.*
- *Educate puppy buyers, breeders, show judges, and other interested parties on issues that affect canine health and welfare.*
- Dogwellnet.com now hosts a “library” function within the Education section – we need your help to populate!

All Themes, next steps

- Any missing updates? Please send to aimee.llewellyn-Zaidi@ipfdogs.com
- Further information can be updated post-event, and at the 6th IDHW in-person in Bologna, Italy
- Theme Leaders and/or IPFD Team will be engaging with you between now and June
- Discussion: Changes to, or new priorities? Recommended **Actions?**

Prototype: Canine Data Registry

- Hosted on dogwellnet.com
- Stand-alone category
- Searchable directory of available dog health data information
- Can be cross-linked to the Breed sections, and Health Library
- Fully customizable, and can also include “requests” for data/on-going research information

Canine Data Registry

A searchable database listing available datasets, metadata, and access policies from kennel club and industry partners.



Pacific Coast University

Clinical and genomic data on Salish Wool Dog



Survey: Dog Owner and Breeder Perceptions on Genetic Testing for Dogs

The International Partnership for Dogs seeks input from dog breeders and owners on their use of genetic testing to gain insights and deeper understanding of genetic...

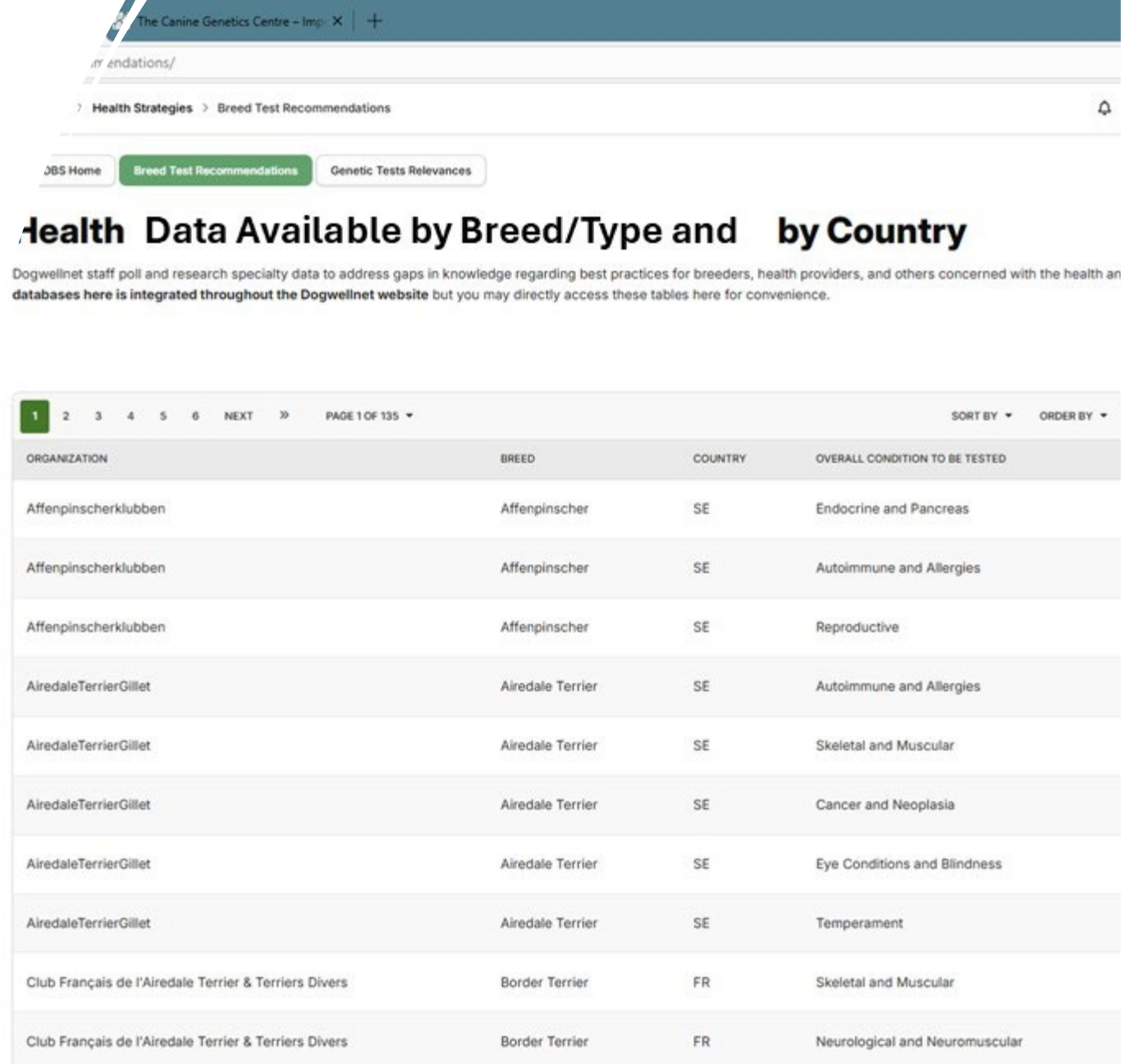
Prototype Canine Data Registry

- Output can be customized, and has in-built capabilities to search using various terms: data type, data source, breed, country of origin, etc.
- Can include samples of data
- Potential for expansion to host data as project grows
- Ownership/control over data is completely transparent and under the control of the data owner

The screenshot displays the Logwellnet website interface. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with the following items: Search, Breeds, Health Library, Test Providers, Organizations, Education (highlighted in green), Health Strategies, Workshops, Events, BROWSE (with a dropdown arrow), Articles, Old Breeds, Forums, Activity (with a right-pointing arrow), Blogs, Gallery, Downloads, and Guidelines. At the bottom of the menu is the IPFDogs logo (International Partnership for Dogs). The main content area shows a breadcrumb trail: Home > References > IPFD Research Projects and Partnerships > Pacific Coast University. Below this is a 'Data' section with the title 'Pacific Coast University' and subtitle 'Clinical and genomic data on Salish Wool Dog'. A link to the Wikipedia page for Salish Wool Dog is provided. A small image of a dog is shown. Below the image, it states 'Open-Access Data Available: Meta-data on 14 dogs, including pedigree data for 6 generations and 3 family units. Common ancestor c...'. Under 'Data with Permission:', it lists '1 WGS on male Salish Wool Dog'. An 'Additional Data' section shows 'People' with 'Dr. James Smith'. At the bottom of the page, there are links for 'Navigation' and 'Disclaimer'.

Prototype: Canine Data Registry

- Options for summary table
- Fully customizable
- Able to be integrated across dogwellnet breed-specific information



The screenshot shows a web application interface for a canine data registry. The page title is "Health Data Available by Breed/Type and by Country". Below the title, there is a brief description: "Dogwellnet staff poll and research specialty data to address gaps in knowledge regarding best practices for breeders, health providers, and others concerned with the health of dogs. This data is integrated throughout the Dogwellnet website but you may directly access these tables here for convenience." The table below lists various organizations, breeds, countries, and overall conditions to be tested.

ORGANIZATION	BREED	COUNTRY	OVERALL CONDITION TO BE TESTED
Affenpinscherklubben	Affenpinscher	SE	Endocrine and Pancreas
Affenpinscherklubben	Affenpinscher	SE	Autoimmune and Allergies
Affenpinscherklubben	Affenpinscher	SE	Reproductive
AiredaleTerrierGillet	Airedale Terrier	SE	Autoimmune and Allergies
AiredaleTerrierGillet	Airedale Terrier	SE	Skeletal and Muscular
AiredaleTerrierGillet	Airedale Terrier	SE	Cancer and Neoplasia
AiredaleTerrierGillet	Airedale Terrier	SE	Eye Conditions and Blindness
AiredaleTerrierGillet	Airedale Terrier	SE	Temperament
Club Français de l'Airedale Terrier & Terriers Divers	Border Terrier	FR	Skeletal and Muscular
Club Français de l'Airedale Terrier & Terriers Divers	Border Terrier	FR	Neurological and Neuromuscular