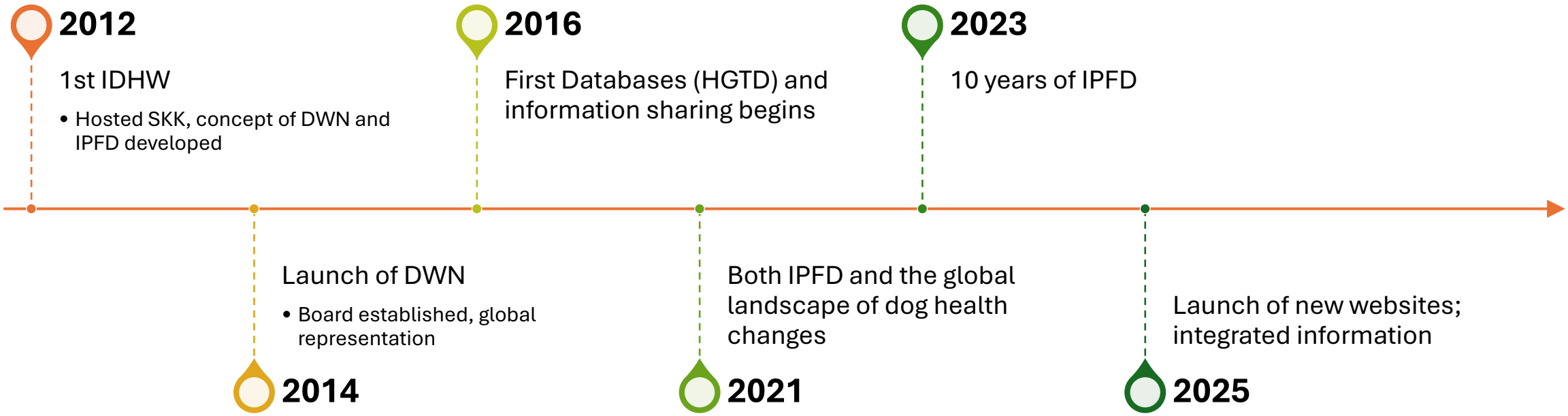
International Dog Health Resources – The Dog Wellness Network

Aimée Llewellyn-Zaidi; 6th International Dog Health Workshop 2026

Today's Talk

- All Roads Lead to Dog Health
- Shared Solutions to Shared Challenges
- Resource Development and Information Sharing – efficiency in uncertain times
- The Road Ahead

All Roads Lead to Dog Health



Shared solutions to shared challenges

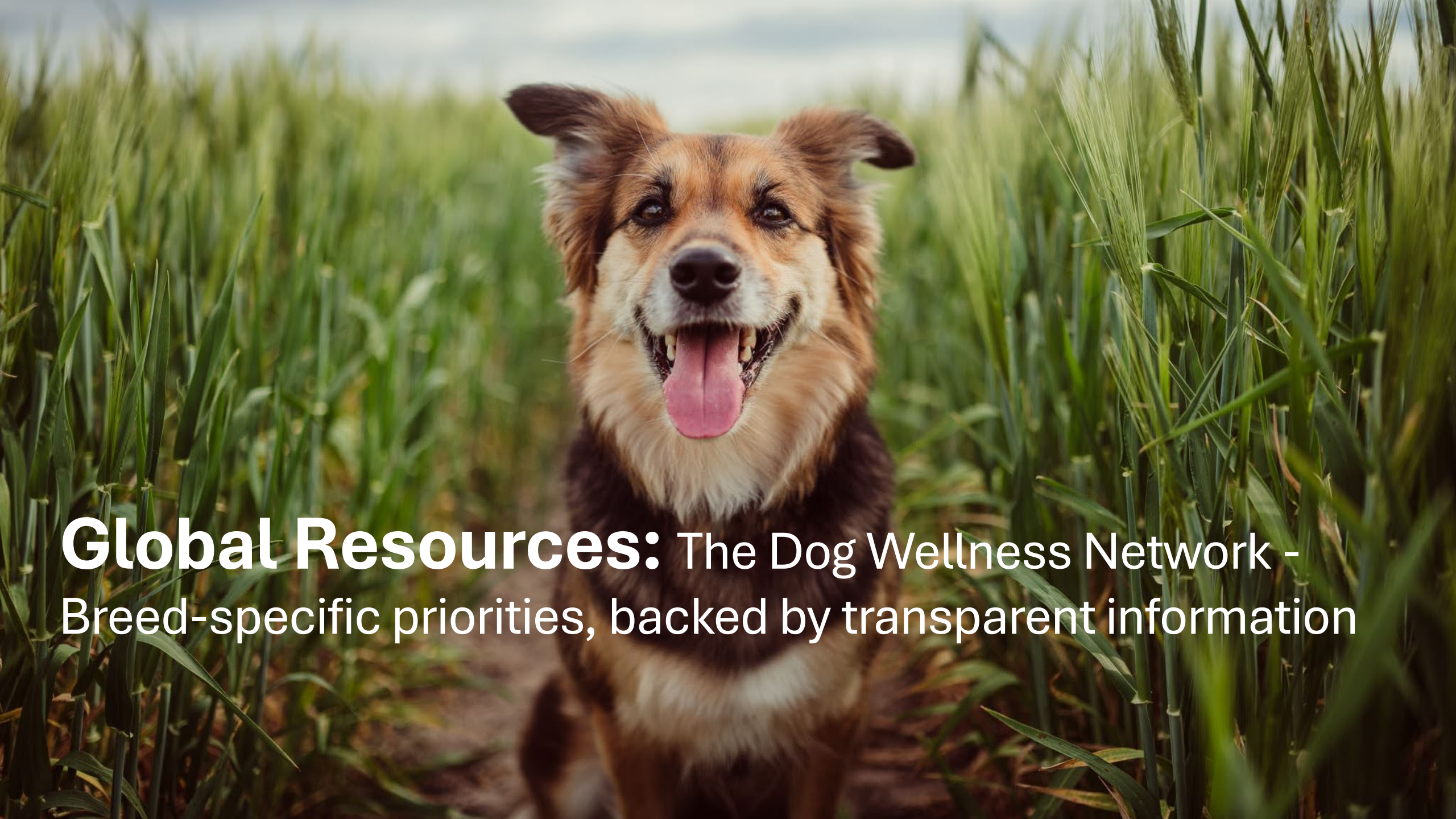
- IPFD was created to meet the needs of the dog health community – Kennel Clubs, researchers, veterinary scientists, advocates, welfare…
- Workstream directly reflects the ideas, priorities, and funding provided by the community…
- Global changes to dog breeding and ownership – key will be closer connectivity and efficiency

Resource *Development* - IPFD

- Integrated resource by breed/dog type: HGTD, Pedigree Dog Database, HSDD, Agria Data, peer-reviewed research, Kennel and Breed Club projects…
- Community space: virtual and in-person
- In-house expertise, and network of global experts – YOU!
- Community outreach and research: Global perceptions of genetic test usage

Resource *Usage* - IPFD

- Breed-specific information on global health and genetic testing – country-specific priorities?
- 100-400+ attendees on virtual meetings, workshops, and education programs
- Global small groups: Genetic Diversity, Pedigree-genetic ID, advisory work on GT integration in KCs
- Looking? Sharing? Reach? 1400+ responses to recent survey



Global Resources: The Dog Wellness Network - Breed-specific priorities, backed by transparent information

Breed-specific: characteristics, history and origins, international breed standards, international health programs and genetic testing, original research...

Golden Retriever

Kultainennoutaja

A medium-to-large gundog developed in Scotland in the 19th century.

FCI Group **Retrievers - Flushing Dogs - Water Dogs** AKC Group **Sporting** TKC Group **Gundog** Country of Origin **GB**

Brief Description

Golden Retrievers are friendly, intelligent, and confident dogs with excellent natural working ability. The breed excels as hunting companions, family dogs, and in various working roles including service, therapy, and search-and-rescue work.

Health: Most important health concerns include cancer as well as orthopedic, ophthalmologic, cardiac (subvalvular aortic stenosis), and dermatologic conditions. Other health concerns include hypothyroidism and epilepsy.

Behaviour and Well-being: Golden Retrievers generally have excellent temperaments with few breed-specific behavioral problems. However, potential concerns include:

- High exercise requirements - needs substantial daily physical activity and mental stimulation.
- Separation anxiety - strong bonding can lead to distress when left alone.
- Puppy exuberance - can be overly enthusiastic and boisterous, especially during the first 2-3 years of life.
- Inappropriate aggression or fearfulness - considered unacceptable and atypical for the breed.

Get a GRIHP!: Comprehensive information on the breed's health can be found in the Get a GRIHP! on the Golden Retriever article (to be added soon).

Breed Standards

The basis of breed/conformation shows is the judging of pedigree dogs against the 'Breed Standard', which is a picture in words that describes the range of features that are deemed appropriate for the breed.

Three of the major international standards are:

- The Royal Kennel Club, UK
- FCI (Fédération Cynologique Internationale)
- The American Kennel Club

Health Testing Requirements by Country

Skeletal and Muscular Required US	**Eye Conditions and Blindness** Recommended US	**Genetic Material and Diversity** Required FI	**Skin, Hair, and Nails** Recommended SE	**Other Genetic Testing** Required SE
Autoimmune and Allergies Recommended FI	**Cardiac and Circulatory** Recommended FI	**Endocrine and Pancreas** Recommended FI	**Ataxia, Locomotor, and Epilepsy** Recommended FI	**Neurological and Neuromuscular** Recommended FI
Cancer and Neoplasia Recommended FI	**Other Breed-Specific Considerations** Unknown FI	**Renal and Urinary** Unknown FI	**Temperament** Recommended SE	**Reproductive** Recommended UK

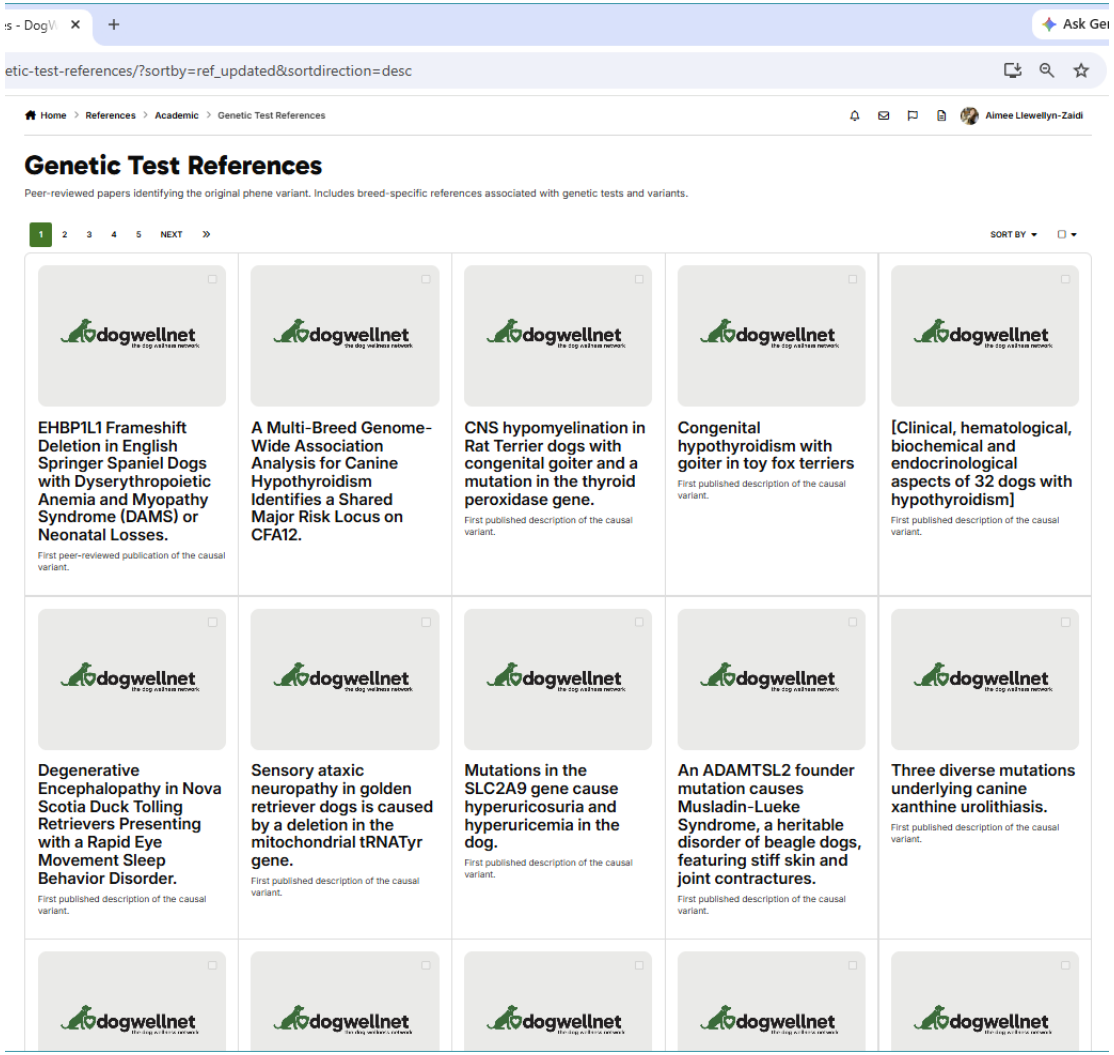
Test Relevances

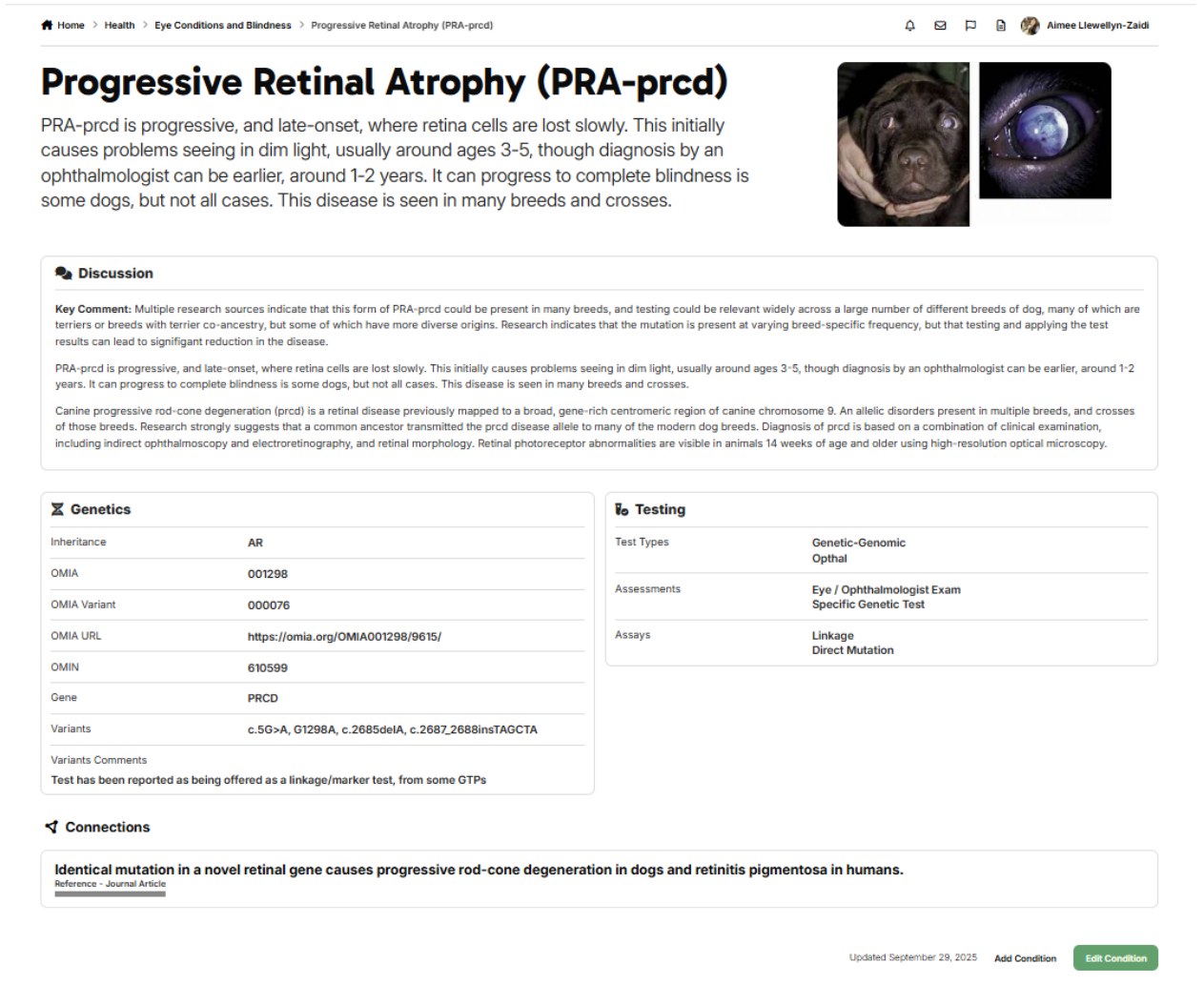
4 **Ichthyosis, PNPLA1-related** Moderate Relevance	3 **Degenerative Myelopathy** Some Relevance	3 **Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa** Some Relevance	3 **Muscular Dystrophy** Some Relevance	3 **Muscular Dystrophy (Duchenne-type, DMD) GRMD** Some Relevance
3 **Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis 5 (NCL5)** Some Relevance	3 **Neuropathy, Sensory Ataxic** Some Relevance	3 **Osteogenesis Imperfecta COL1A** Some Relevance	3 **Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA-prcd)** Some Relevance	3 **Progressive Retinal Atrophy, GR PRA2** Some Relevance
3 **Progressive Retinal Atrophy, PRA1** Some Relevance	3 **Von Willebrand Disease I** Some Relevance	2 **Coat Colour Dilution, dilution, MLPH-related** No Evidence	2 **Congenital Myasthenic Syndrome - COLQ related** No Evidence	0 **Congenital Myasthenic Syndrome - CHRNE related** Not Recommended

Connections

Degenerative Myelopathy Condition - Neurological and Neuromuscular	**Neuropathy, Sensory Ataxic** Condition	**Osteogenesis imperfecta, type III, COL1A1-related** Condition	**Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA-prcd)** Condition - Eye Conditions and Blindness	**Progressive Retinal Atrophy, GR PRA2** Condition - Eye Conditions and Blindness
Progressive Retinal Atrophy, PRA1 Condition	**Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa** Condition - Skin, Hair, and Nails	**Ectodermal Dysplasia** Condition	**Eye malformation, congenital** Condition	**Ichthyosis, PNPLA1-related** Condition
Muscular Dystrophy (Duchenne-type, DMD) GRMD Condition	**Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis 5 (NCL5)** Condition	**Golden Retriever Veterinary Care - Agria Breed Profiles** Reference - Data	**Golden Retriever LIFE - Agria Breed Profiles** Reference - Data	

Detailed specific information on diseases, including a searchable research library...





Global Information: Genetic Testing Survey

- Distributed Oct-Dec 2025
- 1501 responses, 731 answered all questions; 6 continents from Australia to Zambia.
- ~58% report having tested **all** dogs they currently own with at least one genetic test
- ~41% test **all** dogs they use for breeding
- ~6% have **never** used a genetic test
- A small group (~11%) tested in the past but no longer do
- Among breeders specifically, the vast majority (≥85%) report some level of active testing, with only ~3% reporting never testing.

- **Motivation for testing:** Majority test for breeding decisions, health, or ethical convictions, closely followed by requirements/parentage/”technical” reasons

- **Initial Barriers:** cost, tests not useful, tests not available “for breed” or uncertain of utility

- **Discontinued testing:** cost, not breeding, no utility, doubts about relevance and accuracy

- **Conflicting perceptions:** lack of standardization across platforms, tests not relevant, high costs….. Vs…. Should be mandatory, wanting population-level data and “matchmaking” tools

Global Collaboration:
Global Canine Data Alliance

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

- 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.

Resource Development – We are IPFD

- *IPFD is a service provider*
- We are shaped by IDHW and ultimately you, the dog community
- What do you want, and need?

The Road Ahead

- Breed-specific health and breeding information can support breeding strategy and policy
- Networking across international KC’s shares challenges, responsibilities, and successes
- IDHWs foster collaboration and project development to benefit Kennel Clubs and dogs.
- Multi-stakeholder environment creates opportunities
- Global perspective can support local strategies: KCs, responsible dog acquisition/supply, R&D, education – breeders/owners

Thank you!
Questions?