

## Nordic Health committee meeting 18.05.23

*Some of the delegates attended the meeting in Denmark and some attended digital.*

Invited:

NDK's Avelsråd, Norsk Dalmatinerklubb

Finnish Breeding Committée, Dalmatian-koirat, Dalmatinerna ry

SDS's Avelskommitté, Svenska Dalmatiner-Sällskapet

DDK's Avls- og sundhedsudvalg, Dansk Dalmatiner Klub

Present:, Jette Mauritzen (DK) , Heidi Price, Silje Paulsen, Trine Senderud (N), Nina Cecilia Strøm (SE), Suvi Lukjanov (FI)

### 1. *Presentation of members from the different countries.*

This meeting is the fifth of its kind, and it is gratifying that there is interest in having these meetings. In Denmark there are six members in the committee, in Norway four members, in Finland three members, Sweden two members for the time being. It is suggested to have a purely digital meeting next time.

### 2. *Presentation of the Agenda and possibility to add subjects.*

Agenda approved, two matters added.

### 3. *The different countries various issues. What are you working with in long resp short terms?*

Norway: Just completed a new health survey among dalmatian owners, 270 respondents. In general there is conformity between last health survey and the new one but there are some increase in skin disorders and kidney failure cases. The committee is working together with scientist Frode Lingås how to meet the challenges in health. In general owners reports good temperament. Last year there have been very moderate amount of puppies (31), conducted two breeders meetings.

Finland: Have health surveys ca every fifth year, in general conformity between the health surveys. X-rays for back (LTV, Spondylosis) and shoulders (OCD) have been added and quite an amount of dogs have been screened for this. RAS has become a large document of 100 pages about the breed status when it comes to health and temperament. They don't have BPH in Finland, use MH instead. There have been made an ideal mental profil. In general the mentality is reportet to be good, but maybe some increase in individuals with softer temperament/less confident.

Sweden: RAS have been updatet this year, and this edition have been rewrited and increased in amount. There have been non/very few new DCM cases or other serious diseases, slight increase in AD but also an increase in how many dogs x-rayed for it. They have BPH, mental description, and so far 200 dogs have been tested and there have been made a mental profile for the breed. In general it shows good temperament, in some cases a bit soft temperament/less confident. They don't have an ideal temperament profile as a goal for the work, more emphasis on describing the mentality.

Denmark: Have for the first time made breeding strategy for three conditions; Dwarfism, deafness and HD. Conducted breeders meetings about dwarfism. The rules for breeding are liberal, but the breeders now need to consider the matter when breeding. The Danish Kennel club believe that unilateral puppies should be sold for half price. Danish Dalmatian club have sent an complaint about this and offered to investigate which level of function a unilateral dog has. The breeders stand

together in the matter and disagree that DKK should decide something like that. In Germany all breeders with litters have a visit of an inspector when the puppies are one day old. All puppies who live, are to live up, meaning that deaf puppies are to be sold/given away. The breeding committee is concerned that the same rules as in Germany will be reality in Scandinavia in the future.

4. *DCM – something new since the meeting 2022?*

Status appears to be stable for all countries. No new cases in Denmark, Norway and Sweden at the moment. In Finland one or two cases of sudden death (might heart related) and have done some heartscanning. The general recommendation if a breeder wants to use a dog on DCM lines is to do heartscanning.

5. *Dwarfism: The Nordic countries' stance on paying for collecting and sending blood samples from two French dwarfs, their parents and one dwarf in Germany  
Estimated contribution from each of the Nordic countries: 500 euros*

The French puppies is from a combination of a Danish and a Dutch breed dog. The French breeder have earlier been positive about trying to find the gene for dwarfism. A German puppy is also affected. The meeting agrees that affected dogs with dwarfism and parents are of great interest to collect bloodsamples from for the research project. The project needs more samples to move forward. The meeting is positive to share the cost for these bloodsamples. Norway's position is that in principle each country must pay for bloodsamples from affected dogs/parents, but is positive in this case in order to secure samples. Each country sets aside about 500 euros in an account, Health Fund, and evaluate when one knows what the actual cost is. Denmark does the practicality and contacts the French breeder with information, and eventually the contact person in Nederland for samples of the German puppy.

6. *HD/AD/OCD Status:*

There has been an increase in HD in Norway, the other three countries are more or less stable. FCI has had a webinar where the new method is to look more at the centerplacement of the hip ball rather than the Nordberg angle. The Nordic Kennel Union has the same readers and have regular meeting to ensure they are reading picture the same way. In Finland, they have better results than before. Of 83 X-rays, 50% with A hips, 30% B, 19 % C hips. Previously they had only 25% A hips. Breeders in Finland can use C hip in combination with A. They have used index for several years. I has also been scanned 50 dalmatians in total for OCD: 38 were good, 4 borderline and 8 with OCD. Many do not have symptoms. From early 2024, those who have detected OCD will not be used in the breeding in Finland. AD in Finland: of 83 scanned 6 had AD. In Sweden there are about 12 % AD.

7. *Eye problems*

Eye diseases (including irishypoplasia, entropion, ectropion). Finland does not have any cases with irishypoplasia, a couple of cases with ectropion/entropion, Norway have four cases with irishypoplasia, probably some unknown, a couple of cases of entropion/ectropion. A case in Denmark with irishypoplasia where siblings have been eye-scanned, two case of cherry eye. Sweden there have been none reported cases.

8. *Added topics*

*Rules and recommendations deafness:* Norway have had an discussion with NKK about NDK can't have a rule saying deaf puppies are to be put down, but have to use a recommendation. Finland has an recommendation about the same. If you let a deaf puppy live to grow up, you have to keep it, not

sell it. It is legitimate to use unilaterals in combinations with bilaterals. The breed issues with deafness/unilaterals could be a challenge later if stricter rules are introduced. Important to be at the forefront to show that the club cares about improvements in the breed.

*Rules and recommendations patch:* In Norway you can use patch if they are free from HD/AD, have vg from exhibition (unofficial) and otherwise meet the criteria of the club. Sweden does not allow the use of patches. Finland has previously had litter after patches, and are investigating the possibility of receiving critique from an exhibition. They like to evaluate what effect the patches have on breeding beyond the first generation. Denmark has not discussed the use of patches and is not using them.

*Wafdal membership:* Is there any point in being a member for the Nordic countries? Breeding recommendations in Wafdal are written based on German rules, and they are in conflict with recommendations in the Nordic countries. The change have not been discussed with any other countries. Personal members can not vote yet either.

Denmark has withdrawn their membership. Sweden is a member, but not sure if they should be so futher. Norway is a member. Finland is a member, they will not accept the breeding recommendations without it is discussed with the members, and are thinking of ending their membership.

The meeting agree that the Nordic countries must stick together if we are to influence anything in Wafdal. Everyone will consider it in their board and conclude at the next meeting in the fall whether we should resign jointly and write to them about the matter.

**Next meeting.** Suggestion to have a purely digital meeting in the fall when there is nothing else going on. Finland takes the initiative to find a time for this.

Arrived after meeting, prepared by Jette Mauritzen:

## **Proposed regulations for a Nordic health account**

**1. Purpose** Paragraph 1. The account is created by the Nordic countries' Dalmatian Clubs, consisting of Norsk Dalmatiner Klubb, Svenska Dalmatiner Sällskapet, Dalmatiankoirat – Dalmatinerna ry and Dansk Dalmatiner Klub

To provide support for health-related initiatives for the Dalmatian as a race.

### 2. Management of the account

Paragraph 1. The account is created by and managed by the Finnish Dalmatian Club in .... Bank. Account number: ..... – on behalf of the four Nordic countries.

The account must be secured against unjustified withdrawals.

(2) It shall be possible to present the administrator of the health account to the boards or breeding councils of the four Nordic countries as a result of their wishes.

Paragraph 3. Payments must be decided by agreement between the boards of directors of all four clubs. Payments are made with the same amount from all four countries.

Paragraph 4. Payment from the account can only be made for health-related purposes, which are described in detail and pre-approved with budget estimates.  
Payment can only be made with the prior approval or approval in principle of all four countries' current boards.

Paragraph 5. When cases are closed and there are no ongoing cases, the funds are paid equally to the 4 clubs; However, amounts must be left in the account to cover operating expenses by maintaining the account for 3 years.

### 3. Information obtained using the funds of the account

Paragraph 1. Results obtained with the help of health account funds must be available to the board and breeding council of all four clubs. Each country decides for itself to what extent the results should be available to members.

### 4. Changing the account

Paragraph 1. The conditions of the account can only be changed by unanimous decision between the countries.

Paragraph 2. If a country wishes to withdraw from the Community, this can be done when a case has been closed and before any new case is initiated. The country leaving the Community will not be reimbursed its balance paid; unless there is agreement within the Community;

### 5. Account closure

Paragraph 1. If for 3 years there have been no account movements or there is no prospect of new tasks, the balance is paid to the 4 countries and the account is closed; unless all countries wish to retain the account for a longer period.

## Collection of blood samples – practical course

- if all the Nordic countries agree to establish a Nordic health account and pledge that funds may be used for the collection and dispatch of blood samples from 4 French and 1 German dogs.

1. JM contacts French breeder Carina Darbas if she is still interested in collaborating on the dwarfism project and, if so, providing blood samples to parents and two puppies with dwarfism, if the Nordic countries will pay for the collection and shipping of blood samples. It is offered that invoices can be sent directly from the veterinarian for payment via the Nordic health account, So the breeder does not have to finance the rather large expense in the first place.

2. If the breeder is positive, the Finnish Dalmatian Club establishes a separate account that acts as a Nordic health account.

3. JM sends contact person and link to breeder with description of what the veterinarian should do – collection and dispatch as well as registration at the University of Helsinki.

The veterinarian (or breeder) must provide estimates with desired accuracy of max. 15% for collection and shipping.

4. Each country will then deposit €400 into the account. As we do not know the price level for veterinarians in France, the amount is set a little high for the time being.

5. The breeder will be notified of initiation of blood tests at the veterinarian(s), as well as the email address of the administrator of the health account.
6. The administrator of the health account pays bills from the veterinarian(s) or breeder immediately when the bill with receipt for sending blood samples is received.
7. If there is not a sufficient balance in the account to afford blood samples from the German dwarf, Erna Kuipers will only be contacted if the Nordic countries' boards decide to inject more funds.
8. If there are sufficient balances in the health account, Erna Kuipers is contacted to obtain blood tests, pedigree and X-rays from the German dwarf, as she is the only one who has contact with the owner.
9. Same procedure of estimate, execution and payment as described above.
10. Any excess amount in the account will be returned equally to the 4 Nordic countries. However, amounts must be left to cover the maintenance of the account for 3 years. If, after 3 years, there is no prospect of implementing other projects under the account, it will be closed.