
International Partnership for Dogs (IPFD)

Annual Report 2023

A Decade of Collaboration

From the CEO



A key aspect of IPFD's mission is to "facilitate collaboration and sharing of resources" through relationships with our partner organizations and individual contributors.

In 2023, we focused significant effort on these crucial relationships – reinvigorating partnerships with those supporting IPFD since its humble beginnings, reconnecting with former partners, and establishing new connections with stakeholders around the world.

It is the sum of these partnerships that gives IPFD a solid foundation on which we can build an enduring global collaboration for the benefit of all dogs.

In 2024, we continue our relationship building efforts on a number of fronts. And at the 5th International Dog Health Workshop in June, we'll have an opportunity to meet face-to-face to map out how we can combine our resources to address some of the most pressing challenges in the dog world.

I'm truly excited to see what we can accomplish together as we move into the second decade of the International Partnership for Dogs!

A handwritten signature in white ink on a blue background, appearing to read 'MRalsky'.

Marc Ralsky
Chief Executive Officer
Canada

From the Chair

I've been involved with the International Partnership for Dogs since it was nothing more than a basic concept (see pages 13-22 for a detailed history), and I've seen our organization grow into a trusted, respected voice in the dog community. And I'm truly proud to be a part of it.

The dog world – and the world in general – have changed greatly in 10 years. But despite its modest resources and a multi-year pandemic, IPFD has adapted remarkably well. Our organization continues to lead key multi-stakeholder initiatives (such as the Harmonization of Partnership for Dogs and the International Dog Health Workshops) and plans to introduce more in 2024.

I wish to personally thank every individual and organization supporting us along our journey, and I hope that our stakeholders not only recognize the value of our work to-date, but that they also see the incredible potential for IPFD in the future.

We've come a long way over the past decade, but there's much more to be done to improve the health, welfare, and well-being of all dogs. Collaboration on a global scale will be key to our success in 2024 and beyond...Let's get to work!



Pekka Olson
Chair
Sweden



About Us

The International Partnership for Dogs (IPFD) is a non-profit organization leading a global, multi-stakeholder effort to enhance dog health, well-being, and welfare. It is about fostering information sharing and collaboration, for the benefit of all dogs worldwide. IPFD owns, powers, and manages the website, DogWellNet.com.



Our Audiences

Our key audiences are, first and foremost, committed and health-conscious breeders, as well as those who support and advise them (kennel and breed club health committees, breeding advisors, veterinarians, researchers etc.). But they also include essentially all those involved in the world of dogs, including kennel/breed clubs, dog owners, the pet industry, and more.

Our Structure

A small group of consultants, volunteers, and Board Members facilitate the activities of our stakeholders to achieve our individual and collective priorities for the health and welfare of dogs. As a growing, independent voice within the global dog community, we aim to provide the best possible information and advice to assist our stakeholders in making optimal decisions for their members, customers, and breed(s) of interest.

Our Focus on The 'Big Picture'

IPFD provides and supports a Big Picture, balanced, transparent, and integrated approach to the complex challenges for dogs and the people who care about them.

Our Mission

The mission of the International Partnership for Dogs is to facilitate collaboration and sharing of resources to enhance the health, well-being, and welfare of pedigree dogs and all dogs worldwide.

Our Vision

An enduring global collaboration enhancing dog health, well-being, and welfare, and human-dog interactions.

Our Values

- Dog health, well-being, and welfare, and human-dog interactions contribute to the quality of life for both species.
- The world is a better place because we share it with dogs.
- Dog issues are important around the globe, and international sharing and cooperation are needed.

Our Goals

The general goals of IPFD are to:

- Enhance the health, well-being, and welfare of dogs, and enrich human-dog interactions.
- Facilitate the sharing of knowledge, information, experience, and resources across stakeholders (e.g., kennel clubs, veterinary and other professional organizations, health foundations, and others) to improve health and well-being of purpose-bred dogs.
- Provide structure, evaluation, and interpretation of information to support the actions of stakeholders in dog health, well-being, and welfare.
- Facilitate specific actions to improve health and well-being of dogs, e.g., supporting globally relevant breed-specific breeding strategies.
- Run the web platform DogWellNet.com.
- Bring the dog community closer together through DogWellNet.com.

3000+
Members

IPFD's registered members include more than 3000 individuals and organizations across six continents.

Free
Sign-up



To sign up as an IPFD Member, scan the code with your phone or visit dogwellnet.com/register

Our Signature Work

Together with our collaborating experts, IPFD provides a balanced, impartial, evidence-based approach to address the complex issues of dog health, well-being, and welfare. Here, we present several key initiatives that encompass the bulk of our important work.



DogWellNet.com

IPFD's online platform, [DogWellNet.com](https://www.dogwellnet.com), is a curated hub of information and resources created to facilitate international collaboration and the distribution of knowledge, expertise, and experience among our stakeholders – with the aim of enhancing the health, well-being and welfare of all dogs.



International Dog Health Workshops (IDHWs)

The primary goals of the [IDHWs](#) are to promote collaboration and networking and to facilitate the sharing of information and resources – before, during and after the workshop. They bring together leaders from the international canine health and welfare community, including representatives from kennel clubs, veterinary groups, researchers, genetic test providers, insurance companies, welfare groups, and canine charities. See pages 25-26 for details of the 5th IDHW in Helsinki.



Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs (HGTD)

The [HGTD Database](#) catalogs information provided voluntarily from genetic test providers (GTPs), including information on their company and services, quality measures and expertise, tests offered, and more. We are continually engaging more GTP participants. IPFD has collated and assembled existing and new resources for genetic counselling and education and provided the foundation for further developments.



Health Strategies Database for Dogs (HSDD)

The [HSDD Database](#) includes breed-specific health/mental-ity testing requirements and recommendations established by Health Strategy Providers (HSPs), including kennel clubs, breed clubs, veterinary organizations, and others.



Breed Resources

As of June 2024, our [Pedigree Breeds Database](#) lists 184 breeds. Information includes breed standards, population data, club newsletters, breed databases, videos, and more. Also provided are sections for Native Breeds, Additional Resources (including [Agria Breed Profiles](#)), and Globally Relevant Integrated Health Profile (GRIHP) articles. Many thanks to the breed experts and clubs who continue to share information on their breeds with the [IPFD/DogWellNet.com](#) community.



Globally Relevant Integrated Health Profiles (GRIHPs)

IPFD's [Globally Relevant Integrated Health Profiles](#) (GRIHPs), describe the 'Big Picture' of health and welfare within breeds – as resources for veterinarians, owners, caretakers, breeders, and others who want to understand the key issues for individual dogs and breed populations, internationally. GRIHPs for 26 breeds have been published as of June 2024, with more currently in development.

Our Board & Officers

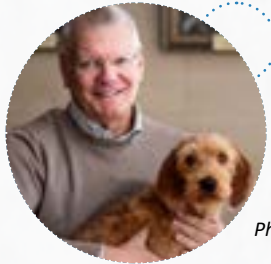


Photo by Johan Strindberg

Pekka Olson, DVM, Dr. hc

Chair – Sweden



Bill Lambert

Vice-Chair – UK



Alexandre Balzer, DMV, CEAV, DU

France



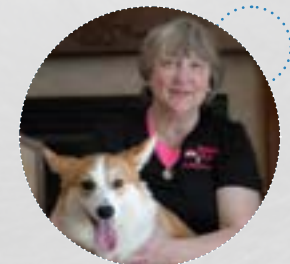
Dave Eikelberg, PhD (Candidate), MSc

USA



Peter Friedrich, PhD, Professor

Germany



Marty Greer, DVM, JD

USA

Our people include a Board comprised of individuals with respected international reputations and a small but committed team of consultants in several countries. [View their bios here.](#)



Eva Lejdbrandt

Sweden



Dino Muto

Italy



Kirsi Sainio, PhD

Finland



Barbara Thiel, DVM

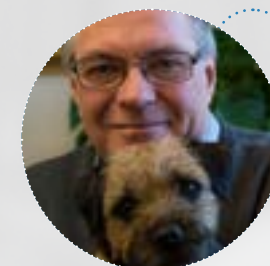
Germany

**Officers
(Ex-officio on the Board)**



Marc Ralsky

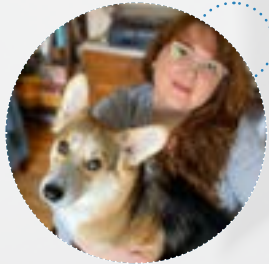
Chief Executive Officer, Canada



Ulf Uddman

Chief Financial Officer, Sweden

Our Consultants



Aimee Llewellyn-Zaidi

HGTD Project Director – USA



Katariina Mäki

Business and Project Coordinator – Finland



Dave St. Louis

Communications Specialist – Canada



Scott Brish

Website Consultant - USA



IPFD Loses a Team Member

Ann Milligan, IPFD Content Manager – USA

Ann's sudden passing in August came as a shock to our team and contributors. Many of us worked alongside Ann since IPFD's early days, and her knowledge, energy, and boundless dedication to our mission will be greatly missed.

Ann was a supporter and advocate for the Morongo Basin Humane Society, a "no-kill" shelter in Joshua Tree, California. Her family asks those who knew Ann through her work in the dog world to please consider making a small [online donation](#) in her memory.



Get Involved!

Join IPFD in our global, multi-stakeholder effort to enhance dog health, well-being, and welfare.

Individuals: IPFD Membership & Information Sharing

- **Become an IPFD Member:** IPFD Members have expanded access to content, including our partner organizations' work on breed management strategies, articles, and health data on breeds in many countries around the world. Members can comment on material and will receive email announcements and links to our DogWellNet Digest e-newsletter. [Sign-up at DogWellNet.com](https://www.dogwellnet.com) is quick, easy, and free. And remember to fill in your Member Profile, so IPFD and other members of our community can learn more about your contributions to the dog world.
- **Contribute Content for DogWellNet.com:** Breed Club/Health Committee representatives and others looking at health and breeding issues are invited to contribute information to facilitate the sharing of expertise and resources and to profile the good work done being done throughout the dog world. If you would like to share information from your kennel club, breed club, or country, please contact us at info@ipfdogs.com.

Canine Organizations: Stand Shoulder-to-Shoulder with Other Key Stakeholders in the Global Dog Community

Our supporting partners include national kennel clubs, academic institutions, veterinary organizations, and other key stakeholders from around the world under the following categories:

- **Contributing Partners:** Founding, Initiating, and other Partners contributing financially to IPFD
- **Collaborating Partners:** Organizations or individuals providing funds and in-kind support to specific IPFD initiatives
- **Sponsors:** Organizations or individuals providing funds and in-kind support to specific IPFD initiatives (e.g., Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs, IPFD Virtual Meetings/International Dog Health Workshops)

If your organization would like to discuss opportunities for formally supporting IPFD and our important work, please contact CEO Marc Ralsky at marc.ralsky@ipfdogs.com.

Make a Donation: Individuals & Organizations

Your generous [donation](#) can help ensure our long-term sustainability and support ongoing efforts to create an enduring global collaboration that enhances the health, well-being, and welfare of all dogs worldwide. You can specify how your donation is used (support IPFD and its programs and activities OR support the Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs). All donations are handled securely via PayPal.



Our Contributors

Our Contributors, Partners, and Sponsors include national kennel clubs, international cynological organizations, groups with breed specific interests, educational/academic and professional organizations, and key players in the pet industry. Together with other participating organizations, companies, and individuals, we foster collaborative action to achieve our shared goals, support human-animal interactions, and benefit all dogs worldwide.

Contributing Partners



Collaborating Partners



Get Involved! Organizations interested in IPFD partnerships and sponsorships can contact CEO Marc Ralsky at marc.ralsky@ipfdogs.com.

Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs (HGTD) Contributors

Contributing Leadership Sponsors



Leadership Collaborators



Genetic Test Provider Sponsors

Genetic Test Provider Supporters



HGTD Project Initiators: Genetic Test Providers

- Antagene
- Animal Genetics Inc.
- LABOKLIN
- Veterinary Genetics Laboratory (VGL),
University of California, Davis
Genomia
- CAG GmbH – Center for Animal
Genetics
- Embark
- Paw Print Genetics
- Orivet
- Animal Health Trust
- Neogen Genomics
- Sentinel Biomedical
- VHLGenetics
- Wisdom Panel
- The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals

HGTD: Get Involved!

Genetic Test Providers wishing to participate in the HGTD can contact HGTD Project Director Aimée Llewellyn-Zaidi at aimee.llewellyn-zaidi@ipfdogs.com.



Harmonization of
Genetic Testing
for Dogs

Visit DogWellNet.com for a [full list](#) of HGTD supporting organizations.

A Continuing & Sustainable Development

The International Partnership for Dogs and DogWellNet.com have come into being following a long history of efforts by many stakeholders to address dog health and well-being.

IPFD's development was inaugurated under the patronage of the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI). The major contributors (in-kind and funding) since 2011 have included the Agria Animal Insurance-Swedish Kennel Club Research Fund, the Swedish Kennel Club, and the FCI, as well as other national kennel clubs (from Finland, The UK, France, Germany, Ireland, USA, Canada, The Netherlands, and Italy).

In the following pages is an abbreviated timeline of key developments highlighting the complexity of issues addressed by IPFD and DogWellNet and an acknowledgment of some of the many supporters and collaborators who have contributed directly or indirectly to this important work.

1994 - Present – Historical Underpinning:

- Collaborative work to develop and use the Agria Pet Insurance Database (Agria) to provide breed-specific statistics on disease and death in dogs
- Partnership with Swedish Kennel Club (SKK); material used by all Swedish breed clubs to develop breed-specific breeding strategy document (RAS), also used to support Breed Specific Instructions for judges program. Breed Updates also used in Denmark and Norway
- Many international presentations and workshops to various stakeholder groups: breeders, breed clubs and health committees; international veterinary and scientific congresses; human-animal interaction meetings; dog judges; government welfare committees, in addition to numerous publications in refereed scientific journals
- Leading national kennel clubs (KCs) and other stakeholders, including Agria Animal Insurance, Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI), the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA), and many professional, welfare, academic and other organizations own work on issues of health, well-being, and welfare of dogs; increasingly apparent that many important issues are truly international in nature, and many of these groups increase collaborations with others

From 2008...

- Kennel clubs (KCs) everywhere under pressure to improve and expand activities under almost all areas of their mandate (e.g., breeding, legislation, information technology, etc.); Two global examples:
 - Media and societal pressure about health, well-being, and welfare in dogs
 - Need to be more proactive in addressing issues and highlighting positives of dogs, in general, purebred dogs and shows/performance and breeding
- Regulatory issues, governments, etc., e.g., dangerous dog legislation, restrictions, guidelines for dog breeders (especially commercial)
- Similar efforts in many countries; poor synthesis of existing information, decisions not always evidence-based
- KCs, breeders, and other stakeholders need improved access to existing information and resources
- Many stakeholders/KCs have much to share; many resources difficult to locate, language may pose difficulties
- Once information is found or assembled, a need for synthesis and expert evaluation to promote guidance- and evidence-based decision making
- Issues affecting the health and welfare of dogs global in scope; international collaboration and co-operation needed

Fall 2011:

- Dr. Brenda Bonnett makes a proposal to develop a canine health and welfare information network, which is funded by Agria-SKK Research Foundation, to:
 - Capitalize on the strengths of the international cynological community through enhanced sharing of information and expertise and facilitation of on-going collaboration
 - Present a 'united front' (all KCs/stakeholders together for the good of dogs)
 - Build a sustainable model to accomplish goals/address needs. Specifically:
 - Create an Organization – i.e., The International Partnership for Dogs (originally 'Sharing and Caring for Dogs) – that will oversee development of the internet resource (DogWellNet.com) to facilitate partnerships and sharing of costs for long term functionality
 - Initially to be organized under the direction of the SKK due to its extensive experience with Information Technology (IT) development and a willingness to commit further resources to this development; other partners will be a key part of the development.
 - Enhance distribution of information to underpin decision-making
 - Develop and support international partnerships
 - Provide a forum for informed discussion by stakeholder experts
 - Present this initiative as part of the Dog Health Workshop in Stockholm in June 2012, underpinning development of international platforms
 - Agria-SKK Research Foundations directs project team to first meet with FCI, as a globally recognized leader in cynology, to determine if they are willing and able to take a leadership role in the development of this resource

A Continuing & Sustainable Development

Spring 2012 - December 2013:

- Work with/support from FCI:
 - Presentation of background and proposed structure for the information network, at that time called Sharing and Caring for Dogs, to the FCI General Committee (GC) in Vienna
 - GC decides the initiative is relevant and refers the project to the Working Group 2012 (originally called Back to the Standards)
 - Working Group presents a proposal to the GC in October 2012 (no decision from the FCI at that time)
 - At the end of March 2013, the GC allocates funds for a contract with an IT company to help further define the platform for the Information Network and to engage Dr. Bonnett to organize, support, and summarize that work; work overseen by Ulf Uddman of the SKK; presentation on the initiative to the General Assembly in Budapest in May
 - Summer 2013: FCI allocates further funds to continue development and authorizes Project Team to engage other potential partners
 - Fall 2013: Formal proposal submitted to the GC and presentation made (FCI decides not to take primary responsibility for this development)
- Parallel Development:
 - June 2012: Dog Health Workshop takes place in Sweden (organized by SKK with other partners, funded by SKK and other sponsors)
 - Over 20 countries represented by 120 geneticists, researchers, veterinarians, dog breeders, cynologists (many from FCI), judges, welfare organizations, government/regulatory representatives, and others; Sharing and Caring initiative and design seen as an appropriate platform to facilitate the international collaboration and distribution of knowledge, expertise and experience that all agreed was crucial to addressing issues related to health and well-being of dogs at a global level
 - In final summary session, participants collectively agreed on need for a collaborative structure, i.e., a foundation/organization that would bring together stakeholders in dog health and well-being; representatives of FCI, The Kennel Club (i.e., Steve Dean, Chairman), and various FCI member KCs (e.g., all Nordic clubs and Germany) indicated support and willingness to spearhead development of this organization; as needs/desired initiatives identified by stakeholders were similar to work started with Agria-SKK and FCI, it was decided to await developments on that front rather than possibly duplicating efforts

Project Team (2012 - 2013):

- FCI and SKK/Agria-SKK Research Fund supports ongoing development
- Many experts volunteer time and expertise
- Discussions ongoing with other potential partners (other KCs, etc.) who self-fund to attend meetings and support experts and staff to provide information and expertise, including The Kennel Club (UK), and the national KCs of Sweden, Norway, France, Germany, and Finland, among others

December 2013 - Spring 2014:

- Funding provided by Founding Partners to support basic web development by Dr. Brenda Bonnett, together with Topshare (IT company in The Netherlands)
- Continued meetings and communication with other national KCs to refine possible structure and function of the IPFD

June 2014:

- Confirmation of Commitment by the Founding Partners: The national KCs of Sweden, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, The UK, The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (USA), and the Agria-SKK Research Fund

Our First Decade: Timeline

IPFD: A Vision Becomes Reality

- The first meeting of the Board of the International Partnership for Dogs was held 28 August at the Kennel Club in London. The Board is comprised of Pekka Olson (Chair, Sweden), Caroline Kisko (Vice Chair, UK), Eddie Dziuk (USA), Peter Friedrich (Germany), Jean-Pierre Genevois (France), Patricia Olson (USA), Kirsi Sainio (Finland). Brenda Bonnett (Canada) is Chief Executive Officer and Ulf Uddman (Sweden) is Chief Financial Officer.

A Community Takes Shape

- Launch of DogWellNet.com at the 2nd International Dog Health Workshop in Dortmund, Germany
- American Kennel Club joins as an Initiating Partner; Société Centrale Canine (French Kennel Club) agrees to host 3rd IDHW



August 2014



2015

“ I’m truly excited to see what we can accomplish together as we move into the second decade of the International Partnership for Dogs! ”

— Marc Ralsky, CEO, International Partnership for Dogs

A Community Growing Strong

- IPFD publishes IPFD Annual Report 2015: A Community Takes Shape
- Launch of the Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs initiative
- First issue of DogWellNet Digest e-newsletter
- Launch of IPFD Summer Student projects with an outstanding veterinary student from Colorado State University

Building for the Future

- IPFD publishes IPFD Annual Report 2016: A Community Growing Strong
- IPFD Co-hosts the 3rd International Dog Health Workshop (IDHW) with the French Kennel Club (SCC) in Paris
- Engagement of first 17 Leadership Sponsor Genetic Test Providers/Labs for the Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs (HGTD) initiative; HGTD online resource enters Beta Testing phase
- Collaborating Partner, Canine Genetics and Epidemiology, publishes IPFD paper: Moving from information and collaboration to action: report from the 3rd International Dog Health Workshop, Paris in April 2017
- Second IPFD Summer Student project grows out of the 3rd IDHW, addressing issues of antibiotic resistance



2016



2017

Our First Decade: Timeline

Hitting Our Stride

- IPFD publishes IPFD Annual Report 2017: Building for the Future
- Launch of Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs (HGTD) Quality Testing Database
- Engagement of additional HGTD initiative Leadership Sponsor Genetic Test Providers/Labs
- Planning continues for the 4th International Dog Health Workshop (IDHW) in the UK in 2019, co-hosted by the UK Kennel Club

A Growing Voice

- IPFD publishes IPFD Annual Report 2018: Hitting Our Stride
- The Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) joins IPFD as Contributing Partner
- Raad van Beheer (The Dutch Kennel Club) joins IPFD as Contributing Partner
- The World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) changes status to IPFD Collaborating Partner
- IPFD and The Kennel Club co-host the 4th International Dog Health Workshop (IDHW) in Windsor, UK
- IPFD welcomes five new Board members: Bill Lambert, IPFD Vice-Chair, (UK); Dave Eikelberg (USA); Marty Greer (USA); Grégoire Leroy (France); and Barbara Thiel (Germany). Board Members transitioning out at the end of 2019 include: Caroline Kisko (UK), Jean-Pierre Genevois (France), and Patricia N. Olson (USA)



2018



2019

A Year Like No Other

- IPFD publishes IPFD Annual Report 2019: A Growing Voice
- Report on the 4th IDHW is published in the online journal Canine Medicine and Genetics
- New International Working Group on Extreme Conformation in Dogs (IWGECD), (prioritized in the Extremes theme at the 4th IDHW) is enacted
- IPFD launches Get a GRIHP! on Breed Health Initiative, a series of articles on the Big Picture of health and welfare for specific breeds
- Collaborating Partner, The World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA), begins publishing Dog Breeds: What You Need to Know, a new regular feature in their online news section
- IPFD welcomes new Collaborating Partner, The Black Russian Terrier Club of America (BRTCA), the AKC Parent Club for the Black Russian Terrier



2020

Our First Decade: Timeline

A World of Change

- IPFD publishes IPFD Annual Report 2020: A Year Like No Other
- New Key Comment feature for the Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs (HGTD) highlights tests with important information related to the relevance of the test for searched breed
- Updates improve the look and feel of HGTD searches by displaying simplified paw-print Breed Relevance Ratings (BRRs), as well as beautiful illustrations of the breeds and links to more breed resources.
- IPFD hosts its first virtual workshop on 28 September, with more than 35 Genetic Test Providers, kennel club and IPFD representatives, and other experts from across the globe discussing and sharing information around challenges relating to standardizing genetic reports
- Dr. Brenda Bonnett steps down as CEO on 31 October and continues as IPFD's Veterinary Science Officer
- Katariina Mäki joins IPFD as Business and Project Coordinator in August, 2021 and assumes the role of Acting CEO as of 1 November, 2021
- IPFD publishes new Globally Relevant Integrated Health Profiles (GRIHPs) for 7 breeds including: Golden Retrievers, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Black Russian Terriers, Pugs, Finnish Spitz, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, and Rottweilers
- Supported initiative out of the 4th International Dog Health Workshop (IDHW): the creation of the International Collaborative on Extreme Conformation in Dogs (ICECDogs), an independent group supporting national multi-stakeholder organizations.
- IPFD contributes information for eight breeds in the WSAVA Bulletin in 2021
- Jenni Uski (Finland) joins IPFD as a Content Assistant to assist in the creation of new GRIHPs, development of the Health Strategy Database for Dogs, and updates to our Pedigree Breeds database



2021



A New Chapter

- IPFD publishes IPFD Annual Report 2021: A World of Change
- IPFD hosts second virtual workshop on Genetic Diversity
- Founding CEO Dr. Brenda Bonnett retires from IPFD
- IPFD publishes new Globally Relevant Integrated Health Profiles (GRIHPs) for breeds including: Whippets, Belgian Shepherds, English Bulldogs, Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, and Dalmatians, with more to follow.
- Marc Ralsky joins IPFD as new CEO on 3 October

A Decade of Collaboration

- IPFD publishes IPFD Annual Report 2022: A New Chapter
- IPFD hosts third virtual workshop on Parentage Profiling for Kennel Clubs
- IPFD welcomes Italy's national kennel club, ENCI – Ente Nazionale della Cinofilia Italiana, as Contributing Partner
- IPFD launches Health Strategies Database for Dogs (HSDD)
- Ongoing creation of Get a GRIHP! articles for breeds
- IPFD and Orivet host virtual workshop, Breeding for Health and Purpose (Oceana Region)
- IPFD and Finnish Kennel Club announce details of 5th International Dog Health Workshop (IDHW): Helsinki, 13-15 June 2024
- IPFD and Embark host virtual workshop, Breeding for Health – Supporting “Whole Dog” Health from Planning to Pregnancy
- Dino Muto (President, ENCI) is elected to the IPFD Board



2022



2023

Looking Ahead: 2024 & Beyond



5th International Dog Health Workshop, Helsinki, Finland

A diverse group of stakeholders will gather in Helsinki from 13-15 June to gain insights from some of the dog world's foremost experts, set action plans for collaborative efforts, and celebrate IPFD's 10th Anniversary. More details on the 5th IDHW are provided later in this report.



DogWellNet.com: New & Improved Website

IPFD's Consulting Team and IT consultants are working to re-design and streamline DogWellNet.com, with the first phase scheduled for completion in time for the 5th IDHW in June.



IPFD Breeder Program

IPFD is working toward the rollout of a searchable, international database to identify participating breeders and their individual dogs, with the goal of describing both a minimum and ideal standard of genetic testing for dogs – based on available research to reduce the risks of testable, known inherited diseases; improve identification/heritage traceability; and support breeders, kennel, and breed clubs in improving canine health.

2024 promises to be an exciting, busy year for the International Partnership for Dogs. Here's a look at some of the key initiatives and project updates planned for this year and beyond.



Virtual International Dog Health Meetings

First introduced as a measure to facilitate discussion of key issues during the pandemic, IPFD's Virtual Dog Health meetings have proven popular among key stakeholders around the world. We're currently in talks with our supporters to host more online talks in the latter half of 2024.



Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs

IPFD continues to expand the content and features within the Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs (HGTD), in conjunction with the re-design of DogWellNet.com. Recruitment of new participating Genetic Test Providers and HGTD project sponsors is ongoing.



Strategic Partnerships

In 2024, IPFD's consulting team will continue its work to strengthen existing relationships and establish new partnerships to support IPFD ongoing projects and to fund new initiatives such as the IPFD Breeder Program.

5th International Dog Health Workshop

After a long wait – largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic – we’re excited for an opportunity to meet face-to-face with our friends, colleagues, and fellow stakeholders in dog health, welfare, and well-being. In addition to a full slate of social, educational, and action planning activities, the 5th International Dog Health Workshop (IDHW) will be a time to celebrate IPFD’s 10th Anniversary and reflect on what we’ve accomplished together over the past decade.



The [5th IPFD International Dog Health Workshop \(IDHW\)](#), co-hosted by IPFD and the Finnish Kennel Club, will host leaders from the international canine health and welfare community, including representatives from kennel clubs, veterinary groups, researchers, genetic test providers, insurance companies, welfare groups, and canine charities.

Under the overarching theme, “Partners in Dog Health”, our planning committee has developed an outstanding program that addresses some of the most pressing issues and challenges within the dog world.

Discussions during the workshop’s plenary and breakout sessions will help establish priorities and action plans for international collaboration in the months and years to come.

Detailed Theme descriptions, along with an IDHW Program Overview, Goals & Outcomes, Speaker Bios, and Schedule are posted on DogWellNet.com.

Our Co-Hosts

We thank our gracious co-hosts, [the Finnish Kennel Club](#) (Suomen Kennelliitto), for their help in making the 5th IDHW possible.

The Finnish Kennel Club cooperates with other stakeholders, influences decision-making related to dogs, and advocates the interests of dogs on an international level. As a national kennel club, they are one of the largest in the world, with approximately 146,000 human members. In addition, the Finnish Kennel Club acts as the umbrella organisation of more than 2,000 canine organizations in Finland.



5th IDHW Goals & Outcomes

The primary goals of the IDHWs are to promote collaboration and networking and to facilitate the sharing of information and resources - before, during and after the workshop.

All Workshop Themes:

Following interactive discussions within each Theme, by the conclusion of the 5th IDHW, participants should leave with a clear sense of:

- Key decisions on priorities/needs within the Theme
- Remaining gaps/challenges/controversies
- List of specific tasks/actions to be undertaken over the next two years, together with names of individuals and organizations who have agreed to assist
- Their personal commitment to participate and how they will help achieve the desired outcomes

Breakout Sessions:

Aim to engage all participants in discussion (to some extent, the issues and priorities should be driven by participants)

Breakout Session Themes for the 5th IDHW include:

- **Supply and Demand**
- **Breeding for Health and Well-being**
- **Big Data**
- **Does the Colour Matter? Defining Breed vs Variety**

“Partners in Dog Health”

5th IDHW Sponsors

We thank our generous sponsors for supporting the 5th International Dog Health Workshop and for their ongoing efforts to improve canine health and welfare.



www.agria.se

www.mars.com/our-brands/petcare

www.royalcanin.com

Poster Presentations

All participants of the 5th IDHW are invited to present a poster to facilitate information transfer and foster networking opportunities. Copies of the posters will be uploaded to DogWellNet.com following the workshop for the benefit of those who are unable to attend. Stay tuned for details.



Photo by Ian Seath

Genetic Test Provider Exhibit Tables

The 5th IDHW will feature exhibit tables where Genetic Test Providers (GTPs) can show their support for IPFD while promoting their testing services, research, and advice to representatives from our global canine community.



www.combibreed.com

www.royalcanin.com

www.wisdompanel.com

Previous & Future IDHWs

IPFD oversees the International Dog Health Workshops and partners with other organizations who manage key meeting logistics. There have been four highly-successful IDHWs to date:

- 1st [International Dog Health Workshop](#) (2012), hosted by the Swedish Kennel Club, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2nd [International Dog Health Workshop](#) (2015), co-hosted by the German Kennel Club, Dortmund, Germany
- 3rd [International Dog Health Workshop](#) (2017), co-hosted by the French Kennel Club, Paris, France
- 4th [International Dog Health Workshop](#) (2019), co-hosted by the Kennel Club, Windsor, UK

Pre- and Post-Workshop Materials from all IDHWs are available on DogWellNet.com.

Please [contact us](#) if your canine organization would be interested in co-hosting the next International Dog Health Workshop!

Administration

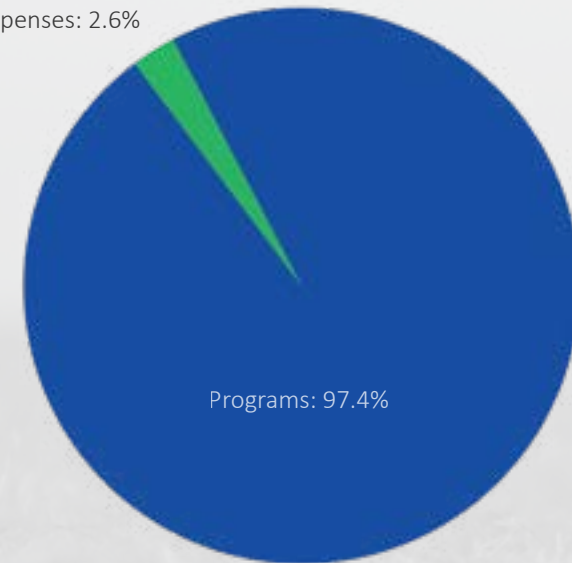
IPFD's model and resources (a modest budget and small group of consultants and Board Members) facilitate the activities of our stakeholders to achieve their priorities for the health and welfare of all dogs.

2023 Income/Expenses Summary

2023 Income: € 226 450
2023 Expenses: € 212 700
2023 Total Assets: € 51 390
Auditor: BDO International

2023 Expenses Breakdown

Business Expenses: 2.6%



Programs: 97.4%

Approximate Distribution of Expenses in 2023:

Programs: 97.4%

Business Expenses: 2.6%



SVENSKA
KENNELKLUBBEN

We extend a big "thank you" to the Swedish Kennel Club (Svenska Kennelklubben) for providing IPFD's bookkeeping and accounting services since its inception in 2014.

Stay Connected

Stay up-to-date on the latest news and resources from the International Partnership for Dogs.



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[DogWellNet.com](#)



[info@ipfdogs.com](#)

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Digest

View new and past editions of our [DogWellNet Digest](#) e-newsletter on [DogWellNet.com](#) or sign up as an IPFD Member (free) to receive links to new issues via email.

*“ We’ve come a long way over
much more to be done to
and well-being of all dogs
scale will be key to our success*

Let’s get

*er the past decade, but there's
improve the health, welfare,
s. Collaboration on a global
uccess in 2024 and beyond.
et to work! ”*

— Pekka Olson, Chair, International Partnership for Dogs

IPFD

DogWellNet

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