

International
Partnership
For Dogs



Annual Report 2015

A Community Takes Shape

The International Partnership for Dogs (IPFD) was initiated in August 2014 by leading national kennel clubs and other stakeholders in dog health to address common goals and needs; to enhance the sharing of information and resources to support purebred dogs and all dogs; and to build a sustainable, international organization through leadership and sharing.

In 2015, the first full year of operation, IPFD experienced:

- Solidification and expansion of Partnerships.
- Communication and outreach at international conferences.
- The launch and expansion of our internet platform, DogWellNet.com.
- Engagement of an increasing number of breed clubs, judges, veterinarians, researchers, and others.
- Enactment of our key goals and model, i.e., IPFD staff consultants are developing content and functionality of our web platform while encouraging participation and contributions from our Partners, their members and associates, and others.



IPFD 3rd International Dog Health Workshop

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21 – 23 April / Avril 2017
Paris, France



3^{ème} Workshop International sur la Santé du Chien

The IPFD and DogWellNet.com, in part, grew out of calls at the 1st IDHW (Sweden, 2012) for a platform to support international collaboration on dog health.

Working with the IPFD, the German Kennel Club (VDH) hosted the 2nd IDHW in Dortmund, Germany, where, in February 2015, DogWellNet.com was officially launched. The IPFD will take primary responsibility for future IDHWs, in close cooperation with a hosting organization.

The 3rd IDHW is scheduled for Paris in April 2017, hosted by the French Kennel Club (SCC). The content and functionality of DogWellNet.com is facilitating and supporting collaborations and actions arising from previous workshops as we work toward the next one.

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A Community Takes Shape

What is difficult to quantify, but is as exciting and important as our own success, is the ongoing and broadening influence on positive international cooperation and collaboration that is occurring in parallel to IPFD and DogWellNet.com.

Our Partners have dynamic and increasing participation with other IPFD Partners on aspects of their own operations, outside the mandate of the IPFD. The work of and interactions among other collaborators, e.g., breed clubs, breeders, and researchers, is being facilitated.

We are proud of what has been accomplished in a short time on a relatively small budget. We are grateful to dedicated staff and volunteers for their commitment to the IPFD. In 2016, we look forward to engaging more Partners and Collaborators as we build the IPFD and continue to expand content and engagement on DogWellNet.com.

Issues of health, well-being, and welfare in dogs are complex, including the interplay of human-animal interactions and varying attitudes across people, cultures, and countries.

The IPFD and DogWellNet.com are building community across countries and stakeholder groups. We are fostering international collaboration, with Partners committed to promoting health, well-being, and good welfare for dogs.

We recognize that all of us – organizations, professional groups, and individuals – must be willing to examine our own responsibilities and roles as we work for common goals.

Together, we are moving from information and collaboration to action!



Dr. Brenda N. Bonnett
Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Pekka Olson
Chair

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"In 2016, we look forward to engaging more Partners and Collaborators in IPFD as we build the organization."





About IPFD

OVERVIEW

The International Partnership for Dogs is a non-profit organization, registered in Sweden, initiated by a group of independent stakeholders in dog health, well-being, and welfare. It was officially launched in August 2014.

MISSION

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

VISION

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

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 is needed.

GOALS

The general goals of the IPFD are to:

- Enhance the health, well-being, and welfare of dogs and enrich human-dog interactions.
- Facilitate 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.

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Our People

2015 IPFD BOARD OF DIRECTORS [View Board bios](#)

The IPFD Board is comprised of individuals with respected international reputations, who represent a broad array of stakeholders in dog health, well-being, and welfare, and who bring a range of backgrounds and abilities that support the goals and mission of the organization. They sit on the Board as individuals with commitment to the mission, vision, and goals of the International Partnership for Dogs.

Pekka Olson
DVM, Dr. hc
Chair, Sweden

Eddie Dziuk
MBA
USA

Jean-Pierre Genevois
DVM, PhD, Professor
Emeritus
France

Patricia Olson
DVM, PhD, DACT,
DACAW
USA

Caroline Kisko
Vice Chair, UK

Peter Friedrich
PhD, Professor
Germany

Alan Kalter
USA

Kirsi Sainio
PhD
Finland

IPFD OFFICERS [View Officer bios](#)

Brenda N. Bonnett
DVM, PhD
Chief Executive Officer, Canada

Ulf Uddman
Chief Financial Officer, Sweden

IPFD CONSULTANTS

Ann Milligan
Content Manager

Robert Simons
Web Manager

Dave St. Louis
Communications Specialist

Provisionists
Web Hosting/Support

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"The mission of IPFD is to facilitate collaboration and sharing of resources to enhance the health, well-being, and welfare of pedigree dogs and all dogs worldwide."

Administration

IPFD is legally registered as a non-profit organization in Sweden and is a member of IDEA, an employers' federation for non-profit organizations.

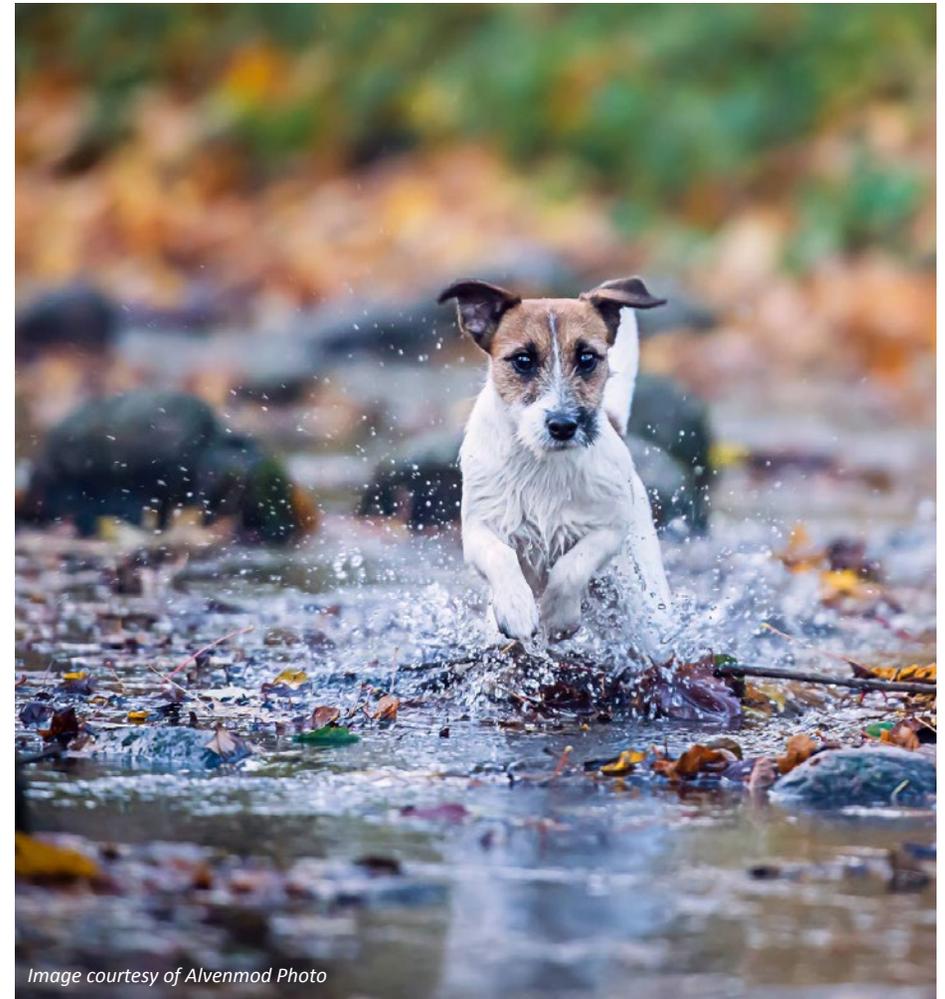
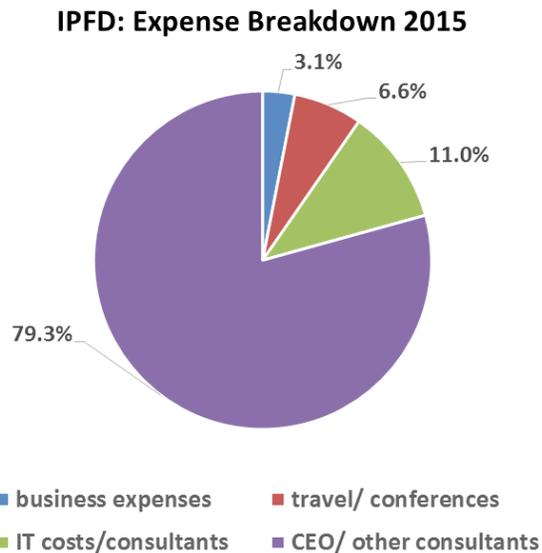
AUDITOR

BDO International

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

2015 Budget and assets € 220,995

- Revenue from new initiation and membership fees 2014 and carryover from 2014.



2015 IPFD Partners, Sponsors, and Collaborators

Several national kennel clubs – Sweden, Finland, Germany, France, Norway, Ireland, the UK, and the USA – and other stakeholders in dog health, The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (USA) and the Agria Pet Insurance-SKC Fund (Sweden), have made formal, multi-year commitments to move IPFD’s work forward. The Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI), representing 91 national kennel clubs, is an Initiating Patron and Partner; VetCompass (UK) is a Collaborating Sponsor.

[Read more about our Partners and Sponsors](#)

IPFD Partners:



IPFD Collaborating Sponsor:



*"The world is a better
place because we share
it with dogs."*



Image courtesy of Paw Prints / Jen St. Louis Photography



More Accomplishments

While being grounded in an evidence-based approach, DogWellNet.com offers a mode of profiling challenging, forward-thinking, and positive developments underway throughout the dog world. It is important to support the 'good work' of the many committed breed clubs, kennel clubs, and other organizations in the face of social and other media that might tend to focus solely on problems.

There is no sugar-coating or avoidance of tough issues. Highlighting the collective volume of ongoing endeavors not only provides needed information, but it also serves as a catalyst for further effort.

Articles and information on DogWellNet.com compile information across organizations, countries, and stakeholders and provide a balanced resource for members of the media – broadening their view away from a limited focus on the worst problems, for example, in purebred dogs. See [Westminster, Dog Shows and Healthier Dogs](#), an IPFD article prompted by contact with (and used to inform) a reporter from *USA Today*. Here are [her article](#) and [the AKC's response](#).



Image courtesy of Paw Prints / Jen St. Louis Photography

In September, DogWellNet.com quickly responded to a situation in Sweden involving health and welfare issues in brachycephalic breeds. We started a [Hot Topics](#) section to identify and consolidate information already on the site and provide a platform for new information to support collaborative efforts between the Swedish Kennel Club, veterinarians, and government regulators. This work also provides a model for similar efforts internationally.



More Accomplishments

Our approach is supporting the actions of international breed organizations (e.g., the Berner-IWG, which is now a Collaborating Partner) as well as national and parent breed clubs who are providing information to DogWellNet.com to highlight their good work. They will be part of an IPFD project, *Structured Reporting: by Country and Breed*.

A great benefit of this sharing is that it is stimulating clubs in other countries to provide information on their breed. We now have, for example, translations of Breed-Specific Breeding strategies for 11 breeds in Sweden, and more on the way from Sweden, Finland, and Norway.

Another area of focus is on the challenging and controversial use of cross-breeding to improve the health of purebred dogs. The Finnish Kennel Club has an organized, proactive approach which was first described in their [blog](#). Partnering with IPFD, an excellent and comprehensive document on the [German Pinscher](#) was developed. The latter was created by our Content Manager, Ann Milligan, in cooperation with the breed club in Finland.



Anne Mary Chimion, International Relations, SCC; Pekka Olson, Chair, IPFD; and Christian Eymar-Dauphin, President, SCC, at the signing of the agreement to host the 3rd IDHW.

The result not only describes specific information on this project, but it also provides both scientific and practical information to assist others contemplating such work. And we are promised similar descriptions from other breeds!



More Accomplishments

Here's a comment from Katariina Mäki, PhD, Breeding Expert at the Finnish Kennel Club, one of our most active Founding Partners:

"Working with IPFD and DogWellNet.com has:

- Interested and engaged our breed clubs who see the need and importance of an international presence for the good work we are doing in Finland. Seeing our work profiled on an international stage is very exciting.*
- Encouraged us to translate more of our material to English to increase international traffic on our website.*
- The [article regarding breed crosses in the German Pinscher](#) created on DogWellNet.com, by the IPFD staff in collaboration with our breed club, has produced a template that can be followed by others. In addition to profiling our work, we also routinely find out about work going on elsewhere that is relevant to our efforts. I am very much looking forward to breed-specific information starting to accrue in DogWellNet.com. It will be an important source for all breed clubs worldwide.*



- I also see that interest and activity will increase in the future, as the clubs not yet involved see what the others have done and posted. I think that DogWellNet.com will be a very important platform for co-operation."*

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"Working with IPFD and DogWellNet.com has interested and engaged our breed clubs...I also see that interest and activity will increase in the future."

***– Kathariina Mäki, PhD
Breeding Expert, Finnish Kennel Club***



CEO Activities and Outreach



Part of building our community involves informing the international dog world about IPFD, DogWellNet.com, and the potential for multi-stakeholder involvement in our mission. Our platform helps them to profile their activities and work, exchange information, and collaborate. Dr. Bonnett is respected internationally as a veterinary epidemiologist, educator, and researcher in several fields (Population Epidemiology, Human-Animal Interactions, Veterinary Communication, Animal Reproduction/Theriogeneology, and more), and part of her mandate is to reach out to researchers, veterinarians, breeders, judges, kennel and breed clubs, and others. Selected activities in 2015 are listed below.

- Attended and presented an IPFD poster at The 8th International Conference on Advances in Canine and Feline Genomics and Inherited Disease, Cambridge, UK, June 2015
- Attended and presented an IPFD poster at the first international Canine Behaviour and Genetics Conference, London, UK, June 2015
- Attended National Parent Club Canine Health Conference, St. Louis, MO, USA, August 2015
- Speaker at 10th Bernese Mountain Dog International Health Symposium, August 2015, Helsinki, Finland
- Meetings with Finnish Kennel Club and various breed clubs, to engage breed clubs in translating breed-specific breeding strategies, August 2015
- Meetings with Swedish Kennel Club and various breed clubs, to engage breed clubs in translating breed-specific breeding strategies, August 2015
- Poster presented at 7th Tufts Canine & Feline Breeding & Genetics Conference, Dedham, MA, USA, September 2015
- Met with French Kennel Club Scientific Committee, Paris, France, September 2015

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2015 Milestones

The International Partnership for Dogs reached a number of important milestones in 2015 – its first full year of operation.

May: Irish Kennel Club becomes Partner

February: Launch of DogWellNet.com at 2nd International Dog Health Workshop in Dortmund, Germany

October: Agreement signed with Société Centrale Canine to host 3rd International Dog Health Workshop in Paris in April 2017

November: Launch of the IPFD/ DogwellNet.com Facebook page

June: FCI votes to continue membership for 2016 and 2017

August: Berner International Working Group (B-IWG) votes to become Collaborating Partner

October: DogWellNet.com upgraded to IPS4 platform for enhanced navigation and functionality

November: Communication begins with prospective partner, Anicom, Japan

December: Planning starts for IPFD Strategic Plan 2017-2019

December: American Kennel Club becomes Initiating Partner

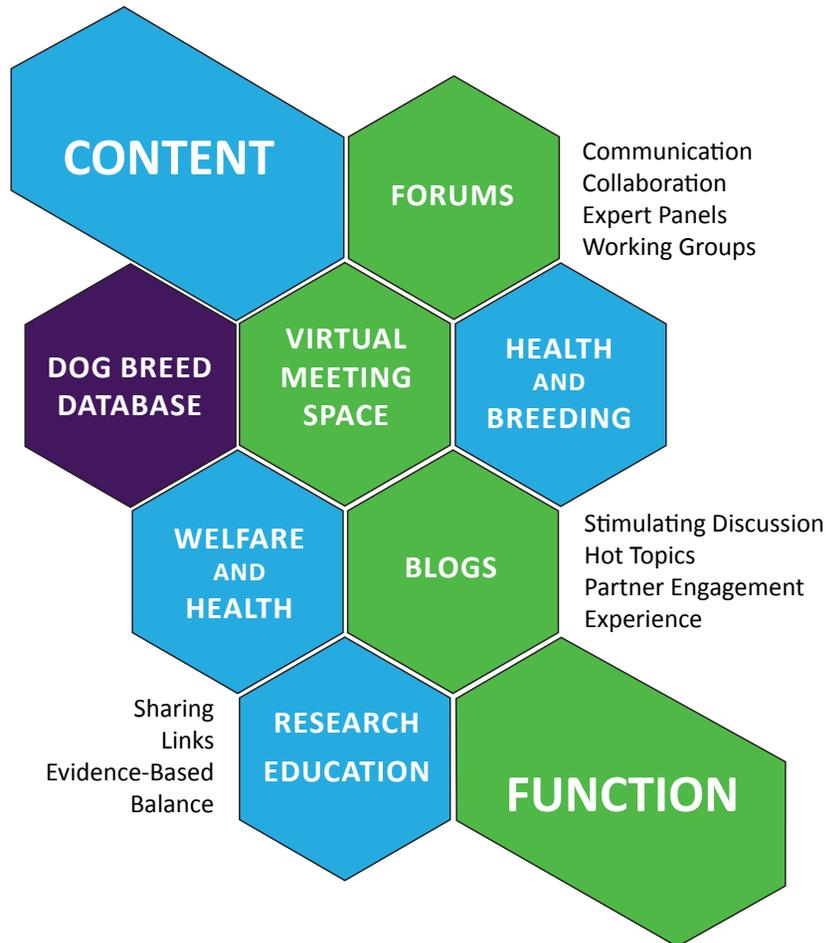


"Part of building our community involves informing the international dog world about IPFD, DogWellNet.com, and the potential for multi-stakeholder involvement in our mission."



DogWellNet.com

DogWellNet.com operates as an information hub, providing links, documents, and additional resources to breeders and others in the dog world. The approach, design, and structure of the platform revolves around ‘building community’ – bringing people together – and sharing. The interweaving of Content and Functionality of the website supports international collaboration.



IPFD DogWellNet

Home Breeds Articles Forums Blogs Downloads Gallery Partners About IPFD

Agria AKC ECT IKC THE FINNISH KENNEL CLUB CENTRALE CANINE VDH SVENSKA KENNELKLUBBEN SVENSKA KENNELKLUBBEN

IPFD WORKSHOPS

HOLD THE DATE!
IPFD 3rd International Dog Health Workshop
3rd Workshop International sur la Santé de Chien

Latest Blogs

The sampling effort
By Glenroy in Gragoire Leroy's Blog

International Collaboration for Dog Health - Epilepsy
By Brenda Bonnell in Brenda's Blog

International Partners...

International Partnership for Dogs
Did you know that DogWellNet is home to a growing collection of highly informative blogs written by members of the IPFD community? Visit the site to read them! <http://dogwellnet.com/iblogs>

From Information to Action!

For Dog Breeders

Dog Health Organizations

About Health Testing

Veterinary Research

The Big Picture

Who's talking about what?

The Brachycephalic Issue

Site Health and Breeding Welfare Education Research About IPFD Forums

IPFD Partners About us Disclaimers & Policies

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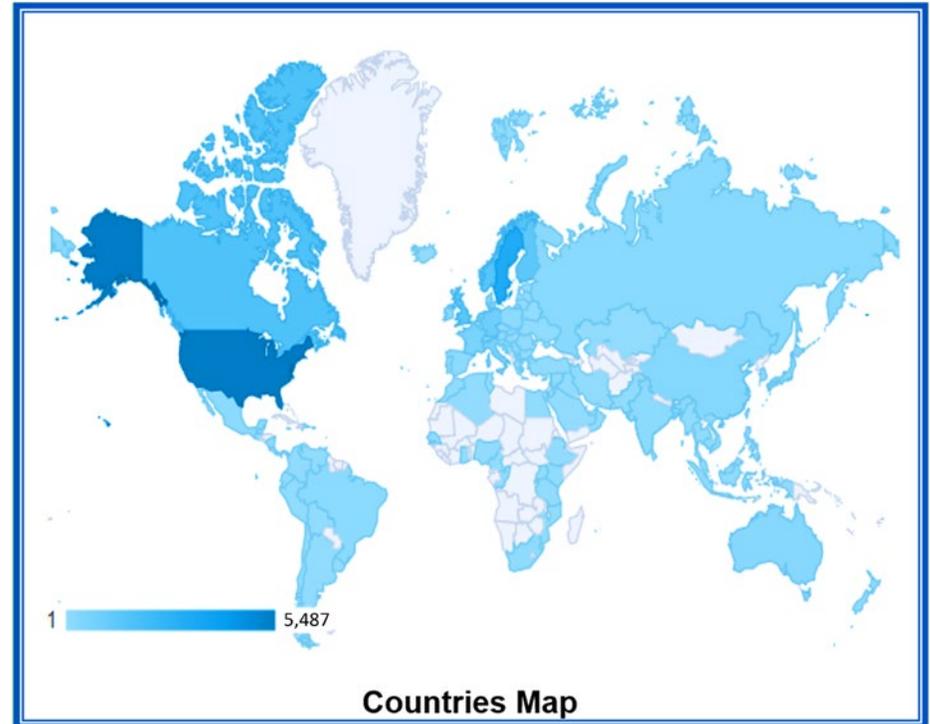
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SE-163 85 Spånåsa
Sweden

DogWellNet.com

In 2015, the goal was to engage members from our Partners, rather than opening the website fully to the public. However, most content was available to everyone.

We had over 90,000 page views; approximately 40% of individuals accessing the site were returning users who averaged 9 pages and over 11 minutes view time per visit. More than 60% of our users were under 35 years of age.

Starting in 2016, anyone can join as a Member. Advanced Members, collaborators from our Partners, experts, and some others have additional access to participate in forums and in producing content.



Country	All Users	% Returning Users
1. USA	5,487	36%
2. Sweden	2,549	41%
3. Finland	1,399	31%
4. Canada	1,350	82%
5. Norway	1,256	19%
6. UK	1,048	38%
7. (Location not set)	966	<1%
8. Germany	669	25%
9. France	513	37%
10. Italy	466	70%

Usage by Country and Returning Users

*"DogWellNet.com
revolves around 'building
community' – bringing
people together – and
sharing."*



Looking Ahead: 2016

This year is, essentially, the second full year of operation for the organization and the website. In addition to continuing to maintain and build IPFD and DogWellNet.com, major priorities for 2016 include the following initiatives:

2016 OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

- Further establish IPFD as a sustainable organization: Produce three-year strategic plan; increase the number of Partners and Sponsors.
- 3rd International Dog Health Workshop (IDHW): Collaborate with the French Kennel Club on organizational activities, e.g., Program; working groups; communication and promotional plan for Paris, 21-23 April 2017.
- Initiate Veterinary Student Projects: Two to four students in three or four countries.

- Continue the Structured Reporting by Country and Breed (SR-BCB) initiative, in collaboration with various international breed groups.
- Maintain Facebook page for IPFD/DogWellNet.com to drive traffic to the website; increase traffic on both.
- Expand DogWellNet.com:
 - a. Increase content
 - b. Increase the number of volunteer contributors, collaborators from breed club health committees, experts
 - c. Establish at least two Expert Forums (e.g., together with activities for 3rd IDHW)
 - d. Establish at least two forums for breed clubs, e.g., compiling national-level breed descriptions (including health data, breeding strategies/recommendations); national and international breed-specific databases.

Issues of health, well-being, and welfare in dogs are complex, including the interplay of human-animal interactions and varying attitudes among people, cultures, and countries. At the IPFD, we look to foster international collaboration, starting with Partners who are committed to promoting health, well-being, and good welfare for dogs, with the recognition that we all – organizations, groups and individuals – must be willing to examine our own responsibilities and historical and future roles as we work actively for the benefit of dogs. 

International Partnership For Dogs



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