



Swedish Kennel Club (SKK) standpoint on the FCI decision to award China the World Dog Show 2019

At the meeting of the SKK General Committee on August 13 2015, the decisions made at the latest FCI General Assembly and the developments which have followed were discussed in detail.

The choice of China as host for World Dog Show 2019

The World Dog Show is the most prestigious project of the FCI. The decision to locate the World Dog Show in China, where part of the culture includes barbaric slaughtering of dogs for skin/fur and the tradition to eat dogs, i.e. a form of dog-keeping that is despicable, seriously threatens confidence in the FCI.

Therefore, the SKK did not vote for China to host the event.

The voting procedure was transparent and the counting of votes was open. But there was a strong impression that the outcome was pre-arranged, even before the meeting. This feeling was re-enforced by the China Kennel Union (CKU) when, after the voting process, they offered all countries free board and lodging for three days in connection with the World Dog Show 2019. Many countries, including SKK regard the announcement of this gift, even coming after the voting process, as inappropriate, and akin to a bribe. Of course, SKK did not accept the offer. It is a concern that smaller kennel clubs' standpoints and votes may have been affected by how the CKU acted.

SKK finds that the respect for the World Dog Show is seriously damaged by being associated with a country that includes horrible dog traditions. Through many efforts the EU has, for several years, prohibited the import of dog skin within the EU from, amongst others, China. The Chinese culture can only be changed by the Chinese themselves when it comes to these matters. SKK welcome the efforts that the CKU is doing for stray dogs. However, these efforts do not stretch very far in a country that big; they become a mere drop in the ocean, though the intentions are good. You have to do much more to make a difference.

The SKK sees it as a big risk that the Chinese authorities and the public will regard the fact that they have landed the prestigious World Dog Show as an acceptance of their culture as regards the dog's position in society. To defend the placing of big international events in countries with heavily criticized conditions, from human rights,





disgusting working conditions, to dog-keeping is not valid, as these unsatisfactory conditions do not change with carrying through of the event.

For the above reasons the SKK General Committee is very critical of the decision to award the CKU the World Dog Show 2019.

FCI internal decision-making process

The SKK has been a member of the FCI since 1934, that is to say, more than 80 years. We have as members always respected, followed and implemented the various rules and regulations of the FCI.

During the last decade developments have made the SKK more critical as to how the decision-making process works within the FCI. In our opinion, the rule *one country - one vote* does not work any longer, as kennel clubs with a long tradition of cynological work lose influence to smaller kennel clubs with less cynological knowledge. This has made it possible for the FCI to sanction international shows like the Black Sea event, which has considerably decreased the value of FCI international documents e.g. CACIB.

At the FCI General Assembly in Milan, three new small kennel clubs were voted in as full members against the recommendation of the General Committee. This only enhances the situation that countries with limited work around dogs, often concentrated only on dog shows, to a greater extent have the voting majority within the FCI. This can also be shown in how the FCI allocates its economic resources.

The attitude of the FCI General Committee to the Norwegian Kennel Club (NKK)

The SKK finds it totally unacceptable that a member country would be threatened with sanctions such as those imposed on the NKK, simply for expressing the views of the club and their members on an FCI decision, regardless whether that decision has been made by the FCI General Assembly/FCI General Committee/or other member country.

Unfortunately, the SKK can establish the fact that this is not an isolated case as the SKK, together with other European kennel clubs, was forced to write to the FCI General Committee approximately 18 months ago to reject the General Committee's suggestion that all member countries were prohibited from inviting British judges to their shows. In a similar way, some years ago, the SKK and many other kennel clubs were very critical of the FCI General Committee for their decision that all contacts with the Canadian Kennel Club should be banned; that decision was rescinded after a few years.

The Tibetan breeds

The SKK welcomes the changed decision by the FCI General Committee so that the country of origin for the five Tibetan breeds is not China but Tibet (China).



At the same time the SKK would like to stress our support for Great Britain henceforth having the responsibility for the breed standard as these breeds have grown and been stabilized within the framework that has been made by The Kennel Club. The SKK is critical of the decision to change existing "country of origin and/or patronage/development of several breeds at a later stage" as you cannot only from a cynological/historical perspective take into account the current political de facto made borders. This should be valid even though The Kennel Club is not a member of the FCI.

With new political borders it does not automatically mean that the responsibility for breeds can be transferred; in the same way the right to a membership not always can follow current statutes.

This is, for example, the situation with the CKU membership; they became full members in 2013 not fully in accordance with FCI Statutes, article 7 a).

Consequences

A motion has been made to the SKK General Assembly in October demanding an investigation of the SKK attitude towards the FCI and other international kennel clubs. The SKK General Committee has accepted this task and, due to the current developments within the FCI, will ask for a mandate to either change the SKK membership within the FCI or to resign from the federation.

The SKK General Committee intends to continue with necessary contacts with other kennel clubs in Europe to discuss how the SKK and other kennel clubs relationships with the FCI should be formed in the future.

The SKK supports the NKK's suggestion on how the FCI can work to improve the well-being of dogs which was recently presented before the FCI Europe Section General Assembly on September 7.

The SKK General Committee recommend judges that get an invitation to judge in China or at the World Dog Show in 2019 to notice the points of view above before making a decision to say yes or no to the invitation.

This recommendation also goes for those members who are thinking of participating with their dogs at the World Dog Show 2019. The SKK General Committee would like to remind you of that to take your dog back to Sweden from China is restricted by the EU with special rules which can result in a very high cost if not observed.

The SKK General Committee has decided to postpone until further notice any application to the FCI for international shows for 2018.



The SKK General Committee further decided to publish its standpoint in a suitable way to its members, the FCI and other organization within and outside the FCI and to the media.

The SKK General Committee's decision was unanimous.

Svenska Kennelklubben

Nils Erik Åhmansson
President

Ulf Uddman
Managing Director