

**NKU/VK (Scientific Committee) Meeting 2025 – Minutes****Time**

- April 2, 2025: 09:00–17:00 (+ dinner)
- April 3, 2025: 08:30–14:00

**Place**

- NKK, Nordåsveien 5, Holmlia, Norway

**Invited**

- **DKK:** Mikael Tranholm, Britta Sørensen
- **FKK:** Kaisa Gold, Laura Ripatti, Hanna Kaasalainen, Kirsi Sainio
- **NKK:** Kim Bellamy, Hanne Christine Överli, William Bredal
- **SKK:** Helena Skarp, Sofia Malm Persson, Anna Björklund, Tomas Bergström

**Meeting chair:** Mikael Tranholm (DKK)

**Meeting secretary:** Britta Sørensen (DKK)

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**1. Opening of the meeting****2. Short presentations and organizational news from the national kennel clubs****SKK**

- Number of registrations is falling – down to about 41,000 dogs, which also impacts finances.
- Very few registrations in the cat register.
- Entries at shows are decreasing, but activities and behavior assessments are increasing.
- Pedigrees are now electronic; for a fee, a printed version can be obtained.
- Podcast “*Hundliv*” is a new initiative.
- General Assembly in September.

**NKK**

- Memberships and registrations overall are declining, which also affects finances.
- Administration is being reorganized.
- General Assembly will be adjusted; some committees have been dissolved and new ones created.
- The new CEO has reviewed processes so that decisions are made closer to the administration rather than in committees.

- Applications from breed clubs (e.g. breeding requirements) are going directly to the “Health” department, having the mandate to reviews and approve – political issues are still handled in committees.
- NKK (the Board) can overrule the breed clubs in relation to breeding programs.
- A “Dog Welfare Council” will be a committee of external members from outside NKK – to be presented to the Board next week.
- New registration appendices will be launched in September, with work ongoing to position NKK as the national register for all dogs.

#### **FKK**

- Moved to new offices with a new CEO (from an animal welfare organization) since September 2024.
- Many changes underway, with procedures and rules being reviewed.
- Memberships and registrations are declining, so finances are tight.
- Participation at shows is falling slightly, but activities are increasing. Largest decline in Group 9 and hunting dogs.
- FCI General Assembly + WDS this year.
- General assembly at the end of the year

#### **DKK**

- Registrations are stable, as are participations at shows.
- Memberships are falling slightly.
- Changes to the membership system will take place during the summer 2025.
- A new Dog Welfare Act is on the way, requiring much work; the new law comes into force on July 1, 2025. There has been an excellent cooperation between DKK, the Veterinary Association, and several animal welfare organizations.
- General Assembly + “Inspiration Days” for the specialty clubs this year.

### **3. Minutes and Things-to-do from the last meeting, April 17–18, 2024**

- **a. Minutes – Approved** (NKU Google Drive)
- **b. Things-to-do** (NKU Google Drive)

### **4. Decisions from the NKU/AU**

- **a. Follow-up/Update Issues** from the NKU/AU meeting, April 10, 2024 (NKU Google Drive)
- **b. Follow-up/Update Issues** from the NKU/AU meeting, October 16, 2024 (NKU Google Drive)
  - BOAS Group will arrange a Teams meeting in order to answer questions raised to the AU. BRISO to call for the meeting.
- **c. Remaining issues to the NKU/AU**

## 5. General update from each country regarding breeding and health issues

### a. RAS

- **SKK:** No news, using their new templates. Revised 53 in the last 2 years.
- **NKK:** Replaced by breeding programs under new legislation, expected in 2027. Work in progress. A general + breed-specific RAS program. NKK will make drafts and send to breed clubs for revision. Norwegian breeds will be the first to implement. The law is not yet in place, but a proactive plan is in place to comply with the new law.
- **FKK:** Breed clubs must prepare RAS if they register over 50 puppies per year over a 5-year period. New guidelines being developed to shorten and standardize the documents. 267 breeds have RAS. If not, FKK will support the breed club (e.g. Continental Bulldog).
- **DKK:** Only few breed clubs have RAS available and it is not a requirement.

### b. BSI

- **SKK:** Moved to the show judge committee.
- **NKK:** Data collected digitally, initially unsuccessful, but now NKK can work with the data.
- **FKK:** Nothing new, actively not using it, but sends it to breed clubs.
- **DKK:** Nothing new, part of the digital show system. DKK can work with the data.

### c. Behavior/Mentality

- **SKK:** BPH report – 42,000 dogs described so far. More officials are being trained – 23 new observers and 45 new test leaders. Work continues with the data. 43 breeds have over 200 dogs described; if more than 200 dogs are assessed an analysis of the results is carried out by the SKK. “200-analys”. If more than 500 dogs have been tested, they will get a more detailed description.

Project with mental index on BPH is ongoing – Rhodesian Ridgeback was the first, now 3 breeds have an index. 18% of a year's population tested, target is 15%. Two full-time employees working in this area.

There is an annual calibration of describers and test leaders. It is possible to add breed-specific supplements to BPH (e.g. retrievers' ability to retrieve).

Dangerous dogs have been discussed in Sweden; SKK participated in a meeting with the government and felt heard. SKK's mentality assessment and BPH data were very helpful.

- **NKK:** There have been some cases with Rottweiler in Norway – focus now on mentality, dogs must have known status. The Board wants more work on mentality, but it is costly.
- **FKK:** BPH not available in Finland, many still use the old mental test and MH.

Aggressive dogs at trials and shows remain a problem. Dogs are excluded for 6 or 12 months for aggressive behavior or biting. An increase in dogs with unacceptable temperament at shows is observed.

- **DKK:** No news.

#### d. New breeding legislation in NKU countries/EU

- All countries are reviewing it. In Scandinavia we mainly have small-scale breeding, so parts of the proposed EU legislation is difficult to implement (mainly addressing large scale commercial breeders/breeding).

#### e. Other breeding or health projects (not elsewhere on the agenda)

- **SKK:** Working on new “hunddata” platform – eventually “hunddata” and “avelldata” will be merged.
- **NKK:** In Norway there is an exclusive cardiology group – members must document and maintain their expertise. NKK’s Board decided only members of this group may perform heart examinations on Cavaliers King Charles spaniels.

The mandatory testicle certificate when importing from the UK – NKK is checking if possible, to remove this (to-do list).

Limitation on “matador breeding” is hard to implement across NKU. FKK, NKK, DKK and SKK already have limitations on some breeds.

- **FKK:** New IT system not functioning optimally, with startup problems. Once working, it should improve everything and provide better statistics.

### 6. Cavalier King Charles Spaniel – Measures for Improved Health

#### a. Short report from each country

- **NKK:** Project has stalled; not a simple project. The Board has decided to exclude the breed. NKK is preparing a breeding program for crossbreeding, to be published mid-April 2025. The Cavaliers included in the crossbred program must have heart examinations and SM scans after the age of 3 years. Breeds to be enrolled not yet fully determined; breeders may apply to use other breeds than SKK/FKK. Tibetan Spaniel removed as a possible breed. NKK will have its own assessor for SM/CM. A guideline on head shape is being prepared. Five litters born so far, more expected. Cavalier mixes will be registered in appendix. Six MRI scanning locations available in Norway.
- **FKK:** Only 1 crossbreed litter born (with Beagle). Not much new. New people in the breed club, hopefully will improve progress.
- **DKK:** Studbooks opened, but no plans for crossbreeding projects.
- **SKK:** [Project link](#)
  - Nine litters born, mostly using DSG, but also 2 Japanese Spitz and 1 Lhasa apso. “Mr. X” hopefully to be used for breeding in autumn.
  - Project ongoing, genetic study to be conducted at SLU.
  - Breed club will follow up; some dogs will be evaluated in May, as a side event at a dog show.

- RKC has officially expressed support for the project.
- Thomas: Will measure genetic variation before and after the project, creating a foundation for future generations. A long-term study to examine genetics behind SM and heart problems.

## 7. Brachycephalic Health Issues

### a. Report on development and current activities from each country

- **SKK:** Working group for pedigree dog health, including prioritization of health problems. Focus breeds: Pug, English/French Bulldog, and Boston Terrier.

“Target images” were the first step and are now completed and approved. Next step is to work on how to reach the goals and to develop breeding strategies.

- **NKK:** Will begin grading BOAS in several breeds. NKK has an unofficial permission to test, but without using the Cambridge/KC logo. Kim will send a list of breeds and which test should be used.
- **FKK:** Seven breeds require BOAS testing. Testing in Finland requires a bigger room, as they use a 12-minute exercise test.
- **DKK:** It is expected that BOAS test for pugs, French and English bulldogs will be included in the new animal welfare law I Denmark.

The NKU-VK **decided** to propose to NKU AU that the Swedish target images should be implemented in all NKU countries. There will be a judges’ seminar in connection with the Nordic Winner Show.

### b. RFG-Scheme

- Report from working group.
- Calibration of assessors – only SKK has completed calibration.

### c. Approval of RFG-Scheme certificates within Nordic countries

- NKK and FKK approve only their own results for dogs owned in their countries.

### d. ICEC Dogs

- Report from the participants in ICEEC-dogs.

### e. Further development regarding Robinow-like syndrome and genetic testing for DVL-2

- No news.

### f. New research regarding brachy

- Boston Terrier paper published earlier this year.

## 8. Genetic Diversity

- **a. Report from working group:** No meeting, therefore no news. To be revisited next year.

## 9. Breed Crosses and Open Studbooks

### a. Update from each country on current projects (except Cavaliers and brachy, see issues 6 and 7)

- **SKK:**
  - Field Spaniel project – 1 litter born.
  - Drentsche Patrijshond - project ongoing.
  - Interest shown from more breed clubs.
  - Swedish Hound project (schiller- and smålandsstövare) – studbook opened to certain breeds if they meet project requirements.
  - Open studbooks between some breeds (for instance MAS where Australian Shepherd can be used as donor).
  - Open studbooks for all breeds at the FCI list (for instance within griffon breeds and between varieties of dachshunds).
- **NKK:**
  - Lundehund project still ongoing, now considering easing requirements.
  - Bernese Mountain Dog has inquired about possibilities, especially in connection with new breeding programs.
  - Pinscher/Miniature Pinscher – possible breeding between variants.
  - MAS paired with Australian Shepherd – possibly as closely related breeds.
- **FKK:**
  - Leonberger project approved; England, Switzerland, and Finland involved. England leads the project. FKK has approved 5 breeds to be included: Broholmer, Landseer, Hovawart, Labrador, and Golden Retriever.
  - Pug – instead of a project, the studbook should be opened to “retro Pugs”.
  - Doberman project due to heart and liver problems – breeds to be included not yet determined. Breed club sends proposals, but FKK will decide.
  - Open studbooks for about 10 breeds – project: examination by authorized judges. Breed clubs to handle the examinations/judging.

### b. How does each country register offspring from crossbreed projects (do pedigrees show which generation and breeds have been crossed?)

- **SKK:** Donor breed will be shown in pedigrees going forward in SKK and FKK. Generation is shown (F1, F2, F3) in Avelsdata.
- **NKK:** (no details provided)
- **FKK:** Presentation of offspring and parent animals from their crossbreed projects.
- **DKK:** has no crossbreed projects.

## 10. Limitations in Breeding with Respect to Coat Colour

- New FCI document regarding Poodle colors, mostly directed at show judges.
- Removes breeding bans on dogs previously excluded due to incorrect color.

## 11. Breeds and Varieties / Recognition of New Breeds

- **a. Any news, new breeds?**
  - FKK: Silken Windhound approved in Finland.

## 12. Hip and Elbow Dysplasia

### a. Short report from each country

- The NKU/VK **concluded** that the NKU X-ray system should be promoted more positively, to highlight how it is the most calibrated and validated system worldwide.

### b. Nordic harmonization of owner consent regarding data for research

### c. Implementation of AI in HD screening – see comments elsewhere.

### d. Joint genetic evaluation and translation of HD scores – no input at the meeting.

### e. Signing of appeal cases by scrutineers

- Remind assessors that they must always sign NKU appeal cases.

### f. Maintaining HD index with falling registration and X-ray numbers

- **SKK**: Runs index weekly to provide the dogs with their index quickly.
- **FKK**: One person at Aarhus University manages it.
- **NKK**: Uses Per Madsen – runs only 4–5 times annually.
- **DKK**: SEGES calculates once a month. Continue work to define requirements for a unified index. Ask Laila who the contact is at SEGES.
- EBV working group: See list of members.

## 13. Report from the HD/ED Panel (by Hege K. Skogmo, assessor NKK) – April 9

- **a. Facts and procedures**
- **b. Review of compilation of appeal cases** – reviewed and conclusion revised.
- **c. New template for statistics regarding appeal cases – harmonization**
- **d. Time limit to appeal X-ray results.**
- **e. Information regarding GRSK scrutineers.**
  - Danish assessors raised the issue, so it has been discussed.
  - Information about scrutinizers in German-speaking countries (GRSK):
    - Big difference in requirements compared to Nordic assessors.

- In GRSK there is no minimum number of evaluations per year; Nordic assessors often evaluate more x-rays in a week than GRSK assessors do in a year.
- FKK & NKK accepts CT of elbows if status is uncertain.
- AI screening is far from ready – awaiting images from France. No timeline; only a pilot project with 100 images so far.

#### 14. IVDD

- **a. Routines for time limit for appeal cases**
  - FKK: 90 days
  - NKK: 1 year
  - DKK: 5 years
  - SKK: 5 years
  - No plans to harmonize time limits.
- **b. Harmonization of upper age limit for official result**
  - NKU IVDD panel to examine differences in calcification in dogs over 4 years.
- **c. Chondrodysplasia (CDPA) vs. Chondrodystrophy (CDDY/IVDD)**
  - Task larger than expected. Over 700 forms/causes of chondrodysplasia in humans, many gene mutations involved.
  - Thomas suggests keeping this on the To-do list, and to involve veterinarians and geneticists.
  - Skeletal dysplasia is a more correct description. Short-leg phenotype vs. chondrodystrophy short leg with increased IVDD risk.
  - Pathologists should define terminology, but breeders/owners must understand differences.

#### 15. Report from the IVDD Panel (by Hege K. Skogmo, NKK IVDD Panel)

- **a. Report – Facts and procedures**

#### 16. Eye Examinations – ECVO

- **a. Short update from each country**
  - SKK: ECVO running since February 2025.
  - NKK: Do not use referrals yet, NSVO requested this for the future.
  - FKK: Implementation ongoing, hopefully autumn 2025.
  - DKK: No news.
  - To-do: Ensure information reaches kennel clubs when changes occur.
- **b. Breeding recommendations regarding eye diseases**
  - SKK: Working group developing recommendations for individual breeds, following ECVO and the law. Transition period in 2025.
  - NKK: Breeding programs/clubs have had meetings with eye-assessors. Eye diseases in categories 2 and 3 are banned from breeding.
  - FKK: Breed-specific but follow the general ECVO recommendations.
  - DKK: Like FKK.
- **c. Automatic breeding ban for eye diagnosis in category 2 and 3 (NKK) – see above.**



## 17. Patellar Luxation

- **a. Calibration and quality assurance**
  - DKK: None.
  - NKK: 5 years' experience from small animal practice. Deviations >1 require third exam by NKK-appointed specialist. Result final, dog cannot be re-examined.
  - SKK: Only specialists may examine for PL. Operated dogs may only be shown with dispensation but are banned from breeding (SKK/FKK).
  - FKK: Special course for PL; must be mentored before approval. Worst result stands until dog is examined by a panel of 3 vets (held annually as eye and heart exams).

## 18. Recognition of Antibody Titer Testing as Alternative to Vaccination

- SKK: No – working group reviewing vaccination program, not positive about titer testing.
- NKK: Yes – valid for 3 years.
- DKK: Yes.
- FKK: No.

## 19. Doping – Harmonization of Rules within NKU (DKK)

- **NKK:** Antidoping moved to Antidoping Norway (also covers horses). NKK decides withdrawal period, rules administered by Antidoping Norway. Ten tests in 2024, approx. 5000kr per test. Random selection of dogs tested. Only urine used, difficult to collect enough.
- **FKK:** All medicines have at least 7-day withdrawal; standard withdrawal for vaccines. Club selects dogs for testing; judges/vets at events may request tests.
- **SKK:** Very few doping tests, rarely used. When done, predetermined which dogs are tested (e.g. 2nd best female, Boxer).
- **DKK:** Is implementing new doping guidelines – MITR will reach out.

## 20. Issues from DNA Group Meeting

- CDDY is a risk test, not diagnostic.
- Recommend harmonizing breeding across sizes, coats, and varieties in Dachshunds.
- NKU stresses importance of allowing crosses between varieties and closely related breeds.
- Define differences between marker/risk tests and how to use them.

## 21. Reactions to Violations of Ethical Rules for Breeding (NKK)

- No news

## 22. Körung of German Shepherds in Germany – NKK's Role and Practice

- NKK + SKK are service-oriented.

**23. Report from the FCI Breeding Commission (Kim)**

- No minutes, nothing to report.

**24. Report from the FCI Scientific Commission**

- No minutes, nothing to report.

**25. Other International Activities and Conferences**

- **a. IPFD – International Dog Health Workshop, June 2024**
  - Major effort by FKK to organize. Next meeting June 2026, hosted by ENCI.
- **b. Conference with Royal Canin**
  - France, Portugal, and Italy require genetic DNA control of breeding dogs.
- **c. EAAP Companion Animals Workshop – May 14–16.**
- **d. IPFD Virtual Workshop – June 3–4.**

**26. Any Other Business**

- Inbreeding limit: 6.25% (DKK + FKK).

**Consensus** within the NKU/VK: Unacceptable with breeding's higher than 12.5% inbreeding.

**27. Next Meeting**

- Stockholm, March 24–26, 2026.

Kind regards,

Mikael Tranholm

Solrød, DKK 15. December 2025