

## Summary of breed club work in Norway

### CONDITION TEST USING TREADMILL by the Norwegian Bulldog Club (The breed Club for the English and French Bulldogs)

NBK started in 2015 together with the NKK the work with trying to establish a test to differentiate good breather dogs from bad breathers. The objective of this is to develop an aid for breeders in selecting their breeding stock.

In junction with this, a harness with heartbeat sensor was made. With this harness it was possible to continuously monitor the heartbeat both during a load as well as during recovery phase.

NKK had an idea that such a test could be performed using a treadmill. In august 2016 NBK/NKK arranged a first **test indoor at NKK's facilities. The procedure was** that the harness was put on the dog. The dog would rest with its owner until a stable heartbeat was observed and recorded. The dog then had to walk on the treadmill for five minutes with a speed of 5 km/hr. After the five minutes walk, the time was taken until the heartbeat was back to the startpoint.

There were six bulldogs and five frenchies participating.

Out of the six bulldogs, four of them refused to walk on the treadmill.

The recovery time for the remaining two bulldogs and five frenchies varied from 100 seconds to 5 minutes.

It was concluded that using a treadmill was not working, further the load 5 km/hr in 5 minutes (416 meter) was probably too low.

NBK have after this first test arranged a second outdoor test, where the dogs had to walk 1000 meter in max 12 minutes. A total of 38 dogs participated and the heartbeat was recorded throughout the recovery phase. The club is presently working with a presentation of the result, but this is not at the moment available.

### SURVEYS RELATED TO BRACHYCEPHALIC ISSUES / BOAS

Background: Very limited material related to BOAS issues. The Dutch Club have a walking test for their Bulldogs, in Germany they to a general health test and a walking/running test for all brachycephalic breeds etc, but none of these gives us any answers regarding BOAS issues, only how to prevent the use of dogs with breathing issues for breeding.

We need a tool to monitor national populations and be able to compare with other nordic countries.

*Suggestion:*

*Nordic BOAS health surveys: Standardized for all nordic countries, in native language, for all brachycephalic breeds.*

## USEFUL INFORMATION (methods of doing surveys):

Exampel.1) GENERAL HEALTH SURVEY by the Norwegian Pug Club.

Norwegian Pug Club concluded their general health survey in co operation with Prof. Frode Lingaas/ NMBU. The survey is based on anonomous answers from owners, per dog registered in NKK. Frode Lingaas is the only one who has access to dog/owner details. The survey is done online.

The survey gave some interesting answers on the norwegian population (here only the BOAS related results);

The club got 519 answers (519 dogs)

97,2 % where NOT operated due to exaggerated noseroll,

93,4 % where NOT operated for elongated / soft palate and

93% where not operated for pinched nostrils.

14,3% says their dog shows signs of breathing issues when calm

23,5% says their dog shows signs of breathing issues when cuickly walked

48,9% says their dog shows signs of breathing issues when stressed, nervous or excited.

When concluding the survey, it was realized that the category «OTHER» had too high %, in many of the important questions.

Next step is to do a more detailed survey, focusing on the BOAS related issues. Try to minimize the use of «OTHER» is a important factor and to ask the right questions. Further Frode Lingaas has the possibility to contact the owners if needed.

This BOAS related survey can be done NORDIC. Frode Lingaas has accepted our request to be involved in a Nordic project if it gets to that point, with help related to the different languages.

Example.2) HEALTH SURVEYS by the Norwegian Bulldog Club

NBK have had four health surveys since year 2000.

The first one in 2000 was a very comprehensive one with several pages of questions (distributed by regular mail) and the owners were allowed to write their answers in plain text (no predefined answer possibilities). A lesson learned was that this was very time consuming to differentiate and present the results.

In 2006/7 we conducted the second health survey and the questionnaire were sent out by email.

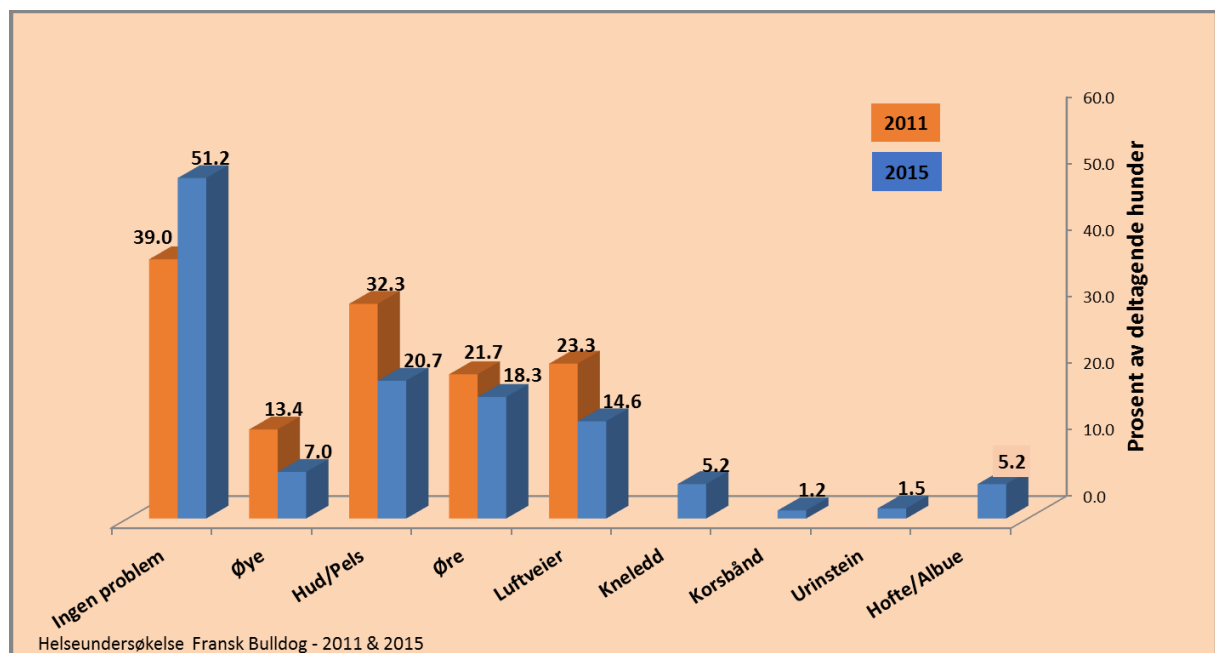
In 2011/12 we did the first electronic survey with predefined answer, but also having an option called "Other" where free text was possible.

For each topic the owner was asked:

- Does your dog **have or have had a .....** problem?
- If yes, what was the symptoms?
- At which age did the symptoms start?
- What was the diagnosis from the vet?
- What was the treatment?
- What was the result of the treatment?

This survey was repeated in 2015 with the same questions for each topic. The survey was **then set up using 'GOOGLE FORMS'**. There was one major improvement from the 2011/2012 survey in the way that if the owner answer NO (his dog did not have this problem) he was guided directly to the next topic. Having set up the surveys equally it was very easy to compare the results (ref graphs below).

The cost related to performing these four surveys has only been postage cost for the survey in 2000. There has been no cost involved for the other surveys.



REMAKING OF BSI; for the breedclubs, for the breeders?

BSI should open for the possibility to monitor trends in different breeds. Comparing individuals, national and nordic population. Every form should fit the breed in question, every judge should have proper knowledge of the breed and how to use BSI.

BSI should be possible to read as statistics The BSI form itself could be adjusted;

less comments, more standardized answers, EXCEL codes for every answer, standardized programs making statistics.

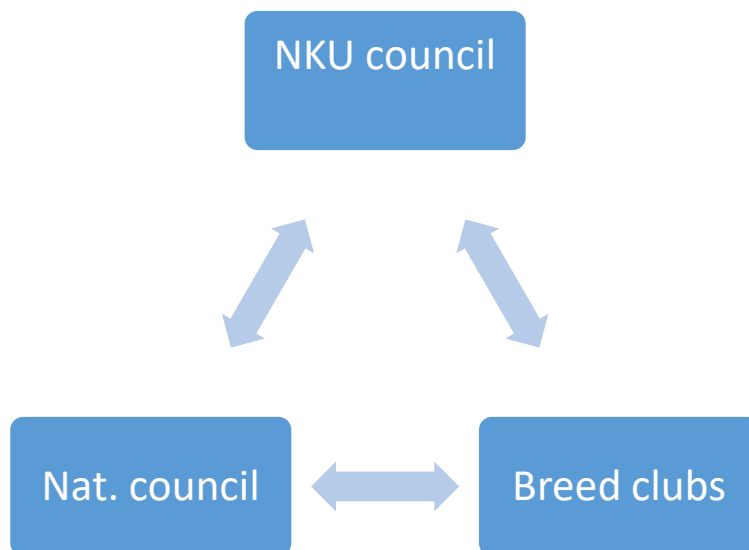
Example, attachment: individ\_beskrivelseNY

BSI results must be the property of the breedclubs; updates, statistics etc are per breed made by the national clubs.

## CONNECTION WITH THE NATIONAL WORKING GROUPS and BREED CLUBS

How do we cooperate? How can this directly benefit the national breed clubs and the welfare of the breeds? Keyword should be *comparability between; the breeds, the national and nordic population.*

Do we continue to have a Nordic Council for Brachycephalic breeds?





#### NKU council

- always keep updated standardized surveys, available in all languages
- make records of all national results per country per year
- BSI guidelines and education
- nordic gatherings on BOAS related updates



#### National council

- keep record of all national results per year, surveys and BSI
- information from NKU to breed clubs
- translate standardized surveys
- national gatherings on BOAS related updates



#### Breed clubs

- keep records of national population per breed
- make statistics per year
- breeders education
- dog owners education
- judges education; updated breed compendium
- RAS