

# NORDIC POODLE Conference

JANUARI 2009 MALMÖ · SWEDEN



## Summary of the Nordic Poodle Conference 2009 Malmö, Sweden 31 January - 1 February

The meeting was held at Best Western Noble House Hotel and hosted by the Swedish Poodle Club. The meeting was held in English.

**Participants:** Mikael Nilsson, *Chairman of the meeting*, The Swedish Poodle Club  
Anders Rosell, *Secretary of the meeting*, The Swedish Poodle Club  
Barbro Teglöf, The Swedish Poodle Club

Anita Byklum, The Norwegian Poodle Club  
Katharina Ludvigsen, The Norwegian Poodle Club

Henrik Hannelius, The Finnish Poodle Club  
Johanna Markola, The Finnish Poodle Club

Jytte Pfänner, The Danish Poodle Club  
Jes Breinholt Carlsen, The Danish Poodle Club

### 1. Meeting opens

The Chairman wished everyone welcome and declared the meeting open. He gave a short background to why this meeting was called upon and its purpose - as a meeting to exchange experience and hopefully learn from each other and how club work is run in the Nordic countries. Mikael thanked the Danish Poodle Club for initiating the meeting.

All approved of the agenda.

Each participant gave a brief introduction of themselves and their involvement in their club respectively.

### 2. Presentation from all the Nordic Poodle Clubs on their current status and situation within their club.

• **THE NORWEGIAN POODLE CLUB** has about 1 200 members, the number of members are steadily increasing. One main factor is that poodle owners automatically become a member when they sign up for membership in the Norwegian Kennel Club. These people are offered a membership in the Norwegian Poodle Club as they sign up for their membership in NKK. It's the KC which sends out bills to all members, they administrate all membership fees.

It's mandatory to be a member of a dog club if you want to show or participate in obedience trials, agility etc. The membership fee is divided so that the NPK receives 275 NKR, and the NKK 140 NKR. This deal is generally speaking mostly positive.

Another contributing factor is that potential buyers of a poodle puppy turn to the club's puppy referral. It's a Norwegian custom to look for quality, and potential buyers expect that the NPK will refer to quality breeders who breeds from quality stock. By this contact with the puppy referral, it's a good way to get people to join the club and its activities.

The main board consists of 7 members. The Breeding committee consists of 5 people, one co-ordinator and one representative for each variety. The breeding committee has meetings twice a year. The co-ordinator reports back to the main board.

The NPK has formulated a plan of activities which will run until 2012.  
The NPK's Breeding committee hosts a breeders conference once a year.  
Finances are good and stable.

Unfortunately, the main Poodle board of the NPK is currently facing some internal problems which has lead to that the main board has struggled to develop activities and has instead been focusing on keeping the club's work on a manageable level.

NPK publishes a magazine for all members, Puddel-Nytt, 4 times a year. The responsible producer does not get paid for the work to put it together.

As for the number of registered poodles per year, there are:  
350 Standards/year (*the price for a Standard puppy is normally around 12 000 NKR*)  
145 Miniatures/year (*the price for a Miniature puppy is normally around 15 000+ NKR*)  
175 Dwarfs/year (*the price for a Dwarf puppy is normally around 15 000+ NKR*)  
< 175 Toys/year (*the price for a Toy puppy is normally around 15 000+ NKR*)

• **THE DANISH POODLE CLUB** the number of members per december 2008 is 860 people. There are 7 members on the main board. The Danish Poodle club define their members as base members (exhibitors and breeders) and others. The base members are extremely important to recruit new members.

DPK published the club magazine PUDEL-NYT 5 times a year with a set number of pages in each issue (64 pages), all in full colour. The production of the magazine is done by a graphic designer (who is on an agreement which is renewed on a yearly basis) and the club pay 1 500 DK to this person/issue.

The Club also has its own Obedience section, which organizes obedience/agility in Odense and in Aalborg. They offer classes from puppy to elite class.

The DPK organise 6–7 shows per year, and try to invite breeder judges or poodle specialists. The entry is between 70– 85 poodles.

The DPK has developed a temperament description of the poodle, and it is developed together with an animal behaviourist.

The Club is divided into 11 divisions, but unfortunately it has not been possible to find persons for all the divisions, therefore they only have activities in 6 of them. They arrange activities in the different parts of Denmark which they find very importing. Especially the pet care

lessons are very popular. They also have Club-evenings, they arrange open shows, vet lectures, show grooming lessons etc.

Only one person runs the division in co-operation with a board member.

The number of registered poodle puppies in 2008 are as follows:

123 Toys (*the price for a Toy puppy is normally around 10 000-12 000 NKR*)

135 Dwarfs (*the price for a Dwarf puppy is normally around 8 500 DKR*)

126 Miniatures (*the price for a Miniature puppy is normally around 8 500 DKR*)

123 Standards (*the price for a Standard puppy is normally around 8 500 DKR*)

*Total: 507*

Imports in 2008:

7 Toys

4 Dwarfs

2 Miniatures

7 Standards

*Total: 20*

The number of members are increasing as a result of the activities offered by the club.

The DPK also offers 1 year of free membership to new poodle owners.

The club is currently working on a video which will help poodle owners take better care of their dog's general maintenance specific for the poodle breed – such as coat care etc.

The finances are good and one major income is from an agreement with an Insurance company. The club offers an insurance to their members in this specific Insurance company which pays back a fee to the DPK. The club considers this to be a very good and financially successful deal.

• **THE FINNISH POODLE CLUB.** The number of members are around 1 500 people. There are 8 members on the main board.

The magazine Puudeli is published 4 times a year and put together by a volunteer.

There are 9 local clubs around the country. Local clubs organize the main activities. Lectures, grooming courses, obedience/show/agility courses, tracking racing, mental tests, health checks, breeding value examinations.

Local advisors for people to call for advice on various things related to owning a poodle.

Breeding council: president Henrik Hannelius, with for 4 breeders from each variety.

One specialty show yearly. The show in 2009 has 300 dogs entered.

Obedience and agility championships are organized yearly. These competitions are organized by local clubs. The local club can show interest in organizing the events by applying to the main board.

So called "Breeding value examinations" will start in 2009. The goal is to increase the amount of dogs used for breeding in order to expand the gene pool. Valuable genes have now been missed, because people don't want to grow coat and are not interested in showing. Now they can get a permission for breeding from their dog. Permission is given by breeder-judges and the result will be published.

The number of registered poodles, in 2008 there were:

115 Standards (*the price for a Standard puppy is normally around 1 000 -1 300 EUR*)  
274 Miniatures (*the price for a Miniature puppy is normally around 1 000 -1 300 EUR*)  
414 Dwarfs (*the price for a Dwarf puppy is normally around 1 200-1 500 EUR*)  
178 Toys (*the price for a Toy puppy is normally around 1 200-1 500 EUR*)

There is an increasing number of members within the Finnish Poodle Club and the reason for this is that the breeders push their puppy buyers towards all the activities that the club is organizing on a yearly basis.

Most of the local clubs are very enthusiastic and they organize a lot of happenings. There are very good and trained coaches for different activities around the country.

The club has one big problem: active people are missing. The club has more than 1500 members and a small minority is doing most of the work.

The founder of the Finnish Poodle Club, Henrik Hannelius shared some wise words that it is so important to keep peace and friendship amongst people on the board, or else that will ruin all club work. It is important that all people feel welcome to join the club.

• **THE SWEDISH POODLE CLUB.** The number of members per december 2008 are 3 700 people. There are 9 members on the main board.

The club is divided into 4 different regions; the Southern, Western, Mid-Swedish and Northern Poodle Club. All rule under the main board of the Swedish Poodle Club (CS). Each year delegates meet to vote for people elected for the main board, and also make decisions on various topics sent in as petitions for the Poodle Council to act upon.

Each region organize their own activities and they all stage at least 2 official Specialties per year. These specialties have from approx 60-150 poodles entered per show.

The magazine Pudel Nytt is published 4 times a year and the club pay 15 000 SEK/issue to a professional designer to produce the magazine. The days when this was done on a volunteer basis are long gone.

The main board organizes the Poodle National which is held every 3 years. A Poodle Seminar mainly attracting new and old breeders is hosted every second year. The board is also responsible for organising judging conferences which is hosted every 10 years. In the recent years the club has launched a new website which will be developed further. A major date base for dog show critiques is currently being worked on.

As for the number of registered poodles, in 2008 there were:  
489 Standards (*the price for a Standard puppy is normally around 12 000-15000 SEK*)  
349 Miniatures(*the price for a Miniature puppy is normally around 10 000+ SEK*)  
716 Dwarfs (*the price for a Dwarf puppy is normally around 12 000+ SEK*)  
140 Toys (*the price for a Toy puppy is normally around 15 000+ SEK*)

The club is currently facing a decrease of members which is worrying and a topic which is highly discussed within the club - what do we do for the future, what are the clubs doing in our neighbouring countries. We feel as if we are at a stand still and we have to think new ideas.

## **GENERAL CONCLUSION**

- Make the base members within the club encourage puppy buyers to join the Poodle Clubs:
  - free membership the first year to learn more about the Club and its activities.
  - allow breeders to offer their puppy buyers free membership or a reduced rate for new members the first year.
- Use the puppy referral to encourage potential puppy buyers to join the Poodle Clubs.
- Organize more activities for the general Poodle owner.
- Make sure you stay friends within the club to make people feel welcome, let new people in and listens to younger generations.
- Dare to think new ideas!
  - NPK has a totally new way of administrating their memberships through the Norwegian KC.
  - DPK is working together with an insurance company to gain financial means by selling their insurances to new members. They are in the process of producing a video film for new poodle owners.
- Support and develop the local club's activities in order to gain more members - and keep the long-term members happy too!
- The same group of dedicated people seem to do all the work - a worry for the future.
- The DPK agreed to share their temperament test with the other clubs.

### **3. Discussion on the new revised FCI Breed Standard.**

This topic created a long, interesting discussion which is too extensive to be described in this summary. After much discussion the delegates basically agreed on the subjects listed in the general conclusion - *see below*.

Anders mentioned the Poodle Club meeting which was held in conjunction with the FCI World Dog Show and hosted by the Scandinavian Poodle Magazine. All the Nordic Club's had representatives present at this meeting. A summary of the meeting was sent out to all FCI Poodle Clubs a few days prior to this meeting. The Club's were given the task to go home and discuss the breed Standard with their boards and send in their comments to the Scandinavian Poodle Magazine as well as to the French Poodle Club, addressed to Mr Jean-Jaques Dupas. Deadline is set to 1st of May 2009.

NPK and FPK were all in favour of what was presented at this meeting where it was suggested that we should work towards a more clearer, better written and shorter Breed Standard together with an Illustrated breed Standard for more indepth information about the breed. The latter will help educating both judges and breeders.

The general opinion was that the French Poodle Club may not be interested in listening to the FCI Poodle Clubs outside France, but that it is important that we work towards a mutual goal to make the French realize the breed standard must be modernized to become clearer. It was agreed that the Nordic Poodle Club must work together to push for the changes to come true.

The DPK expressed a fear of abolishing the eliminating faults from the Standard since the Breed Standard is being used to approve/disapprove of breeding stock for future breedings. A dog with an eliminating fault cannot be used for future breedings in Denmark. The other clubs expressed objection that this is not the way a Breed Standard should be used. The breed standard is meant to serve as a guideline and a description of correct breed type. A dog with, for example, an eliminating fault such as being slightly too big or with one missing incessive can in spite of this be an excellent specimen of the breed and prove to be an excellent producer.

## **GENERAL CONCLUSION**

Because of the importance to have the breed Standard changed, all clubs expressed that it might be an idea to have a similar meeting to this Poodle Conference within a year to discuss the subject further and to find an agenda to take actions unless the French Poodle Club shows signs of being open for a productive discussion about changing the Breed Standard.

All Clubs finally agreed they want to see the following changes made to the Breed Standard:

## **COLOURS**

**1.** Allow all solid colours with special mentioning of each colour having natural shadings. The colours should be defined by true Poodle colours such as Black, White, Brown, Silver, Apricot, Red, Blue, Cream etc.

## **TRIMS**

**2.** The breed Standard should mention all the traditional trims, such as the Continental trim, English Saddle Clip, The Toilette-60 trim, Puppy trim, Second Puppy trim and the Scandinavian T-trim. Allow any version of the latter trims. Also, allow any trim as long as the texture can be determined and trimmed without losing correct breed type. The Poodle must look like/remind of/ a poodle regardless of trim.

## **SHORT AND CLEAR BREED STANDARD AND AN ILLUSTRATED BREED STANDARD**

**3.** Shorten the breed Standard, an example of the Poodle Breed Standard was given from 1886 which was short and precise. Produce an Illustrated Breed Standard for more indepth, detailed description of the breed.

## **EMPHASIS ON VIRTUES, DECREASE THE NUMBER OF ELIMINATING FAULTS**

**4.** Make the list of eliminating faults much shorter and make the Breed Standard sound more positive and put emphasis on virtues rather than faults. It's also important that the Breed Standard when listing faults clearly says that each fault must be penalized according to its severity.

## **4. Discussion on each countries approach to the so called SAR-colours; silver, apricots and reds. How are they developing in the respective countries?**

**FINLAND:** The SAR-colours are shown separated to the other colours in Finland. The FKK/FPK have the same show system as most European FCI countries. The number of SAR dogs have steadily increased over the years, so has the quality of the dogs.

The FPK is all for this division and think the SAR-colours will lose in quality if the FCI decides to abolish the colour division.

*Please see the attached appendix for more detailed info on the SAR colours development in Finland.*

**DENMARK.** Denmark has had the same division as Finland for about a year. They see a gradual increase in number of Standards being shown in the SAR colours. The DPK is positive about this change.

The Danish Kennel Club encourages breeders to mix colours, primarily for health reasons.

**NORWAY.** There is nothing specifically done to highlighten the SAR colours in Norway, they are not treated with any favours over other colours. However, the NPK is pushing for a CC to be introduced at shows for the SAR colours.

**SWEDEN.** Sweden does not divide the colours, but the SPK is highlightening the SAR colours by having separate SAR finals at specialty shows, as well as a top ranking list for the mostwinning dogs in the SAR colours.

## **GENERAL CONCLUSION**

No specific conclusion was made. It was stated that the FCI is currently working on some changes when it comes to dividing breeds into colours. It remains to be seen what these changes will consist of. The Nordic Kennel Clubs are also working towards having the same show rules. What specifically that means remains to be seen.

### **5. Judges - how do we increase the quality in Poodle judges, can we share costs when inviting foreign judges? The general routine for appointing judges to specialty shows.**

**DENMARK:** The DPK stages 6 specialty shows each year. The club members can and are encouraged to send in suggestion for judges. The main board then decides which judges to invite. The judges invited are mainly breed specialists.

The DPK must apply for a show at least 5 months in advance to the Danish KC.

The DPK does not have a say which judges the Danish KC approves of as Poodle judges.

**FINLAND:** The FPK stages 1 specialty show each year. A list of judges are compiled by the main board of the FPK of potential judges. The board decides which judges to invite. A judge can judge up to 100 dogs at a specialty in Finland.

The FPK has to apply for a show 1,5 years in advance to the Finnish KC.

The Finnish KC give the FPK a chance to approve/disapprove of new judges applying to judge the breed.

**NORWAY:** The NPK stages 4 specialty shows each year. The local clubs decide which judge to invite. The Norwegian KC give the NPK a chance to approve/disapprove of new judges applying to judge the breed.

NPK must apply for show at least 2 year in advance to the Norwegian KC.

The KC also contacts the breed clubs in Norway to receive a judges list prior inviting judges to the Kennel Club Shows.

**SWEDEN:** The SPK stages 12 specialty shows each year. The shows are divided amongst the 4 regions, each region decide which judge to invite. The judges are mostly breed specialists.

The SPK must apply for a show at least 2 years in advance to the Swedish KC.

A judge can only judge 70 dogs at a specialty which makes it even more difficult to stage the shows as it will in most cases require 3 judges and thus facilities (when indoors) with enough space for 3 rings.

The Swedish KC give the SPK a chance to approve/disapprove of new judges applying to judge the breed.

It was discussed that maybe it's time to organize a mutual Nordic Judges Seminar about the breed rather than hosting these in each country. There might be a possibility to apply for funds to the Kennel Clubs to finance such a seminar. It's important that new judges receive proper breed oriented education about the breed they are about to judge officially. A new Illustrated Breed Standard would thus be very helpful.

It was discussed whether it might be an idea to have a volunteer list of Breeder-Judges-Mentors for new judges. The new judges should by such a list feel free to contact any of the breeder/judges on that list to seek for a mentor for guidance on how to become a skilled Poodle judge.

## **GENERAL CONCLUSION**

It was decided that the clubs wanted to exchange information about each respective countries show schedule so judges can be shared.

## 6. Health issues in Poodles. How do the clubs deal with health registers, health programs, how to receive puppy referrals based on health testing etc.

Barbro Teglöf, co-ordinator of the SPK's Breeding Committee, started by presenting the Swedish database Jycketryck which is a databased linked to all the health info documented by the Swedish Kennel Club. It also contains information submitted by Poodle owners on various cases of diseases in privately owned dogs. This information is only published in this database if the Poodle owner has submitted a vet report which verifies the disease the dog is suffering from.

A list of known health problems was made and the participants were asked to prioritize which diseases they wanted to discuss.

### HIP DYSPLASIA

<i>For registration</i>	Sweden	Standards	Mandatory, only A or B are accepted
	Norway		Known Hip status
	Denmark		Hips score D & E not allowed to breed from
	Finland		No special requirements
<i>For puppy referral</i>	Sweden	Standards	Same as registration
	Norway	Standards	Parents must be certified free of Hd
		Miniatures	Known Hip Status, A can be used with a C
	Denmark	Standards	Known Hip status, ABC or OFA Ex, Good or Fair
			A can preferrably be used with C
	Finland	Standards	Only A & B, C can be used with A or B.
		Miniatures	Known Hip status recommended

There were no alarming news in regards to Hd in Standards in any of the countries.

Since hip problems in Miniatures have been discussed in all 4 clubs, the conclusion was to encourage people to hip score dogs to a larger extent to what is done today – just to get a better understanding of how widespread the disease is and how severe it is. The number of tested dogs are too small to make any drastic assumptions.

In order to reduce Hd in the variety, it was suggested that it is important that dysplastic dogs aren't wiped out from the gene pool and that C-dogs should be used with either A or B dogs.

The NPK and FPK stated that is important that there aren't too many rules and it must be up to the breeder to decided what he or she wants to breed from.

### PRA

<i>For registration</i>	Sweden	T, D & M	Mandatory, only PRCD A and B are allowed
	Norway	T, D & M	None
	Denmark	T, D & M	Mandatory, only PRCD A and B are allowed
	Finland	T, D & M	None
		Standards	None



<i>For puppy referral</i>	Sweden	T, D & M	Same as registration
	Norway	T, D & M	Certified free of PRA or Optigen tested
		Standards	Certified free of PRA and cataracts
	Denmark	T, D & M	Same as registration
	Finland	T, D & M	PRCD A, B + C can be used, B and C can only be used with A. a dog needs to be ophthalmology tested before mating. If the dog is Optigen A, the FPK still require a new ophthalmology test later on (5 years) for the other eye problems.
	Standards	Certified free of PRA and cataracts	

All countries agreed that with the new DNA technology and PRCD-testing, this disease is no longer considered a problem. However, it is important to continually test for other eye diseases that can crop up, such as cataracts. No specific reason to why Standards have to be eye-tested in Finland and Norway were given. Norway stated it's because the breeders have asked for it.

### **ADDISON'S DISEASE IN STANDARDS**

AD is considered to be a well known disease in Standards in Sweden. The Swedish Poodle Club participate in a big study along with the American Poodle Club and scientists from both countries. The SPK feels were a getting really close to having a DNA-testing for this disease within the near future.

The NPK has compiled a list of confirmed cases of AD in Standards, the list span over a period of 10+ years and consist of < 50 confirmed cases.

There are a few cases of AD in Standards reported in Finland, but not an alarming number.

There are no statistics available of AD known in Standards in Denmark.

### **EPILEPSY**

This disease exist in all sizes, but is not considered to be a problem in any of the sizes or countries. There seem to be the odd cases of the disease cropping up in Standards in all four countries. It used to be a problem in black Miniatures and apricot Dwarfs in Finland but is now under control.

All clubs anticipate a gene test for epilepsy.

### **SEBACIOUS ADENITIS IN STANDARDS**

A disease subject to concern amongst breeders, but is not considered to be a problem in any of the countries . There are cases reported in Sweden, Norway and Finland but the number reported is *normally* less than 5 cases in each country per year.

Finland does require that both parents are SA tested prior to being bred from.

Scientific research is ongoing and all clubs anticipate a gene test for SA.

### **PATELLA PROBLEMS IN TOYS, DWARFS AND MINIATURES**

**NORWAY.** In Norway vets claim this is a problem. In Norway you need a known Patella status in order to receive puppy referral by the NPK. Dogs graded with 1 should be used with 0.

**FINLAND.** A lot of dogs have been tested and it is not considered to be a problem in any of the varieties.

**SWEDEN.** In 2008 115 dogs had their Patellas tested and not many had any problems. It may still be a problem since the worst cases didn't get tested and subsequently are not included in the statistics.

### **EYE HAIR (Distichiasis ektopisk cillier)**

Does exist in the smaller varieties and is something that needs to be payed attention to.

### **CUSHINGS DISEASE**

Does exist in the smaller varieties but is not considered to be a problem.

## **7. Meeting closes.**

Mikael asked the participants for their response to this meeting and they all agreed this had been a much needed and inspiring meeting. The clubs mentioned there is a demand for these type of meetings.

It was discussed that a next meeting should be held within a year somewhere in any of the Nordic countries. The question was left open to who would like to organize the next meeting.

Mikael thanked all for their enthusiasm, positive attitude, for participating and closed the meeting.

*This summary was compiled by the secretary of the meeting, Anders Rosell.  
All Clubs have read and approved of the summary before being published officially.*

*Appendix:  
Development of SAR colours in Finland, Power Point document*