



## ***THE 9th NORDIC POODLE MEETING 18-19.1.2025, HELSINKI***

### ***Minutes of the meeting***

#### **Participants**

- Johanna Markola, Finnish Poodle Club
- Jaana Rinkinen, Finnish Poodle Club
- Maria Delham, Swedish Poodle Club
- Lena Petri, Swedish Poodle Club
- Pernille Gregersen, Danish Poodle Club
- Anne Birgitte Schilling, Danish Poodle Club
- Martha Lomsdal Strand, Norwegian Poodle Club
- Ida Myhrer Grime, Norwegian Poodle Club

#### **Opening words**

Johanna Markola welcomed everyone to the 9<sup>th</sup> Nordic Poodle Meeting. The previous face to face meeting was held 2023 in Norway. There were a couple online meetings 2024 due to the changes in the breed standard. Meetings like this are an ideal way to share information, compare statistics, to get new ideas and change experiences.

#### **Club updates**

Updates on general things within the clubs:

##### **Finland**

The board consists of 6 members and 2 deputy members. The club has approximately 2000 members. It remains to be seen if there will be an effect on the number of members now that multicolors are accepted.

There are 2 general meetings per year. The meeting in the spring is the financial statement meeting. The meeting in autumn selects the board for the next year. The club has 7 local clubs, who organize different activities in their area. There has been some discussion, that the multicolor association would probably want to have their subdivision under that Poodle Club. The club arranges one specialty show and one unofficial club show per year. Magazine "Puudeli" is published 4 times per year. Breed championships are organized in obedience, rally-obedience, agility. 2025 also in dog skiing for the first time.

Education for members has been offered from time to time: online lectures in Zoom e.g. veterinary lectures, information about the new breed standard. There was also info about the breed for new puppy buyers, this was open for anyone interested. Education about the changes in the breed standard for judges was held in July 2024.

Unfortunately, the club can no longer support the health checks due to tax regulations.

Breeding value examinations are now official, and the results are added in the Kennel club's database since 2024.

One of the biggest changes since the last meeting is that The Finnish Poodle Club is no longer able to support its members as before. This is because of the tax regulation change.

## **Sweden**

The Club has approx. 4 300 members including family members.

Local clubs organize different activities, and the club also gives information for the new judges about the breed standard. The new breed standard has a follow-up within a year. Almost 200 breeders have been participating in breeder training. There are also mentors for all sizes.

The club supports health checks if needed. Magazine is published 4 times per year. There is also ongoing discussion with Swedish Kennel Club (Special clubs)

## **Denmark**

The club has now 500 members. Usually, the number of members increases towards the end of the year to 700. Youth members are quite rare.

The board has 7 members, but it is very hard to find new members to the board. Also, there are only a few participants in lectures or activities which the club arranges. The magazine is no longer published.

There are plans for a poodle match in the spring.

In 2023 a course was started on how to find a good sire and other things about breeding. In 2024 there were not enough participants, so there will be a new try this year.

## **Norway**

The club has 2150 members, and there has been no effect of multi colored owners in figures. There are three local clubs which organize different actions and lectures. Activities in Oslo district are also increasing this year. Cooperation with other clubs is good. There are yearly only 14-15 "big cc" -shows, which creates problems with travelling.

In 2024 the club supported health checks with 10 000 €.

Magazine is published 3 times a year, and last year also calendar was made. The club organizes breeding conferences, shows etc.

Summary:

Every country quite in a stable stage, but we see problems that are common to each country: volunteers missing, people attending or becoming into the club, only a small group work for the club and we need more young members. Activity has been the same although the year 24 was problematic for Denmark.

## Registration statistics

In **Finland** the amounts were increased during covid, but they are gradually normalizing in all sizes to the level they were before the pandemic. Selling puppies is getting harder. In standard poodles there is a big increase with breeders and puppies.

**Norway:** In the end of 2020 a huge increase was seen. Otherwise, the amounts are already decreasing. The breeders have problems with selling puppies, especially standards. Blacks and apricots are the most popular. The Kennel club limits the number of offspring: a standard poodle male can have a total of 85 puppies, other sizes 65.

**Sweden:** Covid affected by increasing in other sizes except in toys, generally the same trend as in other countries. Apricots are getting more popular all the time. The number of puppies in all varieties is almost the same, no big changes in the 10 years period. Inbreeding 6,25 over is not recommended. The average age for using the dog for breeding is mostly 2-3 years.

**Denmark** in 2025, inbreeding 6-25 can be used. First breeding must be done before the bitch is 6 yrs old. The gap between litters can be short only once per bitch, and after that the gap should be at least 12 months. Apricot and black are the most popular colors. The number of silvers is decreasing, except in standards. In toys 2024 there were 61 puppies registered and 26 litters. In miniatures 151 puppies, in mediums 113 puppies registered and 25 litters and in standards 169 puppies registered and 19 litters.

## Greetings from the European Poodle Club (Zoom)

Tomas Buday joined our meeting via Zoom on behalf of the European Poodle Club. He introduced shortly the new club which was founded for the collaboration in Europe concerning poodles and their breeding and activities.

## Health updates

**Finland:** There are no restrictions for registration (the club is at the moment not a member of PEVISA which is a program for preventing inherited diseases). Health checks are done voluntarily as the poodle club suggested and even more. Solids and multi colors can be mated together only with special permission from Finnish Poodle Club. In those cases, the color-DNA-tests need to be done at least for loci E, K, A, B and S. Laboklin and Movet were contacted to create a suitable package for poodles. No big issues with health at the moment.

**Sweden:** A similar statistic of HD-results was shown as in Finland. Indexes are in use, but there are some problems because hips in standard poodles are good and if people use B, the index can not necessarily be 100 and the breeders usually follow that recommendation. Using index 100 takes away B and 20 % of A-dogs. No bigger problems with eyes or patellas can be seen. Elbows also are not a problem either. There are more and more skinny poodles who don't eat. Some epilepsy cases has been reported, but it might also be gluten allergy and it can be tested.

**Norway:** The statistics are almost similar with other countries. C and B hips are now more common in apricot standards. Also imports which are not x-rayed, can be worse. C can be bred with A or B. Indexes are in use. Kennel Club does not allow breeding E. Elbows have been good. Patellas also are ok based on the statistics. In eyes, same problems can be seen as other clubs.

**Denmark:** Statistics look the same as everywhere else.

Statistics show that the trend is somewhat the same all over with data received. Similarities can be found also the matters that there is no data available.

Summary:

All over the Nordic Countries, similar health statistics can be seen. Poodle breeders check their dogs and use that information quite well when planning future matings. The statistics of the hip, knee, elbow examinations don't show any severe problems. The most common problem in the eyes for the smallest varieties are the extra eyelashes. There was also a discussion about cataract, entropion in standards and other problems that we need to keep an eye on. Also, eating and stomach problems were discussed, this is really something to take into consideration. Autoimmune diseases, enamel hypoplasia, bloat and epilepsy and their prevalence were also talked about.

At the moment it is not easy to compare the health data in multicolors vs solid, so probably this can be done in the next meeting.

### **Are we going crazy?**

There was a discussion about the temperament and behavior of poodles today. Not all countries have statistics about the mental test results or reports of aggressive behavior in events.

The question that rose was whether new breeders are paying enough attention on the temperament and do they know what is a really good poodle temperament. A poodle should be a happy and social dog, who is easy in every situation. Although the problem is not really seen in statistics shown by Finland, more and more shy dogs are seen out there. More and more problems arise also in everyday life as well as in e.g. handling the coat, the problem may be also in the other end of the leash.

In Sweden BPH the graphics figure for standards and other sizes is the same. The owners are perhaps the biggest problem because of setting the limits.

### **Fifty shades of poodles**

This topic brought us to all the colors of poodles, solids and the new colors accepted in August 2024. Comparing how the new standard has been dealt with in different countries, how the colors are registered, the amount of multicolors, and the breeding rules between different colors.

**Finland:** The newest change in the Finnish translation is now done in January 2025 when "liver & tan" was changed to brown & tan. Changing the color in Finland can be done in a show or in B.V.E or by 2 judges outside the show. Changing color is for the ones that have earlier been marked only as multicolor. Since august, it has been possible to register a puppy to the right color. Only a few multicolored poodles have attended shows. There have been some problems with getting the right color

registered in the Kennel Club systems. The number of puppies has decreased since the new breed standard took place. The Finns have made the chart as a suggestion of the color combinations which are ok to breed to. For breeding a solid and multicolor together, special permission has to be applied from the Poodle Club. Both parents need to be color-DNA-tested.

**Denmark:** Similar variations can be seen in shows as in Finland. No drastic changes to be expected. The x-register change to normal register can be done and the puppies can be registered to the right color immediately. Also, there are problems with systems sorting the toys etc. There are 4 multicolor champions. Everything is today under control. In Denmark solid color dog which is registered as multicolor, cannot be shown in solids, which might be a bit problematic for the dogs that come from another country.

**Sweden:** One problem seems to be the breeders of multicolor poodles breed the bitch up to 5 times with the same male. The price of multicolor puppy is around 30 000 SEK. Only a few multicolors have been shown. The color can be changed when the owner informs the Kennel Club. Breeding merle is prohibited, and puppies are then not registered.

**Norway:** There are only few breeders and puppies, so the situation is the same. In 2024 one miniature got excellent. There is one veteran champion.

Summary: As in Nordic countries we have some differences in registering multicolors and especially solids born from multicolors, we are asking the European Poodle Club to work towards a more unite way in this within Europe.

### **Challenges with the new Breed Standard**

The new standard still raises a lot of questions. A common opinion was that it really needs a rewording to make it easier to understand. The new breed standard came with a short notice and it was difficult to adapt to it and get everything ready.

There are problems in the breed standard when explaining colors. Solid colors are explained in very detailed way, but there is a lot of information still lacking for multicolors. This is a problem for the breeders as well as for the new people and judges who try to find out the essential. E.g. now it has been confusing for the judges what to do with a poodle, that has some other color as those mentioned in the standard.

During the meeting the breed standard was read thoroughly again, and all the problematic parts were listed once again. One problem is that there are some differences in the translations, even the French and the English version differ a bit in some parts. We agreed that the list is addressed once again to the French Poodle Club giving also some suggestions on how to improve it.

### **Together we are stronger**

This topic was kind of a brainstorm to help each other and share more info in the future. The goal is to keep us all informed about the new breeder judges, share info about events and share material for magazines. As webinars have become more common after the covid time, this would also be a great way to work together. Organizing seminars and e.g. judges' education, where people could join regardless where they live.

The Nordic Poodle meeting has a Facebook group making it possible to communicate between the meetings. We agreed that 2 or max 3 people from each country is enough and the list of members should be updated.

All clubs share the common understanding of the breed even though different kennel clubs have different rules.

We agreed on posting a newsletter about our fruitful meeting on FB. This points out the following things:

- ✓ We have a healthy and living breed, but the health situation is carefully monitored
- ✓ Multicolors now accepted in the breed standard and being a part of the poodle club
- ✓ the breed standard and its problems
- ✓ co-operation and discussion about everything what goes on
- ✓ we all have the responsibility to maintain and improve the breed.

**Next meeting will be hosted by Sweden in 2027.**