

## MINUTES

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### THE INTERNATIONAL TIBETAN SPANIEL WORKING PARTY

#### **Minutes from WORKING GROUP MEETING, June 12, 1998 at Päivis office in Esbo outside Helsinki, Finland.**

*Present:* Päivi Säviaho - Finland, Inga Enstad, Margaretha Hägglund, Ewa Wennberg - Sweden, Tony Moran - Ireland.

*Guest:* Helle Rasmussen - Denmark.

Inga opened and chaired the meeting. Apologies were sent by Linda who during this difficult time could not be with us in person, but was with us in spirit and all our thoughts were with her and Douglas.

The group had previous (by fax) discussed and decided that Primoz Peer - Slovenia, should be a member of the group. He has a great knowledge of our breed and is representing a part of Europe which none of us knows anything about. Unfortunately he could not be present at this meeting.

Päivi suggested that the feeling coming from some of the Finnish breeders was that maybe the Group should become more formal - along the lines of an elected committee with representatives from each Tibetan Spaniel Club. Linda had also got some similar feed back from breeders in England.

Inga stated that it is of vital importance that this Working Group remains independent from all Clubs and Associations. The aims and objective of the Group was pointed out again.

Inga said that it is the main objective of the group as to collect information and to present this information in a clear and straightforward manner. We are non-directing and are not an enforcement group.

The group has carried out important work in the area of PRA. The group will continue to collect facts about PRA in the breed. But time has come to move our interests also into other areas and a list of diseases in our breed was put down. Again it was pointed out that we will only collect facts about diagnosis which are frequently made in the breed. If the situation should come that we think its a problem in the breed, like that when PRA was recognised, we have already collected material (pedigrees & verified diagnosis) which in that case will be given to veterinary specialists. Much time will then be spared.

People responsible for collection of data on each area are:

*Areas of interest Responsible*

PRA-Blindness Eva and Margaretha

Spinal diseases Päivi

Cherry Eye Inga

Patella luxation Tony

Distichiasis Helle and Tony

Deafness Helle

HD Päivi

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PNP is not included. Affected puppies die very young and usually no post mortem is performed which is the only way to get confirmed diagnosis.

We do not think HD is a problem in the breed although we keep collecting the x-ray results.

There will be an "entryform" on INTERNET for the earlier mentioned diagnosis. The form will be forwarded to the responsible person who will follow the situation.

Jane Lilley had sent a letter saying that she would not be able to make the Open meeting. She also had some interesting points to make about the whole question of "swimmers". It was decided that the letter would be read out at the Open meeting.

Helle has since last meeting been working with the diagnosis of deafness. She is looking for a possible connection between deafness and coatcolour. Unfortunately

she has not got the colours on all dogs in those pedigrees. We look forward to a report next year. She has also been looking for possible relationship between colour defects (such as blue-eyes) and particolour breeding.

Tony asked about the situation with money and should we be trying to raise money. The cost of producing the Newsletter and the minutes are the major costs at present.

We hope to be able to send out the Newsletter in August. One copy to each country who has a member. That member will be responsible to copy and distribute The Newsletter and to give it to those who are interested.

**Margaretha hoped that everyone would put in a great effort to send in articles for the next Newsletter.**

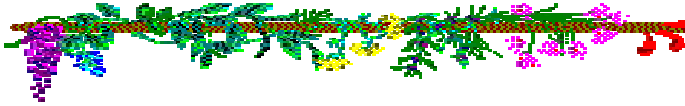
Päivi told us about the difficulties she had with collation of the breed standard from each country and the problems in translating from one language to another. It was decided that Tony would talk at the Open meeting about the essential breed characteristics of our breed and the importance that each breeder understands the what make our breed unique.

Finally we discussed the name of our meeting -*closed*- and decided to use "**working group**" instead.

The Working Group Meeting closed at 18.40.

By the computer

Inga Enstad



## **Minutes from Open meeting, June 13, 1998 in Helsinki, Finland**

Päivi Säviaho opened the meeting with welcoming all to Finland and introduced all present. She was delighted to see so many breeders from Finland in attendance. She was also very pleased to see so many TS-people from other countries; Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Slovenia, Ireland and Iceland.

Apologies were made for Linda Micklethwait, who was unable to travel due to ill health. All our best wishes were sent to her and Douglas.

Inga Enstad chaired the meeting.

Inga talked about the important work that the group was carrying out and talked about ITSWP's "rules" where it is emphasised how important it is that this Working Group remains independent from impacts from Clubs and Associations.

The Group will go on following the PRA problem but also consistently watch out for frequent diseases to prevent problems for the breed. PNP, PRA-Blindness, Spinal Diseases, Cherry Eye, Patella, Distichiasis, Deafness and HD etc. etc. Confirmed cases with this diagnosis will be collected. Those papers will not be published, just stored. If an alarming increase of any of above mentioned diagnosis should occur, further steps will be taken.

The frequency of HD in Tibetan Spaniels was discussed. In Sweden during ten years time 162 dogs are tested; 6 - HD1, 1 - HD3 and we don't think HD is a problem for the breed. Results will come from Finland.

A general question was put on to the group as to if there were any registration restrictions in any of the countries. In Switzerland a health check and PRA test must be carried out prior to registration. In Slovenia and Sweden both parents must be tested clear for PRA. The meeting decided to find out the different Kennel register rules, the number of registered TS per year and if possible also for the last five years.

Breed standards - Päivi looked at this issue last year but found it very difficult to come up with a draft that covered all countries. An open discussion followed about the difference of type in different countries and also the importance of the development of the breed in new countries. (In Sweden there has been calls for bring in a measuring system into the judging).

A discussion followed about in-breeding. There were many different opinions about breeding programmes with some breeders very much in favour of inbreeding and some breeders very much against. This will be a subject that will be returned to again.

Primoz Peer gave a very interesting talk on these new black&tan Tibetan Spaniels that were brought to Germany from Bhutan. Most breeders thought that this was a very exciting situation indeed to have these new bloodlines in mainland Europe. However, some breeders were a little worried about the introduction of "new blood", when we dont know exactly what is behind these dogs. It was decided that, whatever breeding programme was to be developing using these dogs, would have to be done in a controlled manner.

A letter from Jane Lilley was read out concerning the whole topic of "swimmers". - Jane was thanked for her contribution and it was hoped that more breeders would take a similar interest.

Helle Rasmussen has started to do some works on the issue of blue-eyes and hopes to have it in presentation form for the next meeting.

A venue for the next meeting was the last topic for discussion - Vienna 1999 is a possibility.

June 1998 / Inga Enstad