

International
BOAS
conference

20-21
JUNE
2023

Oslo
Norway





THE BOAS CONFERENCE

HOW IT ALL STARTED

How come that the world's leading experts on BOAS and representative for a lot of the biggest FCI KCs in the world are gathered here in Norway now, to address this important issue on dog health and welfare, and share their knowledge?

In 2015, the Norwegian KC, due to heavy critic from the outside world and the increased popularity of brachy dogs, decided to start a project to focus on their specific health problems. A project group was formed, with members from the NKC and representatives from several breed clubs. The project group started to look for scientist who could present reliable, up-to-date research which could be transferred into practical and affordable tests for the breeders and their dogs. After considering various options, the group decided to turn to Professor Jane Ladlow and the Cambridge research group. And a very successful partnership was formed!

In 2019 the first official BOAS seminar was held in Norway, and some weeks before, Mrs. Wenche Lagmo travelled to the WDS in Austria and met president of the FCI, Dr. Tamas Jakkel, and informed him about the plans. Dr. Jakkel grabbed the moment, booked a flight ticket to Norway, and witnessed the seminar and came to meet Prof. Ladlow for the first time.



**JAKKO BROERSMA**

Mr. Brosma have had dogs since early childhood. But it was only when he met his wife a little over 25 years ago that he became involved in showing and breeding. He started out with Labrador Retrievers, but after a few years French Bulldogs crossed his path and they immediately stole his heart. In the early 2000's he and his wife were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful French Bulldog female and she was the start of a lovely and successful international career for our small French Bulldog kennel under the name "v. Moezel's Oever". Ever since he has been active as a board member at different positions in the Dutch breed club for French Bulldogs: 'Hollandse Bulldoggen Club'. Later on he also held positions as a board member in several other breed clubs. Among those the breed clubs for Dogue de Bordeaux and Bullmastiff. His main focus in these clubs has always been the cooperation between breeders and through that improve health. After 2010 it became clear that brachycephalic breeds would be more heavily targeted by animal welfare groups. Years later, in the ever worsening political climate in the Netherlands, it became a 'must' for him to become as active as possible to try and save our breeds. Currently he is a board member and General Secretary of the Dutch Kennel Club. His main portfolios are 'breeding' and 'studbook'. Next to that he is president of the French Bulldog Club of the Netherlands.

Official BOAS testing started in Norway in 2019 after the seminar. In 2020, just days before COVID hit the world, Dr. Jakkel and Prof. Ladlow met at Crufts to sign an intentional agreement to secure that all FCI countries could use the RFG BOAS test.

COVID made everything come to a halt, but as soon as things returned to normal, the testing scheme picked up speed, and the waves spread internationally in FCI. In 2022 a podcast was made by Prof. Ladlow, Dr. Jakkel, Mrs. Lagmo and Mr. Bill Lampert from The Royal Kennel Club. The subject was BOAS, testing, responsible breeding and society's view on brachy breeds. How to educate veterinarians and public, and how to implement the testing regime internationally? For the first time, the idea of an international BOAS conference was aired.

Later that year, the FCI held their first conference on health and welfare in Mexico. During the event the need for an international BOAS conference was mentioned again. Norway, as the first country in FCI to implement the BOAS test, seems like a good location. Mrs. Lagmo and Dr. Jakkel got in touch with chairman of the NKC, Mr. Tom Martinsen, and got the "go" from the NKC. And here we are!



Breaking new ground is never easy, but a lot of people has really put their heart, soul and a lot of hours of work into making this happening. The committee for the conference has consisted of Mrs. Lena Haugland from the Bulldog club, veterinarian Renate Sjølie from the NKC's health department, Prof. Jane Ladlow, Mrs. Astrid Indrebø, veterinarian and chairman of NKC's Health- and Welfare Committee, and Wenche Lagmo, leader of the Norwegian Bulldog Club and a member of the FCI Health and Welfare committee. Other key contributors are the FCI through Dr. Tamas Jakkel, Mr. Yves de Clerc and Mrs. Barbara Muller. The FCI is also the financial founder of the conference, with additional funding from the European Section through president Jørgen Hindse.

The breed clubs and their officials have provided dogs and handlers, the NKC different departments have made the contributions in various ways, and together we have made it happen! This conference makes it visible that dog breeders and Kernel Clubs are willing to take dog health and welfare seriously, and we are willing to make adjustments and improvement to make a better future for pedigree dogs.





Dr ARTHUR HOUSE

Dr Arthur House BSc BVMS PhD Cert SAS DECVS (Small Animal Surgery) is an internationally recognized specialist small animal surgeon in both Australia and Europe with over 20 years of experience in specialist small animal surgery. Arthur is a partner of a large veterinary group and provides specialist surgical referral services to his patients. Arthur has an extensive range of specialist surgical experience and skills and strives to maximize patient outcomes by application of best practice and evidence-based medicine and surgery. In addition to clinical work, Arthur continues to be active in veterinary postgraduate training through provision of continuing education lectures and supervision of clinical training scholars. Arthur is involved in collaborative research with colleagues who work in university hospitals and has a broad range of publications. Arthur has an extensive range of specialist surgical experience and skills and strives to maximize patient outcomes by application of best practice and evidence-based medicine and surgery. Arthur is the chief assessor for the respiratory functional grading scheme in Australia. He will take part in the round table conference via link.



WENCHE CHARLOTTE LAGMO

Wenche Lagmo has been involved with the world of dogs all her life, owning various breeds as boxer, basset hound, Boston terrier, bulldog and bracco italiano to mention some, and engaged in breeding, showing and hunting. Wenche has always been involved in the clubs and organizations, as president of the Basset Club, the Boston terrier club, board member of the bulldog club and the Norwegian Kennel Club. She has been involved with brachycephalic dogs and the issues surrounding this since 2015, the Norwegian BOAS project, the Cambridge model and its implementation in Norway, and the process around it, since 2017. She is a member of the FCI Health and Welfare Committee, and the NKC's equivalent committee.



FERN McDONNELL

Fern works at The Kennel Club as the Health Scheme Manager, with a commitment to promoting the health and well-being of dogs now and in the future. As a Bioveterinary Science graduate and with several years of experience in the veterinary and animal welfare industry, she has a broad understanding of breed-specific health concerns, genetic testing, and responsible breeding practices. Her expertise lie in implementing and managing robust health schemes that support breeders, owners, and veterinary professionals in their efforts to maintain and improve canine health. She works closely with regulatory bodies, veterinary associations, and breed clubs to develop guidelines and protocols that are widely attainable and uphold the highest standards. Having been involved with the Respiratory Function Grading Scheme since its inception, she strongly believes that an international, collaborative and evidence-based approach is crucial to help improve and protect the health of our much-loved brachycephalic breeds.



TONJE TRINTERUD

Tonje graduated from Szent Istvan University, Faculty of Veterinary Science in 2005. After graduation she moved to UK where she worked in small animal practice for several years. From 2011-2015 she did an ECVS residency at Dick White Referrals Ltd in Cambridgeshire UK, before moving back home to Norway and passed the ECVS board exam in 2017, and is now an European Specialist in Small Animal Surgery. Tonje is currently working as a small animal surgeon at AniCura Jeløy Dyresykehus at Rygge, Norway, and will be one of the instructors/supervisors on the workshop at this conference.



BRENDA N. BONNETT

Brenda Bonnett is DVM, PhD, Dr. Hon. Causa. Brenda spent several years in small and mixed veterinary practice after graduating in 1979, before specializing in theriogenology and then completing a PhD in epidemiology. After years as a tenured Associate Professor at the Department of Population Medicine, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada she worked in research and consulting on breed-specific issues; animal welfare including pet over-population and work with cat and dog shelters; and accessible veterinary care. Recently retired as CEO of the non-profit International Partnership for Dogs (IPFD), she continues work as a Consulting Epidemiologist. In her work with IPFD Brenda facilitated international dialogue and actions to address ongoing and emerging issues relative to extreme conformation in dogs, among other challenges. Academic achievements include over 87 peer reviewed publications and 5 book chapters. She supervised 12 doctoral and 10 master students in several countries. Dr. Bonnett has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.



RENATE SJØLIE

Renate graduated from The Norwegian School of Veterinary Science in 2008, and for the next decade she worked at bigger animal hospitals and referral clinics both abroad and in Norway. Beside the clinic, Renate has been working with sled-dogs in many years and was the leading vet for the World Championship in dog sledding in Oslo 2011. Renate was one of the first veterinarians in Norway who was certified for BOAS-grading, already in 2019. She has been working at The Norwegian Kennel Clubs Health Department since 2021, where she is responsible for the BOAS-grading in NKK and is the project leader for this FCI BOAS conference.

**ASTRID INDREBØ**

Assoc. professor, Norwegian College of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences until 1996. Scientific veterinary director and Head of Health Department of the Norwegian Kennel Club (NKK) until 2015. President of FCI Breeding Commission 2008-2016. Head of the Nordic BSI group 2016-2020 (Breed Specific Instructions regarding exaggerations in pedigree dogs). Head of NKK Health Committee since 2020. Author of several books about dog breeding, obstetrics, pediatrics and functional anatomy in dogs. Breeder of Newfoundland dogs since 1986 and FCI International judge since 2005.

**THOMAS SISSENER**

Dr. Sissener is MS, DVM, Cert SAS, MRCVS, Dip ECVS and European Specialist in Small Animal Surgery. He graduated from Colorado State University in 1999 and completed an internship at Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital in Denver. He completed a surgical residency at the University of Cambridge in England from 2002-2005, and then achieved board certification from the European College of Veterinary Surgery in 2006. He served as a faculty member at the University of Cambridge College of Veterinary Medicine and has worked in private referral practice in the UK and Canada. Dr. Sissener has published in text books and journals and lectures both nationally and internationally on topics in veterinary surgery. He is currently employed at Evidensia Animal Hospital in Oslo, Norway. He will also be one of the instructors/supervisors at the workshop.



JANE LADLOW

Jane Ladlow has 20 years' experience as a Specialist in Small Animal Surgery and have focused on upper airway disease in dogs. In 2005 she started researching brachycephalic obstructive airway disease and in the last 15 years her group has assessed over 2000 dogs over the extreme breeds (pugs, French bulldogs and bulldogs) that have airway compromise. With Dr Nai-Chieh Lui, they have devised a non-invasive method of assessing airway function in these breeds and also introduced a clinical grading system for BOAS. The research has also led to the validation of some new surgical techniques (laser turbinectomy, laryngeal surgeries) that were shared by Prof Oechtering of Leipzig. She has successfully supervised students (PhD, MPhil and residents) on this project. The work led to the development of The Kennel Club/ University of Cambridge Respiratory Function Grading Scheme to facilitate the breeding of healthy dogs. The RFG Scheme has been licensed in 10 other countries so far. She is also supervising a PhD student who is looking into airway function in 12 other brachycephalic breeds.



ÅKE HEDHAMMAR

Prof. em. Internal Medicine. Dipl ECVIM-Companion Animals.
Still active in research on epidemiology and genetics of Canine disorders.
Member of WSAVA Hereditary Defect Committee and steering committee of the Internal Collaborative on Extreme Conformation in Dogs (ICECDogs). Former long lasting veterinary advisor to the Swedish Kennel Club and member of the FCI scientific commission. Initiator of the first Dog Health Workshop in Stockholm 2012.

15.45: The effect of a ban

Jakko Broersma, Raad van Beheer / The Bulldog Club Netherlands

16.15: Experiences from Norway

Wenche Lagmo, The Norwegian Bulldog Club

16.45: BREAK

17.00: Panel debate / round table

Delegates from the kennel clubs

20.00: DINNER

CONFERENCE DAY 2

10.00 - 11.20: Practical training on dogs for BOAS-grading

11.30: LUNCH

12.30 - 15.00: Practical training on dogs for BOAS-grading

Groups of up to 10 veterinarians per lecturer, grading all four grades (BOAS grade 0, I, II and III) on all three breeds (English bulldogs, French bulldogs and Pugs).

Lecturers:

- Jane Ladlow, DVM DiplECVS
- Thomas Sissener, DVM DiplECVS
- Tonje Trinterud, DVM DiplECVS

CONFERENCE DAY 2

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM

10.00: BOAS down under
Dr. Arthur House by Teams

10.30: The press and pedigree dogs
Anne L. Buvik, press officer NKC

11.30: LUNCH

12.30: Why Royal Canin take a stand on health and welfare
Mr Axel Dubois

13.00: No change, evolution or revolution?
Dr. Brenda Bonnet

CONFERENCE DAY 1

- 10.00: Welcome**
NKC by Head of the Executive Board Nils-Erik Haagenrud
- 10.10: Introduction**
FCI by President Tamàs Jakkel
- 10.20: BOAS: patophysiology and recognition**
Jane Ladlow, MA Vet MB Cert SAS, Cert VR, DipECVS MRCVS
- 11.00: The RFG-scheme**
Jane Ladlow, MA Vet MB Cert SAS, Cert VR, DipECVS MRCVS
- 11.30: BREAK**
- 11.45: Surgical techniques for treating BOAS**
Thomas Sissener, DVM DipECVS
- 12.30: The Kennel Club -how to implement**
Fern McDonnell, Health coordinator The Royal Kennel Club
- 13.00: LUNCH**
- 14.00: Implementation, usage and effects of health screening**
Åke Hedhammar, DVM PhD DiplECVIM
- 14.30: Breed Specific Instructions (BSI): Assessments of breathing distress in the show ring**
Astrid Indrebø, DVM PhD
- 14.45: Different approaches around the countries including legislation**
Brenda Bonnett, DVM PhD
- 15.30: BREAK**

On behalf of the FCI, in cooperation with the Norwegian Kennel Club, we would like to welcome the participants to this very special event. Dog welfare and health has become a major topic in our society and the FCI has found itself in the centre of the debates on different occasions, being targeted by politicians or extreme animalist groups. The time has come to show our unconditional commitment to Dog Welfare and Health. Despite what the world thinks, we started the work for improving the health in the brachycephalic breeds quite a few years ago, but it had taken some time to find the right methods that also could be put into practical use. But now the time has come, and we have the methods. We are the only acting partners in the solution!

The Norwegian KC started, as the first KC in the FCI, a testing regime in 2019, based on the research of Jane Ladlow and the Cambridge research group. This has been a success and has given other Kennel Clubs some foundation to build on. Recently the FCI European Section agreed to implement the testing scheme in all countries.

We hope this conference can be a valuable contribution to establishing the testing schemes, and we are grateful that speakers and participants have given this event their time and consideration. This is also a great opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience.

We welcome you all and are looking forward to two rewarding days!



Tamás Jakkel
President FCI



Nils-Erik Haagenrud
Chairman NKC

WELCOME



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