

Report from Canada

Prepared by: Nancy Letkeman (nancy.letkeman@shaw.ca), August, 2018

Birth of a new Canadian club

Following the Icelandic Sheepdog International Cooperation (ISIC) meeting held in October, 2017, active Icelandic Sheepdog (ISD) breeders in Canada were contacted to see if there was enough interest in coming together to form a Canadian club. A small group started to meet via teleconferencing early in the New Year. Membership has grown and includes dog owners, not just active breeders (n=23 approx).

The name for the club was determined in the spring: "Vesturheims Iceland Sheepdog of Canada/Vesturheims Berger Islandais du Canada"*. A club executive was appointed:

President: Tristan Lemieux

Vice President: Ron Harmer

Secretary/Treasurer: Lillian Burchill

Director, Communications: Emily Santos

Director, Breeding Committee & ISIC liaison: Nancy Letkeman

Director: Auður Valsdóttir

Director: Sunna Biggs

The Mission Statement of our club:

We are committed to preserving the Iceland Sheepdog in Canada, promoting the breed and showcasing the dogs' natural abilities. We will strive to maintain the health, genetic diversity and true temperament of the Iceland Sheepdog.

To this end, we will work in a collaborative fashion by sharing information, having open and honest discussions and treat each other in a respectful manner.

The club will work towards Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) club recognition in the future.

Work on the ISIC database

With help from Peg Johnson (USA), Guðni Ágústsson (IS), and breeders in Canada and the US, we are slowly entering Canadian dogs into the ISIC database. Approximately 70 dogs have been entered in the last several months. Often it is taking time to research the ancestry for some of the early dogs--especially

those dogs that were imported or born before the ISD was recognized in the CKC's miscellaneous class (pre-2005) or as a breed (2005 onwards).

Many of those early dogs produced offspring that were subsequently exported to breeders in the USA, and this has meant difficulties for our US counterparts (and others) entering their dogs into the database because their dogs' antecedents are absent. It has also meant that many recent Canadian born litters cannot be entered into the database for the same reasons.

Peg Johnson will be speaking at the ISIC seminar, October, 2018, about the work that has been done to date, the difficulties we are facing and some possible solutions.

Litter information

Although it will be some time before our club can prepare detailed reports on breeding activities and the ISD population in Canada, we can supply the following information from the CKC on the number of dogs registered and the number of litters registered in the last 3 years**. Please note that the year reflects the year the litter was registered with the CKC, not necessarily the year the litter was born. Also, the number of dogs registered does not reflect how many dogs are in Canada but the number of dogs registered that year.

| DOGS | | | LITTERS | | |
|------|------|------|---------|------|------|
| 2015 | 2106 | 2017 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| 30 | 21 | 35 | 7 | 4 | 10 |

We do not know how many ISDs are in Canada at this time. An estimate would be between 150 to 200 dogs.

* ISDs are called "Iceland Sheepdogs" (as opposed to Icelandic Sheepdogs) by the CKC.

** We can obtain previous years' data as well, if required.