

**International Federation of Rottweilerfriends
Meeting of Delegates
Kragujevac, Serbia
05.05.2017**

1. Opening of the meeting by the IFR President

Dirk Vandecasteele welcomed all delegates to the meeting.

2. Confirmation of the presence and the validity of the delegates

The following Member clubs were represented by their Delegates and/or by Delegates who had a mandate to represent a certain Member club and to vote by proxy.

1.	Argentina	Hector Malaga F. (proxy)
2.	Australia	Carsten Henriksen (proxy)
3.	Austria	René Külzer (proxy)
4.	Belgium	Dirk Vandecasteele
5.	Bulgaria	Daniela Petkova
6.	China	Mr. Zhao Dongmin
7.	Czech Republic	Karel Frank
8.	Denmark	Carsten Henriksen
9.	Finland	Kristiina Niemelä
10.	France	Maryla Makomaski
11.	Germany	René Külzer
12.	Hong Kong	Dirk Vandecasteele (proxy)
13.	Indonesia	Ivan Ristovic (proxy)
14.	Italy	Carla Romanelli
15.	Lithuania	Erika Stepanauskiene
16.	Macedonia	Nikola Angelkovski
17.	Netherlands	Frank Beiboer
18.	Peru	Hector Malaga F.
19.	Russia	Tatyana Popova
20.	Serbia	Ivan Ristovic
21.	Slovakia	Karel Frank (proxy)
22.	South Africa	Erika Stepanauskiene
23.	Spain	Luis G Luis S. (proxy)
24.	Sweden	Kristiina Niemelä (proxy)
25.	Switzerland	Walter Horn
26.	United Kingdom	Chris Window
27.	USA (USRC)	Walter Horn (proxy)
28.	Venezuela	Luis G Luis S.

2(a). IFR Constitution Rules 3.2 & 6.3

Mr D Vandecasteele raised the matter of Rules 3.2 and 6.3 that required clarification and discussion before proceeding further as this would be relevant in relation to the application for membership by the ADRK that is included on the agenda later.

After some discussion, three proposals were put forward;

1. No change to the Rules
2. Only one club per country to be accepted as members.
3. Due to the special status of the ADRK, it should be the only member club for Germany. In the case of other countries, more than one club can be accepted as members of the IFR.

A majority of 20 votes were cast in favour of option 3 so this proposal was carried. The revised constitution will read:

*“3.2 Only a national club that is a member or recognized by its respective national FCI-affiliated kennelclub (or kennelclub that is an FCI contractpartner) can be a member of the IFR. **If more than one national club is recognized by this national cynologic association and should they be accepted as members of the IFR, than they shall each nominate a delegate for the General Meeting or will nominate a common delegate that will represent them all. However, the national clubs from one country will have only one common vote and in case of disagreement they will be assumed to abstent.***

6,3 To ensure a close connection to the country of origin of the Rottweiler, only the Allgemeiner Deutscher Rottweiler Klub (ADRK) can as a member of the IFR represent Germany and its first president will automatically be invited as honorary president of the IFR. This function is for protocol, is personal and cannot be transferred to another person and does not give a right of vote in the Meeting of Delegates and/or Executive board. However, whenever an issue arises that demands for a decision that may concern and/or influence the preservation of the breed’s characteristics, the prior advice of the honorary president must be sought for.”

3. Election of Chairman and Deputy, Secretary of the Meeting and two counters for votes.

The following positions were agreed:

Chairman – Dirk Vandecasteele

Deputy – Walter Horn

Secretary – Chris Window

Vote counters – Maryla Makomaski & Chris Window

4. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting by the IFR-President.
 2. Confirmation of the presence and the validity of the delegates
 3. Election of the chairman and his deputy, also of a secretary of the Meeting and two counters of votes.
 4. Approval of the agenda
 5. Decision of Admittance of new members
 6. Treatment of the proposals of the members and the current Board
 7. Report of the executive Board for the expired period
 8. Report of the auditors
 9. Discussion on the reports
 10. Relief of the Board
 11. Determination of the host country for the next activities of the IFR (Congress, World Championship, World Show and other).
 12. Presentation of the candidates for the election of the executive Board.
 13. Discussion and decision on the activities to be executed by the executive Board that is to be elected.
 14. Election of the executive Board :
 - a) election of the President
 - b) election of the Vice-President
 - c) election of 4 members of the Board
 - d) possible election of additional members of the Board.
 - e) election of two auditors
 15. Determination of the Membership fees
- 5. Decision of admission of new members**

- Despite receiving a message from the Rottweiler Club of Croatia, no formal application had been submitted.
- An application had only been received by from the Rottweiler Club of Sudan the day prior to the meeting. There was no possibility for discussion nor for exchanging regulations and/or information. If the Rottweiler Club of Sudan wants to become a member, she will be welcome to send in a timely and complete application.
- ADRK application – Walter Horn put a question about the plans for the ADRK World Family and Dirk Vandecasteele raised the issue of the World Family supporting Breed Standards other than the FCI.
- René Külzer informed the meeting that the ADRK will not continue with the organisation of the ‘ADRK IPO World Championship’ but will continue to organise the ‘ADRK World Show’ however they will put a time gap between that and the IFR World Show. He went on to say that the ADRK World Family was formed to share experience and knowledge and will ensure that there is no competition between events. The ADRK hopes that having a connection with these member clubs will encourage the adoption of the FCI Breed Standard.

There was unanimous acceptance of the ADRK’s application and Dirk Vandecasteele welcomed the ADRK and formally appointed René Külzer as an Honorary President of the IFR.

Edgar Hellmann also announced that there had recently been a meeting in Germany at which it was decided that Rottweilers with a FCI pedigree from other countries could be used for breeding in the German Rottweiler pool. In future German judges will undertake official ZTP events in other countries.

- Kuwait Rottweiler Club – there is a problem as it the national kennelclub of Kuwait is not yet affiliated to the FCI. Also the club sent in the breeding regulations of its kennelclub (which were commented on by Mr. Vandecasteele as to be very interesting and even exemplary) but not its own breed specific breeding regulations, nor the regulation of its BST nor of a test of social behaviour.
Proposed was that as soon as the national kennelclub will be affiliated to the FCI, the Club would be invited to send in a new and complete application to be evaluated by the IFR-Board and this possibly leading to a provisional membership awaiting the next Meeting of Delegates (MOD).
- Rottweiler Dog Association of Mongolia – the representative put forward the club’s case in a presentation. Unfortunately, the RDAM is currently a member of a dissident Kennel Club (Mongolian Kennel Union). Dirk Vandecasteele acknowledged that the club was working towards the right objectives but it cannot be accepted for membership at the present time. It is hoped that the club will in the future collaborate with the FCI and will not lose its interest for

the IFR and our common goals. It might be examined if a collaboration with the IFR is possible, even outside IFR-Membership.

- Rottweiler Klub Sieger Australia – this club is not recognised by the Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC) so is a dissident club. Its application can therefore not be accepted.
- Asociatia Danubius Rottweiler Klub, Romania – the representative notified the delegates that there will be no more breeding without x-rays in Romania. The club is at the beginning of establishing BST's with bitework, etc. Unfortunately, the club had not completed the questionnaire. It was agreed that the club should complete and send the paperwork as soon as possible to the next board so that it can be checked and provisional membership might be granted by the IFR-Board, awaiting the following MOD
- Deutscher Rottweiler Verein (DRV), Germany – This club is not recognised by the VDH. In addition, the change to the constitution during the earlier part of the meeting precludes the DRV from being a member club of the IFR.
- Egyptian Rottweiler Club – the Egyptian delegate was present at the meeting and wanted to put forward his case that the club is already a member of the IFR. He stated that he deals with positions not names and all papers had been sent to the IFR and the Egyptian Club had received approval. In Lithuania last year, all the relevant papers had been presented again. They received a letter from the IFR President, Vinicio Di Paolo, welcoming Egypt to IFR membership. He stated that he received an email from Erika Stepanauskiene asking for information to be included on the IFR website. He also pointed out that two years membership had been paid to the Treasurer. Prior to the Special Meeting in Finland, he had received an email from Erika Stepanauskiene saying that the club was not a member and could not contribute to the meeting. The IFR President at that time, Vinicio di Paolo, confirmed in a communication that Egypt could attend the meeting. The club is the only Rottweiler Club recognised by the Egyptian Kennel Club.

Dirk Vandecasteele acknowledged that it was an unpleasant situation. The Egyptian club had submitted a membership application in 2014, there had been provisional approval subject to two conditions – to stop allowing Egyptian breeders to use Serbian pedigrees and membership of a FCI approved Kennel Club. At the Meeting Of Delegates in 2015, the application for membership was not accepted and this was recorded in the minutes of that meeting. It now seems that this Egyptian club was not even the Club that is now claiming membership. In 2015 there were elections and a new IFR-Board appointed. Due to the inactivity of the Board, Dirk Vandecasteele wrote emails and as he did not know the situation with Egypt, he included this club in his emails. Prior to the Meeting of Delegates of 22.09.2016 he asked Board members including the Secretary, Yvonne Brink, and they had no knowledge of the application and decision to accept the Egyptian Club. No answer was received from Vinicio di Paolo about new memberclubs having been accepted. At the Special Meeting in Finland, the Egyptian representative was told to submit an application and Dirk

Vandecasteele had repeatedly requested this since but nothing had been received.

The Egyptian representative responded by saying that, if the club submits another application, this would be an acceptance that they are not a member of the IFR. He handed to the Chairman a copy of the letter from the IFR confirming his club's membership.

Erika Stepanauskiene pointed out that only the delegates can accept an application. Also, the Egyptian Kennel Club confirmation of membership was on an email, an official document was never received.

Dirk Vandecasteele stated that they were unable to show any member a completed application form so how would it be possible to vote on it.

René Külzer proposed that the Egyptian club should send all the required information and the next Board can then possibly accept the application on a provisional basis before the next Meeting of Delegates. All agreed.

After the lunch period the delegate for Peru relayed information that he had received from Argentina confirming that an application from Egypt was received and the Board was notified. He stated that the communication problem is not the fault of Egypt. The Chairman reiterated that the decision about membership is one for Congress to make and no application had been received to circulate to the members. The issue was closed.

6. Treatment of the proposals of the members and the current Board

(a) Breeding regulations, breeding suitability & social behaviour tests, etc

Dirk Vandecasteele made reference to the meeting of Breed Wardens the previous day and the forms that had been sent out to the clubs about Breed Regulations, etc. The IFR is about breeding Rottweilers around the world on the same basis – member clubs must organise social behaviour and Breeding Suitability tests. The minutes of the Meeting of Delegates in Moscow in 2011 (and the IFR-Constitution since then) and Denmark in 2013 record that clubs accepted this obligation. The questionnaire reveals that not all clubs are meeting this constitutional requirement.

It was accepted that it will be impossible to have homogeneity in all tests due to differing political, cultural, ... situations in other countries but the IFR needs to know these tests. There must indeed be minimum criteria in such tests and they must be mutually recognised. We want to work towards a gene pool that we can trust worldwide.

Dirk Vandecasteele outlined the way forward:

- Verify the answers that had been submitted in the questionnaire

- Template a uniform test or at least tests that strive for the same characteristics.
- Minimum health tests and breeding regulations
- Help new members get started
- Extra meetings of Breed Wardens in future to discuss methods and content

In particular, an event must be organized where all existing Breeding regulations and especially also all Breed Suitability tests will be demonstrated and evaluated (example : by judges and ethologists). At this occasion, an evaluation will be made if these regulations and tests are complete (cover all characteristics – also mental + health – that define the breed that is in the context of the IFR above all else a utility breed). Those that are complete and valuable could then be recognized as such by the IFR (so on mutual basis). On certain conditions (trustworthy prior testing of health, genetic identification of x-generations, ...) dogs bred from parents that passed such tests might then be recognized as to belong to a trustworthy world wide genepool. Dirk Vandecasteele emphasized the need for such a broad world wide genepool and did so by referring to the establishment of genetic diseases resolving from an ever more reduced gene pool but also to the fact that the Rottweiler is bred and kept in differing contexts : in some countries as a utility breed (with sometimes differing definitions), in other countries only as a pet or showdog. Opening this genepool depends of course on the trustworthy knowledge of the genetic characteristics of breeding dogs and the certitude that these are correct and breed specific. He explained that what is not emphasized in breeding, goes lost and to emphasize a characteristic one must know it and for that one must test for it.

The same goes for tests of social behaviour. Here also, more homogeneity must be attained, maybe not by imposing identical routines but by ensuring that they all hold certain minimal criteria.

He discussed the possibility for an IFR-diploma / certificate for dogs / litters that are bred and kept within such IFR-criteria and of the publication of such knowledge.

Of course, tests are never worth more than the judge and here also there is work to be done and more homogeneity must be reached.

Ultimately, IFR-events should maybe be only open for dogs that were bred within the before mentioned mutually recognized genepool (suggestion by Mr. Hellmann).

(b) Changes to World Championship regulations

The Chairman gave some background information regarding the IFR World Show organised by Lithuania and what they did to avoid allegations by ensuring that judges of the classes were not known beforehand. The Board also

needs the power to investigate and act on any complaints and allegations of misbehaviour.

- Only participants with the nationality of the member club or have normal residency in that country can compete
- Reserve participants to be able to compete on an individual basis if only few participants are entered. To be decided by the Board of the IFR with the agreement of the organizing club.
- Reference to IPO3 and not Sch3
- Team competition must be the essential nature of the competition and reflected in the prize
- Team score is the total score of not more than 3 team members
- Tracking articles to be numbered
- Judges to be of different nationalities and from a member club's country
- Complaints of unsporting behaviour can be penalised by the IFR Board

(c) Changes to World Show regulations

- Applicable in all countries except those where it is not allowed (this remark was made by the Dutch Delegates concerning the proposal that a lottery must decide on the classes that each judge will judge at the event).
- Inclusion of rules regarding the control of dog doping
- Champion Class – must be FCI or affiliated organisations title not a club title
- Judges to be of different nationalities and from a member club's country

(d) IFR test of social behaviour

The Chairman pointed out that these tests are a necessity for the future of the Rottweiler breed. We should recognise any existing and future tests by issuing IFR certificates. We should proceed with a discussion about this matter at the next Breed Warden meeting.

(e) Regulation on minimum ages of breeding dogs

The Chairman pointed out that there are currently minimum ages for Hip Dysplasia, Elbow Dysplasia and Breeding Suitability Tests and we have also to consider the physical and mental health of dogs before breeding. Is it not right that there should be obligatory regulations for IFR members concerning ages for breeding?

It was proposed that both males and females should have reached a minimum age of 18 months before breeding. This was agreed unanimously.

Carla Romanelli also proposed that there should be a maximum age for breeding and, after some discussion, a maximum age of 9 years was agreed.

The question of the number of litters per year was also raised and it was decided that scientific advice should be sought and the matter will be discussed further at the Breed Warden meeting to be organised by the next Board.

(f) Regulations / activities concerning genetic diseases and reduced genetic diversity

The Chairman informed the meeting that the publication “A layman’s walk through basic canine genetics” is now available. It is basic Mendelian genetics and includes specific problems in the Rottweiler.

Causes and remedies:

- Coefficient of inbreeding (COI)
- Breeding values (BV)
- Obligatory testing
- Research & development of DNA tests

The key message was that we must open up the gene pool. Research & development is something that should be taken forward to the next meeting of Breed Wardens and the opinion of a specialist to explain BV’s at the behest of the new Board.

7. Report of the executive Board for the expired period

2015

IFR World Show was hosted by the Czech Republic.
IFR IPO World Championship was hosted by Italy

2016

IFR World Show was hosted by Lithuania
IFR IPO World Championship was hosted by Finland

Other tasks since Finland

Website, magazine, genetics booklet, collecting information, preparing discussions on regulations, check judges list, organising judges and Breed Warden seminars.

The magazine is alive and now available in digital format for 5 €.
Pienkoss books – suggestions sought to sell more copies

Good communication within the Board:

Meetings regarding breeding regulations, breeding suitability tests, health & social behaviour.

Scientific – testing programme, collecting information, establishment of COI & BV, DNA tests.

Cynologic activity – homogeneity in judging / education.

Administration – more communication, decision making to be faster and better – possible digital voting of members.

8. Report of auditors

Walter Horn had stepped in for Kristiina Niemelä as Treasurer and had produced a financial report. One of the appointed auditors, Tomas Kadlec (Czech Republic), was unable to attend the Meeting of Delegates but had the opportunity to examine the financial report and provide feedback. The other auditor, Chris Window (UK), had examined all the available documents and was able to discuss the accounts with the Treasurer in detail. The report of the auditors stated: “We are satisfied that the information presented to the auditors reflects a true record of financial transactions during the accounting period. Some documents have still to be passed on from the previous Treasurer but, despite this, we are satisfied that the income and expenditure of the IFR is accurate. We would also like to make two suggestions:

1. Cash transactions make the recording and auditing process that much more difficult and we would recommend that these are kept to a minimum and cash only held for as long as necessary. This cash should be paid into the IFR account as soon as possible. This is something that the current Treasurer is already doing.
2. Pienkoss books – these books have a significant value. We would suggest that this value is realistically reflected in the assets of the IFR including a regular review of the value, for example, the depreciation of these assets should be shown.”

The Treasurer then reiterated that cash is now being paid into the bank account straight away and cash transactions will be avoided if possible.

The balances as at 30/04/17 were:

Total bank account	51,887.79 €
Total PayPal account	336.08 €
Total cash	0.00 €
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Total funds	52,223.87 €
Closing balance as of April 30, 2017	52,223.87 €
Opening balance as of May 1, 2015	54,166.13 €
Appreciation / Depreciation of assets	-1,942.26 €

9. Discussion of the reports

Nothing further was discussed. Both reports were accepted and approved.

10. Relief of the Board

The Executive Board was relieved.

11. Determination of the host country for the next activities of the IFR

Frank Beiboer confirmed that the date for the **World Championship 2018** in the Netherlands is 21 & 22 September 2018.

IFR World Show 2019 – the representative for China gave a presentation to show that their club wished to host the event. It would be held in conjunction with the FCI World Show. All competitors to be picked up from the airport and taken to hotels. The venue would be in Shanghai.

The Chairman informed the meeting that his personal experience of China was a good one and dogs are well treated. It was unanimously agreed that China will be the hosts for the IFR World Show 2019.

IFR World Championship 2019 – there were no formal bids to host this event. The French delegate, Maryla Makomaski, will refer this to her club's committee to establish if there is a possible interest to host it.

The Chairman suggested that the **Meeting of Delegates in 2019** should be held in conjunction with the World Championship to reflect that the Rottweiler is a working breed.

IFR World Show 2020 – there were bids from Macedonia and France. In the case of France, the event would be held in the south of the country with good accommodation and very easy to reach. Macedonia would organise the event in the capital at a city stadium in a very strategic position, they would work hard to be good hosts.

13 delegates voted in favour of Macedonia & 8 delegates in favour of France thereby awarding the bid to Macedonia.

IFR World Championship 2020 – as there were no bids for this event, the new Board will email member clubs offering bids for the World Championship 2020.

Other matters – Edgar Hellmann (ADRK) proposed the possibility of the title of 'IFR Champion' being awarded at 'National' IFR shows.

12. Presentation of the candidates for the election of the executive Board.

Manfred Herrmann (ADRK) read out a message from Peter Friedrich who wished to be considered as a candidate for the Executive Board in any position.

Dirk Vandecasteele gave a presentation to the delegates detailing his reasons for standing as President of the IFR.

Walter Horn informed the meeting of his candidature for the role of Vice President.

Candidates wishing to stand for members of the Board were:

Erika Stepanauskiene
Ivan Ristic
Carsten Henriksen
Kristiina Niemelä

13. Discussion and decision on the activities to be executed by the executive Board that is to be elected.

No further discussion.

14. Election of the executive Board:

(a) Election of President

Dirk Vandecasteele 18 votes Peter Friedrich 10 votes

(b) Election of Vice President

Walter Horn 15 votes Peter Friedrich 13 votes

(c) Election of 4 Board members

Peter Friedrich, Erika Stepanauskiene, Ivan Ristic & Carsten Henriksen (no ballot required)

(d) Election of additional members of the Board

Kristiina Niemelä agreed to stand as an additional Board member with no vote and this avoided the need to hold a ballot for the 4 Board member positions.

(e) Election of two auditors

Maryla Makomaski & Chris Window were proposed and elected as auditors.

15. Determination of the Membership fees

Following a discussion, two options were proposed and voted on:

1. The membership fees to remain unchanged – 16 votes
2. A reduced fee for clubs with less than 50 members – 12 votes

The membership fees therefore remain unchanged until the next Meeting of Delegates.

The chairman then closed the Meeting. He thanked all present Delegates for their cooperation and willingness for a constructive discussion. It is his opinion that the content of the discussion of the Meeting of Breedwardens and of Delegates clearly showed the recognition of the need for international cooperation and that the newly elected Board will do its ultimate best to ensure that the IFR will finally emancipate into an active organisation.

