

## WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR DALMATIANS

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2011 – 2013

Two years ago, at the May 20. WAFDAL meeting in Salzburg, the chairman of WAFDAL for 6 years, Frans de Ridder, asked for permission to leave the post as chairman. He was then terminally ill and very weak, but still managed to participate in the meeting. Less than 4 months later we came to his funeral and joined Liliane and the family as well as many friends in their grief.

I accepted to be elected chairman for 2 years and Annemiek Morgans accepted to continue as secretary for 2 years too, because there were none that wished to take over. At this meeting in Rostock there are several posts that need to be filled at the elections. It is your responsibility to help us with that.

Two days after the meeting in Salzburg a new breed standard was released by the FCI, of which WAFDAL had no previous knowledge or information. Going back to 2005 we had tried to get the Croatian Kennel Club (CKC) to discuss possible improvements of the standard, however with no success. CKC apparently did not want our participation.

At the ECDC meeting in 2007 in Zagreb the second Dalmatian club from Croatia, "HKPDP-Dalatinac", was given membership, in addition to the "Hungarian Dalmatian Club" and "Club Dalmata de Cuba". This prepared the ground for changing the name of the organization from ECDC to WAFDAL, since membership from at least 2 continents was required in order to become an organization with direct access to FCI. This was the plan of Frans de Ridder, but it took almost four years to get FCI to sign a cooperation agreement with WAFDAL, due to constant delays by the Croatian Kennel Club, that also had to sign the contract.

Unfortunately the agreement gave us no legal rights concerning changes of the breed standard, although to us it seemed natural to expect to be consulted if changes were underway. This was not what happened, however. The Croatian Kennel Club had made the new standard in complete secrecy, possibly with the leaders of the Croatian Dalmatian Clubs, but with no information to WAFDAL.

Several members reacted strongly to the new standard, which contained many descriptions that were hard to understand, and where the Dalmatian had become a hunting dog that was independent but easy to train and also liked to swim. The history of the breed now was completely rewritten, establishing the Dalmatian as belonging to "the hounds of Illyricum".

During 2012 we, and particularly our vice chairman, Liliane de Ridder, made several both formal and informal attempts to engage CKC into discussions about the new standard, but with no results. Finally I sent a letter to the FCI standards commission, asking for initiation of a process that could solve this situation, referring to paragraph 4 ("Solving problems") of the contract. FCI, however, made no attempt to help solving the problems, but responded by considering to terminate the contract in a letter in December 2012. We protested immediately, again asking to put paragraph 4 into use, but in vain. Since CKC did not wish to continue the cooperation agreement, WAFDAL was informed about termination of the contract in a letter from FCI of 10.04.2013, observing a 6 month notice of termination.

Thus, our attempts to engage in the realities of a cooperation agreement have failed completely. Obviously CKC agreed to sign the contract after they had made the new standard and then signed the agreement that gave them complete control of the standard. CKC has issued a "Comments to the standard", which helps in explaining some of the unclear statements in the standard, but avoids the conflicting questions. The legality of these comments in relation to the standard is not known.

I also wish to bring your attention to the official WAFDAL comments to the breed standard (the 1999 standard), written by Ake Cronander and Asa Boholm. This is what judges should relate their judging to, not the new standard.

The last two-year period has not been good for WAFDAL. The loss of the right to direct contact to FCI probably means little, but the conflict has caused clubs to ask themselves if WAFDAL really has the right to life. Several clubs have not paid their membership fees, including the two Croatian clubs. The German club DVD terminates its membership at the end of this year. I guess that this question is being discussed in all our member clubs.

Looking back there have not been any large problems in health and breeding in this period, but in my opinion we have to keep our eyes open on such issues and WAFDAL can aid if difficult situations should occur. Even if we cannot engage FCI directly concerning the breed standard, I consider this to be the most important reason for keeping WAFDAL alive. The new management must engage in actions that hopefully can result in changing the breed standard, for example by engaging the national kennel clubs. We simply cannot just sit back and allow our breed standard to be controlled in a way the rest of the world is negative to.

After having been chairman of the Health and Breeding commission for a decade and chairman of WAFDAL 2000-2005 and 2011-2013, I have done my share. I want to thank especially Annemiek Morgans, our very competent secretary for 10 years who leaves us now, Liliane de Ridder, vice chairman and front figure in relation to CKC, Gerhard Herbst, our solid and reliable treasurer, Lena Erlandsson, chairing the Health and Breeding commission, who actually had an easy job this period and Viola Speier from DDC for doing an excellent job for organizing this meeting. Aase Jakobsen will take over as webmaster after this meeting, which is very important since we did not find anyone that could follow after Elke, and as you know this is really needed. I wish you all the best and keep my thumb up for WAFDAL.

Tyge Greibrokk

