



WAFDAL

World Association For Dalmatians



## **Report from The health and breeding commission, Tyge Greibrokk**

This is the final report from me as head of the health and breeding commission in WAFDAL. I have been involved in health matters and in the leadership of WAFDAL (and ECDC) since 1996, but now the time has come for me to leave and for WAFDAL to find a younger person to take over. I wish to thank all the persons in WAFDAL that I have cooperated with and I wish all the best for WAFDAL in the future. In the last two years the activity of the health and breeding commission has been at a low level. However, there are particularly two matters that need more attention in the years to come; LUA Dalmatians and dwarfism.

### **LUA Dalmatians**

In order to try to remove the problem of urate stones, Low uric acid(LUA) Dalmatians have been bred in the USA over many generations (the backcross project). Several puppies from this background have been exported to Europe and has been bred with native Dalmatians in several countries. To my knowledge the first was Stocklore Forest Windsong, imported by dr. Vincent to France in 2009. The import of LUA Dalmatians has been the responsibility of a few dedicated breeders, and Wafdal has not had any direct involvement in this project. Now the time has come to make a registry of all the LUA Dalmatians in Europe, their breeding and the results so far. Persons to be involved in this should include Dominique Vincent and Sally Ann Clegg in France.

### **Dwarfism**

Inherited dwarfism, also known as osteochondrodysplasia or radius curvus, are known in several breeds, generally assumed to be inherited by simple autosomal recessive genes. Among Dalmatians the first litters containing dwarfs were reported in Sweden and Finland (?) in the 1970s and 1980s, later thought to originate from an import from England in the 1950s, Olivia of Elmwick. Since then the number of litters with dwarfs have never been large, but since the symptoms can vary it is safe to assume that there have been more litters than those reported. In the later years we know of carriers in Norway, Sweden, The Netherlands and England. Most of these have a Norwegian dog, Perdita's Just In Time, on both sides of their blood lines. His descendants are spread all over Europe and should never be crossed in breeding. Blood samples of some affected dogs and close family have been sent to dr. Hannes Lohi in Helsinki, who does research on the inheritance of dwarfism. Most important breeders in this connection are Kari Ditlefsen in Norway and Erna Kuipers in The Netherlands. Wafdal has been asked to aid in the financing of these examinations, and the next administration must discuss if this should be a task for Wafdal.

### **Other genetic problems**

From time to time various defects are reported and some have been reported by the health and breeding commission to the member clubs. Osteochondrosis and epilepsy are examples that have been discussed more recently, but there appears not to be grounds for active involvement by Wafdal, so far. Even more recently there have been reports of kidney failure and heart failure in litters with apparently little connection. Thus, keep your eyes open and report old or new problems to Wafdal.