



Report from the WAFDAL secretary, Ursula Voitle

At the WAFDAL meeting 2015 in Prague I was appointed as WAFDAL secretary and I took over the responsibility with my best intentions.

The historical documentation of the previous time was unfortunately only handed over with some delay to me. Annemiek Morgans helped me to organise the handover with Cindy Kerksenmeyer and sent me the documents. Many thanks to Annemiek for her help and support.

Cindy Kerksenmeyer was appointed in mid 2013 as WAFDAL secretary. Unfortunately she couldn't put much time into work for WAFDAL due to other obligations. As a result, the organisation of the WAFDAL secretary was a bit neglected and it took some time to bring it all together again. There were some documents missing in the beginning and I started doing my job as WAFDAL secretary in a rather pragmatic hands-on way of doing. I tried to get in contact with member clubs via email and phone. Unfortunately, the responses were rather rare. But after receiving the full documentation it was possible to have a full overview and organise it more properly.

Core topics

The new website took a lot of energy during the set up phase, but I am convinced that it was worth the efforts, we are visible online again. In cooperation with our new Webmaster Andrea Theuerkauf-Höppner many contents for the new website have been collected and revised. Josef Fertig and Milivoje Urosevic supported as while assembling all the new contents and topics for the new website.

I would like to highlight a specific service on our WAFDAL website: the announcement of national shows and events on the WAFDAL website.

If you have club shows or other interesting events which you would like to highlight to other countries or member clubs, please use the possibility of putting it online on the WAFDAL website.

Please: send us the dates and details of your shows/events and we'll put it online as soon as possible. It will allow everybody to see what's going on elsewhere and might help with more international cooperation. Maybe you can send us your national shows/events in the beginning of the year (or on the go).

Normally, it does take us only a few days to put it online together with Andrea.

Please use this more often, it makes the WAFDAL website more interesting to all if we have national information as well on it!

WAFDAL in general

From the secretary's perspective, I can fully understand that there was some critique and questioning on the WAFDAL in general. However, I am convinced, that in the last 2 years many positive steps forward have been made. Please support us as well in the future in order to work on our joint topic the Dalmatian breed. We would appreciate if you communicate and cooperate actively with us and help us develop WAFDAL further.



Of course, there were some topics a bit neglected in the last 2 years as the WAFDAL committee needed to focus on a few core topics in the beginning. That means that there are some topics left, which will need more attention in the upcoming years.

The topic of breeding and health will surely be in the focus. I agree with my colleagues that we need to put more attention on this topic and cooperate more internationally on these matters. Breeding and health remains one of the most important topics when breeding dogs. Tyge did a good job on this and we are convinced that he'll help his successor whenever needed. I really do hope that the new breeding and health committee will help us to bring things forward for our beloved breed the Dalmatian. I really would appreciate if we can work more closely together between the breeding/health commission and the judging committee. Please do exchange whenever you can and cooperate closely!

Cooperation WAFDAL committee

We all know that voluntary work is extra work for everybody involved, and of course in international cooperation there are some difficulties involved at times. I'd like to take the opportunity to remind us all in the WAFDAL committee that we should continuously improve our way of communicating, even when we are not on the same line (in terms of opinions).

In the past, when there were disagreements, Emails tended to be a bit tense or have not been replied or even ignored totally. Please, let us be more sensitive. We all have a common goal and need to cooperate and to communicate even when we agree to disagree. Please let's put personal opinions and behaviour aside and let's try to be objective to bring WAFDAL forward.

In order to be a bit more personal and reachable, I try often to get in contact with member clubs via phone. That's often an easier and faster way than via Email. Maybe that could work as well for the other committees.

But before closing, I'd like to underline that we can be really proud about the base work done during the last 2 years. Let us be ambitious to reach more and to develop WAFDAL further. However, it would be great if development can be reached without me being the bad-voice in the background all the time reminding everyone to do his or her homework. It would be great if each one would be a bit more pro active. I really look forward to work with all of you and thanks in advance for your efforts.

Contact with member clubs.

With regards to member clubs, I would really appreciate if you send me your opinions, wishes and ideas. Only if they are communicated we will be in the position to make actions afterwards. Without having wishes/critiques or opinions we cannot act. Many thanks in advance for having more active exchange with us.

If you have changes with regards to the contact persons/club details etc – please do update us on them. It not only helps to have the WAFDAL website details updated, but it allows us to be efficient in our everyday communication with the member clubs. If we have the right contact details, we can contact the right persons, if not it is always a bit of a hassle.



If you receive emails from WAFDAL with e.g. questions regards member club details, litters, etc. it would be appreciated if you can give us feedback asap. Often these questionnaires get forgotten and we don't have the needed info. You would really support us when you can help with these few points a little more in the future. Many thanks for your understanding and your help and cooperation in the future.

Communication/translations.

The entire WAFDAL committee tries to work for all member clubs and we are all working for a common matter. Of course we always try to get back to the member clubs in the shortest delays with the best answers possible. Please remind, we are all doing voluntary work, and we would appreciate equally if we are contacted in a polite and appropriate style.

We'll always battle some language barriers, but let's be positive and pro active in our way of communicating with each other. To be honest, my English could need some improvements too, luckily I get some support from Nicole Dentler, Germany, with regards to translations in English and German. Sometimes however, I use the help from Google when it needs to be fast. Please excuse in case you get some 'Google translations' which are not totally correct....

Recognition of WAFDAL by FCI

In Tulln there was a meeting between Dipl. Ing. Boris Spoljaric, Dr. Milivoje Urosevic, our president Josef Fertig, Margot Nemecek, president of the Austrian Dalmatian Club (ÖDaC) and myself.

In the joint meeting we installed the foundation for a future good cooperation with the Croatian Kennelclub (HKS), the home country of our breed. Margot Nemecek did a great job in preparing the meeting, and we would like to thank her for her support and her great effort.

A major step towards the recognition of WAFDAL by the FCI has been made, it was a long way, but we can be very proud on the achievements made.

A request and demand towards all of us: please let us cooperate in the best way possible to achieve the best for our Dalmatian breed!

Many thanks in advance.

Looking forward to a great and fruitful cooperation in the future,

Sincerely yours,
Ursula Voitle