



Dear members of the Board,

Herewith we would like to ask your attention for the following:

In the recent years, we as Dutch Breedclub for White Swiss Shepherds (Rasclub voor Zwitserse Herders - RZWH), have monitored very closely the population and genetic relationship within the White Swiss Shepherd breed.

You will not be surprised that unfortunately our conclusion is that the genetic relationship within our breed is rather alarming and we have to express that in the near future (maybe even within 10 years) we foresee serious problems for the White Swiss Shepherd.

We would like to illustrate this with an example: In March 2014 altogether we had 56 males on the breedingmales list of the RZWH and ZWHVN. After checking the pedigrees of these males, we found out that 1 male appeared in the first 3 generations of no less than 23 listed breedingmales.

Subsequently we made a selection for 4 other breedingmales that often appeared in the first 3 generations. The result was that only 13 breedingmales were left from the original breedingmale lists. Unfortunately these 13 breedingmales are not free from mutual genetic relationship as well. For a Dutch breeder it is getting more and more difficult to find a suitable and, if required, as much as possible unrelated, breedingmale for his or her breedingfemale in the Netherlands. The danger of a closed, restricted gene population needs no further clarification.

From this scope we looked at other foreign populations and noticed the same problem. We realize that high genetic relationship within our breed is not just a Dutch problem but in fact is a cross-border problem.

With the renewed FCI circular 32-2013 (with reference to the earlier FCI circular 77/2007) and the current situation of the White Swiss Shepherds in the Netherlands, the RZWH has decided, together with the other Dutch breedingclubs, to go in consultation with the Dutch Kennelclub Raad van Beheer. The Raad van Beheer is positive with regards to cooperation and would like to investigate with the Dutch breedingclubs if they can work together in finding a solution.

In order to make these meetings with the Raad van Beheer a success and to establish a plan in which the future of the White Swiss Shepherd is guaranteed, we need your help. We would love to exchange vision and knowledge about the problem that we have outlined above with foreign colleague boardmembers.

We would very much appreciate it if you can answer the following questions:

1. What is the current situation in your country with regards to genetic relationship of the population?
2. What do you consider possible solutions to reduce genetic relationship?
3. What is your opinion about FCI Circular 77/2007?
4. Is there any possibility in your country to register dogs in the annex? If so, under what conditions?

Although the guidelines are clearly defined in Circular 77/2007 we see that in many FCI countries there are still opportunities to register dogs in the annex of the studbook. We also see that breedingclubs that are responsible for issuing pedigrees, apply the FCI rules from this circular with good-will.

Using your input, it might even be possible to come to a sufficient basis at international level for international cooperation and approach for this global problem of genetic relationship within our breed.

We are very curious if we can count on the cooperation of your club and your willingness to share the current situation of this problem in your country with us.

Obviously we are very happy to exchange Dutch information with you and answer all the questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Rasclub voor Zwitserse Witte Herders (RZWH)
Yvette Philippi, Chairman
Carin van der Sijs, Secretary