



# Healthy breeding, common sense

Astrid Indrebø

## About Astrid Indrebø (NO)

Astrid Indrebø, DVM, Ph.D., Veterinary Director,  
Norwegian Kennel Club (NKK)

Education:

- 1979 - Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM)
- 1991 - Ph.D. (veterinary obstetrics)

Employment history:

- 1981-1996: Norwegian Veterinary School (NVH), specializing in small animal clinical medicine.
- 1996-present: Norwegian Kennel Club (NKK) at the Institute for Sports and Companion Animal Medicine, NVH.

Astrid Indrebø teaches obstetrics and pediatric veterinary medicine at the NVH, and mentors both masters and graduate-level students.

She has has been an invited speaker at both national and international scientific conferences and meetings, and has authored and contributed to both scientific and educational publications, including a veterinary obstetrics textbook (“Obstetrikk hos hund og katt”, Tell publishers 1997), and books on canine health and breeding (“Hund – Avl og Helse”, Smådyrpraktiserende veterinærers forening 1991; Genetikk, Avl og Oppdrett”, Norsk Kennel Klub 1993, 3rd Edition 2005).

She is a member of the FCI Breeding Commission, International Working Group on Canine Eye Diseases and the Nordic Kennel Unions Scientific committee. She has been involved in presenting courses and talks to breeders, breed clubs and dog owners in Scandinavia with the goal of increasing knowledge of different aspects of canine genetics, animal husbandry and breeding, and functional anatomy as a foundation for healthy breeding practices. She teaches genetics and anatomy in the training of canine conformation judges.

Astrid Indrebø is a conformation judge and has been a breeder of Newfoundland dogs for more than 20 years.



## Abstract

The goal in dog breeding is functionally healthy dogs with a construction and a mentality typical to the breed, dogs that will live a long and happy life to the benefit and pleasure of the owner and the society as well as to the dog itself. Knowledge, education, honesty and cooperation are keys to achieve this goal. We must learn to talk with each other, not only about each other.

It is basic and of uttermost importance that only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation, should be used for breeding; i.e. to only use dogs that do not suffer from any serious disease or functional disabilities (FCI Breeding Strategies). The right mating combination is just as important, maybe even more important, than selection of the individual dog for breeding.

The main point in breeding is to get healthy offspring. There are, and will probably always be, genetic diseases in every breed – in all animal species. We cannot eradicate every gene that might result in a disease. Regulations and restrictions in dog breeding should be based on scientific and practical knowledge as well as common sense.

Strict breeding regulations do not necessary result in healthy dogs, but may in fact have the opposite effect. Stringent demands in eradication programmes might actually eradicate the best breeders and excellent breed representatives – instead of the disease. It is not enough to take only some details into consideration when selecting dogs for breeding; both the individual dog and the breed must be looked upon in its entirety. Genetic diversity is vital for any breed. The “popular sire syndrome” is probably the most serious “disease” in modern dog breeding