



**International Federation Of Rottweilerfriends  
Internationale Föderation der Rottweilerfreunde  
Federación Internacional De Amigos Del Rottweiler**

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## **Report of the IFR-Meeting dd. 07 – 08 july 2018 Wohlen, Switzerland.**

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The following Member clubs were represented (in alphabetical order) : Belgium, China, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the Netherlands.<sup>1</sup> Italy gave a proxy to vote to Mr. Friedrich. The following clubs that sent an application for membership were allowed to attend although they are not a member of the IFR and so of course they had no vote and/or input : RKNA, NBRC, Croatia.

The meeting was chaired by D. Vandecasteele who also wrote the present minutes.

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### **1. Welcome by the IFR-president**

All representatives were welcomed. They were given a handout of the power-point presentation that was sent to them a few days before the meeting and a copy of the IFR-publication "*A Laymans Walk Through Basic Canine Genetics, genetic diseases and the correlation with a reduced genetic diversity of the breed*".

The president of the Swiss club was thanked for the material organization of the event.

### **2. Change of the FCI-breed standard.**

Before the actual meeting starts, the chairman introduces Prof. P. Friedrich, representing the ADRK, who presented the proposal by the ADRK for a change in the FCI breed standard. The proposal was accepted by the FCI standard committee.

Prof. Friedrich gives an overview of the changes by means of a PP-Presentation.

The adjusted standard will shortly be published on the FCI website [www.fci.be](http://www.fci.be) and will as of then be official and applicable.

Some highlights are the ratio's on the head to be about 40/60 while a shorter muzzle will be seen as a fault, the deletion of the statement that the breed is fond of children, the statement that the breed shows alertness but to be even tempered, the severe mollosoid type is faulty, too much wrinkles are a severe fault, etc. ... .

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<sup>1</sup> All Member clubs had been invited timely and repeatedly.



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### **3. Introduction of the meeting.**

The chairman proceeds with an overview of the IFR's history, its failures and successes. The overview is based on its constitution : purposes / means and instruments / conditions for Membership.<sup>2</sup>

The IFR is not about participating the World Championship and/or the World Show but about breeding (and then keeping) the Rottweiler, world wide with homogeneity and creating a global trustworthy / credible genepool.

This is even a necessity for the survival of the breed in view of “recent” understanding of the implications of the ever more reduced genetic diversity of the breed.

The IFR is meant to be a federation of Rottweiler clubs who oblige themselves to strive at homogeneity in breeding and keeping the Rottweiler, so the breed will world wide answer to the same definition (in body and mind) and will allow for a trustworthy free

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<sup>2</sup> The goal of the IFR is to worldwide align the breeding of the Rottweiler with the requirements of human and animal living together, this both with respect for the demands proper to modern and future society and yet without loss of the original physical characteristics and traits of character of the Rottweiler as defined by the FCI-breed- standard. These traits of character consist in a high confidence of character, a sociable behaviour in the family and society and the aptitude of a utility dog.

The IFR considers it of prime importance to introduce, continue or intensify efforts, in order to breed exclusively with dogs that are healthy in body and mind, with a self-assured nature, a well-balanced nervous condition and a sufficiently high stimulus threshold.

For this, all members of the IFR commit themselves to:

- introduce and organize tests of social acceptable behaviour.
- introduce and impose breeding regulations to ensure that a minimal conformation of all breeding dogs to the FCI breed-standard is guaranteed. These breeding regulations must concern the health of the dogs and their physical and mental conformation to the FCI breed-standard. Part of these regulations must be the successful participation of all breeding dogs to breed suitability tests. The member clubs will decide themselves on the form and content of the test but these must be directed toward the definition of the Rottweiler as mentioned in the FCI-breed standard.

To attain its goals, the IFR will amongst other efforts attentively follow all development in the fields of canine sport and training and will timely try to influence all such developments to ensure the preservation, in casu the keeping and breeding, of the Rottweiler as the strong utility dog defined by the FCI breed standard whose breed specific character allows him to function in a social acceptable manner. In doing so, particular attention must not only be given to traditional defense training but also to other canine (FCI-accepted or acceptable) activities which are also suitable to recognize, preserve and put to use the traits of a strong utility breed.

To attain its goals, a close cooperation between the breeding associations of the respective countries, especially those organs that have the most responsibilities on breeding (breed specialized judges, breed wardens) shall be organized, both at international and at regional or national level, in order to improve the health of the Rottweiler population, to ensure homogeneity in the worldwide interpretation of the breed-standard and to agree on the setting of priorities in the keeping and breeding of the Rottweiler.

When new findings concerning the Rottweiler breed exist, the convention of the IFR and/or its regulations should be revised.

The continuous dealing with specialized questions on breeding and keeping as well as compliance with FCI regulations must be guaranteed in the member countries.

The IFR can and will organize all activities deemed necessary and/or useful to attain its goals, inclusive the organization of dog shows, canine sportive activities, seminars, lectures, publications, etc. .... To ensure a more direct and effective organization and influence at regional levels, regional structures can be established or recognized.



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exchange of genes / breeding dogs without the risk of harming the breed's conformation or health.

Over a long period, a strictly controlled trustworthy genetic pool must be created. For this, all breeding dogs, with no exceptions, must mandatory comply to breeding regulations / breed standard / health standards.

This must be based on strict testing for :

- Health (HD / ED)
- Conformation to the standard : physical + character
- Particular attention for social behaviour.

The considerations that were laid before the Meeting of Delegates in 2017 and that were then discussed by the IFR-Board and are the reason why the present meeting is organized, can be summarized as follows :

- That the IFR was founded and exists to ensure that the Rottweiler is world wide bred and kept homogeneously, answering to the definition of the breed as held by the FCI-breed standard nr. 147.
- That the purpose of the IFR is to be understood as a shared concern of all Member clubs and that the willingness to cooperate to achieve this goal is an essential condition for Membership
- That realisation came that the IFR-Board cannot and will never have the executive powers to intervene in the breeding regulations / strategies of Member clubs and that achieving the IFR's purposes will therefore not be achieved by the IFR's activities as such but will depend solely on the willingness of all Member clubs themselves to work towards these common goals in the homogeneous way that is to be defined by the Federation (= form of cooperation).
- That breeding exclusively with dogs of whom the physical and mental conformity with the breed standard and the physical and genetic health has been proven, is an essential instrument, even a condition for Membership, as was unanimously decided upon by the Meeting of Delegates in 2011 (Moscow) and is now explicitly reflected in the IFR-Constitution :

*The IFR considers it of prime importance to introduce, continue or intensify efforts, in order **to breed exclusively** with dogs that are healthy in body and mind, with a self-assured nature, a well-balanced nervous condition and a sufficiently high stimulus threshold.*



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*For this, all members of the IFR commit themselves to:*

- *introduce and organize tests of social acceptable behaviour.*
  - *introduce and impose breeding regulations to ensure that a minimal conformation of all breeding dogs to the FCI breed-standard is guaranteed. These breeding regulations must concern the health of the dogs and their physical and mental conformation to the FCI breed-standard. Part of these regulations must be the successful participation of all breeding dogs to breed suitability tests. The member clubs will decide themselves on the form and content of the test but these must be directed toward the definition of the Rottweiler as mentioned in the FCI-breed standard.*
- That a mandatory compliance to those constitutional conditions is the essential instrument to achieve the IFR's goals and is also inherent to IFR-Membership.
  - That the Meeting of Delegates dd. 2017 therefore decided that a meeting would be organized to complete the apparently too abstract criteria mentioned in the constitution so there can be no more misunderstanding about the mandatory nature of compliance to the conditions for IFR-Membership and the content of the obligations brought by IFR-Membership.
  - That the inventory presented to Meeting of Delegates dd. 2017 and repeated at the Meeting dd. 07 – 08 July in Wohlen was based on the ADRK's regulations, being the not questioned nor disputed regulations to define and preserve the breed - proves :
    - that not all Member clubs are willing to cooperate and some even refuse to send a (translated) text of their breeding regulations and breed suitability tests.
    - that not all Member clubs have breeding regulations and/or organize breed suitability tests nor tests of social behaviour.
    - that as far as breeding regulations / breed suitability tests do exist, that these regulations and tests :
      - are not always mandatory for all the members of Member clubs and are therefore not efficacious and not of a nature to have a positive influence on an important part of the breed population. This while the IFR-constitution demands that **all** breeding dogs answer to these conditions and not just those whose owners do so voluntarily.



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- are not always complete as they do not all demand tests of social behaviour nor a proven mental and physical conformity nor a proven physical and/or genetic health. Example : no examination on HD / ED.
- That it seems that in fact only a minority of Member clubs comply to the IFR Constitution and actively strive to achieve the Federation's purpose.
- That a non compliance by IFR-Members to conditions imposed by IFR-constitution is to be understood as to be totally unacceptable :
  - this is in contradiction to the conditions for membership
  - this is a negation of the interest of the breed and of the said shared concern for the breed's conformity and health. It is therefore a negation of the very core of the IFR's reason of existence.
  - the need to comply has become higher than ever, given the recent establishment of both deviations from the standard and of the reduced genetic diversity in the breed (which leads to genetic disorders) :
    - the need for a more homogeneous understanding of the breed's definition and of criteria for breed suitability.
    - the need to be able to freely exchange breeding animals, which is only possible if all breeding animals are correctly identified and were tested on their physical / mental / genetic health and conformity and this in a more or less homogeneous and reciprocal accepted credible manner.

Compliance by all Member clubs is not only in the interest of the breed on national levels but is on the long term a necessity for all Member clubs to ensure genetic diversity and – as is part of a loud warning in cynology – is **even essential for the breed's survival !**<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Cfr. A Laymans Walk Through Basic Canine Genetics, genetic diseases and the correlation with a reduces genetic diversity of the breed, <http://www.genetics.rottweilerclub.be>



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For the Rottweiler lover, a non-compliance and thus an undermining of the breed's future, may not be an option and is not acceptable.

The chairman outs his regrets that not all Member clubs chose or were able to be present at this extremely important meeting. All that are present immediately state that that this will not stop the present Members and/or those that do comply to the IFR-constitution to actively proceed.

#### **4. Sequence of discussions**

An overview of the agenda of the day is sketched and is based on the constitutional conditions for membership :

- organization of tests of social behaviour
- mandatory breeding regulations (mandatory for all member clubs and all their members)
- mandatory breed suitability tests
- issuing certification of international breed suitability by the IFR itself or at least recognition by the IFR
- discussion on new and/or continued Membership.

#### **5. Tests of social behaviour.**

There is unanimous agreement that social behaviour :

- is part of the breed's definition.
- is essential to prove the breed's ability to function and preserve its place in human society and to maintain its acceptable public image (and prevent breed specific legislation).
- is partly based on education and experiences but in an important measure also on genetic factors.

Testing all breeding dogs on their social behaviour prior to breeding with them is therefore a necessity in all breeding strategies.

As imposed by the IFR-Constitution, all Member clubs **must** organize tests of social behaviour. They **must be part of breeding regulations**.



### 5.1. Formal requirements.

- The tests of social behaviour can be organized as separate tests but preferably as a part of the club's breed suitability tests.

The latter is in particular the case when the breed suitability test (BST) holds protection work (bite work). In that case, a test of social behaviour **must** mandatory be part of the test and follow the protection work.

- Minimum age to participate the test is 12 months, preferably 18 months. The dog must be old enough to show his definite natural nature.
- Such a test must be organized and available for all members of IFR-member clubs several times a year, preferably every 3 months to ensure that all dogs can participate.
- The test can only be judged by FCI-recognized judges. These can be working judges or judges approved to judge the Rottweiler breed.
- Organizing clubs must be aware of possible responsibilities and the opportunity of insurance-contracts.

### 5.2. Minimal content.

Before the test starts, the dog must be invited to play / move to ensure that the dog is showing normal natural behaviour and is not sedated or under the influence of anything meant to calm him down. We must see playful happy behaviour.

The identity control of the dog is an essential part of the "wesen-test" and must be done by the judge. The handler is however allowed hold the head.

The test must contain as a minimum :

- passing and crossing a group of people (strangers to the dog),
- the group closing on the dog
- behaviour of the dog while participating in daily traffic (human and motorized)

The dog must show to be stable and manageable in all situations and during all confrontations with humans, other dogs. He must undergo all stimuli proper to daily traffic without showing fear, aggression or in general unwanted or socially unacceptable behaviour.



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The chairman refers to the draft of an example of such a test as was discussed at the Meeting of Delegates (MOD) in 2017 and in which these criteria were used. A copy is attached to the present document.

### **5.3. Diploma.**

In case of successful participation of the test, a diploma must be issued. It must be signed by the judge and must mention his full name, place and date of the test.

Printing the IFR logo on the diploma is possible and even advised to ensure its image and public value but only :

- If the regulations of the test have the prior approval by the IFR
- if the Member club certifies and guarantees – and is able to proof – that these regulations were followed to the full, that the dog was identified before the test and has participated effectively.
- the diploma is signed both by the officiating judge as by a representative of the Member club.
- the judge has the prior approval / recognition by the IFR for this.

Suggestion : prior participation by the judge to an IFR seminar on such tests. Possibly a first such seminar will be organized next year in Denmark at the occasion of the World Championship / Meeting of Delegates. Such seminars can be organized on regional basis, for instance at the occasion of shows, with prior consent of the IFR and if given by IFR recognized judges for this.

## **6. Breeding regulations and breed suitability tests.**

### **6.1. Prior to discussions, a demonstration is given of the following BST's :**

- Danish mental test
- Belgian (BRK) test
- Swiss test (test prior to the ZtP).

### **6.2. Mandatory nature.**

The IFR constitution explicitly demands that all Member clubs issue and impose breeding regulations to their members and must organize breed suitability tests as part of these breeding regulations. Compliance to these regulations, including participation to breed suitability tests, is mandatory before a dog is allowed to breed.

This is based on a unanimous decision by the Meeting of Delegates dd. 2011.



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All arguments to dispute this, such as that in many countries such regulations and tests that are issued and organized by the breed club are not sanctioned by the national kennel club so all non-members can still breed and obtain pedigrees for their litters while not complying to those more demanding regulations so competition between breeders is distorted, are rejected as to be irrelevant : such arguments may not detract from one's idealism and concern for the conformity and health of the breed.

IFR-Member clubs must comply to the IFR-constitution even if on the short term this might mean losing members. In the end, quality (conformity and health) will prevail and this must always be the goal.

To help, the IFR should look for means to support all efforts by giving education (f.i. regional seminars) and by giving an added value to compliance so all breeders will want themselves to comply (f.i. publication of results, issue diploma's, recognizing and certifying international breed suitability 7.

### **6.3. Breeding regulations**

#### **6.3.1. Minimal requirements :**

All breeding regulations by all IFR-Member clubs must at minimum demand of their members to breed exclusively with dogs :

- that are minimal 18 months old / max. 9 years old at the date of the breeding <sup>4</sup>
- that have an FCI pedigree mentioning 3 generations.
- that are identified by chip (tattoo is accepted but not advised).
- that were tested and rated on HD and on ED by a veterinarian :
  - o at minimal age 12 months but preferably 15 months
  - o all results must be registered by the national kennelclub
- who passed a breed suitability test organized or recognized by the club.

On a longer term the IFR must consider how to ensure homogeneity in the methods used for the testing of the dog on HD / ED. For this, it must consider recognizing a group of trustworthy veterinarians or to demand that national Member clubs do so. This will be part of further research and discussion.

These requirements must not only concern the dog owned by the member of the respective IFR-Member club but also the dog who is a partner in the breeding, even if that partner is from another country and/or if the owner of that dog is not a member of

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<sup>4</sup> Cfr. Decision by the Meeting of Delegates in 2017 on the minimal age of breeding dogs. A copy of this regulations is attached. A remark is that a maximum of 9 years for a bitch is advisable but not for the male if in good health. This will be on the agenda of the following Meeting of Delegates in 2019 (only concerning the male).



the respective IFR-Member club. The IFR-Member club and its members must indeed take up their moral responsibility for the breed's health, conformation and its future so participation in a breeding that will not ensure the conformity and health of the offspring is not acceptable but must be forbidden and/or penalized.

### **6.3.2. Breed Suitability Tests (in short BST)**

#### **6.3.2.1. Format.**

Breed suitability tests must be actual tests, not a combination of all sorts of parts (ex. a combination of show results + BH does not suffice). The assessment of the dog must be done in one coherent test that covers all physical and mental characteristics of the dog that may have an impact on the dog's breed suitability.

The test must therefore have the format of an actual test that is concluded with the decision : pass / no pass. It must declare the dog to be breed suitable or not breed suitable and may not leave this to the will of the breeder. A mere assessment or evaluation of the dog's characteristics is therefore not sufficient.

#### **6.3.2.2. Written report - credibility.**

Of each individual test, a written report must be made.

These reports must :

- preferably show a photo of the dog and handler at the test.
- certify that the dog's identity was controlled by the judge and found to be correct.
- mention a detailed physical and mental assessment of the dog :
  - o detailed description of the dog, incl. measurements of the dog done by the judge (height, length, chest depth, chest circumference, proportions of muzzle / skull, eye color), the nature and completeness of dentition, etc. ... .
  - o detailed report of the behaviour of the dog during each part of the mental test.
- be made and signed by the judge and a representative of the IFR-Member club.
- a copy must be kept by the IFR Member club. These reports must be available for and communicated to (in original language) all IFR Member clubs who would



ask for a copy. All participants must agree in writing (entry form) that the report will be available for publication and and/or communication.

### **6.3.2.3. Minimal content of the BST.**

The meeting agrees that it is not opportune to make a uniform BST at this very moment, although the possibility, opportunity or even the need do so in the future is not excluded.

Still, to ensure that the BST's organized by IFR-Member clubs comply, the following decision is made :

- all clubs will be asked – again – to send a translated text of their breeding regulations (BR) and BST. A video of the complete must also be sent.
- a committee is to be founded (3 – 4 persons) who are interested and knowledgeable on BST's. They will appreciate all tests and will state if these comply to all wanted criteria or not.

Still, it is clear that each test must at least contain the following routines :

- gunshot to test if the dog is shot shy.
- crowd test (slow / fast closing group – market situation - ...)
- testing the dog's reactions on all sorts of external stimuli.
- a confrontation of the dog with persons in friendly and/or in situations (emphasis must be laid on the ability to change drives and regain balance)<sup>5</sup>.
- a confrontation of the dog with other dogs
- testing the prey drive of the dog.
- social part in traffic

Emphasis must be laid on social behaviour, thus all traits that influence or prove the dog's ability (or lack of ability) to function in a social acceptable manner. For this, a part of the BST must be organized in daily traffic.

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<sup>5</sup> In some BST's protection work is exchanged for a routine with a strong threat on the dog, for example by attacking the dog with a stick without the dog actually bite the sleeve. The routine is meant to check taxability and hardness but especially the ability to change drives and regain balance. This is acceptable if the threat is not exaggerated. During the demonstration of the Belgian test there was an exaggerated threat but a movie of the actual test shows an acceptable threat. The Belgian test is done without bite sleeve while in Holland a full bite suite is used and in S. Africa and Australia the attack happens with an IPO-sleeve (but without actual biting the sleeve). The question is if the dog then shows a natural reaction on a threat or a conditioned reaction (prey drive) on the sleeve.



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The following criteria must be part of judging these routines and must be recognizable in the judging forms and the report (and where opportune motivated) :

- manageability under all circumstances
- taxability – hardness
- self-assuredness and alertness
- soundness of the dog's reactions on all external stimuli
- social behaviour.

In no circumstances may the dog show to be overly aggressive or shy.

#### **6.3.2.4. Protection work or not ?**

Must bite work (= man work or protection work) necessarily be part of a BST ?

This is a very complex discussion.

First of all : when considering bite or protection work, all work based on aggression is to be excluded and forbidden. When referring to bite or protection work, only sportive work is to be considered such as part C of the IPO-program (IGP) as this demands an ultimate control on the dog, a clear and immediate controlled change of drives and is based on prey drive and not on unwanted aggression. Only routines that are socially acceptable can be considered.

Arguments pro having protection work as part of the test are : recognition and preservation of the drives necessary for this work in a sportive and socially acceptable manner. The breed standard states him to be an excellent service and working dog and the FCI demands an IPO title for the championship, so testing on these characteristics is a must. What we do not recognize and emphasize in breeding goes lost ... cfr. split working / beauty lines.

Arguments contra having protection work as part of the test are : bite work is mostly conditioned behaviour, proves mostly only prey-drive and not true natural courage (?) while the real (genotypic / natural) nature of the dog, its courage, ability to change drives, its hardness, taxability, can be proven in other ways.

A point of discussion is the fact that the Rottweiler is being held more as a pet than as an actual working dog. Should we adjust to this ? Or do we stick to the definition of the breed as before all else a utility breed but that is also social and has its place in the family.

If we are true to the breed, there is no choice : the breed standard defines the breed as a working dog, in particular suited to be used as a working dog ("diensthund").



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The preservation of the traits of the Rottweiler as a utility breed is even part of the IFR's purposes and reason of existence.

The characteristics to define and/or enable the dog to function as a working dog are - although of course influenced by education and/or experiences – genetic by nature.

The at least minimal presence of these characteristics must therefore be tested for while appreciating the dog's breed suitability. Otherwise these genetics will go lost, which would harm the dog's conformity. What we do not emphasize in breeding goes lost and to emphasize a trait, one must know, recognize and then measure for their presence.

This is not in contradiction with the establishment that most Rottweilers are kept as a pet : a dog with the traits that enable him to function as a working dog, can also be a pet. In fact the best working dog will be a social dog as he is able to appreciate a situation as to be threatening or not. A strong well balanced working dog will have a high threshold towards stimuli in daily life as he will not experience those to be threatening, especially not as – in particular if he is well trained - those stimuli will not trigger his conditioned reactions on threats.

The fact that a majority of Rottweilers live as pets, may therefore not be decisive when deciding on protection work to be a necessary part of a BST or not : a BST is meant to preserve the breed's characteristics, not to change or adjust them.

The general conclusion is that all BST's, with or without protection work, must preserve the Rottweiler as a strong, well balanced and even tempered breed. Both tests – with or without bite work - must therefore be complete and both must ensure these traits.

It is understood that demanding man work in all BST's would be unrealistic. Not only does protection work demand a high effort to train the dog that not all breeders will invest, but cultural, political, legal and geographic reasons may moreover even prevent or forbid training the dog for protection work !

Also, the same drives that enable the dog to do protection work, can be identified and graded by means of other routines than biting a sleeve.

Best solution is to allow the organization of the BST in two formats : one with and one without protection work, but both tests must test for the same characteristics.

We need homogeneity and we must prevent a genetic split of the breed in two directions ! Both tests must therefore have equal merits.

This can and must be solved by ensuring that :



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- all parts of the tests that do not consist out of protection work must show this homogeneity (cfr. ut supra : minimal criteria in the BST)
- man work may be understood as an instrument to recognize and preserve the characteristics of the working dog and so a BST that does not contain protection work can and must therefore at the very least hold routines that equal or come near testing the same drives / traits needed for man work and this as close as possible (the dominant will and courage to engage and answer a confrontation, based on prey drive and free of unwanted aggression).

Conclusion :

- BST's in both formats – a test with and without protection work – are acceptable.
- both formats must test for the same characteristics so homogeneity is ensured as much as possible and their conclusions are then of equal merit.
- if there is no actual protection work in the BST, then at least a test of the dog's prey drive is to be part of the routines and this in a confrontation with strange persons. Ex. by provoking the dog with a sleeve or inviting the dog to play with a toy (bag / bite sausage, ... ).

A dog that lacks the necessary prey drive during such testing but shows free behaviour with absolutely no fear / mistrust / uncertainty towards the third person, must at the very least show a high liveliness and alertness to be able to pass the test.

- all BST's – especially if with bite work – should hold a part that is in particular meant to judge the dog's social behaviour in normal daily traffic. Example : the social part of the BH after protection work is finished.
- if a dog is totally inactive during a BST and not responsive to stimuli, then he should be declared "unable to be judged".

#### **6.3.2.5. Judges.**

No test is better than its judge. Essential is the quality and credibility of the judge.

It is clear that a BST must be judged by FCI-judges recognized for the breed.

Still, judging breed suitability demands more than knowledge of the wording of the breed standard but demands thorough knowledge and experience of the breed to be



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able to recognize, appreciate and rate the dog's true, thus genetic, nature and potentials.

The meeting unanimously agrees that the IFR must be able and daring enough to make a list of judges who are recognized to judge BST's.

The idea is again to demand participation to IFR-judges seminars, these possibly to be organized annually or at least every 2 years at the occasion of the Meeting of Delegates. At such seminars, the candidates would for example be asked to demonstrate and explain their national tests and motivate their decisions on a dog's breed suitability.

The Board will work further on this proposal and will report for the next Meeting of Delegates.

#### **6.3.2.6. IFR-certified diploma.**

A uniform diploma, mentioning the IFR logo may be issued to all dogs that pass a BST on condition that :

- the member Club's breeding regulations and breed suitability test were prior approved by the IFR (cfr. ut supra).
- the judge was approved / recognized by the IFR to judge the BST.
- the member club guarantees that all conditions are met (ut supra).
- control is possible on the credibility of the dog effectively having been identified and having participated the test.

#### **7. Education and other.**

The opportunity of a professionalization was discussed of :

- the IFR-judges and breed warden seminar
- the means of communication by the IFR-Board, ex. magazine, social media (extremely important)

The chairman reminds that the IFR-Board has the possibility to organize regional activities, including seminars (regional is f.i. Asia, Latin America, ...) and that this can be part of the before mentioned decisions concerning the recognition of judges.



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The remark follows if the IFR should not adjust its policy of mentioning all judges on the IFR-website that are said by their respective clubs to be breed specialists and at the very least refuse to let them judge at IFR-events..

Reference is made to the fact that some of these judges clearly judge on basis of personal preferences and reward dogs that strongly deviate from the standard and the fact that some even openly declare to understand the standard as a mere non-binding guideline that does not make it impossible to judge solely based on personal opinions / preferences.

There is a unanimous agreement on the need to intervene. The chairman reminds that this has been a topic of discussion before (in the margin of the Meeting of Delegates in 2017) and that a proposal on this very delicate issue will be discussed and brought before the next Meeting of Delegates.

Another question in the margin of the meeting is if participation to the IFR World Show should not be limited to members of IFR-Member clubs. This might have individual Rottweiler breeders/lovers put pressure on their national clubs to adhere to the IFR and which would then imply that these clubs would have to comply to the constitution.

## **8. The Danish Mental Test in detail.**

The Danish Delegate, Mr. Carsten Henriksen, who also introduced and led the demonstration of the test, now went into detail on the structure of the test and the way it is judged.

Basically, the dog's reactions are judged and then mapped in the outlines of the breed's definition (definition made by charting the borders of the breed specific presence of characteristics such as the hunting drive, the threshold before showing a reaction of flight or becoming aggressive, ...).

Far more than a very detailed assessment of the dog's nature and mental traits, the test has proven to be an effective instrument to :

- enable breeders to know the individual characteristics of their dogs and to judge the opportunity to breed the dog with other individual dogs so to be able to emphasize or fend certain genetic traits in the offspring.
- enable to give direction towards wanted (and away from unwanted) characteristics by slightly shifting those outlines of breed specific characteristics and because of this giving another final appreciation of the dog's behaviour and influencing the decision on the opportunity of crossing certain dogs.



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The representative of the ADRK adds that the ZtP has shown to have the same influence.

### **9. IFR certification of international breed suitability.**

The meeting has decided on issues that concern national regulations, incl. breed suitability tests that must lead to the creation of a wide controlled and therefore trustworthy pool of breeding dogs.

This is work on the long term.

To work on a short term also, the meeting accepts the idea that the IFR may issue a certificate of international breed suitability to individual dogs.

This would be a prestigious certificate and would stimulate individual breeders to comply to the IFR's wishes – and the need of all Rottweiler lovers – to breed exclusively with dogs whose health and conformity was certified and found to be breed suitable.

The certification is to be based on criteria that are decided upon by the IFR. These criteria may and probably will transcend the minimal criteria decided upon to be mandatory part of national regulations, must include passing an IFR-Breed Suitability Test that is proper to the IFR and includes protection work and is judged only by judges who are in particular approved for this by the IFR. The certification will require a very strict control to ensure perfect credibility.

Loose ideas :

- FCI-Pedigree with at least 3 generations,
- DNA – identification
- Identification by micro chip
- Minimal age 18 months
- Minimal health requirements concerning HD / ED / JLPP (incl. decision on the method of testing and the persons qualified to judge the results).
- Having passed the IFR-BST + an IFR accepted assessment of social behaviour.

Such IFR-BST might of course also be accepted as part of national regulations.

The Board is asked to work further on this idea and to lay it before the next Meeting of Delegates and if possible even before to all Delegates.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> A discussion in the margin concerns working out a way of discussion / decision-making in between Meeting of Delegates so not to lose time. The chairman is in contact with the president of the Norwegian Rottweiler club who might have ideas about this. At this moment, the IFR-Board uses online instruments to meet such as Doodle and Skype, which works perfectly and efficiently. The Skype program will however probably not allow organizing a Meeting of Delegates of more than 30 persons so other means of discussion / voting must be searched for.



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## **10. Applications for new membership – continuance of Membership.**

It was clear that all present representatives of Member clubs unanimously agree that IFR-Membership does not come free but brings the obligation to comply to the constitutional conditions for Membership.

The meeting was asked for a free and non-binding discussion (only the Meeting of Delegates is competent on the issue) about the position to take when an existing Member club does not or does no longer comply to the conditions for Membership.

The chairman explains that in the past, Members were accepted in the hope that this would automatically bring them to respect the constitution that they then must subscribe, while reality has proven differently. The current Board, has refused all applications for provisional Membership if not all conditions are fulfilled to the full !

There is at this moment no demand, request or suggestion to terminate existing Memberships although the constitution would allow for this.<sup>7</sup> Still, a free – non binding – discussion might be useful while preparing the following Meeting of Delegates.

An idea might be a change of the constitution by creating different levels of Membership, by example :

- full Members : meet all minimal requirements (or one minor deviation ... ?). They enjoy full Membership with all its rights.
- conditional Members : are Members of whom it is established that they do not or no longer meet all minimal requirements but who are willing to engage themselves to evolve to the situation that they will follow all rules within a period of ... years (example : 5 years). May participate all events but have no right to vote in the MOD and/or other organs, nor the right to nominate candidates for the Board.

Without taking a decision nor having been invited to do so, all present at the meeting agree that compliance to the constitution is mandatory for all Members and share the opinion that such proposal as above must therefore be prepared and discussed at the following Meeting of Delegates.

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<sup>7</sup> Art. 3,5 : “ Membership is terminated if : ... a lack of interest is shown by the member country for its relationship with the IFR and its cooperation towards the goals of the IFR.”



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The Meeting was closed on 08.07.2018, approx. at 12.30 h after a warm thank you word for the Swiss club and its team for the organization of the meeting.

On behalf of the Board,

D. Vandecasteele.