

Prerequisites and procedures for recognition of breeds and varieties



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To be addressed

How to avoid breeds being divided up by e.g. size, colour and coat?

Breeds versus varieties of the same breed.

Is it beneficial to make new breeds out of those already existing?

Are there alternatives to international recognition?

Could molecular genetic tools be used for guidance?

How to avoid breeds being divided up by e.g. size, colour and coat?

....or nationality

- We have hundreds of breeds recognized by FCI – and a lot recognized nationally
- An increase of breeds that look alike
 - Narrow gene pool
- Political or ethnical reasons

How to avoid breeds being divided up by e.g. size, colour and coat – or nationality?

- Same breed in different countries – but kept as separate populations, due to distances in travel
 - International exchange should be encouraged
- Should avoid separation in show types and working type
 - keep the doors open to interbreeding between these different types
- A global education of judges in this matter is essential
 - for guidance to breeders
 - and to prevent exaggerations

How to avoid breeds being divided up by e.g. size, colour and coat – or nationality?

- Discourage creating national varieties of other countries recognized breeds
- Discourage crossbreeding of FCI recognized breeds to create “new” national breeds
- National varieties of unique breeds that have a long recorded history should of course still be able to apply for recognition
- It has to be remembered that having an international recognized breed is of high status in many countries

How to avoid breeds being divided up by e.g. size, colour and coat – or nationality?

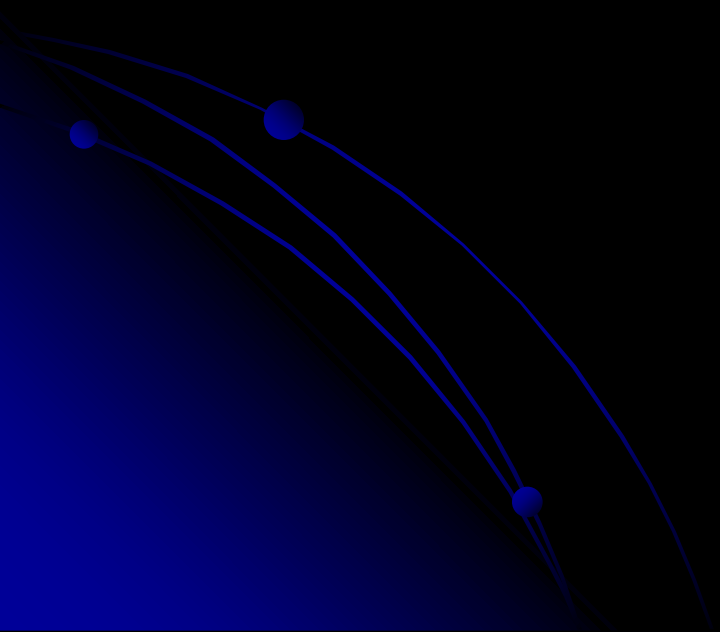
- There are approaches to merge currently existing recognized regional or national breeds as varieties under a single breed designation.
- DNA analysis can be utilized to define breeds and varieties
 - but one should be aware that this could enable breed specific legislation
- DNA analysis is under rapid development
 - but a breed should not only be defined by molecular characterization

How to avoid breeds being divided up by e.g. size, colour and coat – or nationality?

- FCI permits interbreeding between varieties when needed for promoting health and genetic diversity (FCI General Assembly 2011)
- Interbreeding between varieties can produce atypical coats or colours which should not be excluded from breeding in the interest of genetic diversity

Breeds versus varieties of the same breed

- Varieties should be kept as varieties and not separated into breeds



Is it beneficial to make new breeds out of those already existing?

- 100% said **NO!**
- It's better to save an already existing breed with infusion of new genetic material
 - instead of creating a new breed from a small founding population

Are there alternatives to international recognition?

- The alternative is a *national recognition* with an open register
- For international recognition there should be extended rules, including:
 - 20 years minimum as a national registered breed
 - Known health status, based on *official health screening results* for a *majority* of the population (>50%) for at least 3 generations
- There should be enough genetic diversity to provide a sustainable and healthy future

Could molecular genetic tools be used for guidance?

- Yes!
- Modern molecular genetic analysis should be used to characterize varieties and breeds
- A common international databank for storage of molecular genetic data (genotypes) should be encouraged

Conclusions

- Improvement of health and diversity can be obtained by crossing varieties and potentially by combining breeds that are genetically related
- No new breeds should be created from already existing breeds
- New varieties may be accepted but should not be encouraged
- Molecular tools can be used to characterize breeds and varieties and genotypes gathered in a common databank