



Norsk
Kennel Klub
HUNDEEIERNES ORGANISASJON

Extreme breeding – the facts

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What is a dog?

- » Man's best friend 😊
- » Domesticated through the times
- » Not a wolf
- » Not (necessarily) supposed to look like wolves
- » Different types of dogs – original work
- » We still need dog breeds to be able to predict behaviour/function for the right choice of dog for each family/owner
- » Great variation – anatomy and behaviour
- » BUT! Physiological and functional limits
- » The exact limitations remain to be defined – research needed!


Breeding – how does it work?

- » Dog breeding in private homes
- » Mostly a hobby (in many countries)
- » Breeding animals are house pets
- » Few litters (on average) per breeder
- » Need for continuity in breeding strategy and plan
- » Breed clubs are essential
- » Breed specific strategies mandatory for all breeds in Norway
 - good breeding tool

- » Increasing trend:
 - Puppy farms, import of pet dogs (legal/illegal from puppy farms)
 - Breeding outside kennel club system
 - Kennel clubs cannot reach or influence these

Kennel clubs

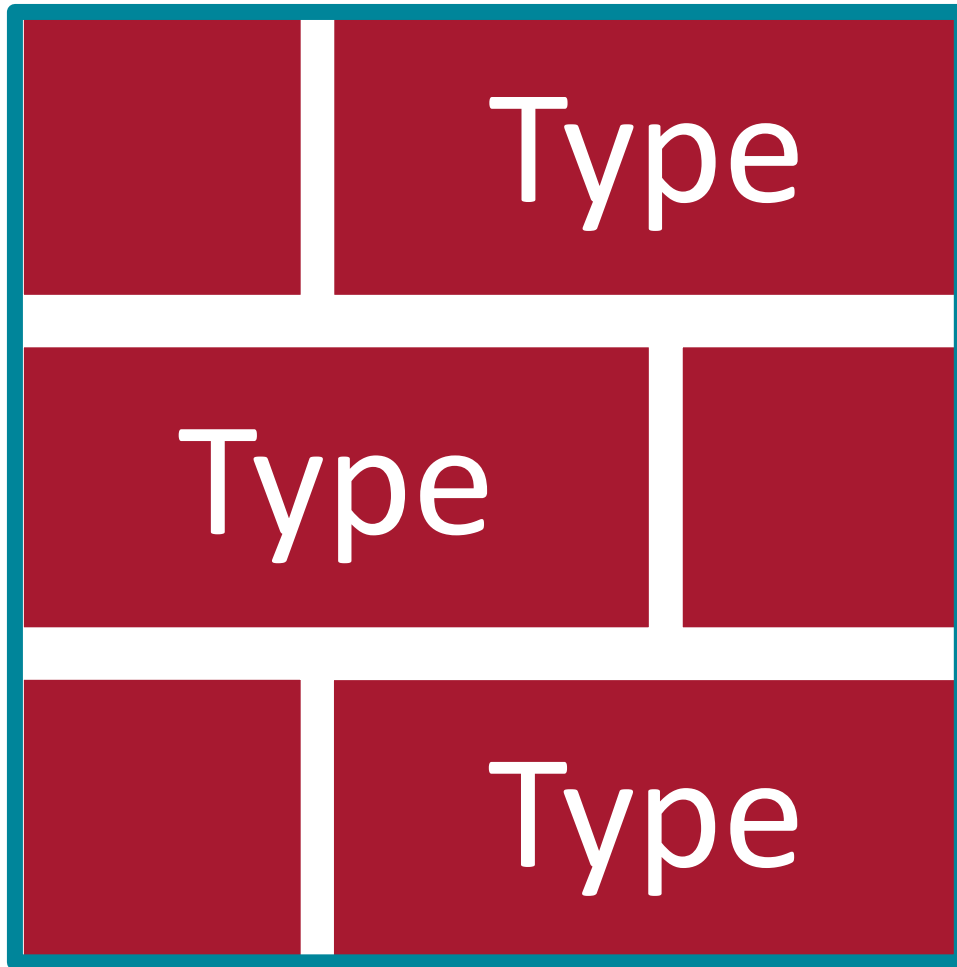
- » Breeding according to a written ***breed standard***
- » Not all can be written in the standard – ***traditions and interpretations are very important***
- » General goal:
 - functional anatomy
 - homogeneity within the breed
- » Shows
- » Working trials
- » Health and mentality testing

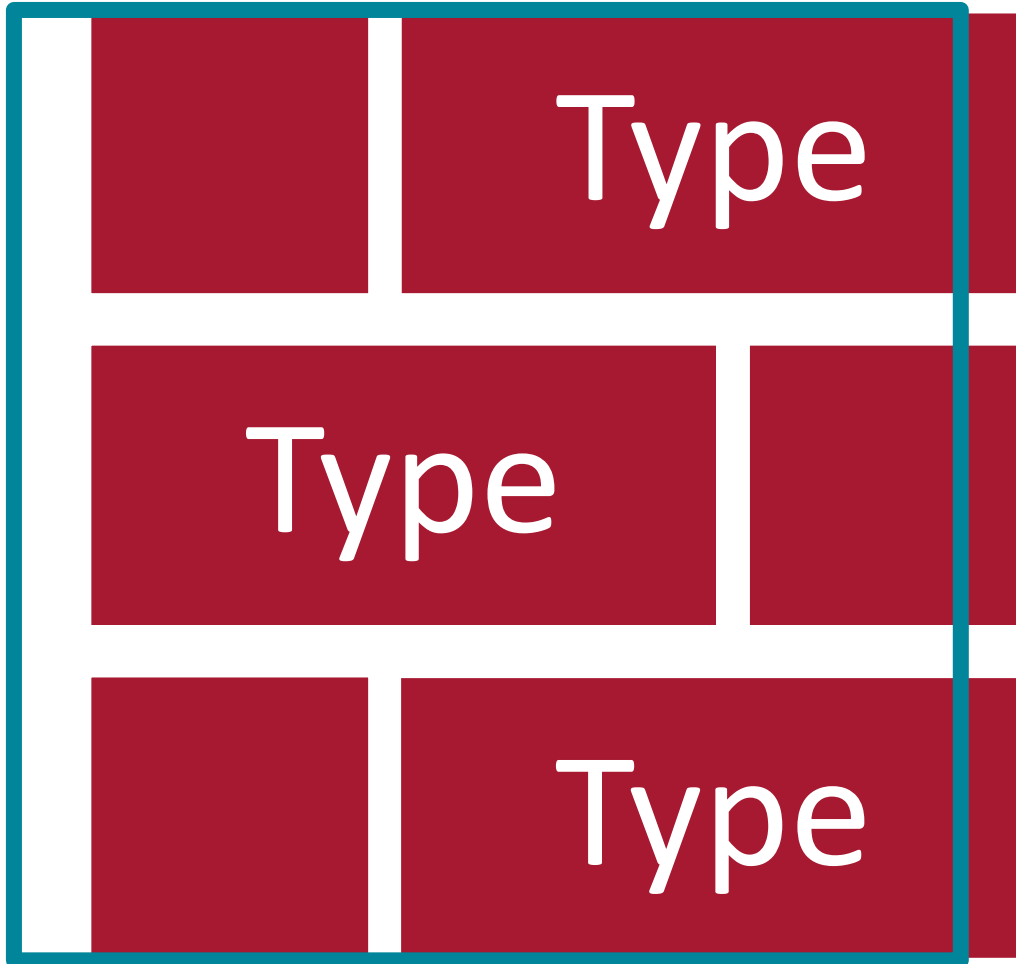
- » Selection/improvement  genetic variation

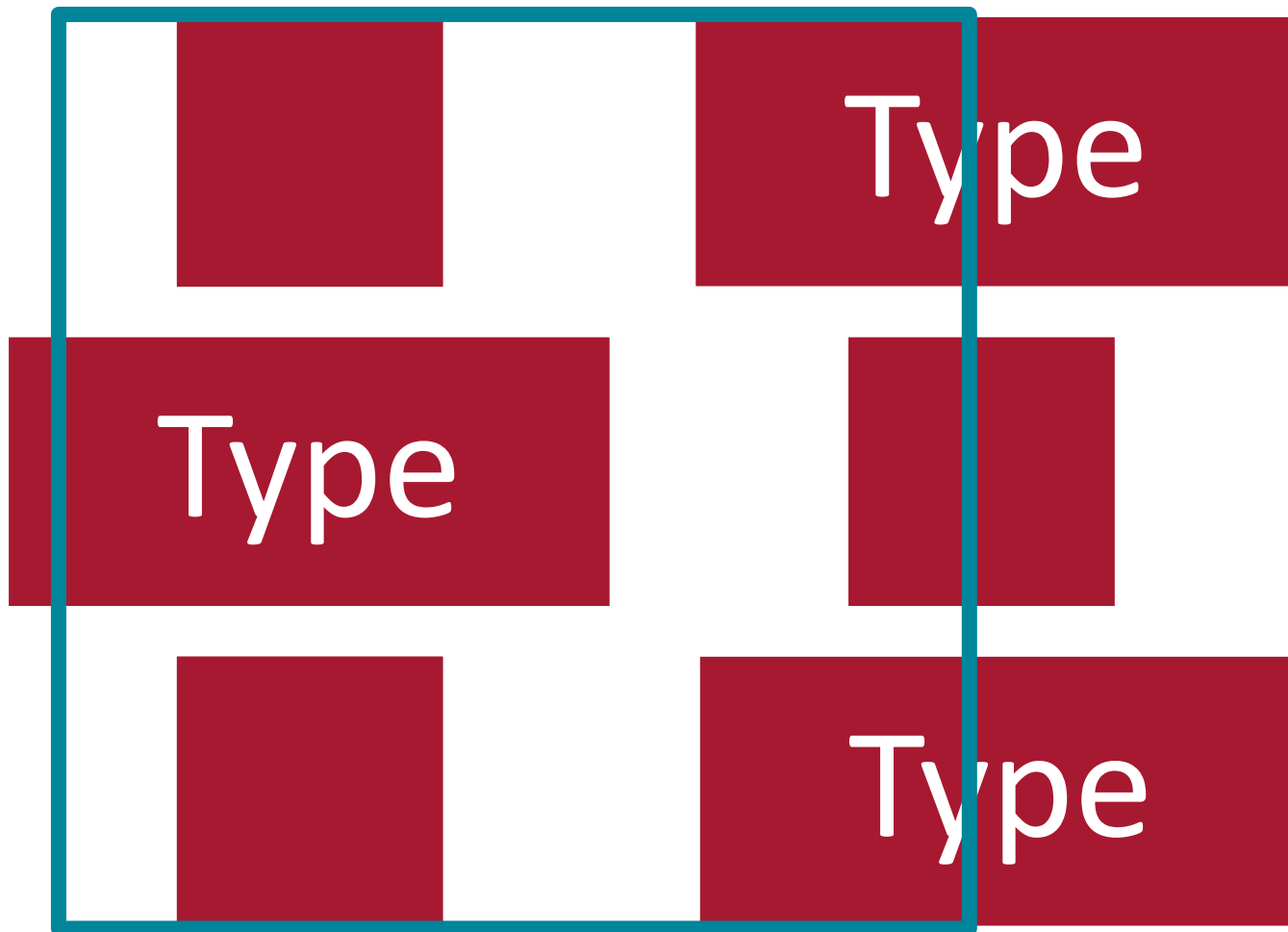
Extreme breeding

- » Great variation in anatomy and behaviour between breeds—originating from ancient work task
- » Formation of today's breeds – originally breeding close relatives and those looking very alike
- » Closing of stud books – no further «genetic input»
- » Dramatic reduction in genetic variation within breed
- » All dogs within the same breed supposed to look alike
- » Through time:
 - Short legs shorter
 - Heavy body heavier
 - Long coat longer
 - Loose skin looser
 - Long ears longer
 - Wrinkles... etc

Dog – the species







Impact on health and welfare

- » There are physiological and functional limits for extreme anatomical traits
- » When limit is reached, the result is threatened function, welfare and health

- » Breed standards are reviewed through the last decades
- » A lot of descriptions more moderate than before
- » Still need for thorough revision

Breed Specific Instructions (BSI) – *regarding exaggerations in pedigree dogs*

- » Program for use in the showring
- » Applies to all Nordic countries (other countries have similar systems)
- » A tool to ensure that show winners have functional anatomy
- » Also important to increase awareness among
 - Show judges
 - Show judge students
 - Breeders
 - Owners
 - The public
- » Education of all stakeholders about sound function and healthy anatomy is extremely important



BSI

- » All breeds are listed per FCI group – the ones with specific instructions are in bold
- » Breed specific texts describing traits that need specific attention



Czechoslovakian Wolfdog (Československý vlčí pes)

Areas of risk are:

1. Behaviour: Aggressiveness, anxiousness and undue shyness. *”Lively, very active, capable of endurance, docile with quick reactions. Fearless and courageous. Suspicious. Shows tremendous loyalty towards his master.”* Breed typical behaviour is to be and respected, but should not prevent social behaviour and accessibility. Uncontrolled aggressive behaviour or panic attempts to flee should motivate disqualification.

German Shepherd Dog (Deutscher Schäferhund)

Areas of risk are:

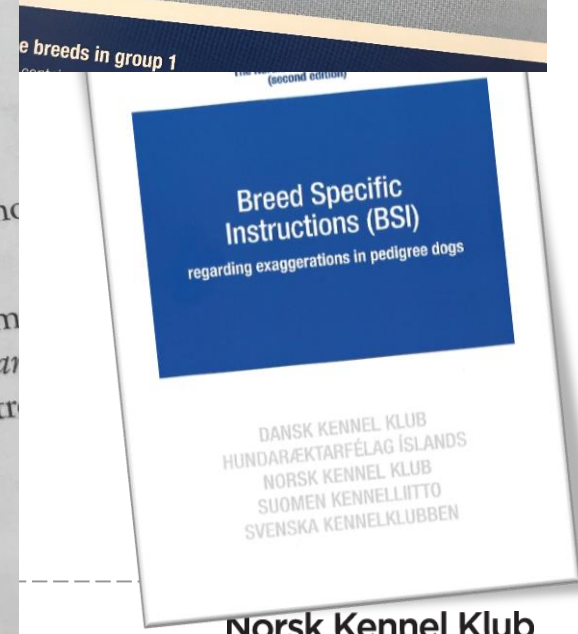
1. Hindquarters: Over-angulated and cow hocked hindquarters with instability in hock
2. Top line: Arched and cut away in loin and croup.

Exaggeration in presentation with extreme handling precludes assessment of the dem standard: *“the position of hind legs is slightly backwards whereby the hind limbs are parallel to other when seen from the rear”*. Evaluation of the movement should be made at both trot and

Saarloos Wolfdog (Saarlooswolfhond)

Areas of risk are:

1. Behaviour: Aggressiveness, anxiousness and undue shyness. *”... with evidence of a proud independent character. Km*



Summary

- » Little genetic variation within breeds
- » Great variation across the dog species!
- » Dogs are not all supposed to look like wolves
- » Kennel clubs/breed clubs work for health and welfare
- » Information to all stakeholders of extreme importance
- » There are functional limitations for extreme anatomy
- » Research is needed to define these limitations

Thank you!

