



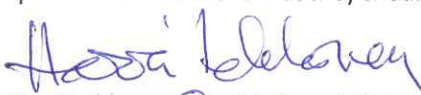
Reykjavík, October 24th, 2018

A joint statement from the Nordic Kennel Union regarding the import of dogs to Iceland

The Icelandic Kennel Club has for years urged Icelandic authorities to reevaluate the risk and the system requiring the four week quarantine of dogs imported to Iceland. Maintaining the measures necessary to protect Iceland from new disease is of utmost importance and we support those that are deemed as such. However, these measures need to be balanced with both the potential risk from the import of pets as well as other means of transmission. The current system is based on an outdated risk assessment from the year 2003, and in that context it is worthy to point out that tourist visits to Iceland have risen from 320.000 visitors in 2003 to 2.224.603 visitors in the year 2017.


The 2003 risk assessment was created by using a methodology of comparing the procedures currently in place with no procedures at all and was conducted by Icelandic specialists that may not have had the outside-in view necessary for such an assessment. We celebrate the fact that a new risk assessment is currently being conducted for the Icelandic authorities by Dr. Preben Willeberg, a highly respected scientist, as well as the fact that caution was taken to select an unbiased outside view that we hope to see in it's pure form when the assessment report is completed and handed over to the authorities.

Should the new risk assesement from Dr. Willeberg confirm that measures other than quarantine suffice for protection, as was found in Cyprus and the United Kingdom, quarantine should be abolished. On the other hand if the new risk assessment confirms that quarantine is indeed necessary, we stress that it will be kept as short as possible and only as long as the risk associated demands. Above all our concern is that the welfare of dogs in quarantine is always the priority and in the name of animal welfare it would be optional to allow owner visits during quarantine. When other measures than the isolation of social animals are available to the same effect as quarantine we believe that they should be preferred.


Harri Lehkonen, Finnish Kennel Club


Pekka Olson, Swedish Kennel Club


Wilfred Olsen, Danish Kennel Club


Herdis Hallmarsdóttir, Icelandic Kennel Club

Wenche Skogli, Norwegian Kennel Club



The Icelandic Kennel Club (HRFÍ) is a member of the Nordic Kennel Union along with the Danish (DKK), Norwegian (NKK), Finnish (FKK) and Swedish (SKK) Kennel clubs.