

## **Icelandic sheepdog – An Icelandic cultural heritage or.... ?**

I have as president of SIFK got knowledge of, that some breeders in the US had started some kind of cooperation. They call themselves ISIB – Icelandic Sheepdog International Breeders - confusingly like ISIC.

As you probably all know, all countries we work together with internationally also are bound up with the Icelandic Sheepdog International Cooperation/ISIC. The international cooperation started 15 years ago. The initiator was the President in the Icelandic kennel club (HRFI) and in the Icelandic breeding club (DIF) as well. The intension with ISIC was to protect the breed as a part of Icelandic culture and in the way it is described in the breed standard by those who are the responsible organization, the Icelandic kennel club.

The breeders within ISIC register their puppies in the kennel club of their home country and they follow the FCI standard.

The home country, the origin country of the Icelandic sheep dog is Iceland, and it is Iceland to take care of the breed. It means that it is only Iceland and the Icelandic kennel club which are responsible for the breed standard. It means that all changes in the standard can only be done and approved by the Icelandic kennel club (HRFI), then approved by FCI.

In the US the AKC "Parent Club" is responsible for the standard, and there cannot be more than one AKC breed club in the same breed.

The AKC Board of Directors voted "to approve the Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America as the official parent club for the Icelandic Sheepdog and to accept the Icelandic Sheepdog into the AKC Stud Book on June 1, 2010. The breed will be eligible to compete in the Herding Group beginning June 30, 2010."

In spite of the fact that today there are about 6000 living Icelandic Sheepdogs totally in the world, our breed still has a rather small base of breed. (There were only a few dogs from the beginning). If the dogs we breed are sold out of FCI countries to breeders who do not respect the AKC and FCI agreements about pedigrees, they are "lost" for the future., and the possibility of genetic variation can be lost. Puppies, and their offspring, registered in a not recognized organization can never be brought back to FCI. They will be looked upon as mixed breed.

In the ISIB home page you can read:

"The Icelandic Sheepdog International Breeders website is a central website providing web addresses for breeders who are willing to import and export Icelandic Sheepdog puppies." Members may be located in any country.

It seems very innocent. The text is very reassuring. But if you click on the links on the ISIB homepage you will find out that at least one of the breeders has made his own standard for the breed. For example: He prefers amber colored eyes on chocolate brown dogs, totally wrong

by the FCI and AKC standard. (Another breeder is planning to breed brown and white Iceland dogs because they are so extremely rare!)

In the US the ISAA is exclusively the club is cooperating with AKC and with ISIC.

If there are people from another country interested to buy a puppy from you, we recommend you contact the official Icelandic Sheepdog club in that country. We can help you with addresses to the boards of the other ISIC countries if you contact our board ([ordforande@islandshunden.se](mailto:ordforande@islandshunden.se) or phone 0150-922 57).

As a breeder it is much safer if the buyer has references from a sister club.

Ami Rooth  
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