



Dear Rottweiler Friends,

We refer to the application by RKNA Canada for IFR-membership and the discussion at the Meeting of Delegates dd. 13.10.2021.

At the precise moment that, as a follow up of the Meeting, we planned to contact the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) and had already drafted a letter to do so, we learn that your representative is publishing messages on social media with a totally erroneous representation of the discussions and decisions at the meeting.

Several Rottweiler lovers sent us copies of these messages that (with strong accusation towards the IFR President) state that there was a dislike of Canada and of all Rottweilers living in Canada, that there exists a deliberate prevention of Canadian dogs being allowed to trial at IFR World Championships, that the IFR wants to have nothing to do with Canada, that Canada is a big problem for the IFR, that the IFR President manipulated the Meeting of Delegates in encouraging how to vote and that he brought issues that were "nonissues" ...

Stating that we read this with great indignation is an understatement!

Whereas the IFR-president strongly resents the insults towards him, both as a person and in his capacity as President, but prefers to discuss the interest of the breed over losing time while discussing untrue messages (we quote him: "Conscia mens recti, fama mendacia ridet"), the IFR Board is not willing to let this situation without consequence.

Please let us know by return email if this person is your spokesperson and has sent these messages on behalf of the RKNA Canada or in own name.

Please also inform us whether this person is still your representative and your contact person for the IFR or not.

Please let us know if this person has forwarded you the Minutes of the Meeting that were (after approval) sent on 30 October 2021.

These messages are extremely untrue and if this is the content that was reported to the board of RKNA Canada, then you will have no knowledge and understanding of the true content of discussions and decisions. As the person was present at the Meeting and has full knowledge of its course and content and has received a copy of the Minutes of the Meeting, it is impossible for the person to have misunderstood and so we must question the person's intentions.

The IFR-Board experiences these messages as an insult, not just to all Board Members but to all IFR Delegates that attended the Meeting: there was absolutely no manipulation and the Meeting nor its members have let themselves be manipulated nor was their vote motivated by manipulation!



To the contrary, all Board members and Delegates received even before the Meeting a copy of all relevant correspondence and at the Meeting itself a very clear and objective report was given about the application and the difficulties that it encounters. Your representative was given the full opportunity to add further info to the report or to complete or correct it should it have been wrong or incomplete.

All Delegates were correctly prepared and able to represent the position of their respective breed clubs.

It was precisely the IFR-president who – as a member of the Committee that was founded to check all breeding regulations and to report to the IFR Board – treated the application by the RKNA Canada. His report and advise was positive! We therefore do not understand nor accept accusations that the Meeting was manipulated with the intention to keep the RKNA Canada out as a member club.

At the Meeting itself, it was again the IFR-President who supported the application by stating that in his opinion the regulations of RKNA Canada are compliant with IFR demands and that even if the application encountered objections, we must do all we can to avoid losing a valuable potential member.

This is confirmed in the minutes of the Meeting and is strongly in contradiction to the untruths and accusations that your representative is publishing on the internet!

The Meeting did not refuse Membership but did not make a decision. If the Meeting had taken a decision, it would most probably have been a refusal of IFR Membership, seen the existent regulations and the objections that we received before (and during) the Meeting of Delegates

It was again on suggestion of the IFR President that the decision was postponed so a refusal could be prevented and a later acceptance by the Board remained possible.

We therefore cannot understand nor accept the blatant untruths and very inappropriate accusations that your representative is publishing.

We quote from the Minutes that were approved by the Delegates who were present at the Meeting (the statements by the IFR President are in bold font and so is the reason why the decision was postponed: to allow for a later acceptance by the Board if this would seem possible without harm for the Federation):

“The RKNA Canada has applied for Membership before, also at the MOD in 2019 in Denmark.

Its application was then withdrawn to avoid a refusal as it was very unclear if the working field and immediate influence of the Club were indeed restricted to Canada only and did not extend to the USA. The latter would be not acceptable for both the FCI and for the IFR.



There was not only the name that suggested so (Rottweiler Club of North America ... while Canada is a separate country) but also the establishment that the RKNA Canada and RKNA USA were led by the same people (shared board members) and that their activities and communications suggested that there was much more at hand than just cooperation.

The Chairman introduces the renewed application by first shortly sketching the cynologic landscape in the USA / Canada and the position of both the FCI and the IFR, the latter a cooperation partner of the FCI.

RKNA Canada is not affiliated to the CKC (Canadian Kennel Club). The Rottweiler Club of Canada (a former member of the IFR) is affiliated to the CKC.

RKNA Canada follows the FCI breed standard **and the Chairman explains that in his strictly personal opinion – not speaking on behalf of the IFR nor committing the IFR or its Board – the breeding regulations of the RKNA Canada are compliant to the IFR Constitution.**

The Rottweiler Club of Canada follows the Canadian breed standard, not the FCI standard. It has in the past shown a renewed interest for IFR Membership (there is no formal application) which is however impossible if it follows the Canadian breed standard as the IFR has formally chosen for the FCI standard only.

The application by the RKNA Canada encounters the following problems:

- is the RKNA Canada a totally separate organization from the RKNA USA?

They share names, in 2019 the representative of RKNA Canada claimed to have nothing to do with RKNA USA but was mentioned on its website as a board member and even now the representative of the RKNA Canada (Mrs. Michelmore) is mentioned on the website of the RKNA USA as the board member that is responsible for membership of RKNA USA, the website of the RKNA USA refers to breeders and member clubs in Canada,

Cfr. an extract from the Minutes of the MOD dd. 2019:

“When the application of RKNA Canada was presented, the chairman referred to the regulations of the FCI that state that international breed associations (like the IFR) that have a cooperation agreement with the FCI, may not accept member clubs who have clubs outside of their national territory. Although the representative of the RKNA Canada claims that her club limits its activities to Canada and has no interests in the USA, the chairman refers to several posters and announcements that seem to suggest otherwise: several clubs and/or events in the USA refer to the RKNA, use its logo, its email-address, The chairman refers



to recent communication by the CKC and ARC concerning the RKNA and warns that an acceptance of the RKNA as an IFR member might prove harmful for our relation with the FCI should the latter decide that the RKNA Canada has interests outside of the Canadian territory. At the suggestion of the chairman and to avoid a formal rejection of the application, the application is temporarily withdrawn, awaiting clarification on this issue. A new application can then be sent to the Board that is empowered to decide on granting provisional membership.”

- art. 11 of the statutes of the FCI state:

“11.1. Cooperating Partnership is open to every organisation or legal entity sharing or willing to support the aim of the Association and that has entered into a special Cooperation Agreement which specifies the relation of the Cooperating Partner with the Association. This Cooperation Agreement – minus the provisions with commercial orientation- shall be published by the Association.

The Association may only recognise international breed club organisations (i) promoting pedigree dogs, respecting the official FCI standards of the breed(s) they represent, and (ii) recognising as their members only the national breed clubs which are affiliated to the national canine organisation of their country, Member of the Association. The Member from the country of origin of the breed(s) must give its final approval on this recognition. Breeds whose country of origin is not part of the Association’s Membership are exempted from this final approval. “

The CKC is not a member of the FCI but would be a contract partner of the FCI.

If allowing IFR-Membership to a club would also be possible (= open question) for a Club that is not affiliated to an FCI Kennel club but to a Kennel club that has a partnership with the FCI, then in Canada, this would only be the Canadian Rottweiler club and not the RKNA Canada.

Only shortly before the MOD, strong objections were received against accepting the RKNA Canada as an IFR Member.

These were sent by the USRC (IFR Member Club), the Rottweiler Club of Canada and the Canadian Working Dog Federation. The objections are based on what is mentioned before, even the announcement of a possible future application by a Canadian Club that would answer to all conditions for Membership and would – contrarily to the RKNA - be affiliated to the CKC.



The objections hold the explicit and not to be misunderstood message, even warning, that if IFR-Membership would be granted to the RKNA Canada, that this may or will lead to troubles with the CKC and the FCI.

The Chairman expresses that in his opinion it would be very unwise to decide on the application.

Whereas a refusal might mean losing a possibly valuable potential member, an acceptance might imply risking to lose the status of cooperation partner with the FCI and might even lead to becoming a dissident organization, which would mean the end of the Federation's existence.

Both Mrs. Michelmore (RKNA Canada) and Mrs. Platt (USRC) were given the right of speech and explained their point of view.

Mrs. Platt refers to her research in the official registries of both RKNA Canada and RKNA USA and states that this shows that these clubs share three (3) board members. The Chairman answers that the mere fact that the resident of a country is a board member of a club in another country is not something that is forbidden nor is it proof – although maybe a strong indication - that both clubs are in reality only one organization.

On the question of Mrs. Michelmore if RKNA Canada must change its name, the Chairman answered that it is not up to the IFR or the MOD to decide on this, that a different name might at least no longer strongly suggest that the club's working field and influence indeed go further than just Canada and/or that the RKNA Canada and RKNA USA are in fact only one organization but also – quoting Shakespeare's "what's in a name" – that this would in his opinion not suffice to take away the before mentioned objections.

A solution or at least a final decision should be sought for and found. For this the position of the CKC might very well be decisive.

Mrs. Michelmore repeats that she is in contact on the issue with the CKC and that she expects that the CKC will not object.

The Chairman suggests that the next IFR-Board would also contact the CKC.

The MOD then decides to postpone its decision on the application. Mrs. Michelmore understands this decision.

Should the next Board find a solution for the problem that is without threat or harm for the Federation, then it may (but is not obliged) decide on yes or not granting conditional Membership of the RKNA Canada.



The Chairman underlines that this is a postponement of all discussions and of a decision concerning the application and that at this moment the MOD - and thus the IFR - does not engage itself in any way or measure.”

Your spokesman was sent all communication that was sent to the other Delegates concerning the application by the RKNA Canada, including the objections that we received. The person was present at the Meeting (online), was given the (unlimited in content and time) right of speech and knows very well what was truly discussed and decided.

We also resent that your representative states that the IFR President brought objections that were non issues.

These objections are quoted here above and are very serious (cfr. not only the question about the geographic scope of the RKNA Canada but also art. 11 of the FCI statutes that states that the IFR may only accept as its members, the national breed clubs which are affiliated to the national canine organization of their country, Member of the Association). Ignoring these objections, might lead to losing the status of a cooperation partner of the FCI and being given the status of a dissident organization and in that case possibly the dissolution of the IFR.

The objections were not brought by the IFR-President as your representative wrongly suggests but were sent by the USRC (an IFR Member Club), the Rottweiler Club of Canada and the Canadian Working Dog Federation.

These objections and their possible consequences are not “non issues” ! They are important.

Nevertheless, it was again exactly the IFR President that came to your support by stating that while we cannot ignore the objections, we must do all we can not to lose a potential valuable member ... and that we should try to find a solution. This is not a manipulation trying to ban the RNKA Canada from IFR membership ... but precisely the contrary!

With this, we have clearly informed you about the correct course of the Meeting of Delegates and content of discussions and decisions but also about the position of the IFR concerning these false accusations and blatant untruths. We will not go into further discussion about the latter.

We await your urgent answer on the questions above and will from our side take up our responsibility by contacting the CKC and ask for its position concerning a possible affiliation by the RKNA Canada to the IFR.

The Board will then consider if it will take a decision itself or – because your representative after all explicitly suggests that not all Board members would be objective towards the application ... - lay this before the next Meeting of Delegates (2023) to decide upon.

With friendly greetings,



To be understood as signed and supported by all members of the IFR-Board.

W. Horn,

Vice-President.

PS, as the wrongfull accusations were published on internet and have reached many Rottweiler lovers, we reserve the right to publish the text of this letter on the IFR-website.