

Objectives of the breeding
program (JTO) for the Barbet in
Finland
2008-2013

JTOs in Finland

- The Finnish Kennel Club (FKC) requires a JTO for all dog breeds
- Aims of the JTO
 - To offer information on the current situation in the breed and breeding
 - To guide long term breeding decisions
- JTOs already accepted for 92 breeds
- Drawn up by the breeding committee of the breed, draft accepted by the annual meeting of Barbet Finland, will be accepted by the breed organization, final acceptance by FKC
- Available for public in the internet

JTO Barbet

Contents of the JTO

- Breed background
 - Origin and development of the breed world wide and in Finland
- Club organization and its history
 - Breed Club Barbet Finland ry
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 - International Barbet data-base
- Current situation
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Club organization



- Breed Club (www.barbet.fi)
 - Breed club Barbet Finland was founded 22.10.2006 and registered 4.3.2007
 - The club operates under the Finnish Spaniel Club
 - In the end of 2007 there were 46 full members and 13 family members
- Breeding committee (www.barbet.fi/jalostus.htm)
 - operates under the Finnish Spaniel Club
 - four members
 - collects, keeps statistics and files records on health and temperament
 - organizes health surveys
 - works for maintaining and promoting health and genetic diversity in the breed by helping breeders in finding suitable stud dogs, calculating inbreeding coefficients and giving advise on breeding issues
 - accepts or rejects breeders' stud male proposals (recommendation only, the breeder makes the final decision)
 - updates the JTO objectives

Current situation

Population size and structure

- Barbets in Finland
- First Barbet registered in Finland in 2002
- First three bitches imported in 2003
- By the end of 2007 a total of 4 imported dogs and 8 bitches registered
- First litter born in 2004
- 2004-2007: 12 litters, 74 pups
- By the end of 2007 79 barbets registered in Finland
- 13 individuals exported
- Average inbreeding coefficient of Finnish-born individuals 5,8%



Population in Finland 2003-2007

	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Puppies	34	25	6	6	0
Imports	2	2	1	0	2
Registrations (total)	35	27	7	6	2
Litters	5	4	1	1	0
Average litter size	6,8	6,3	6,0	6,0	-
Breeders	5	3	1	1	0
Breeding males / females	6 / 5	2 / 4	1 / 1	1 / 1	0 / 0
Finnish-born	1 / 2	0 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0
imports	2 / 3	1 / 2	1 / 1	1 / 1	0 / 0
foreign	3 / 0	1 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0
Effective population size	11	5	2	2	0

Current situation

Character and utility

- Nowadays Barbets are kept mainly for companion and as a partner in different activities
- Only few Barbets are used for hunting
- Because of the lack of use some utility characteristics have weakened
 - Some Barbets do not retrieve and/or swim
- FCI requires a field/utility test for International Champions
- In France a TAN-test is required for Champions
- In Finland no test is required
- In Finland Barbets may try for an Aptitude Test for Spaniels (SPA, similar to TAN plus tracking and hunting (seeking prey)), Tracking test for hunting dogs (MEJÄ), Hunting test for spaniels (SPVE) and Land fowl test (SPME).
 - Dogs that pass the Aptitude test for Spaniels (SPA) are eligible for working group in shows
- The first four (out of four tested) Barbets in Finland have passed the SPA test on 2007

Current situation Health

Health situation in Finnish-born Barbets (end of 2007)

- Hip dysplasia

Tested	A	B	C	D	E
26,3%	35,0%	50,0%	10,0%	5,0%	0,0%

- Elbows and knees

- 19 individuals tested for elbows, all clear
- 3 individuals tested for knees, all clear

- Eyes

- 7 individuals tested, one had minor findings of RD and PPM

- Teeth

- one individual is missing a incisive, one a premolar

- Heart

- One case of cardiomyopatia found in autopsy

- Epilepsy

- some diagnosed and undiagnosed cases of epilepsy with varying severity of the symptoms

- Reproductive diseases and problems

- one case of cryptochism
- failure of natural parturition in one case

Breeding objectives and strategies 1

- To maintain the breed
 - genetically diverse
 - healthy
 - good tempered
 - true to the original type and purpose
 - true to the breed standard
- Establishing a sustainable population given the small population size



Breeding objectives and strategies 2

Population size and structure

- Objectives
 - registration numbers will remain moderate
 - health and characteristics related to utility will be emphasized in long term breeding
 - breeding population will be enlarged and as many suitable individuals as possible are used for breeding
- Strategies
 - the breeding committee will help breeders in finding suitable breeding pairs
 - breeders are encouraged to cooperate within and across national borders, import of suitable breeding individuals is encouraged
 - open communication concerning health and other issues between the breed club, breeders and Barbet owners

Breeding objectives and strategies 3

Character and temperament

- Objectives
 - character and temperant will remain largely unchanged
 - emphasis on utility, ability to concentrate, openness, courage, devotion to the owner, willingness to cooperate
- Strategies
 - the Aptitude Test for Spaniels will be used to test temperament and working abilities
 - suitability and applicability of other behavioral tests will be examined
 - owners and breeders will be encouraged to test their Barbets
 - new owners are advised on the character of the Barbet as an active, working (hunting) breed

Breeding objectives and strategies 4

Utility characteristics

- Objectives
 - the breed type will remain true to its original purpose as a hunting dog
 - survey, maintain and increase hunting abilities in Barbets
 - based on its origin as a working breed, Barbet is also well suited for other activities and dog sports
- Strategies
 - breeders and owners are encouraged to test their Barbets' hunting instincts
 - attendance and results of similar tests abroad are observed in order to gain information on wanted and unwanted characteristics
 - owners and breeders are informed about the Aptitude tests
 - information about the breed will be spread among hunters



Breeding objectives and strategies 5

Health

- Objectives
 - maintain good health and structure
 - decrease the prevalence of inherited diseases
 - breeding individuals are tested before using for breeding and affected individuals and known carriers are not used
- Strategies
 - owners are encouraged to test their dogs for genetically transmitted diseases
 - consultation of outside experts and other breed clubs about managing genetic diseases and small populations in breeding
 - conduction of a health survey
 - owners and breeders are encouraged to participate in the genetic study by Hannes Lohi
 - special emphasis on diseases manifested later in life
 - special emphasis on epilepsy
 - open and honest communication among breeders, owners and breed club concerning health issues

Breeding objectives and strategies 6

Conformation/Appearance

- Objectives
 - maintain the breed true to its original type and use
- Strategies
 - due to the small population size health and character are emphasised over appearance
 - maintain variability



SWOT-analysis

Strengths

- medium size, well balanced, social dog for a variety of activities
- relatively healthy breed
- hunting/working abilities
- enthusiastic breeders and owners
- several small scale breeders
- eligibility for aptitude and hunting tests and trials

Weaknesses

- small population size world wide, vulnerability
- inbreeding
- difficulty in finding suitable mating partners
- long distances (decreased mating opportunities)
- standard has been changed several times during the last decades
- difficult to get information about diseases
- ignorance in breeding decisions in a small population

Opportunities

- well suited for a variety of activities, dog sports, working dog
- increased information among breeders and owners
- increased interest in a variety of activities
- increased popularity (increase in population size and variability)
- double matings and artificial insemination (increase in gene pool)
- relatively small population (controlled breeding)

Threats

- inbreeding depression
- decrease in gene pool
- over emphasis in conformation
- division between different lines
- lack of openness and communication
- disagreements on breed standard
- uncontrolled population increase
- ignorance in breeding decision

Plan of action for realization of JTO

- Objectives of this JTO will guide the work of the breeding committee
- The breeding committee collects information, monitors development in the breed and accepts breeding plans in accordance with this JTO
- The benefits of the breeding program will be realised in the long run
- Due to the small population size emphasis in breeding will be placed in avoiding unwanted characteristics (diseases, behaviors...)
- Genetic diversity in a small population is of a main importance, and thus secondary characteristics (appearance) should not inhibit use in breeding



Monitoring of the realization of JTO

- The breeding committee will monitor the short term realization of the JTO objectives yearly
- The JTO will be updated in 5 years (2013)
- Since five years covers only 1-2 generations, long term objectives will require persistancy and patience in breeding

