Background

As many of you know, Yahoo! has announced it is revising its approach to yahoogroups effective December 14, 2019. While yahoogroups will remain active as an email service, the groups will no longer retain any user-uploaded content (files, photos, polls, email conversations), and all existing content will be erased.

Usage of all yahoo groups has declined significantly in recent years as interest shifted to other social media platforms, and timing of the Yahoo! decision was a surprise but not completely unexpected.

For ISBONA, the main yahoo list (isbona@yahoogroups.com) has been a member benefit since 1999 and was used for discussions, sales, announcements, and problem solving. In the past several years usage has declined significantly; however, it remained a channel to potentially reach those who were not on the ISBONA Facebook Restricted Group. Unfortunately over time, the list’s membership has become out of date, and emails to the yahoo list no longer reach everyone. At the same time, some people (members and former members) made use of historical information saved in past conversations on the list. These conversations date back to the very beginning of ISBONA when some of our “breed pioneers“ were very active on email, and some information in the archives does not appear anywhere else.

When the announcement regarding the December 14 plans became more publicly known, several people noted the wealth of history that ISBONA had accrued over the years and requested that ISBONA save the history if at all possible. Fortunately, an alternative platform was identified (one that is also being utilized by many other yahoogroups who wanted to retain their content).

On November 12, the ISBONA Board approved funds to effect the transfer and replicate the list on the new platform which is named groups.io. This platform was developed by the same developer who was the primary architect of yahoo groups, and there are many similarities.
Transfer and Retention of History is Complete

On November 15, 2019, the transfer of history (conversations, databases, photos, files) from yahoogroups to groups.io was completed.

The new group list is located at https://groups.io/g/isbona. There, virtually all old material from the yahoo board has been saved. The retention process did not include old calendar events, but as much as possible, all photos, files, databases, polls, conversations have been archived and presented in an updated manner.

Invitations to Membership Are In Process For December 1 Replacement

Current active ISBONA members are now being invited to signup (opt in) for the new list to have access to the history and to make use of the list if desired. We are also working on a process to keep the membership up-to-date by automatically inviting all new members and periodically purging inactive members which will reduce volunteer effort to maintain the list. This must be done in conjunction with the CLRC registrar which processes our memberships, and will take reduced priority to ensuring CLRC is completing registrations for members.

Features of the new list are more comprehensive than on the yahoo platform, and members are encouraged to explore at the web address shown. New features include the ability to assign hashtags (#topic) to group/filter messages, additional optional profile information, alternative ways to receive messages, no need for a separate “yahoo ID” type code, integrations with some other collaboration and social media platforms, and more.

All policies in place on the old list (eg, sales listings on Fridays only, family friendly postings) remain in effect.

The groups.io list will become the official replacement for yahoogroups on December 1, 2019. Members who want to use the email list to communicate
should address their messages to isbona@groups.io and not to a yahoo address to ensure correct delivery and retention. As noted above, on December 14, yahoo will remove all existing content from the ISBONA list on their server. Email will still work — but your message will go to an increasingly out-of-date list of members, and you may not get responses.

For simplicity’s sake, we may ultimately choose to remove the yahoo group altogether, in which case even email to the list will not work.

**Plans Differ For Two Other ISBONA yahoogroups Lists**

ISBONA also maintained two other lists on yahoogroups:

isbonboard - was the means by which ISBONA conducted Board meetings from 2008 to about 2016. Membership was restricted to ISBONA directors and occasional guests only and is completely out of date. All official organization material from these years already has been preserved in Board Minutes which are published in the ISBONA Newsletters. This list will NOT be replaced on groups.io.

icelandicVAI - is a restricted list begun in November 2005 that is currently in use for individuals who are trained in VAI techniques. It is used to provide announcements of availability of frozen semen, indications of interest in participating in the import and on occasion some results statistics. Membership in the list is out of date, but does contain all known currently eligible breeders (both members and non-members).

Membership in this list will be re-created based on information in the yahoogroups, but historical information will NOT be copied — only memberships will be added to the new list. All yahoo group policies (eg, restrictions on list eligibility) will remain in place.
SUMMARY OF KEY URL LOCATIONS and EMAILING CHANGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of list</th>
<th>Location of old list (https://)</th>
<th>Location of New List (https://)</th>
<th>Audience Reach</th>
<th>How to Address a Message</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>isbona</td>
<td>yahoogroups.com/isbona</td>
<td>groups.io/g/isbona</td>
<td>All active ISBONA members</td>
<td><a href="mailto:isbona@groups.io">isbona@groups.io</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>isbonaboard</td>
<td>yahoogroups.com/isbonaboard</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Previous ISBONA Directors+</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>icelandicVAI</td>
<td>yahoogroups.com/icelandicVAI</td>
<td>groups.io/g/icelandicVAI</td>
<td>Breeders trained in VAI techniques</td>
<td><a href="mailto:icelandicVAI@groups.io">icelandicVAI@groups.io</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have any questions, please feel free to direct them to admin@isbona.com, and we will get answers for you!