

Constitution of the International Leonberger Union.

25th September 2004, revised on 27th September 2014 and 23th September 2017.

Preface. (Preamble)

The association shall be known as the "International Union for Leonberger Dogs", abbreviated hereafter as: IULH.

The IULH is the legal successor to the association of the same name, founded in 1975 in Leonberg. At the time of its foundation the name was "Europäische Union fuer Leonberger Hunde".

§ 1: Seat.

The IULH is situated in Leonberg / Baden Wuerttemberg, Germany.

§ 2: Purpose.

Purpose of the IULH is it to coordinate the efforts of its members to promote and improve the Leonberger dog breed and support its members on an international level.

§ 3: Tasks.

1. Uniform interpretation and application of the F.C.I. standard in its current version.
2. Cooperation in all areas for the purpose of the promotion of the Leonberger dog breed.
3. Recommendations for breeding guidelines.
4. Establishment of guidelines and recommendations regarding the improvement and adjustment of the breed type.
5. Further training of Leonberger specialty judges of all member countries.
6. Exchange of judges among the members.
7. Mutual exchange of breed information and breed data.
8. Pursuit and combat of hereditary faults and diseases.
9. Promotion and coordination of events, club shows, and meetings in connection with the training, work and the use of Leonberger dogs as a working dog.
10. Any other measures which serve the association in accordance with § 2.

§ 4. Business year.

The financial year starts with the 1th of September.

§ 5. Organization.

1. The meeting of the member delegates.
2. The executive committee.

§ 6. Binding effect.

Resolutions of the meeting of the members and the executive committee are binding for all members, providing they do not stand in contradiction to the regulations of the FCI and the national umbrella organisations.

§ 7. Membership.

1. Membership by individuals is not permitted.
2. Only a Leonberger club that is affiliated with the national kennel club in its country is eligible for membership, providing the national kennel club is recognized by FCI.
If there is no FCI recognized umbrella organization in that country, an exception may be made by the members at the general meeting.
3. If more than one club, officially recognized by the national FCI recognized kennel club, exists in a country, the club that was first granted membership will be regarded as a full member of the Union. Any other clubs may be granted an observer status.
4. If several clubs from a single country affiliated to the national kennel club apply for membership simultaneously, only one club shall be granted full membership, which will be decided by a vote of the members at the general meeting.

§ 8. Requests for membership.

The request for membership is to be addressed in writing to the president of the IULH, in one of the official FCI languages. It must cover at least the following points:

1. The statutes (constitution and by-laws) of the applying club, properly translated in one of the official FCI languages.
2. Names and addresses of the current executive committee.
3. A declaration from the executive committee that the statutes of the IULH are accepted.
4. A short article about membership, Leonberger population, and activities of the club.

§ 9. Admission.

The Meeting of Delegates decides by simple majority, on the admission of new members.

§10. Expiration of membership.

The club's membership expires automatically if the club concerned is dissolved, or is expelled from the national kennel club in its country, or if it is two years behind with the payment of the IULH dues.

§ 11. Withdrawal. (Resignation)

A club wishing to resign from the IULH is obligated to provide a written declaration including the reason for resignation. Resignations must be received in writing by the office of the IULH not less than three months prior to the end of the calendar year.

§ 12. Exclusion. (Expulsion)

Members that damage the interests of the IULH in a severe manner or show permanent lack of interest in the goals of the association can be expelled at the membership meeting. Expulsion requires a 2/3-majority of the member delegates.

The president of the IULH has to advise the club concerned at least 6 months before the meeting of the member's delegates about the reasons for expulsion. The expulsion-threatened member may submit an appeal and a defense to the president of the IULH up until three months prior to the Meeting of Delegates and has the right to defend itself in the conference. The delegate conference decides on the expulsion by secret ballot with 2/3-majority necessary to carry the motion .

Member clubs whose membership in the IULH have resulted in expulsion do not have the right to claim restitution of any funds.

§ 13. Delegates meeting. (Membership Meeting)

1. The membership meeting consists of a maximum of two delegates for each member club.
2. The names of the delegates must be sent in writing to the president of the IULH, at least one month before the meeting of the delegates.
3. The Meeting of Delegates is usually held once a year in Leonberg.
Additional delegate meetings can be called by either the president of the IULH or on written request by two-thirds of the members.
4. Invitations to the membership meeting, together with the published agenda, are sent by the president no later than six weeks prior to the meeting.
5. Each member club has the right to proposals and suggestions, as well as to request help from the the IULH for consultation and support in matters relating to the promotion of the Leonberger dog breed.
6. Suggestions for topics of discussion and requests from the members must be received by the president of the IULH at least eight weeks before the meeting. The president shall then relay all submissions, along with the agenda to all members.
7. Once invitations to the membership meeting are properly sent out, no minimum number of delegates is required to form a quorum. Resolutions may be passed regardless of the actual number of delegates in attendance.
8. Each member club has a vote. Elections and votes take place by absolute majority (50%+1 vote). Resolutions that change statutes require a 2/3 majority.
9. Each meeting shall have minutes that record decisions made at that meeting.

§ 14 Executive Committee.

1. The executive committee consists of:
President.
Vice-president.
Treasurer.
Secretary.
An Assessor, who is chosen by the DCLH.

2. The duration of office is four years and, except for the Assessor, members of the executive committee shall be elected as follows:
 - a.) Elections – Regular elections of the Executive Committee shall be held every four (4) years, starting in 2016. Re-election is permitted without limitation. Special elections may be held between regular elections in order to fill unexpired terms, pursuant to sections (f).
 - b.) Nominations – The governing body of each full member club, as represented by its president, may submit one nomination for each open position no less than 40 days prior to the annual meeting. Nominees must be full members of a full Union member club in the year in which they are nominated. Nominations shall be made in writing to the Secretary of the Union (Secretariat), shall state that the nominee has been consulted and expressed willingness to serve. No nomination shall be deemed valid unless receipt of the nomination is confirmed in writing by the Secretary before the nomination deadline.
 - c.) Notice – The Secretary (Secretariat) shall send an email to the president and secretary of each full member club no less than 30 days prior to the date of the annual meeting with the names of all nominees and the positions for which they were nominated.
 - d.) Voting – The vote shall be overseen and conducted at the annual meeting by an election committee comprised of three delegates selected by vote of the general assembly as the first order of business at any general meeting where an election is to occur. The election committee shall prepare and distribute one identical secret ballot to each member club who has sent at least one duly appointed delegate. Each member club shall cast one vote for each opening on the ballot, and submit the ballot to the election committee, who shall then count the votes.
 - e.) No candidate may be elected without receiving an absolute majority of votes (50% + 1 vote). If there are more than two candidates for a position and no one of them has an absolute majority in the first voting, a second “runoff” ballot shall be done between the two candidates who received the most votes on the first ballot.
 - f.) If for any reason a member of the Executive Committee is unable to complete their term in office the remaining members of the Executive Committee may appoint a qualified person to temporarily fill the remainder of the term until an election (regular/special) can be held, but no later than the next annual meeting of the delegates.
 - g.) Communication in Writing – Email shall be considered an acceptable form of written communication only upon return email confirmation of receipt.
 - h.) Each member club shall have one vote in any meeting addressing issues pertaining to the above.
3. The old executive committee remains in the office, until the new committee commences its term of office.
4. The president and the vice-president represent the association in accordance with § 26 BGB.

§ 15. Tasks of the executive committee.

1. The executive committee carries out the decisions of the membership meeting.
2. It conducts all business of the association or delegates it to others.
3. The distribution of tasks of the committee is determined either by the position he/she holds or by consensus of the executive committee.

§ 16. Contributions. (Dues)

1. Membership dues (changed 2018) are composed of an annual fee of 60.00 euro and 0,30 euro per club member (based on number of members in the report to the annual assembly the year before).

2. The Delegates Meeting determines the amounts each year.
3. Subscriptions are due on 01 January of the financial year. The latest date of payment is 31 March. Thereafter a fine of 20,00 euro for each reminder notice shall be imposed.
4. The membership shall be suspended if the member delays payment by nine months. Similarly, the rights of the member shall also be suspended.

§ 17. Finances.

1. Business year starts with the 1st of September.
2. The executive committee submits a proposed budget to the members. The general membership meeting then decides on the expenses of the IULH for the next business year and on the dues for the next year.
3. The costs incurred by the executive committee of the IULH in fulfilling their statutory duties to the members are to be borne of the IULH. Travel expenses are to be approved by the president in advance.
4. Costs incurred by delegates of a member club will not be borne by the IULH.
5. The treasurer settles all financial matters of the IULH and provides the annual balance sheet. This is to be submitted to the auditors not later than the begin of the yearly assembly (Delegates Meeting) latest until the 1th of December for examination.
The treasurer details a budget to help determine the future subscription fees.
6. The delegate conference selects two auditors, for a of four year term, who's purpose is to scrutinize the finances.

§ 18. Dissolution.

The dissolution of the association can be decided only with a 2/3 majority by the delegates at a membership meeting. In such a case, the executive committee completes the current business. The surplus property of the association is supplied to a non-profit use, which is specified by a vote of the delegates meeting.