

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR LEONBERGER DOGS , 24TH SEPTEMBER 2011

Venue: Hotel Kirchner Leonberg

Time 10:00 – 14:15

Those present: representatives from the member clubs of :

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, United Kingdom, USA.

Excused: Italy, Canada and New Zealand.

The Committee: All members of the board were present.

Chairman: the Union president Willi Güllix.

Minutes: were taken by the Union secretary Hein Sibrijns.

Agenda:

1. Welcoming Introduction / check of ability to take decisions/ acceptance of the agenda
2. Reports
 - a) President
 - b) Treasurer
 - c) Secretary
 - d) Auditors
3. Discussion of the reports and discharge of the Committee.
4. The Budget for 2012, Membership dues 2012.
5. News and reports from the member countries.
6. Full membership of Ireland. Voting/acceptance
7. Breeding problems in the Union.
8. Poly neuropathy test and its consequences for breeding.
9. Correct relationship clubs/judges (request Italy).
10. ILU fertility survey. Report and discussion.
11. Miscellaneous.
12. Closure.

1. Introduction.

The President opened the meeting at 10:10 am.

He welcomed the delegates, and noted with pleasure that so many clubs were represented.

It was established that the delegates meeting had been timely and correctly called and that decisions can be taken. It was asked if there were objections against points on the agenda or the order of points on the agenda.

Finland objected to point 9 and demanded a vote to strike point 9.

The proposal was accepted with 15 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

The in July deceased Mr. Georg Leipelt, who has been a board member of the Union and who was representative of the German Club, was remembered with 1 minute silence.

2. Reports

a. President's Report- Willi Güllix

[Click for the report](#)

b. Treasurer's Report - Peter Cejnek

The balance sheet was handed out at the meeting.

Not all member clubs have fully paid up for 2010.

The treasurer will send a reminder by e-mail to the clubs that didn't pay.

It was pointed out that the membership dues are composed of an annual fee of 50 Euros and 0.20 Euros per club member, counted on the 1st January of the current year.

On 31-12-2010 the Union's assets amounted to 4938.91 Euros.

Peter hopes that the Union will again organize an event, like an international judges seminar, in the coming years.

c. Secretary's report - Hein Sibrijns.

The decision of the previous delegates meeting that I should keep a list of checked LPN1 test results turned out to be a difficult job.

The University of Minnesota marks on its test result form that one can send a copy of the result page to the Leonberger Health Foundation for registration in their database.

Unfortunately that database doesn't exist yet.

The University of Minnesota refuses to mention the possibility of registration of the test result with the International Leonberger Union on the result page.

Until now Bern University doesn't mention the possibility of registration of the test in the Union's list, but Anita is working on this, so probably the existence of the Union's list will soon be mentioned.

Another problem is that on many results from Minnesota is marked that the permanent ID of the dog wasn't verified, or that the dog didn't have a permanent ID.

Question is if one can enter a test result of a dog into a "checked" database when the ID of the dog wasn't checked when the blood sample or swab was taken.

We know of the existence of faked eye test results, and of switching dogs on shows, so we insist that only test results of dogs whose identity was checked when the sample was taken appear on the Union's list.

The website is updated regularly with amongst others club show results and results in the ring of honor on CAC/CACIB shows, as well as with health informations.

d. Auditor's report.

Säde Crivelli (CH) and José-Maria Itturalde Perez de Aranaza (E) had checked the accounts which closed 31-12-2010, as well as the accounts for the current year. They were satisfied that everything is in order and they thanked the Treasurer Peter Cejnek for doing a good job. They proposed that the meeting accept the accounts and discharged the treasurer and the board. The proposal was not discussed and was accepted unanimously.

3. Discharge of the Committee

The Committee was unanimously discharged.

4. The Budget for 2011/Membership fees for 2011.

The Union finances are healthy.

It was unanimously decided to maintain the membership dues at a fixed fee of 50 euros plus 0.20 euros per member.

5. News from the member countries.

The Austrian club nominated again Thomas Walker as new second delegate.

On the 19th May 2012 a big club show will be organized in conjunction with the World Dog Show in Salzburg.

The **Russian Club** celebrated its 15th anniversary with a big club show. They thanked the Finnish club for the nice prizes they sent for the jubilee club show.

They are very happy that thanks to the good work of the leading breeders Russian dogs did very well on international shows.

The history of Leonbergers in Russia goes only 20 years back.

The breeding depends on imports from several countries. Without good imports there wouldn't be good Russian breeding.

The Russian club thanks the foreign breeders for providing them with excellent breeding stock.

The club thanks the foreign judges who judged on their club show.

The club also thanks the German club and the International Union for their work, and especially the president.

The **Danish Club** held a breeders meeting about LPN1. Anita Treichler was invited for that meeting.

The club publishes a list of LPN1 test results. Unfortunately there is no official obligation to breed only with tested dogs, so this year there were again litters from dogs that weren't tested.

At this moment there are 30 test results on the list, 9 more dogs have been tested but their result wasn't communicated to the Danish club or the International Union.

This year there was a problem with a number of puppies from a litter showing signs of LPN1, while they were tested LPN1 N/N. The information on this litter was communicated with Bern University.

The Danish club has a tooth card which is filled in by a veterinarian.

This tooth card is not accepted in Germany and other countries.

Danish breeders who want to use a foreign stud have often problems with the foreign tooth card because the status of the teeth can be described in different ways.

The Danish club asks if the Union can work out a tooth card that is accepted in all countries.

The president says that we already discussed a uniform tooth card in 2009 and 2010, that is accepted in all countries.

The German Club's tooth card was taken as an example and is recommended.

There were different opinions on the minimum age for filling in a tooth card.

We agreed that the first entry on a tooth card can be made at the age 8 months.

A tooth card filled in by a veterinarian is undesired, nearly all countries refuse such a card.

The Danish club works on an expectation of life span study.

The **Swedish Club** has over 800 members.

The club promotes LPN1 testing, amongst others by providing the possibility of taking blood samples on club shows.

The club recommends breeding only with tested dogs, after the recommendation of the Union.

Unfortunately not all breeders send a copy of the test result to the club or the Union.

The **Finnish Club** recommends breeding after the LPN1 recommendation of the Union.

Free blood sampling is offered on club shows.

The Leonberger breed achieved full recognition in the AKC working group in the U.S.A.

In a very short time, our Leonbergers have been recognized with several prestigious group wins, including one best in show.

The L.C.A. is parent club.

The next step is achieving membership status which will provide LCA with an official delegate.

While entering the AKC has provided LCA and its members many new opportunities, it has also limited the ability of the LCA to impose and enforce health and breeding requirements.

The number of Leonberger kennels has seen an increase, many of whom are not in the LCA.

The entrance of the Leo into AKC has opened up a new market, which unfortunately has seen people who do not uphold the values of the LCA get into the breed.

The major focus of dialogue with the breeding community of the LCA was the issue of LPN1 testing.

Two thirds of the breeding community supported making the test mandatory.

As of October 1st all Leos will be required to have been tested for LPN1 in order to receive a CHIC number.

The board revised the original policy to allow for OFA Clear by Parentage for one generation and to reevaluate the policy in 2 years.

There is new legislation for keeping dogs in **Switzerland**.

The LPN1 test is obliged for breeding after the LPN1 recommendation of the Union.

The **German Club** had a successful year.

The club has 2500 members in 12 regional groups. 30 special shows and 10 regional club shows are yearly organized.

The AGM of April 2011 decided with immediate effect that Leonbergers with LPN1 test result D/N can only be mated to dogs with test result N/N.

This measure is also valid for animals that had obtained a breeding allowance before April 2011.

The club undertakes great efforts to regulate the breeding in a meaningful way in several respects.

A few examples: HD C1 dogs were taken out of breeding, seminars are offered for new breeders and stud owners, breeding ability tests and offspring checks are held.

Between September 2010 and September 2011 545 puppies were born.

The **British Club** incorporated LPN1 testing in the code of ethics.

A health seminar on Osteosarcoma and Addison's disease will be held.

There are several DVD's from previous health seminars available.

The Leonberger is now since 10 years recognized by the KC.

The 10th Championship Club Show will take place on the 13th November.

As from the 1st January 2012 travelling with dogs to UK will be much easier.

Many British Leonbergers enjoy water rescue and carting.

The **Belgian Club** has observed that on big shows like the World Dog Show Leonbergers are more and more groomed and their coat is blown up, so one doesn't recognize the natural shape of the dog anymore.

The president of the Union says the following:

We don't like to see groomed and blown up dogs on our special shows and club shows, the dog should be shown in its natural shape (but one cannot hold anything against for example scissoring feet and ears), and should be well groomed. That is not always the case, especially where grooming is concerned.

It is different on CACIB shows. There dogs in natural shape don't stand the best change in the group and best in show judging.

In all pros and cons one should not forget that placements in the ring of honour contribute to the overall recognition and value of our breed.

The Belgian club has observed that sometimes tooth cards are signed without counting the teeth.

The **Canadian Club** sent a report that is read by Metha Stramer.

LPN1 testing is strongly recommended.

A Leonberger Day will take place on the 22d February 2012.

The **New Zealand** also sent a report, which is also read by Metha Stramer.

Guido Perosino will judge a club show this year.

Breeding dogs are tested on LPN1.

The **Spanish Club** will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a big club show on the 28th July.

All are invited to participate in the fiesta.

The **French Club** invites to participate in the club show in Cluny.

To obtain the title of French Champion a dog must, amongst others, have passed a temperament test, which is part of the "TAN" in France.

This makes it difficult for foreign dogs to get the French Championship, because the TAN is only held a few times per year.

The club asks if, when necessary, foreign Leonberger Clubs can make a certificate that the dog passed a temperament test in its home country, like as a part of a breeding ability check.

In a vote 13 member clubs declare to be able to give such a certification, 3 clubs cannot give such declarations because they don't have a temperament test or because they are not the only club in their country, so they cannot give a certificate for a member of another club.

The French Club sees also a problem in the placements of dogs with blown up coats.

In **Czech Republic** everything goes well.

In **Holland** a health survey will be held by the same organisation that did the survey 10 years ago.

LPN1 testing is required for breeding within the club, D/N dogs can only be bred to N/N dogs.

All are heartily invited to participate in the club show on the 3d June 2012.

Ireland applied for full membership this year.

There are about 120 Leonbergers in Ireland, the Irish Leonberger Club has 20 members.

One tries to promote the breed, Irish judges don't place Leonbergers in the ring of honor.

6. Full membership of Ireland. Voting/acceptance

The president has checked the statutes and code of ethics of the Irish Club. They confirm with the goals of the Union, he recommends to accept the full membership application.

The meeting approve unanimously.

7. Breeding problems in the Union.

There was no request to speak.

8. Poly neuropathy test and its consequences for breeding.

Dogs are now tested since more than a year.

Bern and Minnesota universities gave updates that have been send to the delegates before the meeting.

[Click here for the report from Minnesota](#) [Click here for the report from Bern](#)

Test results are published in several databases.

It was stressed that we should ask the dog owners to at least send a copy of the result page to the International Leonberger Union for publication in its LPN1-results list on the ILU website.

It would be easier if Bern and Minnesota could indicate on the result pages that one can send a copy to the ILU for publication.

Anita Treichler will arrange this with Bern.

Minnesota wants to mention only the Leonberger Health Foundation.

Unfortunately the LHF database still doesn't exist.

It was noted that on several result pages is marked that the dog doesn't have a permanent ID or that the ID wasn't verified.

Because the Union's list is supposed to contain only verified data, it was proposed to remove the data of dogs whose permanent ID wasn't verified from the list.

In a vote 15 member clubs vote for removal, one club abstains.

Wilma Kroon says that she will keep a list of the not verified results in her database.

The idea of "clear by parentage" is discussed in several countries (one thinks that when both parents are N/N the offspring can only be N/N, so one doesn't have to test the offspring).

OFA in the US accepts clear by parentage, but only when a DNA test for parentage has been performed, to be sure that the declared parents are indeed the real parents.

It is easier to simply test each dog for LPN1.

The International Leonberger Union won't accept "clear by parentage", each dog should be tested itself.

A dog in England showed clinical signs of LPN1, but was tested N/N. It turned out that the dog had a disease that occurs only in rabbits which causes the same clinical signs as LPN1.

The Russian Club stated that Poly Neuropathy occurs in many other breeds. Calling it "Leonberger Poly Neuropathy" incorrectly suggests that the disease only occurs in Leonbergers. This creates negative image for our breed.

On this theme the board of the ILU already stated in the delegates meetings of 2009 and 2010 that we cannot change or influence the way scientist name a disease.

9. Correct relationship clubs/judges (request Italy).

At the opening of the meeting point 9 had been taken off the agenda

10. ILU fertility survey. Report and discussion

The report had been sent to the delegates before the meeting. [Click here for the report.](#)

The main conclusion was that there were too many questions, of which some couldn't easily be answered.

So we have learned that for a next survey one shouldn't ask all members to suggest questions, but one should build a team of not more than 3 people and instruct them to build a questionnaire with not more than 10 key questions on it.

11. Miscellaneous.

The Italian Leonberger Club asked to announce the following:

The "Millenium Award" 2012 will be awarded to Mr. Denis Vernon from France.

A "British Dog Festival" will be held on the 2012 "Europasiegerechau" in Dortmund, Germany. British breeds will be judged there by British judges. In return there will be a "British and German Breed Festival" on the national dog show in Birmingham, UK, on the 11th May 2012, where our president will judge the Leonbergers.

The Union awards for Best in Show and Best veteran 2012 will be awarded on the 20th anniversary show of the Spanish Leonberger Club, on the 28th July 2012.

Mrs. Wolf asked if the Union can also spend awards for a club show that is held in conjunction with a FCI World Dog Show. The committee of the Union will think about this.

12. Closure.

The president closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their positive contributions. There was a good discussion.

The meeting closed at 2.15 pm
Leonberg, 24th September 2011

Willi Gullix
President I.L.U.
Chairman of the meeting.