

President's report International Leonberger Union 2012.

Dear Presidents , Distinguished Representatives of member countries, Friends of the International Leonberger Union.

I would like to begin my report with my thanks to the board members for their cooperation, not only in the past year, but for the past 4 years of our term of office.

I can assure you that we have taken our responsibilities and have carried out our specific tasks consistently.

If I use, in this context, the word "we», I mean that each board member has given his personal commitment to the welfare of our Leonberger and the expansion of the International Union.

We all speak of the responsibility towards our breed, the common goals in breeding, health and vitality.

When I took over the office of president four years ago, the following objectives were and still are important to me.

1. Recommendations on the implementation of uniform conditions for breeding on international level.
2. Improvement and harmonization of breed type.
3. Improve the importance/recognition of our breed in FCI Group 2 on international dog shows.
4. To put the health of our Leonberger with priority in the foreground.

What was achieved?

To point 1 (Recommendations on the implementation of uniform conditions for breeding on international level).

Some Member States that had no ZTP or similar breeding ability check have done trial breeding ability checks, as far as was possible in accordance with the regulations of the relevant governing bodies. This happened in Finland (a German ZTP trial) and Russia (An Italian ZTP trial).

ZTP is an obligation for registering the offspring in the following countries: Germany, Switzerland and Austria.

ZTP is an obligation for breeding within the club in the Netherlands, Spain, Italy and France (offspring can be registered without ZTP)

ZTP is provided on a voluntary basis, in Belgium, the Czech Republic (without temperament test), United States (without temperament test) (offspring can be registered without ZTP).

To point 2 (Improvement and harmonization of breed type.)

Thanks to our breeder we came much closer to a unification of the type on an international level.

Also in talks with all breed judges on international dog shows it is clearly said that the type is not only more harmonized but also improved. There is no longer such a glaring difference as there was years ago. This is also my personal opinion.

To point 3. (Improve the importance/recognition of our breed in FCI Group 2 on international dog shows).

A particular matter of the heart was and what I continue to work diligently on is to boost the status of our breed.

Each of us who look at the results of our Leos in the competition for the top places on the FCI Group 2 competitions as well as the successes in the "Best in Show" judgments at International & National dog shows on our website's news pages, notices that now our Leonberger occupy more frequently first places in the group competition, never before our breed was chosen so often as the "Best in Show". These are results that do not come by themselves. Quality improvements in type, anatomy and movement are certainly an important part of this success, but also a lot of lots of talks were necessary.

To point 4. (To put the health of our Leonberger with priority in the foreground).

A task for all of us is to breed genetically healthy dogs.

As partial success in the breakdown of genetic diseases the LPN1 test is to be considered as an important step.

Whether the test is a required condition for breeding in the member countries or not, from my point of view it is certain that with no test result there is no international breeding exchange, at least in the countries where the test result is a condition for breeding and for registration of the offspring. Since the beginning of the polyneuropathy research in Leonbergers I myself fight

personally against naming the disease "Leonberger poly neuropathy." As we all know, PN occurs in several other breeds, such as the Greyhound (Poly neuropathy Greyhound), the Malamute (Malamute PN) and several other breeds. I have clearly emphasized this in previous meetings. I have also stressed that talks were held with the University of Bern, to change the scientific naming LPN, unfortunately without success.

Furthermore, the UNI Bern was asked to add a new field "Microchip number" to the form, in order to guarantee better identity checks. This was also declined by Berne with as motivation that they cannot provide the administrative and checking time. The latest message from Minesota brings hope for renaming LPN.

I am sure Sharon Springel will have to say something on this subject later.

More:

We have been missioned to create an official LPN1 results list. The list is active and is updated regularly.

Since 2008, the Union awards the ILU awards on the occasion of anniversary shows of our member clubs to the "Best of Breed and the "Best Veteran in Show".

Since several years the German Leonberger Club awards on request the German Club CAC in all classes on the occasion of an anniversary show abroad.

Recommendations/guidelines were created in dealing with artificial insemination combined with the responsibility of breeders and owners of stud dogs.

An International Judges Seminar was organized in Leonberg In November 2009. The next International Judges Meeting is scheduled for 2013.

We must not rest on our laurels and be satisfied with what was achieved, on the contrary: we must emphasize on the implementation of uniform breeding guidelines and recommendations, the improvement and harmonization of breed type, and make detection and suppression of hereditary diseases a priority. We worked intensively on this in the past years, we'll have to continue this work in the future.

For this we must all do our best.

We gain our strength not from quantity, but from the intensity of our commitment to our breed, our clubs and thus for the further development of

the International Leonberger Union. The commitment is enough. In a positive attitude, consistently and competently, we will continue to pursue the goals enshrined in the constitution.

Not everything that we would like to achieve can be implemented on an International level. However, guideline for our actions, in everything we discuss, with all recommendations and guidelines must be the question: "What will be the benefit for our breed", "can it be realized", and I repeat again, "can it also be implemented on an International level". Wishful thinking is out of place here.

Working together and learn from each other is a guarantee for success. Working together in diversity is also a challenge. It is important that we address our problems continuously in order to clearly identify them. Even though it is difficult from time to time to find a way it is always worthwhile!

The Union, and thus we all, can only be successful when the philosophy of the member countries moves in the right direction. Therefore confidence in giving important issues the right direction is essential.

There are many challenges but also many opportunities ahead of us that we should share.

With the last sentence, which I repeat, like "There are many challenges but also many opportunities ahead of us that we should share the" I want to finish the report.

Thank you for your attention!

Willi Güllix