

Dear representatives of the Member Countries, dear friends,

I would like to begin my report by addressing my thanks to the members of the Board for their cooperation during the past year.

We live in a dynamic society which is subject to constant change.

International exchange of breeding goes without saying in the canine world, and that's a good thing. However, we must take into account possible uniform breeding guidelines within the International Union, on which we must work continuously, working together, also with regard to their impact on poly neuropathy and the globalized breeding.

Exaggeration and panic mongering in public causes big damages.

We see this on with forums that were setup by intentionally by panic mongers.

We see it also in discussions on the health of Leonbergers in general, like cancer, heart failures, and the newest feature, coefficient of inbreeding in conjunction with the number of puppies in litters and the expectancy of life span.

Of course it stays our principal challenge to forcefully fight inherited diseases.

But it stays, like it always was, also our responsibility to allow our members and breeders to tackle the problems calmly and with expertise.

Basically, do not trust anything that was not taken from documented and verified data sources.

We all speak of the responsibility towards our breed, of common goals in breeding and health of our Leonbergers. These are issues that concern us all. To only safeguard what was achieved isn't enough.

Improve and find the right balance between modernity and tradition must be in the foreground. What was communicated in the last General Assembly in 2010 is still true today, with special emphasis on the implementation of recommendations of uniform breeding guidelines, the improvement and harmonization of breed type and the detection and prosecution to combat hereditary defects.

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.

That concludes my report and I thank you for your attention.

Willi Güllix, President