

President's Report 2013

Dear Representatives of the member countries, Dear Friends!

I would like to start my report as every year by extending my thanks to the members of the Board for their trust and cooperation in the past fiscal year.

We live in a dynamic society that is subject to constant changes. 10 years we almost exclusively placed our puppies in families thru the pedigree breeding clubs and/or thru personal contacts. Today this is done via the Internet, with breeders and club homepages. As a breeder and/or owner of stud dog it is essential to be present in the „World Wide Web“.

The Internet and its social networks and forums have become an inseparable part of our lives. Information is accessed and exchanged worldwide in seconds. However, not everything that found under the search key "Leonberger" on the net, is actually "Pro Leonberger", often exactly the opposite is true. If Internet discussions in forums or in blocks are objective and performed correctly, based on sound knowledge, this is not a problem. Very often this is not the case. Here we often find superficial knowledge and deliberate distortion of facts, the basis some discussions that are as superfluous as a goiter. Therefore it is up to all of us to weigh out what information and in what form they are put online.

It is positive to see that the club events are made transparent through global networking, the exchanging of international breeding information (which is a matter of course in the Cynology) is eased considerably, databases can be accessed and information can be exchanged, these are all good options.

The previously mentioned international breeding exchange must take into consideration, uniform breeding guidelines within the International Union, this we must work together on. A special focus

has to be on maintaining the health of our breed. Our absolute priority and emphasis, is and remains, to fight vigorously hereditary diseases.

The "Global Health Committee" of the International Union has started its activities. I personally am looking forward to future cooperation. In particular, the fact that the Commission's findings are taken from trusted sources and compiled, will be solidly researched and founded. This I am sure of.

At this point I ask the member states to fully support the important work of the Committee.

We all know that the polyneuropathy, bone cancer, and heart disease are not a new topic.

Without wanting to anticipate the yet to follow report of the Health Committee, please allow me a few words beforehand in our own concern;

As we all know, the Faculty Bern works together with other European Scientists and Institutes regarding the genetic explanation of the increased incidences of bone cancer in the Leonberger. This weekend (today and Sunday) all owners of Leonbergers from near and far have the opportunity to participate in a concerted action of the DCLH.

We support the building up of a blood sample Archive for the Osteosarcoma study of the Faculty of Bern. For this purpose, blood sampling will be done by Dr. Scherer; it will be carried out in the judges' room of the club house. Blood collection, shipment and storage are free of charge.

The blood samples intended for Osteosarcoma study will be forwarded by Bern to institutions also in Sweden and England.

The blood samples that are intended solely for the LPN-1 evaluation will also be taken free of charge on this occasion. The University of Bern will raise the usual cost for the LPN-1 gene diagnosis at owners cost.

From DCLH, back to the topic of the day;

We all speak of the responsibility towards our breed, our joint goals in breeding and the health of our Leonberger. These are issues that concern us all. To secure the achievements reached is not enough today and even less so tomorrow. We are in competition with many other giant breeds and their Clubs. It is important to sharpen our view beyond our borders, in order to recognize that for quality, efficiency in breeding is required and equally important, a harmonious coexistence.

Innovative, to the future directed impulses in breeding and to Club life must remain in the forefront. What I have said many times before is still valid today;

- 1 Of particular emphasis is the default implementation of the recommendations of uniform breeding guidelines
- 2 The improvement and harmonization of breed type, this on an International level
- 3 The recognition and relentless pursuit for the control of hereditary defects to put in the foreground.

Not everything that an individual wants, or what we all would like, can also be implemented on an International basis. Nevertheless, it is important to continue to clearly address our problems and to clearly define them. Benchmark of our discussions to recommendations and guidelines we must ask: "What's the benefit to our breed," and above all, can it also be implemented internationally. Wishful thinking and reality are often as far apart as the North and South Poles.

There is an old saying that working together and learning from each other is the guarantor of success. This is true despite the fact that it is sometimes a difficult road to find a compatible solution for all. Our commitment to our breed, for our clubs and thus for the development of the "International Leonberger Union" is commitment enough to jointly expand existing strengths and potentials in close cooperation.

The Union, herein all of us can only be a guarantor of success, if the philosophy of the member countries is heading in the right direction. The confidence that the Board is leading to the right direction on important issues is essential.

Announcement, not as part of the report;

Finally, I would like to announce that a Heinrich Essig and historic old town tour with a professional guide will take place in Leonberg. Meeting point is at the clubhouse, starting 13.00 o'clock

We probably will not be finished with our session at this time. Maybe friends or acquaintances are on site, who may want to join the tour.

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

Willi Güllix, President