

# Leonberger Club of America Competition Rules

## I. Events

Eligible Leonbergers may compete in the following events:

**A. Leonberger Club of America (LCA) Sanctioned Events:** LCA events are defined as any event sponsored directly by the LCA or any event sponsored by an LCA regional affiliate club, approved by the LCA Show Committee.

LCA rules govern all activities at any such event, and must be followed at all times. The event chair and event committee are in charge at all LCA sanctioned National and Regional events and any ruling during the event rests with the chair and event committee. All attendees must comply with the LCA Safety Policy (see Appendix A).

**B. Non-LCA Sanctioned Events:** The Host Club's rules govern all activities and must be followed at all times. Specifically, entry and class qualifications must be met within the host organization's guidelines. Non-LCA sanctioned events are defined as:

1. Any event hosted by other all-breed organizations or kennel clubs.
2. Any event hosted by any other recognized breed club.
3. Any event hosted by a sporting or working club.

## II. Competition Eligibility

**A. Registration:** In order for a Leonberger to compete in any LCA Event, the Leonberger must be registered with the LCA and have an LCA number issued (or pending issue) by the Registrar.

**B. LCA Membership Not Required:** the owner/handler need not be an LCA member to show in LCA sanctioned events.

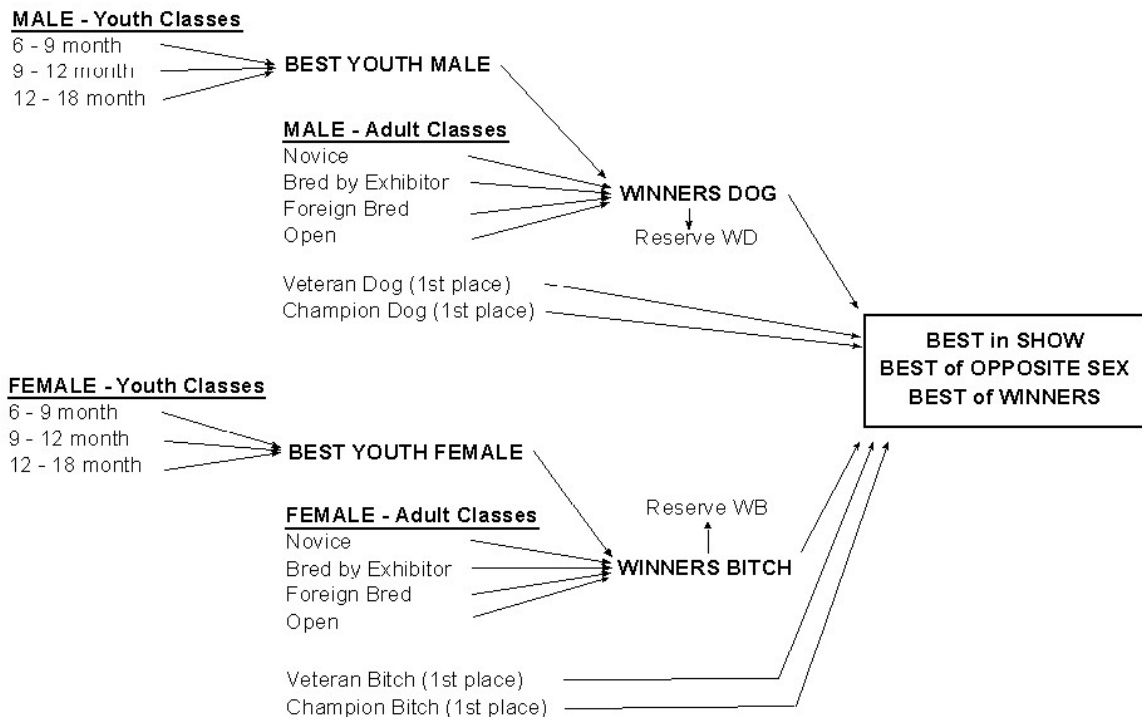
**C. Breeders Line/Group:** In order for any Kennel (or Stud Dog) to compete in the Breeder's Line or Breeder's Group competition at any LCA Sanctioned National or Regional event, the Kennel must be a registered LCA Kennel (or Registered Stud Dog) in good standing.

## III. Conformation Events

**A. LCA Conformation Events:** LCA Conformation Events are organized in the following manner:

1. All entrant Leonbergers (except in a Puppy Sweeps event) will be evaluated by, and will receive a written assessment from, a qualified judge. Class placements (1st – 4th) will be determined and presented by the judge during class judging.
2. The rating on the evaluation does not determine advancement in the event.
3. Judging for points classes will proceed as follows:
  - a. All dogs will be evaluated first starting with Youth Classes.
  - b. After the Youth Classes have been judged, Best Youth Dog will be selected from the winners of each age group (see class definitions). The Best Youth Dog will go on to compete for Winners Dog against the first place dogs of the following classes: Novice, Bred by Exhibitor, Foreign Bred, and Open. Reserve Winners Dog will be selected from the remaining first place Leonbergers in the Winners class. Second place dogs are not brought back into the ring for Reserve Winners placements except at the National Specialty at the discretion of the judge.
  - c. After all dogs are evaluated, bitches will be evaluated in the same manner.
  - d. Winners Dog, Winners Bitch, Veteran and Champion class winners (both dog and bitch) advance to compete in the overall Best of Breed competition. During the final competition the Judge(s) will select Best of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex and Best of Winners.

### LCA CONFORMATION FLOW CHART



**B. Conformation Class Eligibility:** It is the Exhibitor's responsibility to make sure their Leonberger(s) is entered in the correct class.

1. Failure to enter the Leonberger in the correct class may result in disqualification from competition at the event. There is no further penalty for this error.
2. No class shall be re-judged to accommodate a Leonberger who has been entered in the incorrect class. However, if the error is discovered before competition begins in the affected classes, the Leonberger may be moved to the correct class.
3. If a Leonberger is disqualified after being placed in a class, the next placed Leonberger will assume the higher placement.
4. Questions regarding class eligibility should be directed first to the Event Chair for any given event. Exhibitors may also consult any member of the LCA Show Committee. However, the Show Committee, Event chair, or any other individual shall not be held responsible for advice of eligibility based on inaccurate or incomplete information given by the exhibitor.
5. Exhibitors should read the class definitions (section IV) carefully before entering any show.
6. A Leonberger may not be moved to a champion class without notification of eligibility to the exhibitor by the LCA Points Secretary.
7. A Leonberger will be considered ineligible for conformation competition if it has been subjected to any type of procedure that would change, disguise, correct or eliminate a congenital or hereditary defect or undesirable characteristic with the exception of the removal of rear dewclaws.
8. All Leonbergers competing in regular conformation classes or specials adult classes must be intact (except as noted in veteran class). Male Leonbergers must have two normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum (except as noted in veteran class).

**C. General Guidelines:**

- No badges, clothing with kennel names, or other means of identification may be worn/used while exhibiting in the ring.
- Handlers shall not use pinch collars in the ring.
- If a dog/bitch is owned either wholly or in part by a judge at an LCA Sanctioned Event, the Leonberger shall not be exhibited under said judge.
- Exhibitors and their Leonbergers are not to fraternize with judges immediately prior to an event.

## **IV. Conformation Classes**

**A. Regular Youth Classes:**

Youth Dogs/Bitches 6-9 months

Open to all dogs/bitches between 6 and 9 months of age.

Youth Dogs/Bitches 9-12 months

Open to all dogs/bitches between 9 and 12 months of age.

Youth Dogs/Bitches 12-18 months

Open to all dogs/bitches between 12 and 18 months of age.

Leonbergers must be moved to the next age class on the “anniversary” of their birth, as per the following example:

- A puppy born on January 1st will be eligible to compete only in the 3-6 month non-regular class as of April 1st, and until June 30th.
- At any show held on or after the next anniversary, which constitutes a new age class (6, 9, and 12 months) that puppy will be eligible to compete only in the next age class.
- At any show held on or after the 18-month anniversary of birth, that puppy will be considered an adult, and will be eligible to compete only in the appropriate adult class.

### **B. Regular Adult Classes (Non-Champion):**

#### Novice Dog/Bitch

Open to any Dog or Bitch 18 months or older who has NOT won 3 first place awards in Novice, or won 1 first place award in any other adult class (Bred by Exhibitor, Foreign Bred, Open, or Veterans), AND who has earned NO points toward an LCA Championship.

#### Bred By Exhibitor Dog/Bitch

Open to any Dog or Bitch 18 months or older who is exhibited by his or her breeder where the breeder is either the sole or part owner of the Leonberger being shown.

#### Foreign Bred Dog/Bitch

Open to any Dog or Bitch 18 months or older who is from a kennel domiciled outside of the United States.

#### Open Dog/Bitch

Open to any Dog or Bitch 18 months or older. Dogs or Bitches that are eligible for the Novice, Bred by Exhibitor, or Foreign Bred classes may be entered in this class instead, at the owner’s discretion.

**C. Specials Adult Classes:** These classes do not compete for LCA Championship points, but the winners of both champion classes and veteran classes compete for Best of Breed and Top Leo points.

#### LCA Champion Dog/Bitch

Open to any Dog or Bitch who has attained an LCA Championship.

#### Veteran Dog/Bitch

Open to any Dog or Bitch who is 7 years of age or older, including LCA Champions, and who is either intact or has produced offspring.

**D. Non-Regular Classes:** Non-regular classes compete in conformation-type exhibition events, but no championship points are awarded for placement in these classes.

#### Puppy Dog/Bitch 3-6 months

Open to all puppies between 3 and 6 months of age.

Leonbergers must be moved to the next age class on the “anniversary” of their birth, as per the following example:

- A puppy born on January 1st will be eligible to compete only in the 3-6 month non-regular class as of April 1st, and until June 30th.
- At any show held on or after the next anniversary, which constitutes a new age class (6, 9, and 12 months) that puppy will be eligible to compete only in the next age class.
- At any show held on or after the 18-month anniversary of birth, that puppy will be considered an adult, and will be eligible to compete only in the appropriate adult class.

#### Spay/Neuter

Open to any Neutered Dog or Spayed Bitch who is 6 months of age or older.

#### Brace Class

Entrants are Two (2) Leonbergers, at least 6 months old, of the same sex, but not necessarily the same bloodlines, that resemble each other.

#### Honors Dog/Bitch

Available at the National Specialty only; open to any Dog or Bitch who has won Best in Specialty Show (Best of Breed) at an LCA National Specialty. This class does not compete for points or for Best in Specialty Show (Best of Breed).

#### Breeder's Group

Entrants are a minimum of three (3) Leonbergers with the same Kennel Name that meet the qualifications for conformation showing in regular or non-regular conformation events.

#### Breeder's Line

Entrants are a sire or dam with a minimum of 5 offspring, of any gender, from at least two litters, that meet the qualifications for conformation showing in regular or non-regular conformation events.

## **V. Puppy Sweepstakes**

The purpose of Puppy Sweepstakes is to offer ring experience to the puppies, and handling practice, as well as health/structural information to the exhibitor from experienced club judges. LCA National Puppy Sweepstakes Classes are divided by sex and age (6-9 mos., 9-12 mos., 12-18 mos.) with a percentage of the entry fee monies given as prizes instead of points. 20% of the puppy sweeps entry fees go to the LCA. The remaining 80 % is divided by the total number of entries in each class to determine the value of each placement. The first place winners of each class compete within each gender for Best Puppy Sweeps Male and Best Puppy Sweeps Female, who will then compete for the title Best in Sweeps.

## **VI. Obedience Events**

**A. LCA Obedience Event:** The Leonberger Club of America follows an adaptation of the Obedience Rules & Regulations of the American Kennel Club. AKC Obedience Regulations can be found online at <http://www.akc.org> or a copy may be obtained from the LCA Show Committee.

1. Classes at the same level may be combined for group exercises at the judge's discretion, but will be scored as for the class division entered.
2. A Leonberger may not be entered in more than one regular class with the exception that CDX & UD titled Leonbergers may enter both Open B and Utility B to compete for High Combined.
3. A qualifying score of 170 points or better out of 200 points is required for all placements and prizes in the regular classes and to count toward a title in regular classes.
4. The High in Trial Award is presented to the Leonberger with the highest qualifying score from the regular classes only.
5. At LCA competitions, in Open and Utility, the high jump will be set to the nearest multiple of two inches, to three quarters the height of the Leonberger at the withers. The broad jump will be set at a distance equal to double the height of the high jump up to a maximum of 48".

**B. Obedience Class Eligibility:** It is the Exhibitor's responsibility to make sure his or her Leonberger(s) is entered in the correct class.

1. Failure to enter the Leonberger in the correct class may result in disqualification from competition at the event. There is no further penalty for this error.
2. No class shall be re-judged to accommodate a Leonberger who has been entered in the incorrect class. However, if the error is discovered before competition begins in the affected classes, the Leonberger may be moved to the correct class.
3. If a Leonberger is disqualified after being placed in a class, the next placed Leonberger will assume the higher placement.
4. Questions regarding class eligibility should be directed first to the Event Chair for any given event. Exhibitors may also consult any member of the LCA Show Committee. However, the Show Committee, Event chair, or any other individual shall not be held responsible for advice of eligibility based on inaccurate or incomplete information given by the exhibitor.
5. Exhibitors should read the class definitions (section VII) carefully before entering any show.

**C. General Guidelines:**

- No badges, clothing with kennel names, or other means of identification may be worn/used while exhibiting in the ring.
- Handlers shall not have food, nor use pinch collars in the ring.
- If a dog/bitch is owned either wholly or in part by a judge at an LCA Sanctioned Event, the Leonberger shall not be exhibited under said judge.
- Exhibitors and their Leonbergers are not to fraternize with judges immediately prior to an event.

## **VII. Obedience Classes**

**A. Regular Classes:**

Novice A & B

Entrants should be competition ready. No title is required. Entrant handlers who have previously earned a CD title on any dog must enter Novice B.

Novice C

Entrant Leonbergers must hold an LCA CD title. Competition is for Top Leo placement and High in Trial only. Leonbergers are only allowed to compete in this class for one year following obtaining a CD.

Open A

Entrants must hold the LCA CD title.

Open B

Entrant Leonbergers must hold at least an LCA CD title. Entrant handlers who have previously earned a CDX title on any dog must enter Open B.

Utility A

Entrants must hold the LCA CDX title.

Utility B

Entrant Leonbergers must have won a CDX title and a Utility title.

**B. Non-Regular Classes:**

Pre-Novice

Entrants should be almost competition ready. No title is required

Veterans Novice

Entrants must be at least 6 years of age. No title is required.

Veterans Open

Entrants must be at least 6 years of age and hold the LCA CD title. Jumps will be at half the normal Open class height.

Veterans Utility

Entrants must be at least 6 years of age and hold the LCA CDX title. Jumps will be at half the normal Utility class height.

## **VIII. Water Dog Events**

The LCA is not holding sanctioned Water events at this time. Please see the information in Section XI for information on Water Titles.

## **IX. Agility Events**

The LCA is not holding sanctioned Agility events at this time. Please see the information in Section XI for information on Agility Titles.

## **X. Draft Events**

The LCA is not holding sanctioned Draft events at this time. Please see the information in Section XI for information on Draft Titles.

## **XI. Titles**

**A. LCA Champion (Conformation):** Dogs/Bitches are awarded an LCA Championship when a total of 15 Championship Points are accumulated; including two majors with one major being earned after the age of 18 months. A major is the award of three or more points at a single show.

Points can be earned at either an LCA sanctioned event or at other “All Breed” conformation events.

Earning Points at an LCA Conformation Event:

- a) Points are earned toward an LCA Championship title based on the number of Leonbergers entered and defeated in the Regular Conformation Classes. Points are awarded only to the Winners Dog/Bitch, with the total number of points based on the dog’s final placement in the event.
- b) The dog/bitch receiving Winners Dog or Winners Bitch may count the number of Leonbergers of the same gender defeated in the regular classes. Points are awarded on the following schedule (maximum of 5 points per show):

# of Leonbergers Entered	# of Leonbergers Defeated	# of Points Earned
1	0	0
2	1	1
3	2	2
4	3	3
5	4	4
6 or above	5 or above	5

- c) The dog or bitch receiving Best of Winners at a show may add to his/her point total by adding the number of the opposite sex entry from the regular classes to their original entry (maximum of 5 points per show).
  - d) If Winners Dog or Winners Bitch goes Best of Breed over champions, the number of champions defeated may be added to the total entry in determining points (maximum of 5 points per show).
  - f) All points earned at LCA sanctioned events will automatically be reported to the LCA Points Secretary by the specialty committee.
2. Earning Points at Non-LCA Conformation Events: Points are earned at Non-LCA conformation events much like they are earned at LCA sanctioned events.
- a) If the governing body has a Winners Dog or Winners Bitch award, then points are earned the same as at LCA sanctioned events.
  - b) If no Winners Dog or Winners Bitch is awarded, then championship points are earned at the Best of Breed level (counting Leonbergers from both genders). If the Leonberger winning Best of Breed is already an LCA champion, then no LCA Champion points are awarded at that show. Top Leo points will still be attainable.
  - c) Leonbergers that have obtained a championship through a sanctioning body other than the LCA, prior to obtaining an LCA Championship, will be required to show in

the champion category in events sponsored by such sanctioning body and, accordingly, will not be able to earn points towards an LCA championship at such shows. Top Leo points will still be attainable.

- d) In order to have points from a non-LCA event counted towards an LCA championship, a points form must be submitted to the LCA Points Secretary within 90 days of the show date. Forms must be completed and signed by a licensed judge or show official. Points forms are available in Appendix B and at the LCA website: [www.leonbergerclubofamerica.com](http://www.leonbergerclubofamerica.com).

**B. LCA Top Leo (Conformation):** The purpose of the Top Leo Award is to recognize the most winning Leonbergers each year. The top five Leonbergers will receive an award at the National Specialty and special recognition in the LeoLetter. Top Leo, Conformation, is determined by the following:

1. Leonbergers are ranked by their cumulative total of points awarded for the highest level of win at a conformation event. Only the highest level points, per show, will be added to the Top Leo score (for example, if a dog wins Best of Breed and Group One, only 10 points will be awarded for that show) The points awarded are listed below:

Best of Breed (All-Breed Shows)	2 points
Group One (All-Breed Shows)	10 points
Best in Show (All-Breed Shows)	15 points
LCA Sanctioned Regional Specialty Best of Breed	15 points
LCA National Specialty Best of Opposite Sex	15 points
LCA National Specialty Best of Breed	25 points

2. In the case of a tie the Leonberger with the highest level of wins would place highest.
3. Top Leo points earned at an LCA sanctioned event will be determined by the LCA Points Secretary based on the report of the specialty committee. In order to have points from a non-LCA event counted towards an LCA Top Leo award, a points form must be submitted to the LCA Points Secretary within 90 days of the show date, or by March 1st, whichever is earlier, for Top Leo consideration for the previous year. Forms must be completed and signed by a licensed judge or show official. Points forms are available in Appendix B and at the LCA website: [www.leonbergerclubofamerica.com](http://www.leonbergerclubofamerica.com).

**C. Conformation Certificate:** An LCA registered Leonberger, who is either spayed or neutered, and at least 18 months of age, is eligible to earn an LCA Conformation Certificate by completing the following: Earn 3 evaluations with a rating of Excellent, from 3 different judges at LCA sanctioned events. Events being defined as the National Specialty and/or sanctioned Regional specialties. All “excellent” evaluations earned at LCA sanctioned events will automatically be reported to the LCA Points Secretary by the specialty committee. Any dog completing these requirements will have the right to use LCA CC after the dogs registered name.

**D. Obedience Titles:** The LCA awards obedience titles for Companion Dog (CD) - Novice competition, Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) - Open competition, Utility Dog (UD) - Utility competition.

1. In order to receive an obedience title from the LCA, the Leonberger must receive a qualifying score in 3 regular trials with a score of 170 points or better, out of a possible 200 points. No more than two qualifying scores may be earned under the same judge.

Qualifying scores may be earned at LCA sanctioned events, or events sponsored by the following where a licensed judge presides over each class: United Kennel Club (UKC), Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA), and The Canadian Kennel Club (CKC).

3. Qualifying scores earned at LCA sanctioned events will automatically be reported to the LCA Points Secretary by the specialty committee. Qualifying scores earned at non-LCA sanctioned events must be reported to the LCA Points Secretary on the appropriate LCA points form within 90 days of the trial date. Points forms are available in Appendix B and at the LCA website: [www.leonbergerclubofamerica.com](http://www.leonbergerclubofamerica.com).

**E. Top Leo (Obedience):** The purpose of the Top Leo Award is to recognize the most winning Leonbergers each year. The top five Leonbergers will receive an award at the National Specialty and special recognition in the LeoLetter. Top Leo, Obedience, is determined by the following:

1. Leonbergers are ranked by the average of their top three obedience scores from regular classes during the calendar year.
2. At least three scores must be submitted to be considered for this ranking. Obedience scores will only be counted from the same class of competition i.e. Novice, Open or Utility, but not mixed between levels.
3. In case of a tie, the Leonberger with the highest individual score would take precedence.
4. A Leonberger will be placed on his highest set of scores from a single class only.
5. Reporting Top Leo Points: Top Leo points earned at an LCA sanctioned event will automatically be reported to the LCA Points Secretary by the specialty committee. In order to have points from a non-LCA event counted towards an LCA Top Leo award, a points form must be submitted by the LCA Points Secretary within 90 days of the trial date, or by March 1st, whichever is earlier, for Top Leo consideration for the previous year. Forms must be completed and signed by a licensed judge or show official. Points Forms are available in Appendix B and at the LCA website: [www.leonbergerclubofamerica.com](http://www.leonbergerclubofamerica.com).

**F. Water Rescue Titles:** The LCA awards Water Rescue titles for Water Dog (WD), and Water Rescue Dog (WRD).

1. In 1997 the Leonberger Club of America received permission from the Newfoundland Club of America (NCA) to utilize the NCA official water test requirements. The LCA continues to follow these requirements. The NCA will test Leonbergers at the end of a regularly scheduled water test, space permitting. To be included in a water test, contact the local chapter of the NCA

2. To apply for a water title send the LCA Points Secretary a copy of the water test evaluation form signed by the judge. A water title is granted when a Leonberger passes the test in all areas. A Leonberger need only pass the test one time to be granted the title.
3. Newfoundland Club of America's Water Test Regulations can be found online at <http://www.newfdogclub.org> or a copy may be obtained from the LCA Show Committee.

**G. LCA Agility Titles:** The LCA awards Agility titles for, NAD - Novice Agility Dog, OAD - Open Agility Dog and EAD - Elite Agility Dog

1. Three qualifying legs from any combination of the following clubs at any given level shall be recognized as a qualifying leg towards an LCA title at that level: North American Dog Agility Council (NADAC), United States Dog Agility Association (USDAA), United Kennel Club (UKC), Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA), and Canine Performance Events (CPE).
  - a. Due to the different award levels at CPE, qualifying runs will only be considered from level II and above. CPE level I will not be recognized, level II will be considered Novice, level III will be considered Open, and level IV will be considered Elite.
2. Three qualifying legs from any combination of the clubs listed above shall be recognized as a LCA title at that level of competition.
3. Only one leg can be earned per qualifying run even if the run results in a leg in two different qualifying organizations (for example by NADAC/ASCA).
4. Exhibitors must submit completed and signed points forms indicating the qualifying agility run to the LCA Points Secretary within 90 days of the trial date. Points forms are available in Appendix B and at the LCA website: [www.leonbergerclubofamerica.com](http://www.leonbergerclubofamerica.com).
5. Information on Agility Regulations can be found online at the following websites:  
NADAC – North American Dog Agility Council: <http://www.nadac.com>  
ASCA - Australian Shepherd Club of America: <http://www.asca.org>  
USDAA – United States Dog Agility Association <http://www.usdaa.com>  
CPE – Canine Performance Events: <http://www.k9cpe.com>

**H. Draft Titles:** The LCA awards Draft titles for Novice Draft Dog (NDD), Open Draft Dog (DD), Novice Team Draft Dog (NTDD) and Open Team Draft Dog (TDD).

1. In 2004 the Leonberger Club of America received permission from the Newfoundland Club of America (NCA) and the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America to utilize the NCA and the BMCDA official draft test requirements. The LCA continues to follow these requirements. The NCA and BMCDA will test Leonbergers at the end of a regularly scheduled draft test, space permitting. To be included in a draft test, contact the local chapter of the NCA or BMCDA
2. Titles offered through each of the clubs differ. The Host Club's rules govern all activities and must be followed at all times. Specifically, class qualifications must be met within the host organization's guidelines. For example, an NDD Title is not required to compete for an NCA DD Title (the NCA does not offer a novice program) and therefore a Leonberger could earn a DD without having earned an NDD.
3. To apply for a draft title send the LCA Points Secretary a copy of the draft test evaluation form signed by the judge. A draft title is granted when a Leonberger

- passes the test in all areas. A Leonberger need only pass the test one time to be granted the title.
4. Only individual titles (NDD and DD) will be eligible towards qualifications for the Versatile Leo Awards.
  5. Newfoundland Club of America's Draft Test Regulations can be found online at <http://www.newfdogclub.org>. Bernese Mountain Dog Draft Test Regulations can be found online at <http://www.bmdca.org>. Copies of both may be obtained from the LCA Show Committee.

**I. Versatility Titles:** No submissions are required for Versatility Titles. These titles will be automatically awarded when the LCA Points Secretary verifies other titles.

1. (VL) Versatile Leonberger: Any Leonberger that earns LCA titles in two different venues shall be awarded the title of Versatile Leonberger.
- (VLA) Versatile Leonberger Advanced: Any Leonberger that earns three LCA titles in at least two different venues, one of which may be advanced, shall be awarded the title of Versatile Leonberger Advanced.
- (VLX) Versatile Leonberger Excellent: Any Leonberger that earns LCA titles in either two different venues where both are advanced, or in three different venues where one must be advanced, shall be awarded the title of Versatile Leonberger Excellent.

## **Appendix A**

### **LCA Safety Policy**

- Dogs must be crated or on leash at all times.
- When on leash, the length must not exceed six feet and may not be a retractable lead.
- Dogs must be under control at all times.
- Dogs showing uncontrolled or aggressive behavior may be asked by the event chair, a board member, or other official to leave the site promptly – or be crated for the duration of the event.
- Current rabies certificates are required.
- There will be occasions when a dog will be allowed off-lead when approved by the event chair.
- Failure to meet these conditions may result in a disciplinary hearing.

## Appendix B