

Glossary

This glossary is to help potential puppy buyers become more familiar with some of the terms and health issues that you should be able to discuss when reaching out to breeders. This is by no means a definitive list of all potential health issues that can affect Leonbergers. If you are interested in purchasing a Leonberger puppy to add to your family, you must do your homework, take your time to do your research and don't rush the process. Know what to ask and what the answers should be. Be informed, be assertive in your discussions with breeders and most of all, be committed to providing a good home to your new puppy.

AKC Limited Registration

Limited Registration means that the dog is registered but no litters produced by that dog are eligible for registration.

Chapter 3, Section 4A of the AKC's Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline states the following: "Limited Registration may be requested for a dog when application for individual registration of the dog is submitted, provided the application, together with a request for such limitation, is filed by the owner(s) of the litter at birth. No offspring of a dog for which Limited Registration has been granted is eligible for registration. Each registration certificate for such dog shall carry notice of the limitation, and the limitation shall continue, regardless of any change of ownership, unless and until the owner(s) of the litter at birth shall apply to AKC for removal of the limitation."

CHIC

Canine Health Information Center Provides a source of health information for owners, breeders, and scientists that will assist in breeding healthy dogs.

In order to receive a **CHIC number** Leos must complete all of the health tests required by the LCA and make sure the information has been submitted to the OFA. Information on most tests generate automatically to CHIC. Currently, the club requires the following tests: Hip Conformation (either OFA or Penn Hip) with an OFA score of, excellent, good or fair or a Penn Hip score between .00 and .47 which the LCA considers to be "breedable". Additional tests required are, elbow conformation, eye evaluation (CERF or OFA), LPN1 status and OFA Thyroid. At this time, an OFA heart evaluation is recommended, but not required.

Please keep in mind that being assigned a CHIC number is only indicative of the dog completing all of the required health tests and does NOT indicate passing scores. Scores (passing/failing) are displayed on the CHIC database and can easily be found by entering the dog's CHIC number. <http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/chicinfo.html>

Leonberger University:

The LCA's newest educational program known as Leonberger University. Online interactive home-study courses and activities along with hands-on seminars were developed for the continuing education and enrichment of anyone with the desire to learn more about the breed. Whether you are involved in breeding, judging, conformation, therapy work, a new Leonberger family, or simply enjoy your Leo as a loving companion there are classes of interest at Leonberger University. Their "Leonberger Owner's Guide" is an invaluable addition to your library, especially for first time Leonberger owners. <http://www.leonberger-u-org/>

LHF

The Leonberger Health Foundation was formed with the vision to improve the quality of life, health and longevity in our Leonberger companions. Their mission is to raise money to fund canine research that will

improve the health of the Leonberger dog through increased knowledge and understanding of canine diseases. <http://www.leohealth.org/>

Member Practices

(MP's) A document that represents our club's code of ethics that ALL members agree to abide by when joining the LCA. The MP's are designed to establish a baseline standard for owning and breeding Leonbergers responsibly. The MP's consist of five sections: Required Breeding Practices, Recommended Breeding Practices, Sales, Ethics and Compliance, which can be found here: http://www.leonbergerclubofamerica.info/publication/memberpractices_7-26-07/wppa_open/

OFA

The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals promotes the health and welfare of companion animals through a reduction in the incidence of genetic disease through health screening <http://www.offa.org/index.html>

Penn Hip

Incorporates an alternative method for evaluating the integrity of the canine hip. It is accurate in puppies as young as 16 weeks of age, and has great potential to lower the frequency of canine hip dysplasia when used as a selection criterion prior to breeding. The LCA considers results between .00-.47 as breedable.

“Required” Health Tests for LCA member’s Breeding Dogs:

All results must be posted on OFA

- OFA hips – must be a passing score (fair, good, excellent)
Or
Penn Hip – must be between .00-.47
- OFA elbows
- CERF or OFA eye exam
- OFA thyroid
- LPN1 mutation (from Univ. of Minn. or Univ. of Bern)

“Recommended” Health Test for LCA member’s Breeding Dogs:

- OFA Cardiac

Other “Recommendations” for LCA member’s Breeding Dogs:

- CGC (Canine Good Citizen)
- DNA repository (Participation in the OFA/Chic DNA Repository for future research)

The Diseases:

Addison's: Addison's disease is a condition where the body does not produce enough specific hormones critical to many physiologic functions of inflammation. Due to testing and careful breeding

choices it has basically been eradicated. It is more common in young to middle aged adult females. Signs may include generalized muscle weakness, collapse, anorexia, vomiting, diarrhea, hair loss, excessive drinking and/or urinating. Diagnosis is made with blood tests and it can be controlled with medication.

Autoimmune Thyroiditis: The thyroid gland is a critical organ present in all mammals and controls the metabolism in most systems of the body. It can stop working in Leos due to a gradual loss of functional gland over time with age, or due to immune stimulated inflammation and replacement of the gland with scar tissue. Weight gain, poor coat (dry or thin), mental dullness, changes in behavior, skin problems, gastrointestinal issues, weakness and decreased exercise intolerance are the most common signs. Thyroid results are from an AKC approved lab.

Bloat: An acute condition in which the stomach can torque and traps gas inside, causing extreme pain. Irreversible damage to the stomach, intestine or spleen can occur due to the torque. Unless treated very quickly, death may result. This is an article on the most current bloat study: <http://breedingbetterdogs.com/pdfFiles/articles/bloat-what.you.need.to.know.oct.5.2012.pdf>

Congenital Cardiac Disease: Gathering data regarding congenital heart disease, to identify dogs which are phenotypically normal prior to use in a breeding program. "Normal" being defined as: One without a cardiac murmur, or one with an innocent heart murmur that is found to be otherwise normal thru an echocardiographic examination.

Elbow Dysplasia: Is a general term used to identify an inherited polygenic disease (inherited by several genes) in the elbow of the dog.

Eye problems: Eye examinations performed by an AVCO (American College of Veterinary Ophthalmology) screen for a number of eye conditions including cataracts, corneal ulcers, distichiasis entropion and ectropion. Some eye conditions are serious and some are not. Some are also "breeders options" due to lack of information on the possibility of heredity.

Hip Dysplasia (HD): Due to the conscientious efforts of LCA breeders over the years in not breeding dysplastic dogs and requiring three generations free of hip dysplasia on all breeding animals, the Leonberger has maintained a better than average standing in the disease with other large breeds. Although it can be a terrible genetic disease because of the various degrees of arthritis which can lead to pain and debilitation, puppy buyers can help prevent that by requiring the puppies they buy are from three generation free pedigrees and bred by the OFA's Recommended Breeding Principals." All LCA registered Leonbergers used for breeding in the US must have passing hip x-rays, which means fair or better..

Leonberger Polyneuropathy: A disease which affects the peripheral nervous system and thus secondarily the muscles which are controlled by those nerves. The longest nerves of the body are those affected first and most profoundly. The earliest signs usually appear in the hind limbs as exercise intolerance or abnormal gait, or the larynx (voice box) with the upper airway becoming compromised resulting in noisy breathing or a change in bark. More information on Leonberger inherited polyneuropathy and on the LPN1 mutation which has been found and implicated in causing one severe, early form of the disease can be found at <http://www.vdl.umn.edu/ourservices/canineneuromuscular/leonberger/> Please ask your breeder to provide LPN1 results for both parents of your prospective puppy.

Pano: An inflammation of the long bones (legs) is sometimes seen in Leos from about 5-18 months of age. It's more of a nuisance condition as it does not create any permanent physical damage. However, it's definitely painful and can leave a vigorous Leo pup frustrated because it hurts to play, walk, etc.

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**Checklist of items as you select a breeder.**

Breeder is an LCA member in good standing

with both the AKC and the LCA  Y  N

AKC Registration # on sire:  Y  N

If yes, is it a Limited registration?  Y  N

AKC Registration # on dam:  Y  N

If yes, is it a Limited registration?  Y  N

Is your puppy being sold on a Limited registration?  Y  N

CHIC # for sire:  Y  N

CHIC # for dam:  Y  N

Are both parents "clear" of the LPN1 gene mutation?  Y  N If not, will the pups be tested to determine if they are "clear" or a "carrier" before they are placed in their new homes?

Hip Score Fair or better  Y  N **OR**

PENNHip score between .00 and .47  Y  N

OFA Elbow Score Normal? If not, what was the defect?  Y  N

Does the breeder also ask you lots of questions  Y  N

Do you provide a "puppy care" packet explaining proper nutrition and new puppy care?  Y  N

Will I receive veterinary documentation for worming, vaccinations and overall health?  Y  N

Will AKC registration papers be provided with this puppy?  Y  N

Will this puppy be microchipped or tattooed while in your care?  Y  N

Do you have a spay/neuter contract?  Y  N

Do you charge more for a show prospect puppy than a family pet?  Y  N

Do you place your pups after 8 weeks of age:  Y  N

Does the breeder offer "first right of refusal"? Meaning the breeder will take the puppy back or help re-home the Leo if new owner is unable to keep:  Y  N

Copy of puppy contract to review before your purchase?  Y  N

Any disciplinary action by the LCA?  Y  N (If yes, please explain)

Are you welcome to visit the breeder's home to meet the "parents" before and after the litter is born?  Y  N

Have you ever had a breeding take place before ALL health tests were completed and results known for either the sire and dam?  Y  N If "yes", please explain why.

Have you ever had any non-compliant breedings reported to the Member Practices Assurance Committee?  Y  N

Have you ever had a formal Disciplinary Charge filed against you?  Y  N If "yes" please explain the charges.

Do you feel comfortable with this breeder and believe they are someone that will remain helpful to you throughout the life of your Leonberger?  Y  N