



ILU Health Committee (ILUHC) Meeting Minutes

Date: 4 July, 2013
Time: 10:00 PDT, 18:00 BST, 19:00 CEST
via Skype

Attendees: Anita Treichler, Metha Stramer, Sharon Spingel, Teresa Schläffer, Wilma Kroom

Review responses from member clubs to introduction:

Discussion of the somewhat disappointing response from the member clubs to the introduction of the ILUHC. The committee has received responses from:

- UK
- US
- Belgium
- France
- Switzerland
- Netherlands

Action Items:

1. Committee members will contact member clubs individually to possibly gather more information:
2. Those attending the September Union Meeting will reintroduce the committee, review the purpose of the committee, and compile/complete contact lists.

Survey Results

Preliminary US survey results were shared with the committee.

The committee currently has survey information from the US, UK and Dutch clubs. The committee feels it can access information from surveys done in Switzerland and the Czech Republic.

The committee discussed the perception that Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM) and other heart issues were more prevalent in the European Leonberger population than in the United States. The committee felt that although there may be a slightly higher incidence of heart disorders in Europe, the overall percentages were relatively low.

The DCM study in France was discussed.

Health Summary for Union meeting in September

There was discussion on how to report health concerns at the Union meeting in a concise and informative way. It was suggested to consider a model from the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF). The AKC CHF surveys all breed clubs for their top 5 health concerns. It was agreed this model will work for the committee. The top 5 health concerns will be compiled from each health survey available and then compiled into a single list. The ILUHC decided that the top 5 did not only need to be life and death disorders, but disorders that affect the quality of life of the Leonberger as well.

Committee project ideas

The committee discussed the critical nature of an international Leonberger health database. However, the Leonberger Health Foundation, in the US, will be moving forward with this project, and the committee felt the ILUHC efforts could add more value to another project.

The idea of a centralized International Leonberger DNA bank was discussed. The ILU Health Committee decided to present a proposal at the Union meeting to research and report back to the Union on the benefits and feasibility of such a DNA bank.

Union Report

The ILUHC report to the ILU meeting in September will include the following:

1. A review of actions of the committee to date.
2. A summary of the top 5 Leonberger health concerns.
3. A proposal for a study of an International DNA Bank.
4. A summary report of current supported research projects
 - a. LPN/LEMP
 - b. Osteosarcoma

Other Discussion Items

The ILUHC discussed how the University of Minnesota will provide free LPN1 testing to dogs showing clinical signs of LPN. This is beneficial particularly to Leonberger owners who do not always recognize their part in testing their dogs to “benefit to the breed.” The University at Bern will be approached about whether they would consider a similar program.

There will be a report back to the ILUHC on the upcoming AKC CHF conference in August and the material presented at the conference.

The ILUHC will schedule a meeting in early August to finalize the report to be presented in Leonberg.

Meeting adjourned at 11:27 PDT

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Schlaffer