

Notes conference call ILU-HC 7 July 2017 time: 19.30

In attendance were: Daniela Lutz, Jane Wall, Metha Stramer & Wilma Kroon

Subjects we discussed were:

- Is it clear to member clubs what the health committee does?
- DNA testing
- Vacancy for member health committee
- Language barrier
- Free sample collection
- Contact BERN
- Follow-up video

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- Is it clear to member clubs what the health committee does?

We get the impression that some clubs expect the committee to give breeding guidelines.

this was never the purpose nor intention, as stated in the first report after instalment in 2013 :

<i>In Our initial discussions we agreed a set of guidelines that we propose will define our future work.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>To gather information from our member clubs about the health issues and concerns affecting our breed; what they are, where they are, and how frequently they occur.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>To find ways to maintain and update this information regularly, so that it remains current and valid.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>To report back on these findings annually so that all members may have a clear idea of what is affecting our breed and where the most concern lies.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>To seek out appropriately qualified research programmes that our breed might collaborate with to develop new tools for treating individual leonbergers, and / or reducing the occurrence of these conditions within breeding populations as a whole.</i>
<i>What we will not do is to provide veterinary advice or instructions, as this is not our role and we are in no way qualified to do so.</i>
<i>We will also not focus on any single illness or condition, but rather, we will be guided by what the most prevalent concerns are (as expressed by ILU member clubs), and by where the most promising research opportunities are.</i>
<i>We will not start any major projects, or launch any formal schemes before they have been presented to, and approved by, the annual delegates' meeting in Leonberg.</i>

With this in mind we can only offer information and recommendations .

Particularly important is that breeders realise the importance of not focussing on one or 2 aspects. yes, DNA tests are a valuable tool, but should not solely determine ones breeding strategy. To quote the UK kennelclub:

Make balanced breeding decisions

As well as considering the implications of a dog's DNA test results, there are other equally important factors to consider when deciding whether two dogs should be mated together, such as temperament, genetic diversity, conformation, other available health test results, the general health of the dogs, etc. Your breeding decisions should always be well balanced and take into consideration the qualities and compatibility of both the sire and dam that you are considering.

- **DNA testing**

A new DNA test has become available called LEMP (leukoencephalomyelopathy)

<https://www.vetmed.umn.edu/departments/veterinary-and-biomedical-sciences/research/canine-genetics-lab/genetic-testing/leonberger-polyneuropathy>

It concerns the us that some breeders have already started to avoid carrier dogs from breeding. However we would like to point out the recommendations that were provided by the researchers:

Breeding Recommendations

exerpt from: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2_OEHvXGzcMYnF6Y1ZvQzVOeXM/view

In general, LEMP-D/D dogs should not be used for breeding. We do not recommend exclusion of LEMP carrier (D/N) dogs from the breeding population. We do recommend avoiding matings that have the potential to produce affected (D/D) offspring. As long as one of the two parents is LEMP clear (N/N), affected offspring will not be produced.

*In a global group of more than 5,000 Leonbergers which have been submitted to our laboratories, ~14% were D/N carrier dogs. **Immediately eliminating all D/N dogs from breeding may have negative consequences for the genetic diversity of the breed.** If you prefer a D/N dog for your breeding program, you should keep them for future breeding.*

More and more labs are offering DNA package deals, please be aware that most of the tests have little to no significance for the leonberger. Many DNA tests concern diseases that are breed specific and not prevalent in the leonberger.

- **Vacancy for member health committee**

Due to busy schedule of current overseas representative, new candidates have been suggested for the position . Daniela will contact Ginny Bartholomay, president of the LCA

Language barrier

It is our impression that when questionnaires, polls and the Genetic diversity video are translated/subtitled into a countries native language, they are better understood , therefore we encourage the clubs to provide translations.

In regards to subtitling the Video :

Any club can request for the original video, simply send a request to wfkroon@hotmail.com and it will be sent to you by using WE transfer.

You need to upload it to YouTube, follow the instructions how to edit and insert the file called captions.sbv. with the timeslots.

The Dutch Club has offered assistance and provide the timeslots, for further info please contact Dutch Chairman: Niels Steinmetz voorzitterlhc@gmail.com

- **Contact BERN**

Dr. Drögemüllers assistent , Anne Letko-Wolfova, has visited Wilma Kroon in The Netherlands, to further discuss the Leonome project. A meeting was arranged with Dr. Mandigers (involved in the LEMP research) who introduced us to Prof. Leegwater, both work at the Dutch Veterinary University in Utrecht.

We also took Anne to meet with Dr. Pieter Oliehoek as colleague scientist and geneticist.

Because there is no solution yet about Leonome (Pilot Bern), Anna learned how to work with the Database program of the Independent Leonberger Database . She in her turn demonstrated it to Katie Minor in Minnesota, so now they both work with their own program and receive monthly pedigree updates from Wilma.

- **Free sample collection**

Blood samples for future genetic research projects can be archived free of charge at the University of Bern.



sending samples
free of charge.pdf

Something similar also at University Minnesota, please contact Katie Minor for info: minork@umn.edu

- **Follow-up video**

The video has been viewed more than 10.000 times and naturally many questions have arisen

On the 17th of July 2017 Wilma has an appointment with Pieter Oliehoek to discuss the video, how to proceed, what the conditions are.

Finally:

The health committee would like to find a way to get more feedback from breeders and owners.

Perhaps a discussion where after the ILU meeting , free for everyone who is interested and/or has questions, to participate?