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Working

Leonberger

The town of Leonberg in Southwest Germany has on its crest the dog that was created there in 1840 by the mayor, Heinrich Essig. He was helped by the monks of St Bernard who had crossed their St Bernards with Newfoundlands and this cross was the basis of the new breed. It is thought that there was also an infusion of Pyrenean Mountain Dog blood. Essig wanted to create a dog of leonine appearance to match the lions on the town's heraldic crest. Selectively bred for the red and fawn coats, the breed does have a leonine quality about it. The Leonberger was originally used as a guard dog but has now gathered legions of devotees because of its gentle and affectionate temperament.

Breed Group	Working
Vulnerable Breed	No
Size	Large
How much exercise?	More than 2 hours per day
Length of coat	Medium
How much grooming?	Once a week
Supposedly sheds?	Yes
Town or Country	Country
Type of home	Large House
Minimum garden size	Large
Lifespan	Under 10 Years

Health Information

You may be aware that some breeds of dog and their crosses can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the dog you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth

Potential dog owners should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

What Screening is relevant for the Leonberger?

Kennel Club Assured Breeders must use the following screening schemes for sires and dams BVA/KC

- BVA/KC Hip Dysplasia Scheme
- BVA/KC Elbow Dysplasia Scheme
- BVA/KC/ISDS Gonioscopy
- Eye testing

Kennel Club Assured Breeders are strongly recommended to use the following screening schemes and/or advice for sires and dams

- DNA test -LPN1
- DNA test - LPN2
- DNA test - LEMP
- Bitches not to produce a litter under two years of age

The list above is not necessarily comprehensive. Breed clubs and experienced breeders are useful sources of information on health issues in the breed. All breeds have a Breed Health Coordinator.

Breeding Restrictions

The Kennel Club will not accept an application to register a litter when:

- 1) The dam has already whelped 4 litters (as of the 1st January 2012 the limit changed from 6 litters to 4 litters). As of this date the Kennel Club will no longer register any further litters from any bitch which our records show has already whelped 4 litters. Therefore for any litter born on or after the 1st January 2012, the system will automatically check to see how many previous litters the Kennel Club has an account of. Where the number previously recorded is 4 or more, the application will be rejected, or
- 2) The dam has already reached the age of 8 years at the date of whelping, (relief from this restriction may be considered normally provided an application is made prior to the mating, the proposed dam has previously whelped at least one

other registered litter, and the application is supported by veterinary evidence as to the suitability of the bitch involved in the proposed whelping), or

3) The dam was under one year old at the time of mating, or

4) The offspring are the result of any mating between father and daughter, mother and son or brother and sister, save in exceptional circumstances or for scientifically proven welfare reasons, or

5) (From 1st January 2012) The dam has already had two litters delivered by caesarean section, save for scientifically proven welfare reasons and this only normally provided the application is made prior to the mating, or

6) The dam was not resident at a UK address at the date of whelping.

There are further Kennel Club Rules and Regulations that may prevent a litter from being registered; the full Kennel Club Rules and Regulations are contained in the Kennel Club Year Book.

Breed Specific Breeding Restrictions

Current Registration Colours

- Gold
- Gold With Black Mask
- Golden Red & Black Mask
- Lion & Black Mask
- Lion Red With Black Mask
- Red
- Red & Black
- Red Black Mask
- Red Brown & Black Mask
- Red Gold & Black Mask
- Red With Black Muzzle
- Sandy

Leonberger Clubs

Name	Telephone
Leonberger Association	0114 232 6557
Leonberger Club Of Great Britain	

Leonberger Rescue Organisations

Name	Telephone
Leonberger Club of Great Britain Rescue	07730 888736
Leonberger Club of Great Britain Rescue	07711 678302
Leonberger Club of Great Britain Rescue	07521 050195
Leonberger Club of Great Britain Rescue	07734 351518
Leonberger Rescue Centre	07904 382315