

Leonberger Club of America

The Leonberger Club of America enthusiastically welcomes you to the AKC world of Leonbergers and offers congratulations on the addition of a new puppy to your household!

The LCA was founded in 1985 and was admitted to the International Leonberger Union in 2008, a group of Leonberger parent clubs from 20 nations joined together to help promote and protect the breed worldwide. AKC recognition came in 2010, when the Leonberger was accepted into the working group.

Whether you compete in conformation showing or performance events such as agility, rally, obedience training, carting, water rescue, hiking, or simply enjoy your Leonberger as a loving, family companion, the Leonberger Club of America has something to offer you. Visit us at

www.leonbergerclubofamerica.com

History

The Leonberger was developed in Southern Germany in the mid-nineteenth century and generally was used



as a family, farm and draft dog. Today's Leo excels as a multipurpose working dog—the most important task being a reliable family companion.

General Appearance and Temperament

The Leonberger is a calm, large, muscular, working dog with proud head carriage, a balanced build, black mask and double coat. Being a dimorphic breed, Leonberger females and males should be easily discernable from one another. Mature (18 months) males should stand 28 to 31.5 inches at the shoulder (30 inches preferred); females 25.5 to 29.5 inches at the shoulder (27.5 inches preferred). Weight is in proportion to overall size and structure. Bone is medium to heavy and again, in

proportion to the overall size of the dog. The Leo has a smooth ground covering, balanced gait with a powerful, free, elastic stride. Head size is in proportion to the dog.

A soft, sweet expression, enhanced by tight, dark brown eyes and black mask are a hallmark of the breed, as are tight flews (*NO DROOLING!*)

Coat & Grooming

Leonbergers have a medium to long, water resistant double coat. The outer coat is medium-soft to coarse and lies flat and straight with some generalized wave permitted. Leos have distinct feathering on the backside of the forelegs and breeches and some ear feathering as well. Mature males carry a mane, which extends over the neck and chest.

With their heavy double coat, Leos DO shed and require daily brushing to remove mats and tangles. Basic grooming should also include the proper ear, nail and tooth care in addition to periodic bathing. For the show ring, the only trimming done on a Leonberger is neatening up of the hair on the feet.

Training

Obedience training is a must for young Leonbergers! Classes held outside the home are recommended early in a puppy's life for both their training and socialization benefits. Leos want to please their owners and be



involved in everything their family does, so patient, consistent, positive training will help your puppy become a well adjusted, mannerly family member.

Socialization of your puppy is very important. Expose your Leo to a variety of people outside the family, and introduce new places, experiences and other animals in a secure, nurturing manner, especially in the first year of your puppy's life. Remember, Leonberger puppies grow up fast, can be quite "mouthy," and energetically rambunctious, so early training and socialization is vital.

Spay/Neuter

When deciding if the option of spaying or neutering is appropriate for your Leonberger, consideration should include health benefits and how the procedures affect eligibility for participation in AKC events. Due to recent studies funded by the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, it may be prudent for the long-term health of the animal to delay spay/neuter, if possible, until a dog reaches maturity. Discuss any concerns or questions with your breeder and consult your Veterinarian when deciding on the appropriate time to spay/neuter your Leo.

Breeding

Breeding Leonbergers is a great responsibility and requires patience, time, money and much consideration.



Breeding is done to improve the breed. If breeding your dog is something you are considering, seek the advice of an experienced mentor who is familiar with breeding Leos and can help explain the process, discuss testing of breeding stock and define the thoughtful steps a conscientious breeder takes to help avoid the disappointments and misfortune that can accompany thoughtless breeding practices. For mentor and breeding information go to

www.leonbergerclubofamerica.com

Identification

Protect your Leonberger puppy with a permanent form of identification (microchip or tattoo) and register the



number with AKC's Reunite (formerly CAR) (1-800-252-7894). Provide your puppy with a secure, fenced yard and make sure that your dog always wears a collar with proper identification tags to help minimize the risk of a lost pet.

Health and Rescue

The Leonberger Club of America and its members actively support health research through the Leonberger Health Foundation (LHF) a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the Leonberger breed live long and healthy lives. To learn more, visit the foundation on the web at

www.leohealth.org

or on FaceBook at

[facebook.com/Leonberger-Health-Foundation-338516245120/](https://www.facebook.com/Leonberger-Health-Foundation-338516245120/)

The LCA also supports the LeoPals Rescue organization. Contact information:

Email: info@lrpals.org

Web: <https://lrpals.org>

Facebook: [facebook.com/lrpals](https://www.facebook.com/lrpals)

Phone: 866-757-7257 or 866-7LRPALS

The Leonberger Club of America provides the resources to answer your questions concerning club membership and its publication—*The LeoLetter*, regional clubs and activities, the LCA National Specialty, educational programs, including *LeonbergerU*, LCA breeders, mentors and general information relating to this wonderful breed. Please visit us at

www.leonbergerclubofamerica.com



**Enjoy Your New
Leonberger Companion!**