

Constitution of the "Internationale Union für Leonberger Hunde"

Adopted 23rd September 2023

Preface. (Preamble)

The association shall be known as the "Internationale Union für Leonberger Hunde", abbreviated hereafter as: IULH.

The IULH is the legal successor to the "Europäische Union für Leonberger Hunde", founded in 1975 in Leonberg.

§ 1: Seat.

The traditional seat of the IULH is Leonberg / Baden-Württemberg, Germany.

§ 2: Purpose.

Purpose of the IULH is it to coordinate the efforts of its members to promote and improve the Leonberger dog breed and support its members on an international level.

§ 3: Tasks.

1. Uniform interpretation and application of the F.C.I. standard in its current version.
2. Cooperation in all areas for the purpose of the promotion of the Leonberger dog breed.
3. Recommendation for breeding guidelines.
4. Establishment of guidelines and recommendations regarding the improvement and adjustment of the breed type.
5. Further training of Leonberger specialty judges of all members' countries.
6. Exchange of judges among the members.
7. Mutual exchange of breed information and breed data.
8. Pursuit and combat of hereditary faults and diseases.
9. Promotion and coordination of events, club shows, and meetings in connection with the training, work and the use of Leonberger dogs as a working dog.
10. Any other measures which serve the association in accordance with § 2.

§ 4. Financial year.

The financial year starts with the 1st of September and ends on the 31st of August the following year.

§ 5. Organization.

1. The meeting of the members' delegates. The IULH is composed of the member clubs as defined in §7, hereafter abbreviated as: members. Decisions of the IULH will be made through meetings of the members' delegates as set forth in §13.
2. The executive committee. The executive committee will be formed and selected by the members consistent with §14. The responsibilities of the executive committee are set forth in §15.
3. The business of the IULH may be conducted via electronic means, and email shall be considered written communication for all purposes herein.
4. Amendments to this document may be proposed either by the executive committee, or at the request of at least two member clubs, for consideration at the annual general meeting. Proposed amendments will be submitted in advance consistent with Section 13(6). A 2/3 vote of members represented at the annual general meeting is necessary to approve amendments.

§ 6. Binding effect.

Resolutions of the meeting of the members and the executive committee are binding for all members, providing they do not stand in contradiction to the regulations of the FCI and the national umbrella organisations.

§ 7. Membership.

1. Membership by natural persons is not permitted.
2. Only a Leonberger club that is affiliated with the national kennel club in its country is eligible for membership, providing the national kennel club is recognized by FCI. If there is no FCI recognized umbrella organization in that country, an exception may be made by the members at the annual general meeting.
3. If more than one Leonberger breed club, officially recognized by the national FCI recognized kennel club, exists in a country, the club that was first granted membership will be regarded as a full member of the Union. Other clubs may be granted observer status.

§ 8. Requests for membership.

The request for membership is to be addressed in writing to the secretary of the IULH, in one of the official FCI languages. It must be consistent with §7, above, and cover at least the following points:

1. The statutes (constitution and by-laws) of the applying club, properly translated in one of the official FCI languages.

2. Names and addresses of the current executive committee.
3. A declaration from the executive committee that the statutes of the IULH are accepted.
4. A short article about membership, Leonberger population, and activities of the club.

§ 9. Admission.

The admission of new members is decided by a simple majority vote at the annual general meeting. Requests for membership must be received by the Secretary and notice given to the members no less than six weeks before a vote on membership can be held.

§10. Expiration of membership.

A club's membership expires automatically if the club concerned is dissolved, or is expelled from the national kennel club in its country, or if it is two years behind with the payment of the IULH dues.

§ 11. Withdrawal. (Resignation)

A club wishing to resign from the IULH is obligated to provide a written declaration including the reason for resignation. Resignations must be received in writing by the secretary.

§ 12. Exclusion. (Expulsion)

Members that damage the interests of the IULH in a severe manner or show permanent lack of interest in the goals of the association can be expelled at the annual general meeting, or at a special meeting called with 2/3 approval of the membership. Expulsion requires a 2/3- majority of the members. The secretary of the IULH has to advise the club concerned at least 3 months before the meeting about the reasons for expulsion. The expulsion-threatened member may submit an appeal and a defense to the secretary of the IULH up until 1 month prior to the annual general meeting and has the right to defend itself at the meeting where expulsion is up for consideration. Expulsion is decided by secret ballot with 2/3-majority necessary to carry the motion. Clubs expelled from the IULH do not have the right to claim restitution of any funds.

§ 13. Delegates meeting. (Membership Meeting)

1. Each member club may be represented by a maximum of two delegates at IULH meetings. Each member shall have only one vote at meetings.
2. The names of the delegates must be sent in writing to the secretary of the IULH, at least one week before the meeting of the delegates.
3. Unless otherwise determined by two-thirds vote of the membership:
 - a.) The annual general meeting of the IULH will be held upon at least six months notice in Leonberg in conjunction with the DCLH National Show, preferably in person.

- b.) Other meetings of the members may be held upon at least four weeks notice, preferably by electronic means, as determined by the president or by written request of two-thirds of the membership. An emergency meeting can be held on less notice, but only if two-thirds of the members agree in writing in advance.
4. Invitations to the annual general meeting, together with the published agenda, are sent by the secretary no later than four weeks prior to the meeting. Invitations to other non-emergency meetings must be received no less than two weeks prior.
5. Each member club has the right to proposals and suggestions, as well as to request help from the IULH for consultation and support in matters relating to the promotion of the Leonberger dog breed.
6. Suggestions for topics of discussion and requests from the members must be received by the president of the IULH at least six weeks before the annual general meeting. Topics and requests for other non-emergency meetings must be received no less than four weeks before the meeting. The secretary shall then relay all submissions, along with the agenda to all members.
7. Once invitations to the membership meeting are properly sent out, no minimum number of delegates is required to form a quorum. Resolutions may be passed regardless of the actual number of members in attendance.
8. In order to pass, a resolution must have a simple majority unless specifically stated otherwise herein (A simple majority is more than half of the votes cast).
9. Each meeting shall have minutes that record decisions made at that meeting.

§ 14 Executive Committee.

1. The executive committee consists of:
 - President.
 - Vice-president.
 - Treasurer.
 - Secretary.
 - An Assessor, who is appointed by the DCLH.
2. The regular term of office is four years and, except for the Assessor, members of the executive committee shall be elected as follows:
 - a.) Elections – Regular elections of the Executive Committee shall be held every four (4) years, starting in 2016. Re-election is permitted without limitation. Special elections may be held between regular elections in order to fill unexpired terms, pursuant to sections (f).
 - b.) Nominations – The governing body of each full member club, as represented by its president, may submit one nomination for each open position no less than 40 days prior to the annual general meeting. Nominees must be full members of a full Union member club in the year in which they are nominated. Nominations shall be made in writing to

the Secretary of the IULH, shall state that the nominee has been consulted and expressed willingness to serve. No nomination shall be deemed valid unless receipt of the nomination is confirmed in writing by the Secretary before the nomination deadline.

- c.) Notice – The Secretary shall send an email to each full member club no less than 30 days prior to the date of the annual general meeting with the names of all nominees and the positions for which they were nominated.
 - d.) Voting – The vote shall be overseen and conducted at the annual general meeting by an election committee comprised of three delegates selected by vote as the first order of business at any general meeting where an election is to occur. The election committee shall conduct the election by secret electronic poll or, if an in-person meeting, prepare and distribute one identical secret ballot to each member club who has sent at least one duly appointed delegate. Each member club shall cast one vote for each opening on the ballot, and submit the ballot to the election committee, who shall then count the votes.
 - e.) No candidate may be elected without receiving a simple majority of votes. If there are more than two candidates for a position and no one of them has simple majority in the first voting, a second “runoff” ballot shall be done between the two candidates who received the most votes on the first ballot.
 - f.) If for any reason a member of the Executive Committee is unable to complete their term in office the remaining members of the Executive Committee may appoint a qualified person to temporarily fill the position until an election (regular/special) can be held. If, at the time of the election, there is outstanding time left on the term the person elected will fill the remainder of the four-year term, but no later than the next annual general meeting.
3. The old executive committee remains in office, until the new executive committee commences its term of office.
 4. The president and the vice-president represent the association in accordance with § 26 BGB.

§ 15. Tasks of the executive committee.

1. The executive committee carries out the decisions of the membership meeting.
2. The executive committee is the administrative body of the IULH. It conducts all business of the association or delegates it to others.
3. The distribution of tasks of the members of the executive committee is determined either by the position he/she holds or by consensus of the executive committee.

§ 16. Contributions. (Dues)

1. Membership dues are composed of a fixed annual fee plus a fee based on the number of members in the member club's report to the annual general meeting the year before. (For example, in 2018 an annual fee of 60.00 euro and 0,30 euro per club)
2. The members determine the dues amount at the annual general membership meeting.
3. Membership fees are due on 01 January. The latest date of payment is 31 March. Thereafter a fine of 20,00 euro for each reminder notice shall be imposed.
4. The membership shall be suspended if the member delays payment by nine months. Similarly, the rights of the member shall also be suspended.

§ 17. Finances.

1. The financial year starts with the 1st of September.
2. The executive committee submits a proposed budget to the members. The annual general membership meeting then decides on the expenses of the IULH for the next business year and on the dues for the next year.
3. The costs incurred by the executive committee of the IULH in fulfilling their statutory duties to the members are to be borne of the IULH. Travel expenses are to be approved by the president in advance.
4. Costs incurred by delegates of a member club will not be borne by the IULH.
5. The treasurer settles all financial matters of the IULH and provides the annual balance sheet. This is to be submitted to the auditors not later than the beginning of the annual general meeting; latest until the 1st of December for examination. The treasurer details a budget to help determine the future membership fees.
6. The members select two auditors, for a four year term on the same term schedule as the terms for the executive committee, whose purpose is to scrutinize the finances and report to the membership on their findings.

§ 18. Dissolution.

The dissolution of the association can be decided only with a 2/3 majority at a membership meeting. In such a case, the executive committee completes the current business. The surplus property of the association is supplied to a non-profit use, which is specified by a vote of the members.