



Leonberger Health Foundation International

Dear Leonbergse Honden Club Nederland,

The Leonberger Health Foundation International is pleased and excited to hear of your plan to hold a Virtual Leonberger Show. Since 2002, the LHF has enabled Leo owners and lovers to raise almost US\$ 450,000 towards health related research. This incredible total could not be possible without the support of a fantastic community, and events like the one you are holding. The LHFI is thankful for your support.

In late 2020, the LHFI was made aware of an upcoming study into canine osteosarcoma. As every Leo owner knows, osteosarcoma is prevalent in all large breed dogs, and the Leonberger is no exception. After several virtual meetings with the project lead researchers, the AKC Canine Health Foundation and other large breed dog clubs, the LHFI undertook to raise the sum of US\$ 70,000 to join and support this study. This would be the largest single fund raising project ever attempted by the LHFI. Because this amount is so ambitious, our original plan was to raise these funds over a period of potentially up to three years. However, the response from the community has been unprecedented and far beyond our best expectation. We are pleased to announce that our fund raising goal has been met already - within just four months of announcing our goal.

Details of the study have not yet been made public but we hope to be able to make a full announcement of the study very soon. However, for now we can give the Leonberger Honden Club Nederland some early details. The research will be conducted by a team at the University of Minnesota, lead by Dr Jaime Modiano. The study aims to build on the successful discovery of an early detection test for Hemangiosarcoma and develop this test to enable early detection of Osteosarcoma as well. If successful, this test could potentially identify early onset by as much as 2 years before development of obvious clinical symptoms. Of course, a test is of little use without a treatment and this will also be a focus of the study. This will be a comprehensive study over several years in conjunction with a number of other large breed dogs and results will take time. However, we feel that this is one of the most promising studies into Osteosarcoma treatment that we have seen.

However, there is always more that needs to be done. The LHFI also continues to support research in other areas and we are continuing to raise funds for these ...

- Professor Hannes Lohi and his team at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Helsinki will undertake the next phase of their cardiac research program by looking for possible genetic risk factors of ventricular arrhythmia and sudden cardiac death in Leonberger dogs.
- Supporting the DNA databanks at the University of Minnesota and Bern



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- Continuing to support research into other Leonberger related health conditions including Hypothyroidism and Addison's Disease.

It is also important to remember the success story of the Leonberger community. We are not just fund raising "for fun" or for some distant day in the future. Your efforts have already made a genuine and positive impact on the health of our dogs. Management of LEMP and LPN has significantly reduced the occurrence of these conditions. Fund raising works! And together, the Leonberger community has been able to achieve amazing things.

You can find more information about Dr Modiano's experience and the Modiano Lab on the University of Minnesota website and at <http://www.modiolanlab.org/>

Thank you for your support

Rob Lyon

For

Leonberger Health Foundation International