

Sudden cardiac deaths (SCD) in Leonberger's

-Newsletter for the Leonberger owners and breeders



What is SCD?

Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD) is a heartbreaking condition in which a young dog, often under 3 years old, dies suddenly without showing any prior symptoms. These dogs suffer from abnormal heart rhythms, specifically ventricular arrhythmias (VA), but no structural abnormalities are detected in the heart. The condition can be identified through 24-hour Holter monitoring.

Key Facts:

- SCD occurs suddenly, typically in dogs under 3 years old.
- Cases have been reported worldwide across various bloodlines, suggesting a strong genetic link.
- Currently, there is no way to predict which dogs will be affected.
- No known prevention methods exist yet.

Our Goal:

We aim to identify the genetic cause of SCD, which could help breeders by providing a genetic test to screen breeding dogs and prevent this devastating condition.

How You Can Help:

- Contact Us: If your Leonberger has died suddenly without explanation.
- Heart Exams: Littermates of affected dogs may be eligible for heart examinations.
- Submit a Sample: We are collecting DNA samples from dogs under 3 years old for our study.
Instructions for Participation: <https://www.koirangeenit.fi/english/participate/>
- Get Involved: Breeders and associations can contact us for webinars or discussions about SCD.
- More Info: Visit our website for more details:
<https://www.koirangeenit.fi/english/projects/ongoing-research-projects/cardiac-arrhythmia/>

Thank you for supporting this vital research!

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