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# LEOGEN Genetic Diversity Project

## NEWS UPDATES!

### Charity Status Granted

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of September, 2024, the team was very pleased to receive formal notice from the UK Charities Commission informing us that **LeoGen** has now been formally granted recognition and has been entered onto the Register of Charities with the Registered Charity Number 1210151.

This officially grants LeoGen the status of a Legal Entity in its own right, allowing us to formally enter into agreements with third party companies, institutions and other organisations.

It also enables us to raise the funds that will be necessary to achieve our goals, to pursue a breeding programme that will improve the health outcomes of future generations of Leonbergers.

The project will benefit many other breeds as well by providing a model and proof of concept for a new, genetically sustainable approach to pedigree dog breeding, which will ideally lead to healthier future populations of companion dogs.

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### Acknowledgment . . .

#### **Finnish Kennel Club Green Light LEOGEN**

On the 3rd of October, LEOGEN achieved one of our primary goals when the Leonberger Club of Finland formally announced their authorisation for the LeoGen project stating:

***“ The Board of the Finnish Kennel Club has approved the participation of Finnish dogs in accordance with the proposal of the Finnish Kennel Club’s Scientific Committee.”***

This means that the project now has full authorisation to proceed

from both the British and Finnish Kennel Clubs, and negotiations are progressing well on how to ensure mutual recognition of the progeny of LeoGen within both jurisdictions.

We are very grateful to our colleagues at the Leonberger Club of Finland, who were instrumental in steering this project through the various stages to gain full approval by the Finnish Kennel Club, (an FCI affiliated registry body) who now join the Royal Kennel Club, (the original and oldest registry body) in formally recognising the LeoGen project.

## LeoGen partners with Embark

The LEOGEN team is very pleased to announce that we have now entered into a formal partnership agreement with leading canine genetic profiling company Embark to provide DNA analysis and generational tracking data for the project. Embark's unique genetic profiling capabilities can screen for over 270 known genetic illnesses, 55 additional traits relating to physical qualities such as size and structure, as well as other important elements such as maternal, paternal and immune system haplotypes, all of which will be fundamental to the future success of the LeoGen project.

Through this alliance, our breeder team will have the vital tools necessary to guide initial breeding selections as well as to ensure that those important contributions are maintained throughout the generations that follow, and we are immensely grateful to have Embark join us on this important journey into the future of sustainable pedigree dog breeding.



Official Breed Club Partner

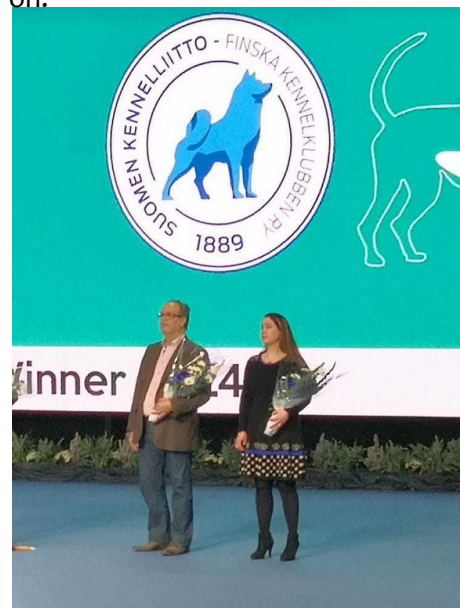
*You too can  
support this  
project by  
donating !*



## Agria awards EUR 5,000 to LeoGen

At the annual Dog Fair in Helsinki on 7 December, the LeoGen project was the proud recipient of Agria Insurance and the Finnish Kennel Club's annual scholarships, which are a demonstration of their unwavering support for the health and well-being of pedigree dogs. The grants awarded annually donate 9000 euros towards activities that promote the health and well-being of dogs. This year, the largest scholarship of EUR 5,000 was awarded to the Finnish Leonberg Dogs Association in recognition of their partnership in the LeoGen project, the aim of which is to increase the health, lifespan and genetic diversity of the Leonberg

breed, and in doing so, to provide a model of genetically sustainable breeding for all pedigree dogs breeds going forward. The whole LeoGen team is honoured to receive such a distinguished recognition for the vital work that we are embarking on.



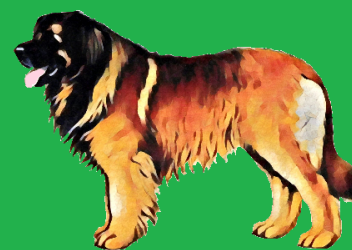
*'History shows us that outcrossing is not a new concept to our breed but it does lead us to the question "Is it the right thing to do now?"*

*According to the science, the answer is unequivocally YES.*

*According to the early pioneers who re-built the breed from the ashes of the war, the answer was YES.*

*And according to an ever growing number of owners and breeders of Leonbergers all around the world today, the answer is YES.'*

**LEOGEN**



**LEONBERGER  
GENETIC DIVERSITY  
PROJECT**

## Puppy Guardian Home Network Launched!

**Puppy homes in Finland and Britain are being organised now for the first LEOGEN litters, which should be with us in 2025.**

A key factor in the overall success of this project will be the vital collaboration provided to us by our dedicated team of Puppy Guardian Homes, a network of experienced big dog people who share our passion for improving the health and longevity of our beloved Leonbergers and who want to help make LeoGen a success.

LeoGen is always on the lookout for excellent partner homes for our precious puppies, so if you believe in the need for this important work to improve the health and lifespan of our breed and you think that you can offer an excellent partnership home for one of our pups in either Finland or Britain, then please contact us to discuss the details!

**For more information on LeoGen Puppy Guardian homes, please email:-  
[admin@leogen.org](mailto:admin@leogen.org)**

