

LCA Breeder Mentors

Agi Hejja:

I am Agi Hejja. I have owned dogs most of my life. The two primary breeds are Kuvasz and Leonbergers.

My first Kuvasz was born 1970, added the Leonberger in 1990. I have been showing and breeding (occasionally) since then. In the over 50 years in dogs, we've had 25 Kuvasz litters and 24 Leo litters. I continue to learn anything about dogs as new things introduced by newer and newer technology.

I am an AKC judge and have judged both breeds here and internationally. My interest in dogs are many fold. I read and update myself on anything have to do with health and canine conformation. I make recommendations for breedings and evaluate litters in person. I whelped litters for other breeds besides Kuvasz and Leonberger. I am a retired veterinary technician and still assist in C sections when needed.

I live in Gum Spring, Virginia about 30 miles from Richmond. I welcome any serious person who wants to breed to improve the breed. I don't encourage pet breeding for the experience either for a human or dog.

One must educate herself before becoming a breeder. This is number one on my list. I was seriously involved with my breeds for at least ten years before I decided to breed. Breeding is not for the faint of heart. There are lot of heart breaks and tears before smiles... The cost can be immense and the return minimal. Only consider if you are ready for all the above.

You can contact me with your info and your questions via Messenger or phone. I will only do overnight phone calls with previously discussed breedings.

My home number is: 804 997-9151 Please leave a message and I will call back.

My email is: ahejja@mac.com

Linda Sebastiani:

I have owned Leonbergers since April 2001. I had my first litter in April of 2005. Since that time, I have bred a total of 16 litters (working on #17 right now). I have held numerous positions in the National and local breed club, as well as being designated as a BACL evaluator (which is now being replaced by another program). The BACL program was designed to help breeders identify the strong and weak points of their dog to be considered when breeding.

I liv in California- so Pacific Time zone. I am available pretty much all day between 8 am and 8 pm. I can be available earlier or later with prior arrangements. (i.e. if I am working with a breeding that is actively whelping and needs some help during the night and I know about it in advance I would be available to them). I prefer telephone contact, then text or fb messenger and lastly email - but that depends on the urgency of the need. A question that is not urgent can easily be sent in email - a more urgent question would definitely require a phone call or text.

Peggy Atchley:

My name is Peggy Atchley and I live in Bigfork, Mt. I have owned and shown Leos now about 22 years, but I'm not a frequent breeder, having had only six litters in that time, although it was not for lack of trying. My first mentor was Cindy Koppen, from B.C. Canada, and her first advice for me was "breeding is not for the faint of heart". I did get a nice litter of six from my first Leo girl, Crystal, who whelped easily and made it easy for this first-time breeder! Then I had Bridget, who was a gorgeous Grand Champion who refused to get pregnant in the four times I tried with her, so for those years I just had fun showing and enjoying the girls. Then I imported my wonderful Ursula from Sweden, and my breeding luck changed with her! Ursula gave me two nice litters of 8 and 9, and of those two litters, six became champions and grand champions. I guess you could say that Ursula was my foundation bitch, and I was very distraught when she passed away this spring at almost 11 years old. In total, the number of offspring that Ursula had including sons and daughters, and grand pups is 67 (I think-as long as I'm not missing anyone!) Not a tremendous number for a breeder, but I'm grateful that all of Ursula's female offspring have been very good in the breeding department.

As far as what areas of breeding I am interested in, I would have to say: all areas. I am very passionate about this breed and will do just about anything to ensure that all breeders are breeding healthy, quality Leonbergers that are good representatives of the breed. I love to pore over pedigrees and the CHIC site, as there is just so much information there to help breeders make good decisions. I do find that for me, the hardest part of breeding is finding good responsible buyers that will love their puppies and give them the best homes for life. One thing to remember before you breed is that YOU are ultimately responsible for bringing these pups into the world and so are responsible for them if things turn south. So do be prepared if a buyer returns a pup to help find a new family for them, as what happened to me once when a family got a divorce. So sad, but he got to go to a very loving home with a couple who adore him as much as I do!

I live in mountain standard time and am willing to accept calls from my mentored kennels at just about any time (maybe not the middle of the night) except for a true emergency, of course. I'm partly retired and work only 2 days a week, so most of the time I would be available. I'm happy to return emails, but I do think that phone calls give a better chance to exchange ideas and thoughts. I'm not a Facebook or texting kind of gal...

I do want to wish all prospective breeders the very best of luck, always remember that breeding is hard work, but the joy that is on the faces of your new owners (new friends) is really worth it!

Alida Greendyk:

I live in northwestern New Jersey, near the Pennsylvania border. I've had Leonbergers since 1990 after seeing one in 1989 and immediately knowing I had to have one! My von Alpensee kennel was established in 1993, and my first litter was born in 1995. Since then, I have had over 60 litters; more than 50 have earned AKC championships and many others are therapy dogs and have various working titles.

As I have been breeding for many years, I have plenty of experience in every aspect of breeding, stud selection, pedigrees, whelping, screening puppy buyers, etc. Having had many litters, I have

encountered just about every possible problem that can occur during the breeding, whelping, and raising of a litter.

I'm in the Eastern Standard time and I'm available any time except during my workday. I'm a teacher and am in classes from 7:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. If necessary I can be contacted during the night. I am up until at least 11:00 p.m. on most nights.

I prefer Facebook Messenger for most communications as I am able to respond just about any time, including during my work day.

My mentors from many years ago were an invaluable resource for me and I would not be where I am today without them! I am happy to help mentor new breeders.

Julia Brady:

We live in McKinney, Texas (about 25 miles north of Dallas). We have been involved with Leos since 1997 and owned Leos since 1998. Our first litter was in 2005 and we have had nine litters. We are very active with the Leonberger Club of America, and I especially enjoy discussing Leo structure, conformation, and helping educate AKC judges on Leonbergers.

Specific areas I can help with include identifying strengths/areas of improvement in conformation for mates, breeding timing, breeding methods, puppy selection at 8 weeks, reviewing puppy buyers, etc.

I am in the Central Time Zone. Weekends are preferred for phone or Zoom calls. My email is: julia@kalaharileos.com website: www.kalaharileonbergers.com