
NORTHEAST REGIONAL LEONBERGER CLUB

Winter 2011 Member Newsletter

April 13 – 17th: 26th Annual Leonberger Club of America National Specialty & Annual Meeting

By Elizabeth Burnham



Have you ever been to an LCA National Specialty show? Have you thought about going but didn't want to travel that far? Now is your chance! The 26th Annual LCA National Specialty and Annual Meeting is being held in our region at the Crowne Plaza at the Crossings in Warwick, Rhode Island. Karen Zedeker and I are co-chairing the show, and along with our team of volunteers we have been hard at work to ensure that this is a show you won't want to miss!

2011 is a year of many firsts at Nationals, and the NRLC Board hopes it will be your first (or 2nd, 3rd...) trip to Nationals.

- First LCA draft test
- First AKC show seminar*
- First year for LPN1 blood draw
- First puppy parade
- First fully recognized AKC National Specialty
- First year for four health seminars
- First time Nationals in Rhode Island
- First year of four exciting "theme" dinners

The Crowne Plaza has something for everyone – 80 landscaped acres, indoor swimming pool and whirlpool spa, and high-speed internet in all the guestrooms. The rooms are booking quickly; if you haven't made your reservations please call the hotel directly at 410-732-6000 and mention the LCA or online at www.crowneplaza.com/warwickri and make sure that you use the code LEO to get the rate of \$109.00 per night plus taxes.

There is a lot of fun to be had...seeing old friends and meeting new friends, showing your dog(s), socializing with Leonberger owners from around the country, learning about important health topics and eating good food! And don't forget to bring your children too - they are more than welcome to join us; there will be a Junior Handling Clinic and special meals. NRLC Board member, Robin Ruggiero, has a fun and diverse selection of "never before seen" merchandise that you will definitely want to order. And don't forget the fabulous raffles that will be held. Sightseeing abounds in Rhode Island with the Newport mansions and great shopping at Providence Place all just a short ride from the hotel. There is also Mystic Seaport and Aquarium nearby in Connecticut.

There are plenty of opportunities to help. Let's get a great showing of NRLC members attending, supporting and helping out at the show. Below is a list of volunteer opportunities and ways to support the show. Please contact the individual listed to let them know how you want to help. If you can't make the show you can still show your support by donating a raffle item or ordering merchandise (see the LCA website for merchandise ordering information).

Raffle Donations – Michele Cohen, decohen@att.net

General volunteer (meet people & learn show logistics) – Kimberly Mallory, Kimberly.Mallory@st-marys.org

Sponsor a trophy – Teri Whalen Angcos, tawhalen@yahoo.com

Assemble registration bags – Linda Hunter, lhunter@charter.net

Place an ad – Karen Knox, knoxknox@hotmail.com

Help pack merchandise bags – Robin Ruggiero, robinr322@comcast.net

If you have any questions please contact me at luv4leos@gmail.com, and remember to keep checking the LCA website, <http://www.leonbergerclubofamerica.com/2011National.aspx>, for updates and further information (online registration will be available soon). We look forward to seeing you in the smallest state for the largest Leo gathering!

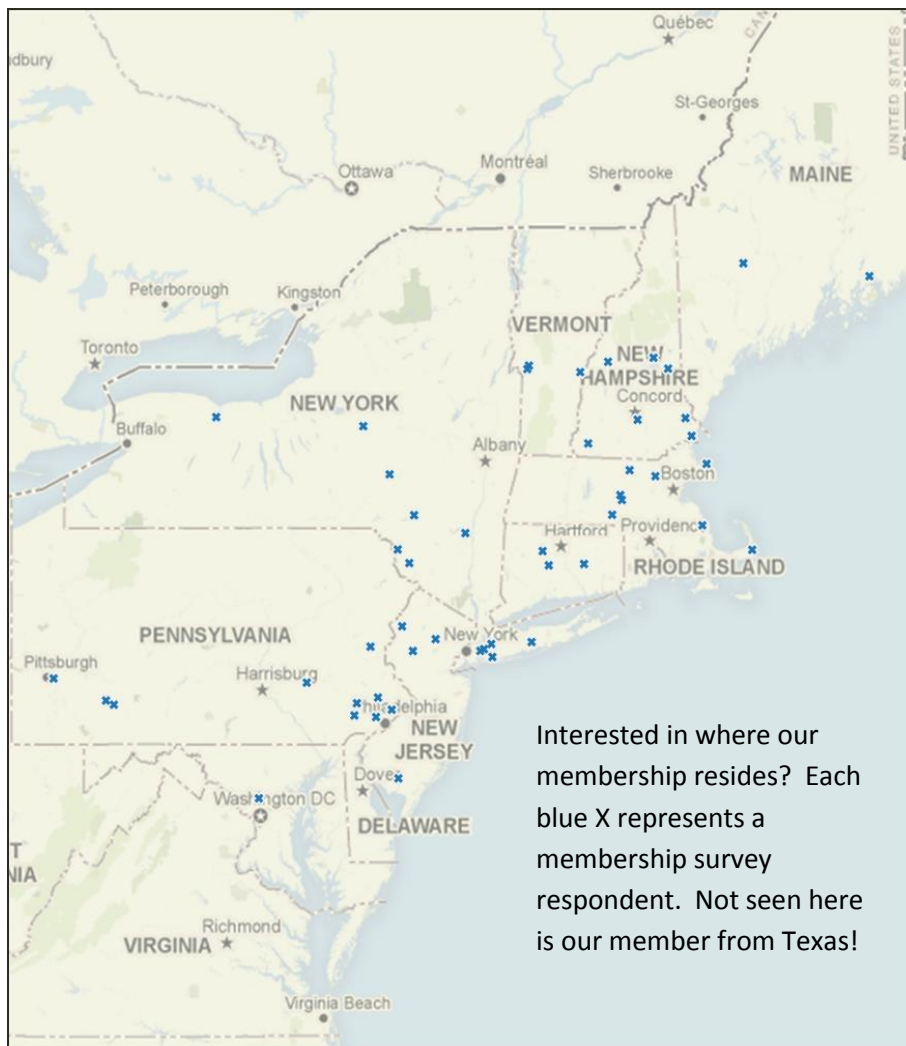
**The NRLC Board is looking for volunteers to attend the AKC Show Seminar scheduled for Wednesday, April 13th from 1:00 to 4:30. The seminar is \$45; however, the LCA will sponsor three regional club members to attend. Please contact kirsten_becker@comcast.net if you are interested. We are looking for member volunteers that will commit to share what was learned in the seminar and volunteer to help with future show planning in the region.*

Highlights of the NRLC 2010 Membership Survey

An on-line survey was sent to our membership in December 2010. The purpose of the survey was to help the Board determine if the NRLC will be a Full Service or Social Club going forward. 65% of the NRLC members participated in the survey.

The NRLC Board has reviewed the survey results and the additional participant comments. Many of our members stressed that social and fun events were important. Other members stressed that our regional club needs to put on Leonberger shows. Many members commented that they would attend events if they were closer to their homes. However, in reviewing the survey responses, there are not many members that want to volunteer to host a social event or learning workshop. And there are only four members that expressed an interest in chairing a regional show.

In order to move forward as a Full Service Club the NRLC will need a commitment from our members to volunteer.



Below are the survey results:

Question: How important are the following events to you?

Event	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Neutral	Important	Very Important
Regional Leonberger Specialty (AKC Pointed Show)	13.5% (7)	7.7% (4)	19.2% (10)	36.5% (19)	23.1% (12)
Match Show	21.2% (11)	15.4% (8)	36.5% (19)	23.1% (12)	3.8% (2)
Social Event	3.8% (2)	15.4% (8)	13.5% (7)	30.8% (16)	36.5% (19)
AKC All Breed Show	26.9% (14)	9.6% (5)	23.1% (12)	25.0% (13)	15.4% (8)
Learning Workshop (carting, rally, water work, etc)	9.6% (5)	17.3% (9)	25.0% (13)	28.8% (15)	19.2% (10)

Question: How likely are you to attend the following over the next twelve months?

Event	Not Likely	Somewhat Likely	Very Likely
AKC All Breed Show	30.8% (16)	26.9% (14)	42.3% (22)
NRLC Match (non-pointed)	28.8% (15)	53.8% (28)	17.3% (9)
NRLC Leonberger Show (pointed)	11.5% (6)	40.4% (21)	48.1% (25)

Question: Regional social events are very important to our club. These include snocials, picnics, potlucks, hikes, parades, etc.

Question	Not Likely	Somewhat Likely	Very Likely
How likely are you to ATTEND a regional social event in the next 12 months?	5.8% (3)	50.0% (26)	44.2% (23)
How likely are you to PLAN/HOST a regional social event in the next 12 months?	80.8% (42)	9.6% (5)	9.6% (5)

Question: How likely are you to attend the following hands on learning workshops in the next 12 months if they were offered by the NRLC?

Workshop	Not Likely	Somewhat Likely	Very Likely
Carting	40.4% (21)	34.6% (18)	25.0% (13)
Rally Obedience	50.0% (26)	32.7% (17)	17.3% (9)
Obedience	36.5% (19)	44.2% (23)	19.2% (10)
Water Work	36.5% (19)	28.8% (15)	34.6% (18)
Agility	40.4% (21)	46.2% (24)	13.5% (7)
Conformation Handling Clinic	36.5% (19)	38.5% (20)	25.0% (13)
Therapy	21.2% (11)	34.6% (18)	44.2% (23)
Tracking	40.4% (21)	36.5% (19)	23.1% (12)
Flyball	73.1% (38)	19.2% (10)	7.7% (4)

When asked if anyone was interested in planning one of these learning workshops there were very few volunteers.

72% of survey respondents were not interested.

Carting – no volunteers

Rally Obedience – one volunteer

Obedience – one volunteer

Water Work – three volunteers

Agility – no volunteers

Conformation Handling Clinic – one volunteer

Therapy – four volunteers

Tracking – no volunteers

Flyball – one volunteer

Question: Please indicate if you would be interested in chairing a show.

90% of the survey respondents were not interested in chairing a show.

What are your thoughts on the survey results? Please don't hesitate to contact one of our NRLC Board members with comments or for further discussion. If you are interested in volunteering to help in 2011 please contact Kirsten Becker, kirsten_becker@comcast.net.

Michael Dumin, President – mdumin@mnsd.org

Kirsten Becker, Vice President – kirsten_becker@comcast.net

Donda Hilke, Secretary – donda8@att.net

Beverly Travis, Ex-Officio Board Member and Treasurer, bobev@catskill.net

Sharon Betts, Board Member, sharonbetts@gmail.com

Elizabeth Burnham, Board Member – luv4leos@gmail.com

Joe Licata, Board Member – drjoe@l-2000.com

Robin Ruggiero, Board Member – robinr322@comcast.net

The Importance of Social Events

By Kirsten Becker

If you've ever attended a dog show you know how difficult it can be for the people and dogs to socialize. There is so much going on that we don't want to miss, and we are all tuned in to our on-leash dogs. Have you ever attended a Leonberger social event? It is a completely different story! At many social events the dogs can be off-lead, which helps them to better socialize with each other because they no longer have your fears running down the leash and affecting their behavior. They are free, with supervision, to run and play and body slam each other. Other types of social events are informal walks and hikes. Even with the dogs on-leash it is a much more relaxed environment than a dog show. At a social event the dogs get to know one another better, and their humans can socialize too. Social gatherings are a wonderful way to learn about other Leonberger owners, discuss health and training and find common interests.

My husband, Dale, and I had attended many social events over the years, but we had never volunteered to host one even though we had always wanted to. This past fall we hosted the 1st Annual PA Area Leonberger Social and Potluck at our home in Spring City, PA. We had a great turnout of Leos, their people and people interested in the breed. Attendees traveled from as far away as Western Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Washington DC! Potluck foods included homemade dog treats for the four footed attendees, soups, chili, snacks, beef brisket, and yummy desserts.

If you have never attended a Leonberger social event I encourage you to attend the next social event in your area. And if you are interested in hosting a social event but don't know where to start please email me at kirsten_becker@comcast.net and I can help you or I can put you in touch with others in our region that have hosted a social event.



Interested in contributing content or photos to our next newsletter?

Send your stories, ideas and photos to kirsten_becker@comcast.net by March 15th. We want to hear from our NRLC members! Our next newsletter will be published early spring. Look for an article from our club President, Mike Dumin, on how AKC status has affected our regional clubs. We will also have details on social and club events being planned for 2011.