



The Large Munsterlander Club

Health and Welfare Sub-group

Terms of Reference

APPROVED BY THE LMC COMMITTEE - 301024

Main purpose of sub-group

To develop guidelines and policy as appropriate on the health and welfare of the Large Munsterlander breed, including the prevention of ill-health, the promotion of fit and healthy lifestyles and the reduction of health problems.

The health and welfare sub-group will be responsible to:

These TORs are reviewed and approved by the LMC committee, as such, this sub-group is responsible to the LMC committee. The LMC committee is responsible for holding the sub-group to account for the responsibilities delegated to them. As such, actions must be approved by the LMC committee and minuted with relevant context for the benefit of the LMC members.

Sub-group administration

The sub-group will be chaired by the LMC Breed Health Co-ordinator, or in their absence by any other sub-group member at the agreement of the sub-group. The chair will ensure that a member of the sub-group records minutes and proposed actions and that these are shared with the group on a timely basis.

Sub-group meeting minutes and proposed actions will be sent to the LMC Committee.

The sub-group will agree the timing and frequency of meetings subject to the actions agreed.

The sub-group must include three committee members and any number of non-committee members all being approved by the LMC Committee.

Key areas of responsibility

- To keep track of emerging information in relation to health and welfare issues relating to the Large Munsterlander and circulate this information to the LMC Committee in a timely manner.
- To liaise with the LMC Committee to develop health and welfare policy.
- To define health and welfare issues which should be addressed by the LMC.
- To recommend to the LMC those health and welfare issues which should be pursued as a matter of urgency.
- To investigate and, if necessary, initiate research into current and potential breed health and welfare issues.
- To develop recommendations for all LM owners to follow to ensure their dogs can lead fit and healthy lifestyles.
- To produce communications for LMC members and non-member LM owners, regarding the sub-group's objectives and progress towards meeting those objectives.
- To build relationships with relevant third parties or experts who can help the sub-group in meeting their responsibilities.

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Draft Objectives.

These objectives were formulated in draft at the first sub-group meeting held 17th September 2024. It is expected that each objective will be refined over subsequent meetings.

1. To establish a regular health survey & reporting process, (possibly every 2 years), using the Kennel Club to help ensure the survey reaches as many RKC registered LM owners as possible. This should provide evidence of the health issues that the breed needs to address.
2. To work as closely as possible with the RKC to enhance the RKC published LM Breed Health Standard. This is to ensure that the standards expected of LMC members are reflected as far as possible to all LM owners.
3. To take action on the health data published by the RKC, and specifically to consider the need to improve genetic diversity. This will be refined following a meeting with the KC on population and genetic diversity planned for 12th November.
4. To establish a simple process for LM owners to report arising health matters to the LMC. This is to enable a rapid reporting and support process in addition to the biennial reporting process.
5. To develop a fuller and more engaging LM Health section on the LMC website.
6. To build relationships with “experts” in the UK and overseas who can help the LMC to improve breed health and welfare. This should include current LM breeders who can help to steer improvements in the short term.
7. To use data and information gathered to help provide useful and informative evidence-based guidelines to current and future LM owners and breeders including stud dog owners.

Initial Proposed Actions.

- To develop the biennial health survey with support from the RKC. Noting that the context and covering information is key to encouraging as many LM owners as possible to engage in the reporting process. Confidentiality and GDPR matters to be considered carefully. The aim to encourage owners to provide the registered name as this data will have far greater value in improving breed health longer term.
- To develop a website-based form for LM owners to report or raise health and welfare matters on a timely basis so that proactive support and guidance can be provided where possible.
- To develop an improved Health and Welfare section on the LMC website. This may be on the current / future platform.