



The Kennel Club
Clarges Street
London W1J 8AB

12th February 2024

Re: Support for the Leogen proposal

To whom it may concern,

For nearly 80 years Guide Dogs has striven to maintain a breeding population in order to produce healthy and biddable dogs to enter training as guides for the visually impaired. As such, we are acutely aware of the limitations that exist within the conventional breeding model as currently applied in the pedigree dog world, where breeds are constrained within tightly defined boundaries within which genetic diversity continuously diminishes with each successive generation.

Therefore, I am writing to express Guide Dogs' support for the aims and objectives of the 'Leogen' proposal, which sets out to enhance the genetic diversity of the Leonberger breed while preserving the traits and characteristics for which the breed is known and loved. This well-thought-out project may well provide a useful model for many pedigree breeds going forward.

Guide Dogs looks forward to exploring possible avenues for direct collaboration with the project, which we feel could be mutually beneficial.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Lewis".

Dr Tom Lewis
Head of Breeding Programme

