

"The Leonberger Club of GB has received a request to allow dogs taking part in LCGB Water Tests to wear float coats. This has been approved by the Main Committee, therefore the following addendum should be considered part of the LCGB Water Tests 2016 until their revision in 2020.

Addendum to Leonberger Club of Great Britain Water Tests 2016 - to be considered part of these regulations from June 15th 2017

Leonbergers taking part in LCGB Water Tests may either wear a harness, as stated in the current regulations, or they may wear a suitable well-fitting float coat, in the style of the Hurtta or Ruffwear float coats. As this float coat is replacing the usual swimming harness, it must be suitable to lift the dog in to a boat if required and should provide a suitable handhold for a water steward.

The optional use of a float coat is intended only as a safety measure, and must not be used to allow a dog to enter a test that is unfit or unsound. The dog should physically be capable of taking the test without the float coat and judges may ask to see the dog swim without the flotation aid if they are uncertain if this is the case.

In the interest of safety, it is very important when training with a float coat that you ensure your dog also learns to swim without one; a dog that has only swum with a flotation aid can become very reliant on them and may sink if they enter the water without one.

Dogs wearing a float coat will be judged in the same way as those wearing a harness, but the LCGB Working records will show that a flotation aid was used and the certificates will be marked accordingly.

If a Multi Test Pass Certificate is awarded then this will also show a flotation aid was used, if one was worn in any of the qualifying tests.

Leonbergers will not be considered for the Water Champion title if they have worn a flotation aid in any of the three Section E qualifying tests.

When allocating points for working trophies 2 points, per test, will be deducted if a flotation aid is used."