

## **LMAC Breeding Policy and Clarification of the Ownership Agreement** (prepared and approved by the LMAC Board and Officers on 15 Jan 2023)

### **Preamble**

LMAC (Large Munsterlander Association of Canada) and its forerunner LMCNA (Large Munsterlander Club of North America), formed in 1977 in Alberta, began with the goal of building a community of hunter-owners and breeders. LMAC aims to maintain the Large Munsterlander as a versatile hunting dog as envisioned by the original German breed club, the Verband Große Münsterländer e.V. (VGM) in 1919.<sup>1</sup> The ultimate goal was and is a sound family dog and ethical hunting dog.

Performance-based breeding that was Association-enforced, was a departure from prevailing practice in North America.<sup>2</sup> LMCNA/LMAC needed to educate and build capacity in order to maintain breeding standards. Performance requirements increased gradually until 2014, when LMAC's requirements substantially met the VGM's requirements except where Canadian hunting regulations and hunting practice required adjustment. The Animal Pedigree Act of Canada, under which LMCNA was, and LMAC is incorporated, is the only legislative mechanism in North America to support breed management.<sup>3</sup>

The LMAC Bylaws <http://lmcanada.net/LMACBylaws15May2020.pdf> and Policy and Procedures Manual <http://www.lmcanada.net/LMACprocedures2020.pdf> define the necessary steps to achieve LMAC's goals. All potential pup owners are asked to consider LMAC's goals, and if in agreement sign LMAC's Ownership Agreement before obtaining a LMAC-registered pup. By signing, owners agree to abide by this agreement, regardless of their country of residency.

### **Breeding Regulations**

Based on the LMAC Bylaws of July 1, 2020, to be eligible to breed, a dam or sire:

- is a Large Munsterlander registered by LMAC, or if imported to North America, registered by a breed association that, in the judgment of the Board, employs registration requirements similar to the Association's, including performance requirements intended to maintain the breed's versatile hunting traits (*see Policy and Procedures Manual 4.6 for recognized registries with equivalent standards, such as the Verband Große Münsterländer of Germany and the Österreichischer Verein für Große und Kleine Münsterländer of Austria*)
- has participated in a recognized test (e.g. JGHV, NAVHDA, VHDF) of a young dog's (1.5 years old or less) natural aptitude to search, point, and track upland birds and to swim
- has qualified in a test of advanced subjects including work before (e.g. search, point) and after the shot (e.g. track, retrieve) on land and water (e.g. HZP of JGHV, UPT or Utility Test of NAVHDA, or AHAE of VHDF) or equivalents approved by the Board.
- is free of genetic defects that are highly heritable and/or carry with them a significant burden to the dog or its owner, and has been certified free of hip dysplasia and elbow dysplasia by radiographic assessment
- is of normal temperament and not gun shy, as assessed in the young dog's test

- has passed a conformation test carried out by LMAC-trained and -approved judges that ensure that the dogs conform to the breed standard and possess a body form (e.g. smooth gait) and coat (e.g. protective) that enables optimal hunting function in fall and winter on land and in water, or passed a conformation test deemed equivalent by the Board

The Ownership Agreement further states that neither a LMAC registered female nor male may be bred to a LM that is not registered by a registry recognized by LMAC. Nor that any pups produced by a LMAC registered male or female can be registered by a registry not recognized by LMAC. LMAC recognizes that NAVHDA selectively copies a dog's ancestry information to confirm a dog's identity for NAVHDA field testing. LMAC encourages field testing, but does not consider this record as registration in an animal husbandry sense. According to the Animal Pedigree Act no dog is to be re-registered in another registry.

LMAC registration papers also contain the following pertinent statements:

“Breeding restriction. This dog is eligible for breeding only after it satisfies the health and performance requirements of the Large Munsterlander Association of Canada and has been approved according to LMAC by-laws. Any progeny produced without such satisfaction and approval, even by mating to a certified Large Munsterlander, will not be registered as a Large Munsterlander”.

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<sup>1</sup>Vornholt, Egon, Bruno Oelmann and Karl Wichmann (2019). "100 Jahre Große Münsterländer: Chronik des Verbandes Große Münsterländer e.V." Verband Große Münsterländer e.V., 46325 Borchen, Germany, 135 pp.

<sup>2</sup>Schmutz, Joe. (2020). "2019: The North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (NAVHDA) Celebrates 50 Years. How did a German immigrant lead the founding of NAVHDA in Canada?" Canadian Outdoorsman <https://canadianoutdoorsmanmagazine.com/> **Summer Issue:** 68-73.

<sup>3</sup>To enable a goal similar to the Animal Pedigree Act of Canada, other versatile-dog breed clubs have aligned themselves with their respective breeds in Germany facilitated by JGHV <https://www.najgv.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Letter-from-the-Chairman-LV-NA-March-2021.pdf>