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Furion and Zanzibar two Leonbergers of NY

October 6, 3:36 PM • Savannah Pets Examiner • Dena Stapleton

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(c) BY:M. Avila "Morgan, Chewee & Zanzibar"

One woman, Morgan Avila, and her family decided [Leonbergers](#) would be the breed for them. They got Chunk, aka Chopin of Mandy's Lair. He was a sweet and handsome dog that Morgan had a special connection with. She called him her "Heart Dog". Chuck loved water and they did everything together, until one day when Chunk passed away. The light was lost until a phone call came to get a puppy from a relative to Chunk. It was a niece to Chunk and they had a male puppy. This way Morgan and her family could have the bloodlines to Chunk. That boy was named Chewee, aka Leo's by the Sea Furion.

Chewee was not like Chunk and he was scared of the water. Morgan's daughter had a dog in dog shows and they thought why not give Chewee a try at that. He had already gone through handling school and did very well at it. They entered him in the Northeast Regional Leonberger Dog Show in MA and he turned up the charm that day. He won Best Youth Male in the Northeast Region of the U.S. That day they decided

Chewee would go places and they made him a [website](#). From there he got into the movies and

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started acting. He could cry on cue and even do it for 12 takes on one scene. Everyone on the set could not believe how well he did for being a dog. He has been on Animal Planet, been in the movie "The Prospects", been in parades and has participated in American Kennel Club (AKC), United Kennel Club (UKC) and Leonberger Club of America (LCA) competitions. He has won over 14 awards for First in Class, Winner's Dog, Best of Breed and many more at these events.

After having such a wonderful dog and him becoming her light again, they decided to get another addition to the family. The breeder they contacted had a puppy left. He was created from a mother [Leonberger](#) from Hungary and the father was from the Netherlands. His full name is Serenity's Prince of Zanzibar. His bloodlines are of royalty, hence the name. He is going to be a very large dog weighing about 170 pounds when fully grown. When they decided to get the dog the breeder informed them that all six puppies were sold on the East Coast and if when picking Zanzibar up if she could then deliver the others. Forty-two hours later they had all six puppies back at home with them. They then called the other owners to make arrangement to have their puppy picked up or they met to deliver it. Zanzibar became the perfect companion for Chewee. Although Zanzibar loves water he is pretty much just like Chewee. Chewee loves his new friend.



Photo by: M. Avila

"Zanzibar with his five siblings"



Photo by: M. Avila

"Chewee with Zanzibar"

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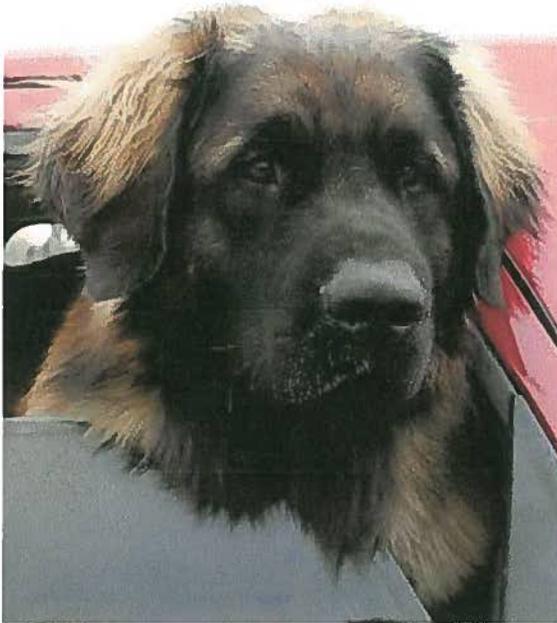
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Leonbergers | the large and majestic breed

October 6, 3:17 PM Savannah Pets Examiner Dena Stapleton

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No (c) Painting by:Ernst Keil's Nachfolger "1872 painting of a Leonberger"

Leonbergers are a special breed that actually originated in Germany in a town called Leonberg. This breed was created in 1846 and underwent some more transformation before becoming the breed we see today. In 1891 the first Leonberger club was formed and the standards were being set. After World War I, they found only five suitable dogs to start the breeding of the Leonbergers and by the 1930 they had over 350 dogs. The first set of breeding regulations was created in 1948 by the president of the Leonberger club.

Since 1975 the International Union of Leonberger Clubs meets with International and National clubs annually to preserve and protect this rare breed. From 1975 to 1985, five different families brought Leonbergers from Germany over and started the Leonberger Club of America. Starting in July of 2010, the AKC will recognize this breed of dog. To date, there are about 4,400 Leonbergers in the United States.

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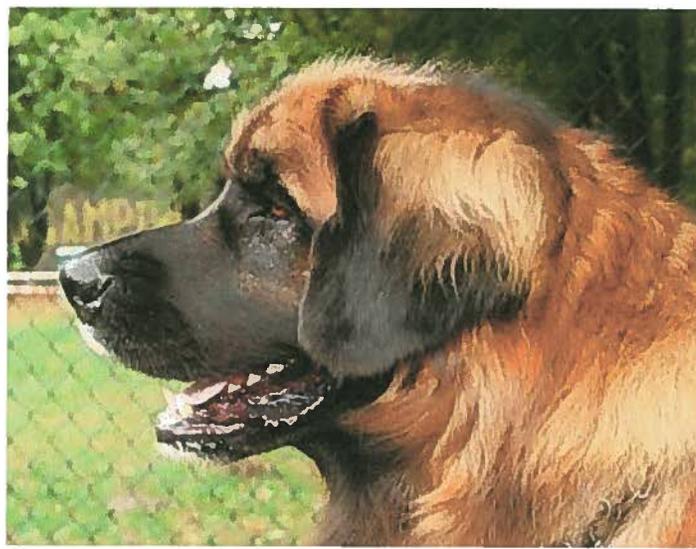
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Leonbergers ¶ the large and majestic breed

Leonbergers are a great breed that loves to be around people. They are very loyal to their owners and love to be a part of every day activities. This breed will not be ok in the backyard as an outside dog. They love to be with the family. They are very social dogs with people and other pets in the home. These dogs love water and love to get dirty. They do not mind the mud or occasional leaves that get stuck in their long fur. They do need to be groomed more so than other breeds of dogs. Leonbergers do shed and you will find hair all over the house if you own one. These dogs do not drool as with most large dogs. These dogs are big and can weigh anywhere from 120 pounds to 175 pounds. They are about 30 inches tall with another 6 inches of head. Therefore standing at 36 inches tall they can easily scan the countertops for food when they are hungry or even want a snack.

Leonbergers are very sensitive to your emotions. They can sense when you are upset and if you get into a loud squabble then your Leonberger may get upset. They can be very destructive if left alone without anything to play with. They need to have their mind stimulated. They need toys that they can interact with like a Kong with treats in it. They need to have their minds stimulated with artificial stimulation as well as human stimulation. They must be walked or played with outside. When they are outside, do take caution if you have a lovely garden as they love to dig. Leonbergers love to dig a place to lay in and when it rains they will play in the mud. If you are going on a trip then take the Leonberger with you. You will need a large vehicle for them to ride in and be comfortable and safe. They love the interaction with other people.



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"Leonberger of today"

As with any breed of dog, before getting one please do your research on the breed to make sure it is a perfect fit to your home. Dogs need "forever" homes. This breed of dog is rare now and hard to buy but others are not so lucky. If you are truly wanting this type of breed then go to [Leonberger Club of America](#). They have on their site 75 different breeders in the United States that conform to the breeding standards and have the commitment to producing the truest breed to its' origin.

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