

## Foreword

I would like to thank all the people who have helped make this book possible. So many people encouraged me along the way and I really appreciated this. One special person was crucial to the development of the book and the theories presented in it. She must be given special thanks, Felizitas Dylla, my sister in spirit and love of the Löwchen. Felizitas helped me gather information and was my sounding board through out the entire process. She generously made her Löwchen archives available to me. It was after meeting Felizitas that I was able to get a clearer picture of the breed's years in Germany, knowing this allowed me to set the foundation to the rest of the Löwchen story. When I started in the breed, the years Dr. Rickert and Madame Bennert worked together were not well documented. These years were the most crucial to the breed's survival and deserved attention. Through my own perseverance and with Felizitas' help, all the pieces of the puzzle fell neatly into place. We were fortunate to be able to reconstruct the breed's history into an interesting and pertinent story.

Alice Bixler was also crucial to this book making its debut at the 2001 Löwchen Club of America National Specialty Show. Alice took her valuable time to edit the book at the last minute, so that I could get it out for the nationals. I appreciate all the work she put into it!

Several other people were also important in that they reviewed chapters or parts of chapters to ensure that my facts were right. I want to thank Anne McDonald and Janet Edwards as well as Mrs. Elish Banks for reviewing and correcting mistakes in the English chapter. Rosemary d'Augustine (Pia Kirk) and Glenise Field for reviewing the Australian section.

When I started searching for breed information in my early years as a Löwchen owner, I was surprised to find that there was so little information available. I felt it was important to know everything there was to know about the breed. So the search was on for any tidbit. I was so excited every time I found something new. There were so many discoveries through the years, that I admit that I have I have forgotten many of them, but I never forget the excitement that came each time another fact came to the surface and of making contact with other breeders around the world who were as taken by the Löwchen as I. Many breeders generously took the time to write me wonderful letters about their dogs and other kennels in their country. They often were generous also with photos. This book would not be possible without their co-operation. Thank you so much!

As you read this book, you will notice that the histories of breed clubs and kennels end many years ago. This means that another book or revision will have to be done, to bring us up to date. I had to make the decision whether to bring the information up to date before printing the book or not. I chose not, since doing so would add many additional years before the book would come out. I was encouraged by many to publish what I had since there is such a lack of information available to those new to the breed. Eventually either I or another, will pick up where this book leaves off and continue the story. I hope that if I do begin to write an update, that the Löwchen breeders will be as generous with their information and resources as those included in this book. A book is only as good as the information available.

I think that I was waiting for technology to catch up with my idea of what I wanted the book to be. I wanted a book with many photos. This is now possible due to computer technology and scanners we have available to us today. This technology also made it possible to print out small numbers of books, allowing me to by-pass publishers. Publishers were not interested in the book until recently, citing a limited market as the reason. By self-publishing I was able to maintain control and make decisions of what to include without limitations from a person not as interested in the breed as we all are. I hope that the readers will find the wait for technology to catch up with my ideas worth while.

I tried to use as many photos as possible in the book from each person that contributed to the book. Many factors went into the decision of which photos to use, among them, photos had to be clear and reproduce well. Some of the best photos came from Juha Kares, Sonja Carlson, Ewa Hogberg and Felizitas Dylla. Mrs. Freda McGregor was also very generous with photos of her dogs. This is reflected in the number of photos I used in the book that they contributed. Thank

you so much for the wonderful photos of Löwchen, which stand as great examples of the breed. Thank you to all that sent photos.

A future goal that I have is to archive all the information that I have gathered for contribution to the AKC Library. I feel it is important to give the information to the archives of the AKC since they store items in climate-controlled archives that prolong the life span of artifacts. I encourage others to do the same. Information donated to the AKC will always be made available to scholars of the breed. This way none of the valuable things detailing the history of the breed will ever be lost. They will be available to future fanciers, even hundreds of years from now. I encourage others to do the same, even if they are living in other lands, since the archives at the AKC are the best repositories for their information, which is in essence the history of their dogs and kennels as well as of the breeds. I encourage all to take advantage of this.

The Löwchen is enjoying a renaissance that hopefully will be sustained for as long as purebred dogs are on earth. I hope that future generations of fanciers will take note of the hard work that breeders in the past and those today have devoted to the breeds survival. I hope they will cherish this breed as much as we do, and not take for granted its existence. It was once almost extinct and could be again, if care is not given. The Löwchens future looks promising. I think we are fulfilling Madame Bennerts dream beyond her wildest hopes. I hope she is proud of what she started.

Update 3/10/2014

I have done a quick revision of the book, including additional data where I could, as well as page numbers!!! I added many new pictures of dogs or artwork. The book does still need a complete update, to introduce into its pages more recent breeders who have world hard and contributed to the breed. This is a huge project and one for the future!

I have begun the job of archiving all the papers and documents I have accumulated through my more than 30 years in the breed and am now looking for a repository to store them, where they will be available to any one seeking knowledge. I am always looking for more materials for the archives and encourage any that would like to contribute to this project to contact me!