

CHAPTER 5

LÖWCHEN CLUB OF AMERICA



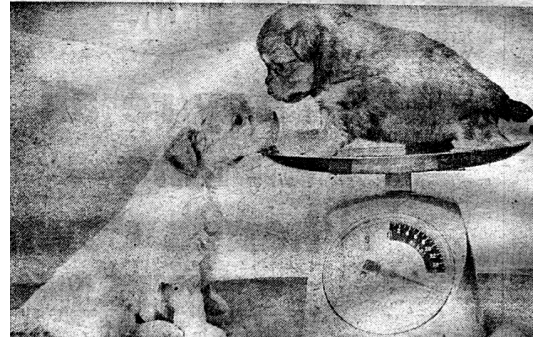
Leon von den Drei Lowen. Imported by Berdot kennel. Photo Dorothy Goodale

In the United States, the Löwchen is represented and promoted by the Löwchen Club of America, formerly known as the Little Lion Dog Club of America. The LLDCA was formed in 1971 by two New Jersey couples; Charles and Jane Cook and Robert and Carol Yhlen. The club's original purpose was to create and maintain a registry for the breed. The LLDCA began to actively seek members in 1973 and first collected dues in 1975. When the club began to function as a national breed Club, frequent mention in the early newsletter was made about preparing for AKC recognition. Initially, the LLDCA was a small club centering most of its activity around the registry. Aside from some members exhibiting their dogs at rare breed shows, an ad in *Dog World*, or an occasional magazine article focusing on Mr. Yhlen's dogs, there was little activity to promote the breed. Yet, by the early 1980s, activity in the breed increased due to a greater over-all interest in rare breeds. The club membership slowly began to rise in proportion to a burst of activity by several Löwchen breeders. The

LLDCA membership roster began to include experienced dog breeders and exhibitors.

A benefit of belonging to the LLDCA was the club newsletter, *Headlions*. The first person to write, edit and print *Headlions* was Melissa Harrington of Greenwich, Connecticut. The early newsletter contained a front page 'President's Report,' general club information usually centering on registry requirements, litter announcements, a show calendar, and a semi-regular article on veterinary topics by Harold Kopp D.V.M.

The LLDCA's Board of Directors and Officers decided in 1982 that photos of Löwchen should be kept on file with their registration information. A request was made to the membership in *Headlions* asking that photos of dogs registered be sent to the registrar, Carol Yhlen. An explanation for this policy change was that the photos were important for the future when the LLDCA began to apply for AKC recognition. Because of the poor response by the membership, a rule was made that as of April 1st, 1983, future registrations were contingent on the inclusion of photos with the application and also that litters would be registered only if photos of both sire and dam were on file. Despite the recognized importance of these photos, there are few of the early foundation dogs in the registry books leaving a large void.



Cluneen Puppies that came to the United States with Charles and Jane Cook in February, 1971.

Photo Mrs. E. Banks



English and LCA Ch. Quinbury Gatanya Fondue at Pepperland. Photo Leslie Samuals Healy.

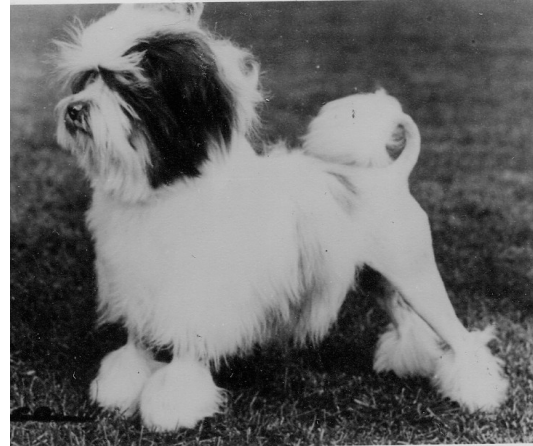
In 1984, a point system was instituted to encourage those showing their dogs both in conformation and obedience. Obedience titles are awarded based on the same criteria as an AKC title. The point system went into effect in June 1984, with Liz Vargo as Point Registrar. When a dog attained its championship, an announcement went into the *Headlions* listing the dog's pedigree, breeder and owner.

Following the development of the championship point system in October, 1986, came a ranking system, to ensure that the best representative of the breed be eligible to participate in the prestigious *Kennel Review* 'Tournament of Champions.' Prior to this development, there was no way to determine effectively and fairly the most eligible dogs. Under the new ranking system, points were awarded for all Best of Breed wins, Group placements, Best in Show, Specialty or National Specialty wins. Each of these categories were assigned a specific number of points that could be accrued. Results were tabulated yearly and published in *Headlions*. Since AKC recognition, the LCA relies on the American Kennel Club tabulations.

In March of 1985, Liz Vargo took over as the newsletter editor. At that time *Headlions* featured show reports, an occasional President's Report from Bob Yhlen, litter announcements, show listings and articles on veterinary or obedience topics. Once a year, a tabulation on the top

show dogs, top stud dog and brood bitch, and top breeder was published.

1985 marked the year the first case of juvenile cataracts was reported to the club. Little was done about the problem at



Pepperland Footstep Junior Warrant Winner. Photo Leslie Samuals Healy.

the time, except publishing a request in *Headlions* that others facing the problem should contact the club. By this year the membership had grown to 35.

From its beginnings, the LLDCA had a constitution providing for elections. Nevertheless, until 1986 Bob Yhlen was the only president the club had ever had. Other official positions were equally static. Jane Cook was Assistant Registrar, and served on the Board of Directors into the early 1990s. Carole Yhlen did double duty as Treasurer and Registrar. Eventually, many people began to feel the club was unresponsive to its membership. Additional interest in the breed created by the *Dog World* ad was not fully utilized. For years, various people complained that their requests for information on the breed were not always answered. Many said that they had contacted the LLDCA because they were thinking of becoming involved with the breed and had never received a response, even after several attempts. This information was usually relayed in person to a club member at a dog show where the member was approached and told the story. Some of those persons ended up becoming very successful in other breeds, leaving one to wonder how many who would have been beneficial to the breed, were discouraged or

brushed aside? Most likely it was not intentional, but it may have left a mark on the breed.

By 1986, unrest and discontent among members began to visibly surface because elections had not been held for



LCA Ch. Lowe-Ray's Krickett. Photo Alice Bixler.

years. The membership was dissatisfied, feeling they had little say in the policies of the club. Long-time members and breeders were dropping out of the club and breed, expressing unhappiness with the way the club was operated. Many felt it was not a democratic venture and those dropping out held little hope for change. Some breeders complained they were not receiving referrals from the LLDCA, whereas other breeders were being promoted. Even though there had been dissension through the years, this was the first time dissenters became effectively organized. The need for elections was frequently discussed and efforts began in hopes of an election being held.

The officers of the LLDCA were approached about the possibility of holding elections. Bob Yhlen claimed that there was no reason to do so because of the small membership. The club constitution called for elections after there were 35 members. It is important to note that the club's officers and board members were virtually unchanged since the inception of the club. After much discussion, led by Liz Vargo, among members and a review of the club constitution and by-laws by Gini Denninger, a way was found constitutionally providing

a way to petition for elections and thus forcing the issue. In 1987, at the Hudson Rare Breed Show, held in June, a meeting was held with Leslie and Matt Healy, Sandi Lunka, Liz Vargo and Gini Denninger attending. Held in a hotel room near the show site, dialogue over these matters culminated in the signing of a petition written by Liz Vargo, demanding that elections be held within the year. Also discussed was who would run for what positions if elections were held. During the planning prior to this meeting, there was talk of forming a new Löwchen club if elections were not held in a reasonable time span. Details were worked out to provide this as an option but in a way that would not endanger the possibility of AKC recognition.

This was not the first time a second Löwchen Club had been considered. In the early 1980s, there was a failed attempt on the part of Löwchen fanciers headed by Dorothy Goodale and Julie Katz, both located in Colorado, to found a new Löwchen Club. Due to the inability to gain support from Löwchen owners, most who were pet owners at the time with little interest in breeding or showing, this effort was not successful.

The petition was presented to President Bob Yhlen who was attending the show for the first LLDCA Eastern Regional Specialty, being held under the auspices of the Hudson Valley Rare Breed Club. He agreed that elections would be held as requested by the membership. After some additional prompting from the members in the following months, elections were held the following year in the fall. New officers took control in 1989. The LLDCA entered the 1990s with almost all new officers and board members.

By the mid 1980s, despite the efforts of the breeders, public interest in Löwchen began a downward spiral. In an attempt to garner more support and interest in the club from current Löwchen owners, the May 1984, newsletter was sent to all owning a registered Löwchen. By that year there were 131 litters registered, 481 Löwchen born in total, since the registry was opened and 261 Löwchen were registered. Active LLDCA members, around the country became more

aggressive in publicizing their dogs. Among them were Astrid Whitman and Sandi Lunka who appeared on a local talk show in Cleveland, Ohio, with their Manfred's Little Gingersnap. Helen and Don Johnson reported that their dogs were featured in the *Raleigh Times* in Raleigh, North Carolina. Several years in a row, Gini Denninger was invited to exhibit her dogs at a rare breed exhibit held in the show hall of the Montreal Kennel Club's annual spring show held at the former Olympic stadium in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Despite all the efforts, puppy sales deteriorated. At one point, breeders were literally giving puppies away in order to be able to continue moving forward with their bloodlines. One long-time breeder who did much importing, Dorothy Goodale, gave many of her dogs to others since she was unable to afford maintaining a kennel that did not pay for itself. This proved to be a boon for several breeders, especially Liz Vargo and Gini Denninger. Many dogs that Dorothy gave away became important foundation dogs for others.

At one point, there were only three active breeders left who had large kennels of dogs with an active breeding program; Leslie Healy, Liz Vargo and Gini Denninger. Others like Sandi Lunka and Astrid Whitman did still breed Löwchen but on a more limited basis. To breed according to market demand during this period would have meant the breed's demise in the United States. If breeding came to a halt, the loss of several key bloodlines would have been detrimental to the already limited gene pool. It should be noted that during these years there were occasional litters bred by pet owners who were not interested in showing dogs as well as the occasional breeder who had one or two dogs and was not interested in large scale breeding.

Eventually the numbers of Löwchen and interest in them began to climb. In the show ring, Löwchen were successfully competing against two of the most popular rare breeds frequenting show circuits, those being the Chinese Shar-Pei and Japanese Shiba Inu, both of which were also assigned to the Non-Sporting Group. Because of the stiff competition from these two breeds which had significantly higher numbers of

dogs competing at shows, winning the group was difficult. Despite that, several Löwchen won group competitions on a regular basis. The success of the Löwchen at rare breed shows began to attract attention to the breed. An in-depth article on the breed, written by Gini Denninger, was



LCA Ch. Rossglen Charlie Brown at Pepperland.
Top Obedience dog LLDCA 1984 & 1985.
Photo Leslie Samuals Healy.

published in *Dog World* December 1984, and part 2 in January 1985. This article can be credited with bringing more interest to the breed. One of today's breeders that credits this article for helping her decide to get one of this breed is Nadine Pelleschi of Kismet Kennel.

As a whole, rare breeds had begun to attract more credibility as those established in AKC breeds began to take on rare breeds as an additional breed. The change in attitude towards rare breeds shifted after Petit Bassett Griffon Vendeen Alexander of Gebeba won Best in Show at the "Super Match" in 1983, a highly promoted dog show with over 3300 entries, mostly AKC recognized breeds. . In the following weeks, Alexander's face was seen in Newspapers and Dog Magazines throughout the country. Alex caught the attention a dog fanciers who attended the show and other enthusiast throughout the country. His win legitimized the efforts rare breed fanciers were devoting to their breeds, and allowed AKC to begin to consider admitting some of these breeds in to their registry, which previous to this point happened very rarely.

As many other national breed clubs do, the LLDCA began offering Registry of Merit awards. This title is given to stud dogs who sire five champions and to brood bitches who produce three champions. Those dogs fulfilling these requirements have R.O.M. included after their names. Any kennel producing more than 10 champions is also designated the right to include R.O.M. behind its name. Awards are given at the club banquet during each year's National Specialty.

As of January 1st, 1990, there was a change of rules issued by the LLDCA governing the registration of litters and dogs. The first one was the advent of the non-breeding registration. The second being that breeders must register, not only their litter, but upon receiving the litter papers must register each puppy individually in the breeder's name. Only after the individual registration papers came back to the breeder, could a dog be registered in its new owner's name. Also enacted was a code of ethics. Those desiring membership in the LLDCA were obligated to sign this.

Also in 1990, work began on the LLDCA's first publishing attempt. A year book was planned. Carole Kramer of New



Siewlee Leo Goldini. Imported by Berdot Kennel.
Photo Dorothy Goodale.

Jersey was chosen to edit it. The LLDCA hoped it would be ready for the 20th Anniversary National Specialty, but because of sluggish response by members, publication was late.

The club began holding regional specialties in 1987 and National Specialties in 1988. One of the first National Specialties was held in conjunction with the Western New York Rare Breed Association Rare Breed shows. This show was chaired by Gini Denninger and judged by Cheryl Kelly whose interest in the breed piqued. She eventually co-owned one of the top-winning dogs of the breed at the time, Ashford's Jordanian Prince, and became increasingly active in the breed.

The 20th Anniversary National Specialty was held at the Quality Inn ballroom in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. Organized by Jim and Jennifer Hedding, it was an extravaganza that all who attended will remember. Members and exhibitors came from California, Texas, Missouri, Ohio and New York. It was held in conjunction with the Eastern Regional Specialty which was judged by Anitra Cuneo. The Best of Breed winner of the Eastern Regional was Ch. Shirl's Sunray at Tawny, handled by his co-owner Sandi Lunka. He was bred by Shirley Angstrom. The Eastern Regional was followed by the National Specialty Puppy Sweepstakes. This event was judged by Astrid Whitman. Her Best Puppy in Sweepstakes was Lionhearts Be-Bop-a-lula handled by her co-owner Kaja Donovan. Lula was bred by Della Cialini and Gini Denninger. The main event was judged by AKC judge Lena Basquette. There were 27 Löwchen entered. Additionally, five veteran dogs were paraded, including a 12-year-old owned by long time LLDCA members Melissa and Dudley Harrington. It was one of the largest National Specialties to date. The competition was fierce, especially because two-time National Specialty winner, Ch. Lowe-Ray's Robin Hood, owned by Earl Marie Dingel, was there to try for his third win. His leading challenger was one-time National Specialty winner, Ch. Ashford's Jordanian Prince, handled by co-owner Cheryl Kelly. After tense competition, the trophy was awarded to Jordie. In 2000, Kismet's Pearlbrook Andante had won the National Specialty trophy three times.



World Ch. And German Import Pan Tau von Livland with his son. Imported by Gini Denninger. Photo Ashford Collection.

Work on revising the LLDCA constitution began in 1990. The committee, chaired by Helen Johnson of North Carolina, presented its new constitution to the membership at the general meeting. It was endorsed and unofficially approved by members present. The constitution was based on the AKC-suggested constitution with small changes to accommodate the running of a non-AKC breed club.

In 1991, Newsletter editorship passed to Diane Bernard and Gini Denninger. They made a change to the existing format to include a new column, Letters to the Editor. The remainder of the newsletter still included show calendars, photos and reports; new champions; litter announcements; listing of officers and other general interest articles. After the third edition of the newsletter Gini Denninger resigned her position. She was unable to continue working together with Diane Bernard, due to Gini moving too far away for them to work together efficiently.

The Little Lion Dog Club of America changed its name in 1991 to the Löwchen Club of America, bringing it in line with the rest of the Löwchen Clubs world-wide which were using Löwchen in their names. The membership was approached by the board and officers of the LCA asking what their views concerning AKC recognition might be. Most responses were in favor of

the club continuing work toward AKC recognition but many

respondents expressed concern over the recent discovery of PRA afflicting several dogs in the breed. They asked that recognition be held up until more information was available and the disease was under control.

1992 was an exciting year for those involved with the breed. The National Specialty was held again in Upstate New York, at the Palmyra Fairgrounds. Hosted by the Western New York Löwchen Association, the weekend was named the Western New York Löwchen Classic. The National and Breed Specialties were special for the club members since judging was by two pioneer breeders. Mrs. Banks of the Cluneen Kennel of Great Britain judged the national specialty and Mrs. Maeve Cleary of Winsomere Kennels of Ireland judged the New York specialty. This was the first national specialty judged by a breeder judge. Best of Breed went to Ch. Kismet Pearlbrook Andante bred by Nadine Pelleschi and Carole Kramer. Best of Opposite sex went to Ch. Lionheart Bebop-a-Lula bred by Della Cialini and Gini Denninger.

The next year's National Specialty proved to be a disappointment. Held the first weekend in May in conjunction with a large annual rare breed show put on by the American Rare Breed Association in Washington D.C., the Nationals failed to draw many participants. There was a total of three Löwchen entered in breed classes. Best of Breed and Opposite Sex went to the same dogs as the previous year.

In April 1, 1996 The Löwchen was accepted into the Miscellaneous classes by the AKC, along with the Havanese and Anatolian Shepherd. The LCA created a new point system, giving credit for wins in the Miscellaneous Classes toward an LCA championship. Despite this, most exhibitors continued to show their dogs at the rare breed shows. There were several exhibitors who did make an effort to show their dogs at the AKC shows, since the concern was that if this did not occur, the breed would never gain full status from the AKC. In 2000

the Löwchen were fully recognized. Full recognition meant that the breed would be eligible to compete at the AKC-sanctioned

dog shows for AKC championship points for their championship titles.

AMERICAN FOUNDATION KENNELS

There were over 30 Löwchen imported into the United States during the early 1970s. Mrs. Stenning of the Cherrycourt Kennel exported one of the first modern-day Löwchen to touch American shores. It was bought by Mr. Luther Green, who received Cherrycourt Crunch in April 1971. Crunch was followed shortly by Cluneen Dana, Cluneen Erinna and Cluneen Fergus who were imported by Mrs. Jane Cook. Mr. Greene continued to import other Löwchen, but they did not contribute to the American gene pool of Löwchen since Mr Greene did not participate in the LLDCA Registry. An active show breeder and exhibitor, Jerry Podell, later known for his Bichon Frise, also imported some early Löwchen. They too were lost to the gene pool. Of all the early Löwchen imports, roughly half were actually used in breeding programs and contributed to current American bloodlines.

Four kennels must be discussed first; d'Eayre, Lowe-Ray, Berdot and Pepperland. Combined, these kennels imported the dogs that are behind almost every dog registered originally with the Löwchen Club of America, later with the American Kennel Club.

D'EAYRE KENNEL



Cluneen Erinna, Dana & Fergus. Photo Mrs. E. Banks

This is truly the first Löwchen kennel of note in the United States, yet the d'Eayre

name is little known to relative newcomers to the breed. A look at early pedigrees of dogs stemming out of Lowe-Ray



Lowe-Ray's Rianna & Rasheena Replic. Sisters from the famous Lowe-Ray's R litter. Photo Ashford Collection.

lines will reveal two dogs produced by this kennel: Coco d'Eayre-LCA #0008 and d'Eayre's Tinker Damn-LCA #0005. These two are the best known Löwchen produced by Jane and Charles Cook.

This couple is forever immortalized in the Löwchen's American history. Avid travelers and eventual collectors of Löwchen memorabilia, they were the first to successfully import and breed Löwchen in the United States. In 1971, Mr. and Mrs. Cook made a tour of the world famous Crufts Dog Show in England. While there, a small shaggy dog with a shaved rump caught Mrs. Cook's eye. To their delight, they had made contact with one of England's pioneer Löwchen breeders, Mrs. Banks of the Cluneen Kennels. They negotiated to buy and bring home three puppies. They were Cluneen Fergus, Cluneen Dana and Cluneen Erinna. Mrs. Banks described meeting the Cooks as being most "pleasant", further stating that she was pleased to let them have her puppies and was excited about the prospect of a future for the breed in the United States. The puppies' departure was chronicled by British newspapers as much as their arrival in the United States was noted. Their debut

in the States was heralded by notable papers and publications such as the *New York Times*. The plane the Cooks returned on from England was full of other dog fanciers since it was the first charter tour from the United States to attend Crufts. When the plane entered American air space and landing preparations commenced, the pilot commented to New York's Laguardia control tower that he was piloting a plane full of dog lovers. He then mentioned the unusual cargo he had on board: three Löwchen puppies. This was picked up by the press, both print and television. Later, Mrs. Cook described their arrival to Löwchen Club of America members through the Löwchen Club's publication *Headlions*: "We were very careful of landing order and brought them off the plane in birth order. There were news people and photographers there and I was briefly interviewed. Imagine having three squirming little puppies who haven't been to the bathroom properly for several hours!" Cluneen Dana was the first to be taken off the plane, followed by Erinna and then Fergus.

Together with Robert and Carole Yhlen, the Cooks founded the Little Lion Dog Club of America. Their dogs were the first Löwchen entered into the LLDCA registry. Their assigned numbers are: Cluneen Dana LCA #0001, Cluneen Erinna LCA # 0002 and Cluneen Fergus LCA #003. Once the dogs settled in and had time to



LCA Ch. Lowe-Rays Robin Hood, another sibling from the 'R' litter. Pictured with Former owner Liz Vargo and current owner Earl Marie Dingel. Photo E.M. Dingel.



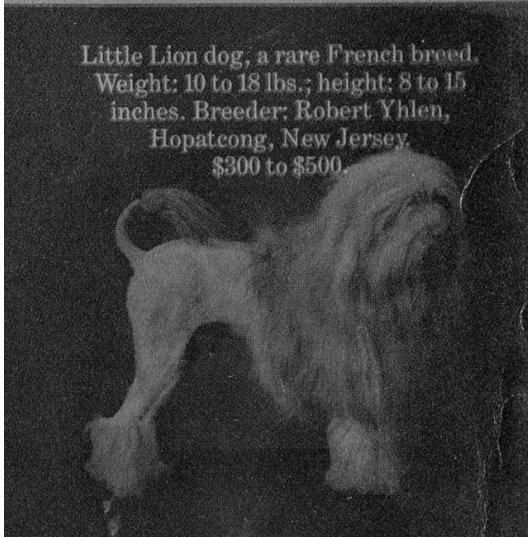
LCA Ch. Lowe-Ray's Rocky Too with owner Liz Vargo. Photo Ashford Collection.

grow up, their important task began. Cluneen Fergus was bred to his half sisters Dana and Erinna. These breedings produced CoCo d'Eayre, a chocolate bitch, and champagne-colored Eayre's Tinker Damn. These two dogs eventually produced the dogs that became part of the foundation of the Lowe-Ray Kennel.

Mr. and Mrs. Cook bred a few litters but eventually sold some of their dogs to Robert Yhlen who owned the Lowe-Ray Kennel. Mrs. Cook stayed active on a limited basis in the breed. She eventually imported more dogs for Mr. Yhlen and also for a Mr. Sturgis who unfortunately did not participate further in the breed. Mrs. Cook served as Vice President, Assistant Registrar and on the Board of Directors of the Little Lion Dog Club of America for many years.

LOWE-RAY KENNEL

An article on Crufts dog show caught Bob Yhlen's eye. Mention of a very rare breed, the Löwchen, was made. This breed was making a come-back and being exhibited at Crufts for the first time. He noted that someone had brought back a few Löwchen puppies from Crufts. Mr Yhlen was especially interested since his zodiac sign was Leo and his childhood passion, lions. He wanted a look at this Little Lion and decided to pursue them. He began by trying to locate the couple that had brought



The 1978 December issue of *Town and Country* magazine featured Lowe-Ray's Cricket in its Annual Treasury of Christmas Pleasures. Photo Ashford Collection.

the dogs into the United States and the English breeder of these dogs. According to Mr. Yhlen: "My attempts led to many frustrations; the task was no easy one." Through the English breeder, Mrs. Banks, he received a picture of a Löwchen and the name of the couple that had imported the three puppies, Mr. and Mrs. Cook. Mr. Yhlen contacted the Cooks and arranged to visit with them. Once he saw the dogs he knew he had to become involved with the breed. Mrs. Cook sold him Cluneen Dana and the first two of her puppies, one which was CoCo d'Eayre. They were transferred into Mr. Yhlen's ownership on September 24, 1972.

Together with his wife, Carole, and Charles and Jane Cook, the 'Little Lion Dog Club of America' was formed. They devised a constitution based on an AKC breed club constitution and started the breed registry. The founders of the LLDCA notified the AKC to inform them of the breed's arrival into the United States.

The Lowe-Ray Kennel was founded on dogs imported by the Cooks and another imported dog, Zele Von den Drei Lowen, from the famous German Löwchen kennel owned by Dr. Hans Rickert. Various breeding combinations of Cluneen Dana, Eayre's Tinker Damn, Coco d'Eayre and Zele Von den Drei Lowen created some of

the most important dogs in the breed that in turn were the fore-fathers of some of today's top dogs. One dog of particular note was Ch. Lowe-Ray's Cricket. While not widely used for breeding, he contributed greatly to the breed by drawing attention to it. Cricket was considered an outstanding example of the Löwchen during his time. He won over ten Best in Shows at all-breed matches and Rare Breed Shows, even into his old age, having won a Best in Show at the ripe age of eleven. His movement was impeccable and stayed so until his last day. With his tan coloring, he really resembled a lion. His major drawback was size, being that he was very large by breed standards. Cricket's photo appeared in a feature on rare breeds in *Life* magazine's January 1979, issue. His picture was also used in breed advertisements in the annual *Dog World* breeder's issue and also in breed brochures put out by the LLDCA. The 1978 December issue of *Town and Country* magazine pictured Cricket in its Annual Treasury of Christmas Pleasures. The blurb read: "Little Lion Dog, a rare French breed. Weight 10 to 18 lbs.; Height: 8 to 15 inches. Breeder: Robert Yhlen, Lake Hopatcong, NJ. \$300. to \$500."

On April 18th, Bob Yhlen showed Cricket for the last time before handing him over to Liz Vargo. He spent the rest of his days residing at the Destiny Kennel. He was given to Liz Vargo along with his sister, Lowe-Ray's Honey Bun. A few weeks after Mrs. Vargo went home with Cricket, he won Best in Show at the Anne Arundel K.C. Match in Glen Burnie, Maryland. This was his seventh Best in Show.

Many of the dogs bred by the Yhlens were successful in the show ring. One litter in particular is note-worthy. Mr. Yhlen named his litters according to the alphabet system many breeders use. This was the "R" litter and was his eighteenth. Out of seven dogs produced there were four champions. They were: Ch. Lowe-Ray's Robin Hood, Ch. Lowe-Ray's Rocky Two, Ch. Lowe-Ray's Rasheena Replique and Ch. Lowe-Ray's Rianna Raquel. Ch. Lowe-Ray's Robin Hood (CoCo) was given to Liz Vargo,



Mirielle von den Drei Lowen. Imported by Berdot Kennel. Photo Dorothy Goodale.

who in turn sent him to Earl Marie Dingel of Lambert Kennel. It was with Miss Dingel that CoCo hit his stride. He was campaigned, both on the east and west coast, racking up group wins and an occasional Best in Show, quickly earning his championship. Miss Dingel flew him east to compete at several National Specialties. He went home with two National Specialty wins in a row. Ch. Lowe-Ray's Rasheena Replique was bought by Gini Denninger of Ashford Kennel as a foundation bitch. She produced several champions including Ch. Ashford's Jordanian Prince who won several Bests in Show and also became a two-time National Specialty winner. Rasheena also produced Ashfords Asha Ani, who was awarded her Registry of Merit Dam title, and who also produced a National Specialty winner, Ch. Lionhearts BeBop-a-Lula, bred by Mrs D. Cialini and Miss Denninger. The Lowe-Ray dogs have served as foundation dogs for Destiny, Ashford and Lambert Kennels.

Mr. Yhlen, at the time a self-employed computer specialist, eventually phased out of dogs due to increasing work demands. He gave most of his dogs to Mrs. Vargo with whom he had been working closely. Mr. Yhlen maintained a limited involvement in the breed by serving as Vice President for the Löwchen Club of America. He occasionally attended events put on by the club. In 1989, he judged the LCA National Specialty Puppy Sweepstakes held in Montoursville, Pa.

BERDOT KENNEL

Surely one of the most important foundation kennels was the Berdot Kennel owned by Dorothy Goodale of Colorado. She imported all of her foundation dogs, supplying the breed with new blood.



Siewlee Leo Goldini. Imported by Berdot Kennels. Photo D. Goodale.

Among the dogs she imported were: Leon Von den Drei Lowen, Mirielle Von denDrei Lowen, and her sister, Madelaine Von den Drei Lowen, from Dr. Rickert and Siewlee



Berdot's Little Lady with owner Liz Vargo. Photo Ashford Collection.

Leo Goldini Lion and Siewlee Leo Lilibetlion from England's Mrs Burton-Seymour.

Mrs. Goodale and her husband, Bert, lived high in the Rocky Mountains in Montrose, Colorado. Because of the lack of rare breed shows and the difficulty getting to them, Mrs Goodale did not show her dogs. She did sell or give away many Löwchen to those who did. Among the noteworthy dogs produced by the Berdot Kennel are Ch. Berdot's Luke Skywalker, a silver-and-white parti-color; Ch. Berdot's Troyka; Berdot's Wallace, a black with silver points; Ch. Berdot's Lisette; Berdot's Monique; Berdot's Papillon; Berdot's Gingersnap; Berdot's Janine; Berdot's Mimi; and Berdot's Little Lady (Colette), a petite cream-colored female. These dogs are often found in American-bred Löwchen pedigrees.

Mrs. Goodale worked closely with Liz Vargo, giving her an excellent start in the breed. Among the noteworthy dogs sent to Mrs. Vargo by Mrs. Goodale were Ch. Berdot's Luke Skywalker, Berdot's Monique and Ch. Berdot's Lisette. Both Ch. Berdot's Luke Skywalker and Ch. Berdot's Lisette were campaigned by Mrs. Vargo to their champion titles. Luke won many groups and several Best in Shows while Lisette won one

Best in Show. Luke was one of the most widely-used stud dogs of his time. Among dogs sired by him were: Ch. Manfred's Noir Moustique, Ch. Destiny's Lady Tache and Berdot's Little Lady. Luke was sired by Leon Von den Drei Lowen who also figures heavily behind other producing dogs. Leon may well have been one of the most valuable imports to American bloodlines.

Eventually Mrs. Goodale decided to stop breeding Löwchen so she could concentrate on her Havanese. Among the dogs dispersed were Berdot's Lisette and Berdot's Wallace. Lisette turned out to be a valuable addition to the Destiny Kennel as she produced: Manfred's Little Gingersnap, Destiny's the Highway Man, Destiny's Noir Lite Peggy and Destiny's The Force Be With You. Lisette would probably have continued to produce other quality dogs but she tragically died in a house and kennel fire.

Berdot's Wallace was sent to Gini

Denninger, who was cautioned against taking the dog by another breeder because of heavy Siewlee influence in his pedigree.

The Siewlee dogs were blamed for causing bad bites. "Wally" proved to be an important cornerstone for the Ashford Kennel. He sired multi-Best in Show dog Ch. Ashford's Dhy-Bhur Hassan and other



Siewlee Leo Lilibetlion. Imported by Berdot Kennel. Photo Dorothy Goodale.

champions. Miss Denninger credits him for helping to keep size down in her dogs.

Mrs. Goodale was active in other breeds prior to and after the Löwchen. She specialized in rare breeds, usually keeping them until they became AKC recognized. Some of the breeds she owned were the Soft-Coated Wheatan Terrier, Chinese Crested, Bolognese, Cesky Terrier and Havanese. Due to her and her husband's poor health, she was forced to cut back her breeding activities. Mrs. Goodale held the original Havanese registry, eventually turning it over to the United Kennel Club in 1991.

Mrs Goodales's talent in blending the German imports with British imports improved the quality of Löwchen in the United States. Furthermore, her bloodlines meshed well with the Lowe-Ray line, creating even more quality dogs with which breeders could work.

PEPPERLAND KENNELS

The first impression of Leslie Samuels Healy is that she originates from Great Britain. Actually her accent is a residual effect, now tempered with a Texan drawl, of her fifteen years spent in England.

Leslie actually grew up in New Jersey, U.S.A. When Beatle-mania hit the States, she

resolved, at seventeen, to go to England to meet the Beatles. There Leslie became involved in the dog show scene after deciding she wanted a big shaggy dog just like Paul McCartney had. She couldn't keep



Leslie Samuuls-Healy with Sonjay Glemby at Pepperland. Reserve Best in Show at the Löwchen Club Show 1980. Photo Leslie Samuuls-Healy.

an Old English Sheepdog so went one size down to the Bearded Collie. Leslie's pet grew into a show quality dog and at her breeder's behest she began showing in 1968.

Leslie established Pepperland Kennel in 1973. Her involvement with Löwchen began with a chance encounter on a bus specially rented for dog show enthusiasts and their dogs, which was heading to Scotland for a show. Mrs. Healy, then still Miss Samuels, met Susan Dutson who told her about these "neat dogs" that her mother had just imported into quarantine. By the end of the weekend, she became interested enough to make an appointment to visit Mrs. Dutson. She asked Justine Warren of Quinbury Kennel to go with her. They saw the first Löwchen

puppies to be born from a breeding that took place during quarantine. The parents were from the Bungener-Heide Kennel. Leslie and Justine went into partnership on the female, a tiny apricot bitch named Rossglen Lotus Blossom, but it was a small



Pepperland Miss Piggy. Owned by Earl Marie Dingle. Miss Dingle put the Obedience title on Piggy. Photo E. Dingle.

apricot male that caught Leslie's heart. She purchased her first Löwchen, Rossglen Leo at Pepperland. Sadly, he had a vaccination reaction at eight months which killed him. Mrs Dutson had another litter out of Antje Von den Drei lowen. It was from this litter that Leslie's beloved Charlie Brown was born. Because of him, Mrs Healy was caught by the Löwchen's captivating snare.

When she returned to the United States in 1981, her dogs came too. Leslie settled in San Angelo, Texas, where she met her husband, Matt Healy. Active in breeding both the Löwchen and Bearded Collies at the time, Leslie went to a number of shows in the Dallas area. Since Mr Healy was not as interested in the dog show scene, she eventually participated in fewer shows.

Mrs Healy brought with her to the United States, Löwchen from various bloodlines. Among them were Rossglen Charlie Brown at Pepperland, Sonjay Glemby at Pepperland, American/English Ch. Quinbury Gatanya Fondue at Pepperland, Footprint of Littlecourt in Pepperland, Ch. Yorks Harlequin Duchess,

Eng. Ch. Duncara Fluters Jeme and Duncara's Fluters Tune.

Mrs Healy's dog's are in pedigrees of many American dogs of today. Pepperland Charlie Anne was the dam of Ch. Manfreds Noir Moustique. Pepperland Pepita of Destiny was out of Pepperland Concho Honcho and Sonjay Glemby at Pepperland. Earl Marie Dingle of the Lambert Kennel has had several successful litters out of Pepperland's Miss Piggy. At the age of 11 years and 11 months, Leslie's beloved Am. Ch. Rossglen Charlie Brown at Pepperland, CD., completed his third leg towards his Companion Dog title, despite a raging wind storm while he was earning his degree. He was the first Löwchen to earn a Companion Dog degree in the United States. This same dog, born in England in 1974, completed his American Rare Breed Championship at age 10-1/2-years-old, soon after the LCA point system went into effect. Another first by a Pepperland dog was Ch. Pepperland Bingo of Papalote becoming the first Löwchen to win a States Kennel Club championship title. He is owned by Basenji breeder and exhibitor Frances Carlisle of Sinton, Texas.

Mrs Healy no longer breeds Löwchen, She decided to concentrate her efforts on her Border Collies and another interest of hers, horses.

ASHFORD KENNEL

Ashford Kennel was the result of ten years spent working with dog breeders and handlers in various breeds. Miss Denninger became involved at a young age with Afghan Hounds. Prior to being involved with showing and breeding Löwchen, her main interest was Afghan Hound rescue. By 1982, her work in this field peaked with the rescue of 26 Afghan Hounds in one year. Because of the experience of working with discarded dogs, Miss Denninger was determined to find a breed that would be easier to place in pet homes. While living and working with a Lhasa Apso breeder, she became enamored with a small frisky and friendly dog who happened to be a Löwchen. She had been given to the Lhasa breeder by widely respected and known



LCA Ch. Ashford's Dhy-Bhur Hassan co-owned by Diane Bernard and Gini Denninger. Photo Ashford Collection.



LCA Ch. Ashford's Malik Aswad at Lambert. Imported to Germany by Felizitas Dylla. Photo Ashford Collection Massena's Misty and Ashford's Iman in their retirement home. Both were influential foundation bitches for the Ashford Kennel. Photo Ashford Collection.

Saluki and Chinese Shar-pei breeder Don Weiden, who at the time had branched into Löwchen. It was after Miss. Denninger moved on to the famous BelTor Poodle Kennel in Pine Orchard, Connecticut, and worked with Mrs. Rebecca Mason, that she felt ready to start her own breeding kennel. After much deliberation, especially over the fact that the Löwchen could not be shown at AKC

Löwchen, her main interest was Afghan Hound rescue. By 1982, her work in this field peaked with the rescue of 26 Afghan



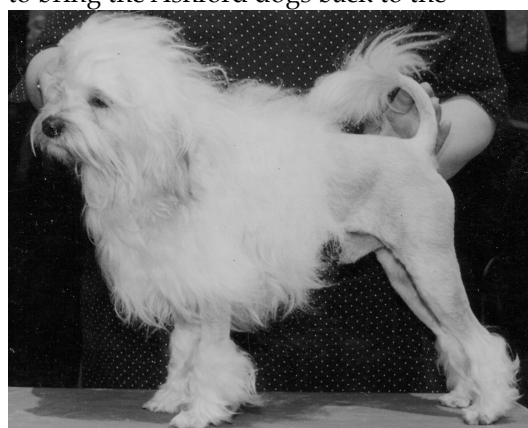
L-R Massena's Misty and Ashford's Iman. Photo Gini Denninger

Hounds in one year. Because of the experience of working with discarded dogs, shows, she decided on the Löwchen. She was drawn to it for several reasons. She wanted a dog that was stable in temperament, small and with few health problems.

Miss Denninger began researching the breed by speaking first with two breeders Löwchen Bob Yhlen and Leslie Healy. Her first Löwchen were Lowe-Ray's Moriah, who ended up being sterile, and Lowe-Ray's Rasheena Replique. The next two dogs came from Liz Vargo; Destiny's Pooh of Ashford and Destiny's Ashford Shar-Dei. She then acquired Berdot's Wallace sent by Dorothy Goodale. Other important additions were Massena's Misty and Destiny's Ms. T. With the exception of Moriah, these dogs were the core of her breeding program. From them came Multi-Specialty, All-Breed Best in Show and two time National Specialty winner Ashford's Jordainian Prince; multi-Best in Show winner Ashford's Dhy-Bhur Hassan; Canadian Best in Rare Breed Dog Show winner Ashford's Quatra; rare breed show group winning Ashford's Malik Aswad, who was eventually exported to Germany, where he proved to be an important sire for the German breeders; Ashford's Tiffany who was also exported to Germany. Tiffany grew up to be the first American-bred Jugend Bundesieger winner and Jugend Bundesieger Champion. Ch. Lionheart's Ashford Liesle was the youngest Löwchen to win her rare breed championship. She and Lionheart's Be-Bop-a-Lula; both co-bred

with Della Cialini, were out of Ashford's Asha Ani.

In 1993, Miss Denninger began importing and exporting dogs from and to Europe. In June 1993, she bought in Ch. Pan Tau von Livland, the top winning Löwchen in Europe at the time of importation. Among his titles were Weltsieger, Europasiieger and Bundesieger. Finished in several European countries, Pan Tau was one of the last top-winning Löwchen produced by the Livland Kennel. Miss Denninger began collaborating with Felizitas Dylla, then president of the Duetsche Löwchen Klub eV., in an attempt to bring the Ashford dogs back to the



Ch. Ashford's-Lowenhaus Cuno was the first American-bred Löwchen to win a world title. His sire Pan Tau von Livland was also a FCI World Winner. Photo Ashford Collection.

original type desired and produced by Madame Bennert and Dr. Rickert. Miss Denninger continues working with European breeders, including Juha Kares and Jari Partenen of Finland.

A result of Miss Denninger's involvement with European breeders is that she was honored with judging the Finnish and the Swedish Löwchen Club Shows, which are equivalent to the American Specialty. She found the quality of dogs to be very high in both countries and was pleased to have been able to go over so many fine dogs.

Miss Denninger was the co-founder of the Western New York Rare Breeds Association which was started to give rare breeds a quality show at which to exhibit. This led to the Western New York Löwchen Association which hosted two LLDCA



Ashford's Nasira and Ashford's Nyssah at Ivytree, identical twins winning Best Brace under judge Lena Basquet at the LCA Nationals in 1991. Photo Ashford Collection.



American and Estonian Ch. Ashford's Fati Abu. Fati, the first American-bred Löwchen to win an Estonian Championship. Fati Löwchen in Finland with Jari Partanen. Photo Ashford.

National Specialty Shows. She has also served as a newsletter editor and board member for the Löwchen Club of America. Her last service to the LCSA was as Breed Education Chairperson for over 8 years. Starting before the breeds induction into the AKC and continuing for some years after. Ashford Kennel was designated a Registry

of Merit Kennel, for producing over ten champions. There are now over 100 LCA & AKC Ashford Löwchen Champions.



Ashford's Calais, behind several top producing dogs from the Ashford Kennel. Photo Ashford Collection.

DESTINY KENNEL

Liz Vargo capitalized on her years of experience as a breeder of top-winning of Beagles. She learned the nuances of dog breeding while co-owning the Tar-heel Beagle Kennel with her ex-husband, Jim Hendricks. Located in Rayland, Ohio, where she lived with her second husband, Destiny



Destiny's Ashford Shar-Dei co-owned by Liz Vargo and Gini Denninger. Photo Ashford Collection.



Destiny's Pooh at Ashford co-wned by Gini Denninger and Liz Vargo. Photo Ashford Collection.

Kennels became the first Löwchen Club of America 'Registry of Merit Kennel'. Mrs. Vargo acquired her first Löwchen from the Berdot, Lowe-Ray and Pepperland kennels. Later she was fortunate to be the recipient of dogs from the Berdot and Lowe-Ray kennels when these kennels were disbanded. For several years, she worked closely with Dorothy Goodale and Bob Yhlen when trying various combinations of crossing their bloodlines. Mrs. Vargo eventually concentrated her efforts using the Lowe-Ray- based lines. Ch. Berdot's Luke Skywalker, one of the most important stud dogs in the breed was sent to Mrs. Vargo by Dorothy Goodale. A small gray and white parti-colored Löwchen, Luke was very charismatic and sound. During one period of his show career, it seemed that every time he won the Non-Sporting group, he also won Best in Show at rare breed shows.

Another dog that Mrs. Vargo was fortunate to acquire was Ch. Lowe-Ray's Cricket. He was given to her along with his sister Lowe-Ray's Honey Bun, by Mr. Yhlen when he decided to reduce his kennel. Since he had been shown sparingly, Mrs. Vargo decided to campaign him despite his age

and handled him to several rare breed Bests in Show, one at eleven years of age.

Mrs. Vargo was active in the Little Lion Dog Club of America from the beginning of her involvement in the breed. She eventually took over editing the newsletter, became point registrar, breed registrar and then president. Some of those jobs she handled simultaneously.

Besides a pair of Beauceron that Mrs. Vargo kept for protection and her Löwchen she also bred Havanese, Shiba Inu and Cesky Terriers. Prior to March 1991, Mrs. Vargo kept a large number of dogs, often averaging around 70. Most were Havanese and Löwchen. Unfortunately, their numbers were greatly reduced when a fire swept through her home and kennel,



LCA Ch. And Specialty show winner Destiny's Lady Tache. Being shown by Nadine Pelleschi. Photo Ashford Collection.

killing many. Since the fire and other dramatic changes in Mrs. Vargo's life she has given up her involvement in the breed.

KISMET

Owned by Nadine Pelleschi, this kennel was founded totally by accident. Mrs. Pelleschi read an article on the Löwchen by this author which was published in *Dog World* in 1985, and became captivated with the breed. Through the LLDCA, she found Destiny Kennels from whom she bought her first Löwchen. Although Mrs. Pelleschi bought a pet, she got much more than she bargained for and began a deep involvement in the dog show world.

Miss Denninger remembers a phone call from Mrs. Vargo. In which Mrs. Vargo exclaimed that she had made a mistake. A puppy female she had sold as pet was actually show quality. She had discovered this as she readied the dog for shipment to



Ch. Volare Jazzy Jigsaw, co-owned by Micheal Wolfe and Nadine Pelleschi. Photo Nadine Pelleschi.

her new home. She briefly considered calling the sale off but decided to go ahead with it, telling Mrs. Pelleschi that she was getting a show quality dog for the price of a pet.

Mrs. Pelleschi became intrigued with the idea of showing her little pet and decided to get a second opinion. Since she lived three hours away from Gini Denninger, she arranged to bring Destiny's Lady Tache to her for an opinion. Miss Denninger was very enthusiastic over the dog and exclaimed that she should definitely be shown! Tache became the Top Dog in 1989, owner-handled by the novice

Mrs. Pelleschi. Tache went on to be a foundation bitch for the Kismet Kennel. Kismet has produced several champions in the breed to date including Ch. Kismet's Popcorn of Ryegate who won the 1989 LLDCA National Specialty sweepstakes under judge Robert Yhlen. The first two AKC champions are credited to this kennel. Ch. Kismet's Pearlbrook Andante, co-bred and owned by Carole Kramer, was the first dog to be finished. He was handled in his AKC show career by Doug Holloway and Ch. Kismet's Eclipse Corona. These dogs both achieved their championships in February, 1999. Mrs. Pelleschi continues to be very active with showing and breeding the Löwchen. Her kennel is consistently found in the top ten rankings for show Löwchen.

Mrs Pelleschi chaired the 1989 LLDCA National Specialty in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. It was the first large scale independent specialty show held by the LLDCA Mrs. Pelleschi was also active for a period of time as a board member of the LLDCA. Another breed Mrs. Pelleschi is active in is the Havanese.

LAMBERT

Lambert Kennel is located in the Sacramento Valley, California. Its owner, Earl Marie Dingel was the only west coast Löwchen fancier to exhibit and breed on the west coast for many years. She became involved with Löwchen after falling in love with a small crème-colored female owned by a friend of hers. When Pepperland Miss Piggy was 12 months old her friend decided the dog did not fit into her household and that she would be sold. Miss Dingel acquired her on a co-ownership which was later removed. In December 1986, Miss Dingel bought Ch. Lowe-ray's Robin Hood and Destiny's Oreo at Lambert. The first Lambert litter was out of Pepperland Miss Piggy bred to Ch. Lowe-Ray's Robin Hood.

Ch. Lowe-Ray's Robin Hood became the cornerstone on which the Lambert Kennel was founded. He became one of the top-winning Löwchen according



Ch. Lambert's Maid Marion with Lambert's Lone Ranger in the background. Owned and photographed by Earl Marie Dingel.

to LCA statistics, earning rank placements such as Top Show Dog and Top Stud Dog, through the years. In 1988 and 1989 Miss Dingel flew east to the LCA National Specialties with him. Cocoa, as he was known by friends, won Best of Breed at both and in 1988 was unbeaten by any other Löwchen and ranked as the Top Show Dog. Cocoa sired Ch. Lamberts Prince of Thieves, Ch. Lamberts Oreo Double Stuff, Ch. Lambert's Maid Marian, Ch. Lambert's Moon over Sherwood and Ch. Lambert's Lone Ranger, earning Cocoa's Registry of Merit certificate in 1983. During his show career Cocoa won many Group First placements or other placements in the group. He also won Best of breed at several specialties.

Miss Dingel's other dogs were also successfully exhibited. In 1987, at the *Kennel Review* Tournament of Champions, her Miss Piggy was the top scoring Löwchen bitch. A Miss Piggy son, sired by Cocoa, Lambert's Lone Ranger, won two Best in Rare Breed Shows. Ch. Lambert's Moon over Sherwood won a Best in Rare Breed Show and also her Mexican, LCA and States Kennel Club championships. She was out of the Finnish Import Ch. Juron After Eclipse bred to Ch. Lowe-Ray's Robin Hood. Ch. Lamberts Prince of Thieves, Ch. Lambert's Maid Marian and Ch. Lambert's Oreo Double Stuff were group winners. Miss Dingel

imported in March of 1991, from the Juron Kennel Ch. Juron After the Eclipse. Miss Dingel also started Ch. Ashford's Malik Aswad to his championship.

Besides competing in conformation events, Miss Dingel has been active in working her dogs in obedience, putting the first dual championships on her dogs. Titled are Ch. Lowe-ray's Robin Hood CD., Pepperland Miss Piggy CD., Ch. Lambert's Oreo Double Stuff CD., and Ch. Lambert's Maid Marian CD. Ch. Juron After the Eclipse earned one leg towards her Companion Dog title. The first Lambert dog to earn a CDX title was Ch. Lambert's Maid Marian. Two were also titled with Mexican obedience titles, making them the first Löwchen to win obedience titles in Mexico, Ch. Lowe-Ray's Robin Hood and Lambert's Maid Marian. Miss Dingel also had two Löwchen earn their Temperament titles, they were Ch. Lowe-ray's Robin Hood and Ch. Lambert's Oreo Double Stuff. Another activity the Lambert dogs participate in is agility.

Miss Dingel participated as a board member of the LCA and also served as the Recording Secretary of the club.

LIONHEART

Lionheart is another one of those accidental kennels. Bob & Della Cialini just wanted their schnoodle groomed when they came to the grooming shop owned by Miss Denninger. While there Mrs. Cialini became captivated by a small brown Löwchen, Ch. Lowe-Ray's Rasheena Replic. As an aside, when they returned to pick their dog up Mrs. Cialini mentioned she would love to own a dog like Rasheena. Two weeks later she became the proud owner of a Löwchen, Poppy, from Destiny Kennel, which had been sent to Miss Denninger to be placed in a pet home.

After this acquisition, the Cialinis became active in the breed. They both have served in various capacities in club positions. Eventually they were offered a small bitch by Miss Denninger who grew up to become Ashford's Asha Ani. Asha was the foundation dam for the Lionheart Kennel. Co-owned with Miss Denninger, she produced several outstanding puppies,

including the dog that won Puppy Sweepstakes at the 20th Anniversary LCA Champion and National Specialty winner



Lionhearts Be-Bop-A-Lula, being shown by then co-owner Kaja Donovan. Photo Della Cialini.



LCA Ch. Manfred's Noir Moustique. Photo Astrid Whitman.

LLDCA Specialty and Best of Opposite Sex at the 1992 LCA National Specialty, Ch. Lionhearts Brutus. Another Löwchen, Ch. Lionheart's Ashford Liesle, was the youngest Löwchen to achieve her championship. Sadly this bitch was never shown again by her owner. If she had been, it is unknown what heights of glory she might have achieved.

Mrs. Cialini has worked over the years very closely with another Löwchen breeder, Carolyn Marzano of the Ivytree

Kennel. Together they have produced several top winning dogs.

The Cialinis served on the 1992 National Specialty Committee. They also served on the Board of Directors and as officers of the Western New York Rare Breed Association. Mrs. Cialini was elected to serve as a board member for the LCA in 1992.

MANFRED'S KENNEL

Astrid Whitman, a native German, was intrigued with Löwchen after seeing their pictures in a book. While no longer breeding Löwchen, Mrs. Whitman maintained her membership in the Löwchen Club of America for sometime. She served on the Board of Directors for several years. Highly regarded by those in the club, she was asked to judge the Puppy Sweepstakes at the Little Lion Dog Club of America's 20th Anniversary National Specialty held in 1991.

Mrs Whitman did not do much breeding of Löwchen but produced several dogs of note: Best in Show Ch. Manfred's Noir Moustique, Manfred's Corrine Dorsey and Manfred's Little Ginger Snap. Involved with Löwchen since 1981, her foundation came from the Berdot Kennel. Working with Mrs. Goodale, she also corresponded with Frau Jansen of the Bungener-Heide Löwchen Kennel in Germany. Mrs. Whitman worried that the Löwchen would become too large in the United States and she often cautioned very strongly against using large Löwchen for show or breeding. She stated, "this breed will be gigantic if these big ones continue to be bred or shown. The breed has been a companion and toy..."

Her Ch. Manfred's Noir Moustique was a multiple Best in Show and Specialty winner. He went Best in Show at his first dog show at the tender age of six months and one day! He was the quality dog that would still be able to stand out in today's show ring. Unfortunately, one day he escaped from Mrs. Whitman's fenced yard in downtown Cleveland, Ohio. Despite her attempts to find him he was never seen a g a i n .



Berdot's Monique with Gini Denninger. Photo Astride Whitman.



Tawny's Peaches and Crème. Photo Sandi Lunka.
Photo

Mrs. Whitman has ceased her involvement in the breed and has retired to Kentucky where she enjoys the mountain scenery.

SEDEKI

This kennel is no longer involved in Löwchen, but is worth mentioning since its owner made an impact for the breed with

AKC show breeders and exhibitors. Don Weiden was one of the top Saluki exhibitors and breeders at the time he acquired Löwchen. This was during the early 1980s. He acquired several dogs from Dorothy Goodale and imported Lillipushian Little Pipkin from England. Sadly he lost several stunning Löwchen to the first wave of Parvo virus that hit the United States. He continued in the breed for a few years, taking the Löwchen with him to many AKC shows though out the United States. It was through him that several people became involved in the breed, helping the breed to its full AKC recognition. He eventually became discouraged with the LLDCA due to difficulties between himself and Bob Yhlen. This influenced him to discontinue breeding Löwchen. Don Weiden and his partner eventually settled in Great Britain where they continue to be active in dogs. Mr. Weiden maintains an interest in the breed to this day, but has not acquired one again.

RYGATE

Husband and wife team Jim and Jennifer Hedding became involved in Löwchen in 1989. They bought their first Löwchen from Nadine Pelleschi and their second from Liz Vargo. Both dogs were finished in consecutive order; Ch. Kismet's Popcorn of Rygate and Ch. Destiny's Mistique of Rygate. Mrs. Hedding had been aware of the Löwchen for some time. When she found a picture of Ch. Marcel Golden Gamin in *Kennel Review*, she was motivated to contact his owner Sandi Lunka, who referred her on to Nadine Pelleschi. The Heddingers also owned and bred Portugese water Dogs and were active with the Portugese Water Dog Club of America.

The LLDCA 20th Anniversary National Specialty was orchestrated by Mr. and Mrs. Hedding. It was a special event, held in a newly-redecorated ballroom. The Heddingers also chaired the LLDCA Genetics Committee and dedicated much time to the project.

The Heddingers eventually divorced, but both remain active in the Löwchen. Mrs. Hedding remarried and as



Ch. Shirls Sunray at Tawny with owner Sandi Lunka. Photo Sandi Lunka

Mrs. Jennifer Roller imported a dog from Australia. This, Australian and American Ch. Chrisrod Torania Star has begun to make his mark as a stud dog in the United States. He has produced several quality get. Mr. Hedding served as the LCA President elected in 1998 for one term.

TAWNY

Sandra Lunka, owner of Tawny Kennel, has the knack of acquiring or breeding quality show dogs and campaigning them to the top of LCA rankings. She started her Löwchen show career with Astrid Whitman. Sandi acquired Ch. Marcel's Golden Gamin who was the Top Show dog of 1987 and a Top Producing Sire in 1989. After retiring Marcel, Mrs.

Lunka bought Shirl's Sunray at Tawny, whom she guided to the Top Show Dog of 1991. Ray sired the 1992 and 1993 National Specialty winner.

Mrs. Lunka was corresponding secretary for the LCA for several years and before AKC recognition served as the breed registrar for a period of time after Liz Vargo resigned that position in 1993.

She and Nadine Pelleschi of Kismet Kennels have worked closely through the years and achieved relative success. Mrs. Lunka has cut back somewhat her breeding of Löwchen and Havanese due to ill health. She is active in the breed on a more limited



Ch. Kismet's Pearlbrook Andante, the first AKC breed champion as well as winner of Best of Breed at Westminster Kennel Club in 2000. Owner Carole Kramer.



The LCA members assembled at national specialty in 1989. Left to right; front: Sandi Lunka, Gini Denninger, Bob Yhlen. 2nd row: Diane Bridenbacker, Pam Green, unknown, Cheryl Kelly, Ann Peterson, Nadine Pelleschi., (standing) Don Robinder 3rd row: Jim Hedding, Bob Green, Herb Williams, John Taylor, Diane Bernard, Joy Ann Nolan, Liz Vargo, unknown, Carole Kramer, Earl Marie Dingel.

Next Page Are The First American Champions.

Name	Breeder	Owner	Sire	Dam
Annex Irish Lace at Ferncliff	Diane Bernard	Shelley Guthrie & Ann Jackson	Ch. Ivytree Cappuccino	Ashford's Remegan Dhy-Bhur
Ashford's Belik-Rajah C-Water (12/18/99)	Gini Denninger	Gini Denninger & Roberta Corkill	Ch. Lion Life Chapter One (Finnish)	S S Ms Delightful at Ashford
Ashford's Endante Smoki Mist (7/17/99)	Gini Denninger & Earl Marie Dingel	Harriet Perkins	Chic Choix Noirest Le Soir (Finnish)	LCA Ch. Shirl's Rend'vous With Destiny
Ashford's Es-Ham Jamal (8/19/00)	Gini Denninger	Morgan Quirin & Gini Denninger	Ashford's-Lowenhaus Fati Abu	Kimbriels Mira at Ashford
Ashford's-Lowenhaus Fati Abu (10/16/99)	Gini Denninger & Brenda Adams	Gini Denninger	LCA Ch. Marcel Golden Gamin	LCA Ch. Ashford's Nasira
Ashford's Halima at Juniper	Gini Denninger & Earl Marie Dingel	Louise Davidson & Gini Denninger	Ch. Lion Life Chapter One (Finnish)	LCA Ch. Lambert's Lady of Lyons
Ashford's Lazim Lesse (7/25/99)	Gini Denninger	Janette Swindler, Jo Beckett & Gini Denninger	LCA Ch. Ashford's Ali Baba	LCA Ch. Ashford's Ulana
Ashford's Mistico Tiffany (8/19/00)	Gini Denninger & Nan & Bob Braesaemle	Gini Denninger	Blueribbon's Jessie James	Ashford's Chivvy at Mistico
Ashford's Q-Bebe (10/17/99)	Gini Denninger	Gini Denninger	Ashford-Priderocks Çetin	LCA Ch. Ashford's Ulana
Ashford's Vested in Trackways (6/6/99)	Gini Denninger & Earl Marie Dingel	Cory Rivera & Gini Denninger	LCA Ch. Ashford's Ali Baba	Lambert's Jill at Ashford
Beaulion Gay Gordon (6/5/99) (English)	G.S. Hookway	Dee Ann White	Hanovarian Be Brave	Beaulion Bridie O'Brien at Calderco
Bigglesmere Gun's & Gossip (5/21/00) (English)	P. Scarth & M.S. Gaunt	June Arn & Bill Dreker	Bigglesmere Gun's & Roses (English)	Fredachris Showstopper (English)
Caldercot Tommy Tiger (10/24/99) (English)	I. Bentley	Dee Ann White	Beaulion Gay Gordon (English)	Fredachris Rosella Over Caldercot (Englisj)

Chic Choix Deric Beauvoir (4/26/99) (Finnish)	Juha Kares	Peter L. Serge	Juron Charcol Chum (Finnish)	Chic Choix Bedelie LaTour (Finnish)
Chrisrod Torania Star 2/28/99 (Australia)	Chris Henry	Jennifer Roller	Rondaglen Sir Galahad (Australia)	Evelands Hot Fudge (Australia)
Desusa's Bits and Pieces at Pride (10/9/99)	Susa Terrell Williams	Dee Ann White & Deborah Bonair	Ivytree Maxwell Kelcobber	Desusa's Bit-o-Honey
Desusa's Braveheart (12/8/00)	Susa Terrell Williams	Barbara Surfus & Susa Terrell Williams	Desusa's Eaton of Belmead	Desusa's Java Lite V Kelcobber
Desusa's Bronco Billy (2'6'00)	Susa Terrell Williams	Barbara Surfus	Ivytree Maxwell Kelcobber	Desusa's Bit-o-Honey
Desusa's Annie Oakley's Pride (4/24/99)	Jerri Lee & Deborah Bonair	Susa Terrell Williams	Desusa's Kibble's N Bits at Pride	Desusa's Little Deuce Coupe
Desusa's Eaton of Belmead (12/5/99)	Susa Terrell Williams	JJ & BE Kimes & SB Bonser	Ivytree Cappuccino	Desusa's Bit-o-Honey
Desusa's Flower Child (7/9/00)	Susa Terrell Williams	Susa Terrell Williams & Jonathan Kimes	Ivytree Cappuccino	Desusa's Bit-o-Honey
Desusa's Kibble's N Bits at Pride	Susa Terrell Williams	Dee Ann White & Deborah Bonair	Ivytree Maxwell Kelcobber	Desusa's Bit-o-Honey
Desusa's Calamity Jane (3/20/99)	Susa Terrell Williams	Susa Terrell Williams	Ivytree Maxwell Kelcobber	Desusa's Bit-o-Honey
Desusa's Java Lite V Kelcobber (5/30/99)	Cheryl & Dana Kelly	Susa Terrell Williams	Ivytree Cappuccino	Dhy-Bhur's Marlena Dietrich
Desusa's Legal Eagle (4/18/99)	Susa Terrell Williams	Susa Terrell Williams	Ivytree Cappuccino	Desusa's Bit-o-Honey
Desusa's Radio Flyer (3/21/99)	Susa Terrell Williams	Morgin Quirin	Ivytree Maxwell Kelcobber	Desusa's Bit-o-Honey
Desusa's Still the One	Susa Terrell Williams	Susa Terrell Williams	Ivytree Cappuccino	Desusa's Bit-o-Honey
Desusa's Win Chili Factor (5/5/00)	Susa Terrell Williams	Susa Terrell Williams	Ivytree Cappuccino	Desusa's Bit-o-Honey

Dhy-Bhur's Marlena Dietrich (5/20/00)	Diane Bernard	Cheryl & Dana Kelly	LCA Ch. Ashford's Jordanian Prince	LCA Ch. Lionheart Ashford Liesle
Donalen Etolie de Nuit (8/22/99) (Canadian)	Donna Cullen	Dana Frady & Donna Cullen	Kiji's Ivanhoe at Donalen (Canadian)	Donalen Amourette (Canadian)
Donalen Flambeaux Favori (11/27/99) (Canadian)	Donna Cullen	Donna Cullen	Kiji's Ivanhoe at Donalen (Canadian)	Kijis Hey Cinderella Wildheart (Canadian)
Donalen Fox Lane Touche (8/3/00)	Mary Billman & Janet Perret-Green & Donna Cullen	Richard & Jennifer Lawless	Kiji's Ivanhoe at Donalen (Canadian)	Joy deBlanche Couronne (French)
Duncara Lucky Break (8/3/00) (French)	Janet Perret-Green	Janet Perret-Green	Stonerside Demon of Duncara (French)	Joy deBlanche Couronne (French)
Duncara Mulligan's Masterpiece (3/37/99) (French)	Janet Perret-Green	Mary C. Billman	Duncara Zap It Up To Heaven (French)	Joy deBlanche Couronne (French)
Duncara Naturally an Angel (10/1/99) (French)	Janet Perret-Green	Nadine Pelleschi	Duncara Lucky Break (French)	Duncara Angels Temptation for Vanhale (French)
Duncara Nutkin (3/28/99) (French)	Janet Perret-Green	Mary C. Billman	Kiji's Ivanhoe at Donalen (French)	Joy deBlanche Couronne (French)
Duncara Orchid at Kis'n (8/3/00) French	Janet Perret-Green	Susan Kisielewski	Duncara Good Heavens (French)	Joy deBlanche Couronne (French)
Elguarda Capt Star Lite (9/29/00) (Australia)	Glenise & Andy Field	Gini Denninger & Richard Lawless	Ch. Toepacoe Choc Fudge	Ch. Chismene Hot Gossip
Fox Lane Maestro's Legacy (1/14/00)	Mary C. Billman	Mary C. Billman	Duncara's Mulligans Masterpiece (French)	Duncara Nutkin (French)
Frappuccino V Kelcobber (3/9/00)	Cheryl & Dana Kelly	Marry Marr Beckman & Ann Jackson	Ivytree Cappuccino	Dhy-Bhur's Marlena Dietrich

Gandolf V Burgwald (5/28/00) (German)	Felizitas Dylla	Gini Denninger & Pat Hogan	Ch. Akira's Crazy Gremlins (German)	Ch. Rapunzel V. Burgwald (German)
Golden's Georgina at Taywil (8/8/99)	Myrna Golden	Herb Williams & John Taylor	Ramses of Balachustin	Pearlbrook Driving Miss Daisy
Hanovarian Jazz Man (9/3/00) (English)	Anne MacDonald	Robert B. & Carol Gundel Falk	Tammylan Jazz Rock Special with Reeberrich	Hanovarian Little Gem
Ivytree Cappuccino	Carolynn Marzano	Carolynn Marzano & Cheryl Kelly	LCA Ch. Marcel Golden Gamin	LCA Ch. Ashford's Nyssah V. Ivytree
Ivytree Lionheart (4/1/99)	Carolynn Marzano	Carolynn Marzano & Carol Strong	LCA Ch. Marcel Golden Gamin	LCA Ch. Ashford's Nyssah V. Ivytree
Keeburnie Ashford Harley (10/2/99) (Canadian)	Gini Denninger & Ardis Shurtleff	Ardis Shurtleff	Chic Choix Noirest Le Soir (Finnish)	Ondra V Burgwald (German)
Ketara's Racheal Racheal (1/16/00)	Lorraine Simon & Dr. Earl Acker	Adam & Laura Thistle & Catherine Clyde	Pearlbrook A KC Special	Ketara's Whoopi
Kijis Hey Cinderella Wildheart (1/21/00) (Canadian)	Janey LaPointe	Donna Cullen	Kijis Pride Darlin Dexter (Canadian)	Kijis Pride at Wildheart
Kijis Ivanoe at Donalen (8/7/99) (Canadian)	Kim Schmidt	Beverly Barton & Donna Cullen	Kijis Pride Darlin Dexter (Canadian)	Kiji Chinadoll Pride (Canadian)
Kimbriel's Micheal A O'Kismet (11/27/99)	Nadine Pelleschi & Linda Cosner	Lois March M.D.	Chrisrod Torania Star (Australia)	Kismet's Eclipse Annulus
Kimbriels Van Gogh of Kismet (11/19/00)	Nadine Pelleschi & Linda Cosner	Frances & Sarah Feaster	Chrisrod Torania Star (Australia)	Kismet's Eclipse Annulus
Kismet's Eclipse Corona (2/27/99)	Nadine Pelleschi	Nadine Pelleschi	LCA Ch. Shirl's Sunray at Tawny	LCA Ch. Destiny's Lady Tache
Kismet Pearlbrook Andante (2/26/99)	Nadine Pelleschi & Carole Kramer	Carole Kramer	LCA Ch. Shirl's Sunray at Tawny	Kismet's Makala of Pearlbrook
Kismet's Sabina of Kimbriel (12/17/99)	Nadine Pelleschi & Linda Cosner	Nadine Pelleschi	Chrisrod Torania Star (Australia)	Kismet's Eclipse Annulus

Lambert's BG of Cody (4/22/00)	Earl Marie Dingel	Earl Marie Dingel	Lambert's Buffalo Bill Cody	Lambert's Maid Marian
Lambert's Buffalo Bill Cody (1/16/00)	Earl Marie Dingel	Mary Murphy & Earl Marie Dingel	Destiny's Rocket Launcher	Destiny's Zelette
Lambert's Lady of the Forest (8/21/99)	Earl Marie Dingel	Janette Swindler, Jo Beckett & Earl Marie Dingel	Lambert's Prince of Thieve	Destiny's Zelette
Lambert's Maid Marian (11/20/00)	Earl Marie Dingel	Earl Marie Dingel	LCA Ch. Lowe Ray's Robin Hood	Destiny's Oreo at Lambert's
Lambert's Matt Dillon (5/1/00)	Earl Marie Dingel	Earl Marie Dingel	Lambert's Sir Bad Man	Lambert's Junebug Finds a Home
Lambert's Penelope Pit Stop (12/2/00)	Earl Marie Dingel	Mary Murphy & Earl Marie Dingel	Lambert's Sir Bad Man	Lambert's Maid Marian
Lambert's Sir Bad Man (4/30/00)	Earl Marie Dingel	Earl Marie Dingel	Lambert's Buffalo Bill Cody	Juron After The Eclipse (Finnish)
Lambert's Snickerdoodle (8/20/00)	Earl Marie Dingel	Earl Marie Dingel	Lambert's Billy the Kid	Lambert's Lady of the Forest
Lionheart Justice V Ivytree (9/28/00)	Della Cialini	Carolynn Marzano & Carol Strong	Ivytree Lionheart	Ashford's Ursula
Lionheart Loyal V Ivytree (4/1/00)	Della Cialini	Carolynn Marzano & Carol Strong	Ivytree Lionheart	Ashford's Ursula v Ivytree
Madriglace Luxury Tax (7/1/00)	Janette Swindler, Jo Beckett & Gini Denninger	Elizabeth Miller & Janette Swindler & Jo Beckett	Maiblumes Astolat Von Ashford	Ashford's Ulani
Madriglace Signature	Janette Swindler & Jo Beckett & Earl Marie Dingel	Cory Rivera & Janette Swindler & Jo Beckett	Ashford's Lazim Lesse	Lambert's Rinki Dink
Majestic Trackways Schnecken (6/3/00)	Gini Denninger & Cory Rivera	Jean Richland	Ashford's Belik-Rajah C-Water	Ashford's Vested in Trackways
Mama Bianca Black Star Eye (11/21/99) (Finnish)	Riita Rajala	Nadine Pelleschi & R & J Van Skiver	Chic Choic Moiche Papa (Finnish)	Happy Lion Daughter of Snow (Finnish)
Melfield Opal Overseas (10/1/00) (English)	J. Creffield	Donna Cullen	Beaulion Brahms & List (English)	Melfield Butterfly's Blessing (English)

Melfield Stars 'n Stripes (8/19/00) (English)	J. Creffield	Mary Billman	Shimeesha Border Wolf	Melfield Modern Millie
Natchez Can't Buy Me Love (12/17/00)	Gini Denninger, Morgin Quirin & Sally Waltrip	Wade Koistinen & Morgin Quirin	Desusa's Radio Flyer	Ashford's Es-Ham Jamal
Natchez I Love You Peggy Sue (12/8/00)	Gini Denninger, Morgin Quirin & Sally Waltrip	Morgin Quirin & Sally Waltrip	Desusa's Radio Flyer	Ashford's Es-Ham Jamal
Natchez Love Machine (12/2/00)	Gini Denninger, Morgin Quirin & Sally Waltrip	Morgin Quirin & Sally Waltrip	Desusa's Radio Flyer	Ashford's Es-Ham Jamal
Pearlbrook Delilah at Turnabout (5/29/00)	Carole Kramer	Lisa Wiley	Kismet Pearlbrook Andante	Tamar of Balachustin (Belgian)
Sabu Colour in Sepia (9/26/99) (Australia)	Steve Warry	Mary Bayes & Steve Warry	Mijochi Wiz Biz (Australia)	Sabu Adelaide (Australia)
Tamar of Balachustin (5/13/00) (Belgian)	L. Vermandere & R. Bondue	Carole Kramer	Omar of Balachustin (Belgian)	Rani of Balachustin (Belgian)
Tawny's French Silk at Kismet (5/16/99)	Sandra Lunka	Nadine Pelleschi & Sandra Lunka	LCA Ch. Shir'l's Sunray at Tawny	Destiny's High Anxiety
Tawny's Mardi Gras (8/5/00)	Gini Denninger & Sandra Lunka	Sandra Lunka	Kismet's Black Tie Affair	Ashford's Ceylene
Taywill's Goodtyme Magic Miss (12/16/00)	Herb Williams & John Taylor	Bonnie VanOosterhout	Duncara Lucky Break	Venus of Balachustin
Touche Avec Amour (10/22/00)	Jennifer Lawless & Gini Denninger	Jennifer & Richard Lawless	Donalen Fox Lane Touche	Ashford's Bala Shaak
Trackways Snickerdoodle (11/11/00)	Gini Denninger & Cory Rivera	Lucinda & John Bersano	Ashford's Belik-Rajah C-Water	Ashford's Vested in Trackways
Turnabout's Armada's Tootsie (7/16/00)	Carole Kramer & Lauren & Lisa Wiley	Nancy & Gregory Ruehle	Donalen Fox Lane Bonjour	Pearlbrook Delilah at Turnabout
Volare Grande Paddington (10/22/00)	Nancy Inlow	Dwight & Donna Braeden	Volare Faer Fantom	Volare Extra Sweet Mocha

Volare Halloween Hue for Nuage (12/4/99)	Nancy Inlow	June Arn & Bill Dreker	Volare Faer Fantom	Volare Grande Dorsey
Volare Jazzy Jigsaw (3/11/00)	Nancy Inlow	Nadine Pelleschi & Micheal Wolf	Volare Extra Rich Cappuccino	Volare Grande Dorsey
Volare Lambert Fabled Fee	Nancy Inlow	Earlmarie Dingel	Lambert's Jack the Giant Killer	Volare Hot Fudge Sundae
Wanted Vulgar Drifter (6/30/00) Finnish	Jari Partanen	Kirsi Loonross	Chic Choix Chic et Noir (Finnish)	Otara V Burgwald (German)



Löwchen Statue at the AKC Museum of Dogs in St. Louis Mo. USA. You can find this on the mantle of the living room fireplace. Note the face is shaved! Bronze. Photo Gini Denninger



**Ch Touche's Cartel of Ashfords
Best of Breed Westminster Kennel Club
2003 & 2004**

