

The Lowchen fanciers of the United States congratulate our fellow Löwchen fanciers “across the pond” for your fifty years of work preserving our beloved breed. We recognize its survival is predicated on all of us working together to continue breeding, showing and promoting these great little dogs! The early breeders were masters of promotion and have made the Lowchens survival possible. What a heritage to claim! Well Done and Thank You!

Interesting things have been happening in the USA in 2017, besides politics. A new dog sport has caught on; Barn Hunt! What in the world is this? Barn Hunt is a series of obstacles in the form of hay bales designed with tunnels, crevices and stacked bales, along with a rat safely snug in a tube, hidden away in a considerable number of bales. The objective is for a dog to find the rat, after maneuvering through the bales and tunnels in the least amount of time. There are several levels of champion titles and this year a Löwchen owned by Pat Roach was the first of our breed to be a Barn Hunt Champion! ‘CH.,RATCH Roseland Voodoo at Silver Rings, RA, AXJ,OF, CZ8B’, also known as “Magic” enthusiastically claimed his title! Kris Fletcher, his breeder, has been a driving force in getting barn hunt established in the Rochester, NY area. It is fitting a dog of her breeding be the first to achieve this title. The American Kennel Club recognizes Barn Hunt titles and the Canadian Kennel Club will be shortly! Pat works very hard with her three Löwchen and enjoys various performance events including agility and crazy 8’s. Her ‘Roseland Tequilla Gold V Ashfords RA AX MXJ OF CGC’ is ranked among the fastest agility dogs in the breed.

Don Robachs ‘Dino’ (show name: ‘CH MACH3 Windsor Bihar Boom Goes The Dynamite UD OM1 MXC MJS2 T2B3’ ) has been busy! Dino has been trying out for agility teams that compete in Europe. At the time of this writing, Don reported they are still waiting to hear if they made AKC European Open Tryout since Dino made three clean runs out of four! Dino is also ranked as one of the fastest agility Löwchen in America!. He is followed closely by ‘MACH Ikon Here Comes Alvin!!! MXS MJG2’ owned by Gary Nordahl. Gary has two Lowchen competing and listed in the rankings. The other is ‘CH MACH23 Geolen’s Here Comes Tucker CD RE MXS6 MJB7 XF’ ; who was ranked by the end of 2016 as 19th among all breeds as an AKC “Lifetime Top Over All Dogs”! Don and Gary have a very friendly rivalry.

Recently performance events have been a good part of promoting the Lowchen here. All those that engage in performance events with Lowchen achieve a good degree of success. As they perform, people notice and ask about the breed. For example Don was competing with another breed when he noticed the Lowchen and began quizzing Barb Cecil about her dog ‘MACH 3, NATCH3, VERSATILITY NATCH ATCH-SP, TayWil’s Aerien Pistil Pete, UD, RAE, AJP, AXP, XF, OFF; UCDX;ASCA UD; ECC 400, EJC 400, EAC 600, HP-N; PG3, PS3, PJ3, PD2; CL4-H, CL3’, more popularly known as “Pistol Pete. ” Pete was one of the top winning agility dogs in his day. Don was charmed by him and became one of the top competitors in the breed with his dogs. People approach him regularly to ask about Löwchen. Performance Löwchen owners agree their sports are gaining in popularity and becoming another avenue to engage people in the sport of dogs as well as our breed.

The Lowchen Club of America held its annual National Specialty this year with the Kentuckiana Cluster of Dog Shows in Louisville, Kentucky in March. Long time breeder/exhibitor Jennifer Lawless judged puppy sweepstakes. The National Specialty Winner is owned by Lynn Pettengill and Sue Heckart’s dog “GCHB Charisma-Bare Tracks Flyin’ High”. This Black and tan dog is a real showman and loves being in the ring. Beautifully trained and presented by Lynn, he is owner-handled to the top of the breed rankings for Löwchen in 2017. Second place at the top of the rankings at the time of this writing is GCHB CH Alharin The Shadow Knows Ashford CGCA, owned by Michelle Lerini and Gini Denninger. What is striking is both these dogs are expertly groomed and presented by owner-handlers winning top breed rankings over professional handlers! Speaking of handlers, Greg Strong follows up third in breed rankings

with his clients dog GCHB CH Bihar's Here's Looking At You, but he has guided this dog to first in the all-breed rankings by amassing 4008 points of wins through group placements.

Löwchen are thriving in the USA, and we hope for many years to come. A New Years toast to all the Löwchen Lovers of Great Britain! Enjoy the festivities of 2018 celebrating your breed achievements!