

## LOWCHEN

GROUP: NON-SPORTING

### HISTORY:

The Lowchen is a very old breed, having been established as far back as the 1500's in Europe, specifically in Spain, France, and Germany. Ladies of the court groomed it in the likeness of a little lion. The characteristics of this breed are that of a compact, balanced body; a relatively short topskull and muzzle; and a proud lively gait that accentuates the lion cut with a long flowing mane.

### SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE:

Ideally, 12 to 14" at the withers. **Dogs or bitches above or below these measurements should be faulted to the degree of the variance.** The body is nearly square when properly balanced, with the length being just slightly greater than the height at the withers. The Lowchen is strong and sturdy, but never coarse.

### COAT:

The coat is untrimmed, long, rather dense, and moderately soft. It has a slight to moderate wavy appearance. Wiry, wooly, and flat coat textures are not correct and should be penalized to the degree of deviance from the accepted texture. Puppies typically have a softer coat than adults and should not be penalized. TRIM—The Lowchen is customarily shown in the Lion Trim. The coat is clipped to about one-eighth of an inch from the ribs back to, and including, the hindquarters. A ruff, or mane, that just covers to the last rib is left. The front legs are clipped from the elbow to a point just above the knee, which is equal to the same distance from the ground to the hock joint. The hindquarters are clipped to the hock joint, leaving cuffs of hair on all four legs. The tail is clipped from the base to approximately one-half way from the tip, leaving a plume at the end of the tail. Feet are clipped to the dewclaws. The coat is left a natural length on the head, neck, shoulders, and forward body. These unclipped areas must be completely untrimmed. On no account should the unclipped areas be smoothed, shortened, shaped, or otherwise tidied. **Serious Fault: Any trimming other than indicated. Any shaping or scissoring of the long coat.**

### COLOR:

Any and all colors are acceptable, with no preference given to any. **Disqualification: Albinism.**

### HEAD:

The head is a distinction of the breed. Expression is bright, alert, and lively. The back skull is relatively broad; stop is moderate; head is carried relatively high when dog is moving. The broad muzzle is the same length as, or slightly shorter than, the back skull. The underjaw has moderate depth, all resulting in a slightly rounded finish to the muzzle. Lips are tight, with pigment color dependent on coat color.

Eyes: Set well into the skull; large and rather round in shape; set well apart and forward-looking. Eye color is dependent on coat color; darker eye is preferred; full pigmentation is required on the eye rims.

Ears: Pendant, moderate in length, well fringed, and set on slightly above the level of the eye.

Nose: Dark; complete pigmentation is required on the nose; color is dependent on coat color.

Bite: Full complement of strong, rather large, well spaced, white teeth meeting in a scissors bite.

### NECK:

Good length, with a slight arch, fitting smoothly into the shoulders and topline.

### BODY:

Slightly off-square when properly balanced; loin is short and strong; ribs are well-sprung; brisket is moderate in width and extends approximately to the elbows; underline has a slight tuck-up at the loin. The topline is level from withers to tailset.

### FOREQUARTERS:

Shoulders are strong and well laid back with smooth musculature; upper arm is of equal length to the shoulder blade and the two meet in a near 90 degree angle. FORELEGS: The elbows are held close to the body. The distance from the elbow to the ground is slightly greater than the distance from the elbow to the

LOWCHEN

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top of the shoulder. Forearms are of good length. Viewed from the front, the legs are perfectly parallel from the elbow to the feet. The bone is rather more round than oval and of medium size, with only a slight decrease in size at the pasterns. The rather short pasterns are parallel viewed from the front. Viewed from the side, they are slightly bent.

#### HINDQUARTERS:

Pelvic bone is moderately long, projecting beyond the set of the tail at an approximate 45-degree angle from a perfectly horizontal line. The well-muscled upper and lower thighs are of approximately equal length and with medium bond. HIND LEGS—The stifles are well-bent and hocks are well let down. Rear pasterns are perpendicular to the ground from any angle. Rear dewclaws should be removed.

Feet: Well-arched with the two center toes slightly longer than the two outer toes; pads deep; nails relatively short; forefeet point straight ahead; hind feet are slightly smaller than the forefeet.

Tail: Moderate length; set high; moderate thickness at the base, tapering toward the tip; when dog is moving, it is carried in a cup handle fashion over the back. A dropped tail while standing is not to be penalized.

#### MOVEMENT:

Movement at a trot is effortless with good reach in front and full extension in the rear. From the front, the forelegs move in almost parallel lines, converging slightly as the speed increases. From the rear, the legs move in almost parallel lines and in the same line of motion as the forelegs, converging slightly as the speed increases. Side movement is efficient and ground-covering. The forelegs reach well out in front in a long, relatively low stride. The rear legs come well under the body and extend behind to maximize propulsion. The body remains nearly square in outline. The topline is held firm and level, with the tail being carried curved over the back. The head is held above the level of the back.

#### TEMPERAMENT:

Alert; intelligent; affectionate with the overall qualities of a loving companion dog; lively; outgoing; inquisitive personality.

**Any departure from this standard should be considered a fault, and the final score should reflect the seriousness of the deviation from the standard.**

#### *Disqualifications:*

**Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid**

**Viciousness or extreme shyness.**

**Any trimming other than indicated.**

**Any shaping or scissoring of long hair.**

**Albinism.**