

EUROPEAN SIREs of SIGNIFICANCE

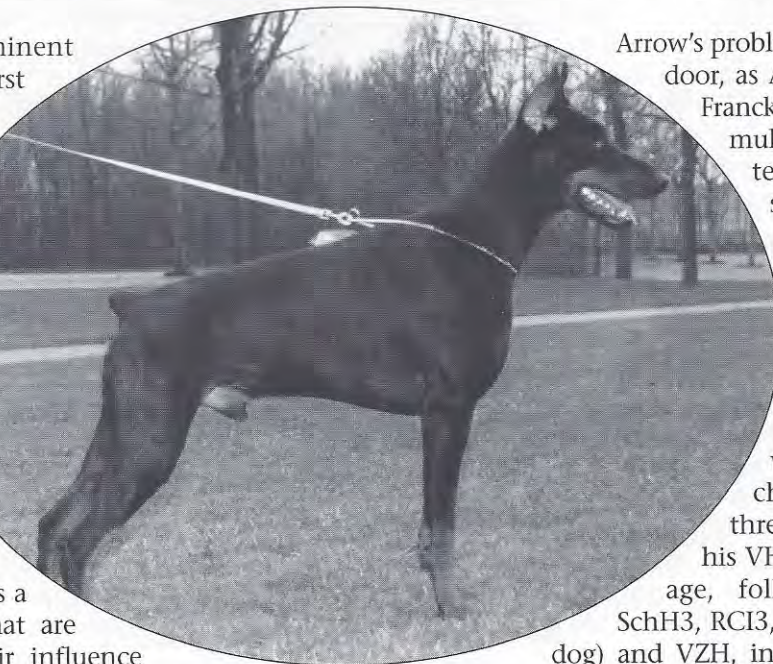
Part One - Baron Bryan v. Harro's Berg by Alison Kollenberg, Germany

This essay on a prominent European stud dog is the first part of a series of articles about European sires of significance I intend to compile in the course of the next year. This first article is a tribute to the influence of the black male, Baron Bryan v. Harro's Berg, felt not only throughout Europe, but world-wide. As well as that, I hope my article offers some practical information for breeders, in light of the fact that Bryan has a large number of offspring that are active today in exerting their influence onto future generations.

Born in Amsterdam on May 27th, 1985, Bryan was Dutch trainer Hennie Hartog's pick from a promising litter sired by his own premiered stud dog, Baron Cekar v. Rensloo. It was a relationship that lasted a lifetime and one that proved to be productive and satisfying for all concerned.



Bryan's first day home in the Hartog household. Pictured here with Roos Hartog at 11 weeks of age.



Champion and Sieger Baron Bryan v. Harro's Berg (Baron Cekar v. Rensloo x Vitesse v. Franckenhorst), SchH3, IPO3

Bryan was bred by Mr. Tjong-A-Hung of Holland, out of his excellent producing brood bitch Vitesse v. Franckenhorst, one of the Franckenhorst Kennel's most famous "V" litter, that later proved to have had a number of highly successful males and bitches in its midst. Bryan's mother Vitesse was a multi-Excellent Rated bitch that never finished her champion title or passed any character test. Character-wise Roos Hartog described her as having an over-abundance of working ability,

compromised by her scratchy nerves. A character instability was also noted in her first famous Sieger son, Arrow v. Harro's Berg, who seemed to inherit her difficult disposition. (author's note: Although to be fair to Vitesse,

Arrow's problems could be laid at her door, as Arrow's sire, Salvador v. Franckenhorst, passed through multiple hands due to his tendency of having spontaneous outbursts of aggression directed at all and sundry nearby.

Bryan's sire, Baron Cekar was a dual champion in both conformation and working. He earned his champion title in just three months and passed his VH3 before 23 months of age, followed by his IPO3, SchH3, RCI3, FH (the first Dutch FH dog) and VZH, including Best Match In Show. He was also Dutch Working Champion. Character-wise, we

personally found him a calm, uncomplicated dog with much hardness. Cekar was almost 10 years old when he mated Vitesse and it proved to be his last litter, so how lucky for us all that his last fling should produce such a brilliant offspring. It was the end of an era when Cekar was put to sleep at 13 years of age, suffering from cancer.



Bryan's sire, Champion Baron Cekar v. Rensloo (Alva v. Franckenhorst x Gräfin Graziedotter), SchH3, IPO3, FH and Dutch Working Champion

Unhappily Cecar and consequently his most famous son Bryan, were dogged throughout their lifetimes by the stigma of Cecar's German HD4 grading. This grading was in conflict with those taken in Holland (HD2) and Sweden (HD1-free). It was a matter of some contention in the Dutch Kennel Club, which remained unresolved to the end. But genetic inheritance all comes out in the wash sooner or later and the fact is that, to date, there is no evidence to indicate that either father or son has produced abnormal numbers of progeny with HD problems. My husband and I saw Cecar shortly before his death while we were visiting to breed a second bitch to his son Bryan. He showed no signs of dysplasia and even then could still negotiate the steep, narrow Dutch staircase with ease.

Pedigree-wise Baron Bryan was a result of the classic formula of blending the "rough with the smooth". Cecar was a father typical son of Alva v. Franckenhorst, a brown Sieger Chico son, and himself a father typical result of such a "rough and smooth" combination. Namely the "rough" look of Chico v. Forell mixed together with "smooth" look of Bryan v. Forell. Cecar was also a full brother to Baroness Eva v. Rensloo, the mother of another Sire of Significance of the mid-Eighties, the Sieger male Ebo v.d. Groote Maat.



A lifetime love affair - Bryan and owner/trainer Hennie Hartog

and leggy bitch with a clean and chiseled head and therefore just the sort of dry and noble type suitable to give balance to Cecar's rugged masculinity. And he in turn was just the dog capable of putting some of her third nerves to rest in their offspring.

Bryan and his 10 siblings went to their new homes and a number of them went on to perform respectably as sport dogs and breeding animals in their own right. None, however, could compare to the heights reached by Bryan himself, who, over his lifetime collected all the most important titles this breed had to offer in Europe.

Surprisingly Bryan appears in his early photos as a bit of an ugly duckling - an unspectacular, long-backed and lanky "teenager" with a short, falling croup and unattractive, low-set neck. But once he'd put the "uglies" behind him, he quickly developed into quite a harmonious and eye-catching adult. He could be considered a dog of balanced proportions and medium strength, and faulted for his shoulder lying a bit far forward and upright neck set. The upper arm could have been better angulated in relation to the shoulder, although the rear was well set on, straight coming and going and

showed us a good turn of stifle. His ring presence was enhanced by a voluminous depth of chest, a well-developed forechest, a firm back and a well-laid shoulder set off by lovely prominent withers. Like his sire, his skull tended to be a bit too heavy, and his underjaw was fairly weak. He also

lacked fill under his eyes and consequently his expression could have been more noble. His rib cage was well-sprung and his body masculine and dry and always nicely enhanced by his lively temperament. The colours and markings were both rich and clean. His pasterns were a bit soft, but he rarely produced this fault. What he did consistently produce, though, was his wonderful black eye colour, and this in almost all of his progeny. It could be claimed that, all in all, Bryan produced relatively few cosmetic or



Bryan at 4 years of age



Bryan becomes World Sieger!

Pictured from left to right:

Judge (for males) Jens Kollenberg (bending); World Siegerin Lia Leron v. Roveline and owner Dr. Pezzano; World Sieger Baron Bryan v. Harro's Berg; Judge (for bitches) Hans Wiblishauser and Judge (for junior classes) Karl Reisenger

Bryan's father, Cecar, was himself a strong, masculine dog with a very good expression, albeit sporting a heavy skull and a head type that could be criticized for lacking any elegance. But an elegant head would not fit such a robust-looking dog either. Cecar had excellent forechest development and a very good depth of chest, and sharing a tendency consistently found in his sire line, namely to be a bit long in back and short on leg. Vitesse was a tall



*In Holland -
one of Bryan's earliest successful progeny
was Ch. Anka v.d. Kunnemaborough
(x Ambre v. Moorburg).*



*In Belgium -
the Bryan daughter Ch. Lema v. Roveline
(x Jenna v. Roveline), SchH3, IDC Siegerin.
Photo at 16 months.*



*In Germany and the USA - the Bryan daughter
Ch. Nicole v. Norden Stamm (x Kalina v. Norden
Stamm), SchH3, Bundes.jg.siegerin and
Landessieger Nord. She produced Champion
and Sieger progeny in every litter.*

functional deficiencies in general and he offered a good all-round "selection" of positive attributes for the functional minded breeder. Namely, a high conformation standard, a proven background and a firm character combined with pronounced sport drives and working abilities.

Character-wise Bryan inherited his sire's calm, sociable and uncomplicated outlook on life, although did not seem to share Cekar's hardness. Bryan's work showed he possessed good, robust drives with the balance being upset by a low level of active aggression and a high irritation level. These latter traits proved his nemesis when he unsuccessfully attended the German Körung. At that time Körung was a real test, albeit tailored best to suit those dogs with hair-trigger reactions. (The most successful ones were very often those whose nerves and reactions tended to be balanced slightly on the razor's edge. A more nervy type of dog, without meaning here that they were nervous.) Today the practical function of the German Körung seems to have become lost in the political haze overshadowing its evaluation processes, and we see all manner of dogs out of all sorts of qualities being allowed to pass. There is urgent need of a fresh wind to give it new direction and make it a meaningful test again.

Where Bryan introduced a truly positive influence into the gene pool was in his ability to produce stability in the nerve costume and calm heads in his offspring. These traits being the foundation key for underpinning the working drives in any competition/utility dog. European Dobermanns rarely have a problem with their drives and although not always, these high drives are all too often being undermined by a thin nervous costume. The general lack of courage and hardness in the breed as a whole is an international problem not confined to any shores. Unfortunately a problem not being seriously addressed by too many breeders today, whose choices of stud dogs show little knowledge, concern or interest in why they should be actively standardizing these important characteristics in their future breeding programs.

Once Bryan entered the show ring his success snowballed. He triumphed in one land after another and I would believe won every major show title worth having,

including all the most prestigious ones like the German Bundessieger, DV Sieger, Europe Sieger, the World Sieger (where my husband awarded him the Best of Breed), the IDC Sieger, Dutch Winner, the King Of Belgium title and was twice the French Specialty Winner. On the way up he also became a German, Dutch, International, French, Austrian and Luxembourg Champion, as well as multiple Best Of Breed (22 in all) and Best In Show (19 in all) winner at club and international shows.

On a parallel course he was also successfully trained and trailed by Hennie in competitive working events, making his IPO3 in under 20 months of age and his SchH3 shortly after with excellent ratings. His best score was 290 points. He also passed his German ZTP with the highest notes of V1A and graded HD1 (same as OFA Excellent in the USA) in Holland, HD2 (OFA Very Good) in Germany and rated HD free in Belgium and France. He also passed the French and Belgium character tests with good notes.

Bryan's early achievements attracted the breeders like flies to a honeypot and he had bred more than 150 bitches before he was even four years of age. An unusual occurrence with any important stud dog. Generally most sires of significance don't attract these large numbers of matings until their early progeny are fully mature and have proven themselves. Many Bryan progeny did go on to become show stars and later excellent producers in their own right, which in turn only increased Bryan's profile and further usage. To round off, I'll touch on some of the more prominent ones here.

One of the earliest winners off the block for Bryan was the Dutch bred and owned Anka v.d. Kunnemaborgh (out of Ambre v. Moorburg), bred by the late Koon Kiewit. She was a bread and butter type bitch that represents a solid stepping stone in any pedigree. She placed consistently at the top around the shows and after this initial burst of fame and glory, was quietly retired into the whelping box.

One of Bryan's first Sieger offspring was the brown bitch Nora v't Grönningerland (out of Lady Laura v't Grönningerland). She was a DV Junior Siegerin, placed consistently at the top in all major shows she attended and finally became Europa Siegerin and IDC Siegerin in 1989, as well as German, International and VDH Champion. She

shares with Bryan an blood relationship to Arrow v. Harro's Berg and, although handicapped by poor nerves, she passed her SchH3, IPO3 and ZTP with the good notes and was instrumental in encouraging more breeders to give Bryan a try as a sire.

Another early Sieger feather for Bryan's cap was German bred, the brown male Elvis v. Lechenfeld (out of Bonni v. Estertal). He won the DV Junior Sieger title in 1988 and was DV Sieger in 1991. He passed the German Körung at two years of age and his SchH3 in 1991. Out of a plain but fiery little Ali v. Langenhorst daughter, Elvis proved a happy blend of his parents in both conformation and character.

Following close behind came the black, Belgium bred Siegerin Lema v. Roveline (out of Jenna v. Roveline). She was a multiple Champion and passed her ZTP, SchH3 and the German Körung with top notes. She was IDC Siegerin in 1989. She left her finest mark by producing the black Champion male Shogun v. Roveline (sired by Ninjo v. Norden Stamm, himself a Bryan son). Shogun was Reserve Bundessieger 1997 and being the result of a half brother and sister mating, is an inbreeding on Bryan.

In fact Bryan's influence spread not only from Holland into Germany, but was soon felt in many other countries in Europe and then in turn, around the world. I will briefly list here some token international examples I personally know of from the many hundreds that are to be found worldwide. They are as follows:

In Belgium -

As with the Siegerin Lema v. Roveline, her brother Lucifer v. Roveline was European Champion in 1990 and was another multiple Champion Bryan progeny that had in breeding later on. Also exported to Belgium was Nalina v. Norden Stamm, who won the German Junior National Champion title (Bds.jg.Siegerin).

In Germany (and later Italy) -

Was the multiple Champion Ninjo v. Norden Stamm, SchH3 (out of Kalina v. Norden Stamm), Landessieger Nord, Res. Bds.Sieger, Res. Europa Sieger. Not only was he a successful show dog in his

own right, but produced numerous Champions a number of which won multiple Sieger titles in different countries. Some Sieger progeny from Ninjo, all being Bryan grandchildren, are the Champion & Bundessiegerin Jamaha Royal Bell (out of Esmir Royal Bell) - Yugoslavia, the Champion & Bundessieger Rembrandt v. Norden Stamm (out of Kastr v. Norden Stamm) - Germany, and the Dutch-bred Champion dog Antheus v. D'Arceli (out of Jura v'h Wantij) who won the Junior titles at the IDC Sieger, Bundessieger and DV Sieger shows. Another Ninjo son to watch is the above-mentioned Champion Shogun v. Roveline (out of Lema v. Roveline), bred in Belgium. He was the Reserve Bundessieger in 1997. Bred-in-the-purple is what makes Shogun's truly royal pedigree even more interesting in that it is only slightly influenced (1-3, or 12½%) by Hertog Alpha v. le Dobry. There is an urgent need growing in Europe today to select for and preserve separate gene pools that can claim to be either "Alpha free", or being only distantly influenced by Alpha. Another successful Bryan son appearing recently on the German scene is the 1995 World Sieger, Don Diego v't Sweko (out of Atlanta v. Piratenburg). He also passed the German Körung and his IPO3 and SchH3.

In France -

Danni d' Hati Gabi (out of Baris d' Hati Gabi) broke the mold when she passed her character test under 14 months of age (a record in France). Imported into France from Germany was Alina v't gröne Land, IPO3 (out of Kalina v. Norden Stamm). Alina proved to be a highly influential bitch via her superb sons, the excellent rated, excellent producing Irinus de Fergnis (by Graaf Quirinus v. Neerlands Stam) in Russia, Hertog de Fergnis (by Eick v.d. Rappenau) in Germany, and Hugo de Fergnis (by Eick v.d. Rappenau) in Austria. Irinus being the most prolific producer of the three brothers and a leading sire in Russia, a country which has, along with the AKC, one of the largest Dobermann registries in the world - and for that matter, some of the world's most beautiful Dobermanns.



*In Germany -
the Bryan son Ch. Elvis v. Lechenfeld
(x Bonnie v. Estatal), SchH3, was
DV Sieger in 1991.
Pictured with handler Alison Kollenberg*



*In the USA -
an American-bred Bryan grandson
Ch. Cara's Talon (Nero v. Norden Stamm
x Rotkäppchen v.d. Cara), SchH1.
He was 1992 Reserve US National
Champion (DPCA).
Pictured with handler Marg Brooks.*



*In Germany and Italy - the Bryan son
Ch. Ninjo v. Norden Stamm
(x Kalina v. Norden Stamm), SchH3 was
Landessieger Nord, Res.Bds.Sieger. He produced a
number of Sieger progeny in different countries.*

(NB: Irinus is also the sire of the American-bred Champion Cara's Skeeter, a Bryan great-grandson found in the USA.)

In Finland and Sweden -

The multiple Champion Orlando v. Norden Stamm (out of Cassandra v. Norden Stamm) passed the tough Swedish Army Körung and left many champion show, angekört and working progeny in both countries to follow in his footsteps.

In Holland -

The beautiful Dutch-bred multiple Champion and Sieger bitch Dina Delila v. Diaspora (out of Tamar Tara v. Diaspora) is one of Bryan's most winning offspring. She won the Bundessiegerin, DV Siegerin and IDC Siegerin titles. Another lovely brown Bryan daughter found in Holland is the German import Athene v't gröne Land (out of Kalina v. Norden Stamm). She passed her ZTP with V1A but unfortunately we don't have the details of her show and working achievements on hand for this article. Of the younger Bryan kids found in Holland enjoying some show ring success are Graaf Vito v. Neerlands Stam (out of Gräfin Isis v. Neerlands Stam), the 1996 Dutch Junior Sieger, and his sister Gräfin Vanty Faye v. Neerlands Stam, that was Reserve Bundessiegerin in 1997.

In Brazil -

The Bryan sire line is represented here by the German import and Brazilian Champion Onix v. Norden Stamm (out of Cassandra v. Norden Stamm), who in the course of his show career beat Brazilian and American Champions and Grand Champions and left a group of talented offspring to represent this sire line further in the future.

In Denmark -

Another Champion Bryan son that has done well in the show rings is Einstein (out of Jolly de Los Valientes). In phenotype he was a very father typical, but his character was not firm enough in his Schutzhund training.

In Australia -

Bryan is represented here by a small group of Champion grandchildren and their descendants, mostly coming out of the imported black German bitch Ondra v. Norden Stamm (Bryan x Cassandra v. Norden Stamm), of which the most winning was the Queensland Dog Of The Year, Castlekeep Classy Chassis (Huz Omen x Early Dusk Sudden Impact).



*In Australia -
Dog Of The Year 1996 -
the Bryan great-granddaughter
Ch. Castlekeep Classy Chassi
(Huz Omen x Earlydusk Sudden Impact), BH.
Pictured with handler Erin Fry.*

Also now residing in Australia is the Champion Bryan grandson Storm v. Norden Stamm (Prinz v. Norden Stamm x Nicole v. Norden Stamm) IPO2. He has proven particularly effectively improving the character and working abilities in the different countries he lived and was consistently requested as the favorite test dog by the German Training Helpers holding seminars in Finland in the Eighties.

In South Africa -

Here can be found the multiple Speciality Winner and Champion Bryan son Odin v. Norden Stamm, SchH1 (out of Cassandra v. Norden Stamm). He deserves a special mention as South Africa's leading sire of winners, whose offspring's numerous successes were best demonstrated by having two of them winning both the Dog and Bitch titles at the 1992 Dobermann Club Speciality Show. Also in South Africa is the Champion German import Alice v' gröne Land (out of Kalina v. Norden Stamm). She was an Epol Supreme Puppy and later the top winning show bitch in South Africa. Alice was followed shortly after by the American-bred Champion Hysand Gambler, a Bryan grandson, related through his dam Odessa v. Norden Stamm (exp. USA). I have no detailed information on hand regarding Gambler's progress, although I have heard he has enjoyed a successful show career and has Champion titled progeny.

In the USA -

There is a large group of Bryan descendants found in the USA from a variety of bitch lines and one of the most successful producing daughters of Bryan residing there is the black Champion bitch Nicole v. Norden Stamm, SchH3, FH (out of Kalina v. Norden Stamm). The German-bred Nicole was a multiple High In Trial SchH3 (DV/DVG) in Germany, as well as winning numerous show awards, including German Junior National Champion (Bundes.jg.siegerin), the Landesgruppe Nord Sieger title and multiple Best In Group and Best In Show wins, before her retiring to live in the USA. What makes Nicole of special interest is that for a bitch she was, percentage wise, a prolific producer of top show and working animals. Well demonstrated by the many Schutzhund titled, Champions and Sieger children (all Bryan grandchildren) coming out of each of her litters. The most notable of her children I can mention here are the IDC (and multiple) Siegerin and Swedish Champion bitch



*In the USA -
an American-bred Bryan son
is Adlercrest Marko v. Koepsel
(out of Chessy v. Falltor).
Pictured here at 15 months.
He and his Obedience, Agility and Schutzhund
titled siblings and cousins have all given
their owners much pleasure on a
variety of sportdog fields.*

Sascha v. Norden Stamm (by Prinz v. Norden Stamm), the multiple Finnish Siegerin bitch Nemesis Alida v. Norden Stamm (by Eick v.d. Rappenau), winning B.O.S. at the Finnish Specialty from 214 entries. Then there's the South African multiple Best In Show and Specialty Winner bitch Danika v. Norden Stamm (by Atilla v.d. Piratenburg), the Swedish owned Armin v. Norden Stamm (by Eick v.d. Rappenau), who was the 1992 Junior IDC Sieger in Scandinavia and a more recent addition, the successful American-bred Champions Adlercrest Evihet (out of an Electras Illusive Dream) and Chalmar's Diamonds-are-Forever (out of Chalmar's Chemin De Fer) and the schutzhund and agility dogs Adlercrest Marko, Martina and Misha v. Koepsel (out of Chessy v. Falltor), BH, SchH1 - SchH3, plus the Bryan grandchildren Diva v. Norden Stamm (by Atilla v.d. Piratenburg x Nicole v. Norden Stamm), SchH2, and Pia, Pearl and Prima v. Adlercrest (Adlercrest Mirko v. Koepsel x Chessy v. Falltor), SchH1 - SchH3 and agility titles. Another Bryan daughter, Alisa von't gröne Land (out of Kalina v. Norden Stamm), was also exported from Germany to the USA in the Eighties. A litter pick, she was albiet never shown and unfortunately, bred sparingly. Therefore she had relatively few puppies to her credit. Her son, Cerberus v. Norden Stamm (by Nemesis Aro v. Norden Stamm) SchH2, represents a line breeding on Baron Bryan through both his sire, a Bryan grandson, and the aforementioned dam. Another Bryan grandson in the USA is the American and Canadian Champion Cara's Talon (sired by the German bred Bryan son, Nero v. Norden Stamm out of Rotkäppchen v.d. Cara) SchH1, who became 1992 Reserve US National Champion (DPCA), and last, but not least, one more Bryan grandchild well worth a look in the USA is the typey Nemesis Gilli (by Graaf Quirinus v. Neerlands Stamm out of Nicole v. Norden Stamm). Gilli was the 1994 Best Puppy at the UDC Nationals and has developed up to her potential since.

In Italy -

Bryan kids we can find here are the Champion brown bitch Chanda Campovalano, that was IDC Junior Siegerin in 1990, and the Champion black bitch Grey di Latiano, that was the 1996 DV Siegerin.

In England -

Here is the spunky Bryan son, Bronco v.d. Kunigundehöhe (out of Alexa v. Frankenland), a German import that has sired English (and one Jamacian!) Champions, CC Winners, and Junior Warrant Winners at Championship shows (hence Crufts qualifiers).



In Germany - the inbred Bryan grandson Champion Shogun v. Roveline (Ninjo v. Norden Stamm x Lema v. Roveline), SchH1, Res. Bundessieger 1997. He is the result of an incest mating between a Bryan half brother and sister.

The above progeny are merely my small, personal representative overview of what are in fact many successful Bryan descendants found worldwide. These, his children and their descendants, are all evolving from a long line of proven show and working

Champions, and their individual excellence continues to pay homage to those superior qualities these lines represent and have been passed on in turn by Baron Bryan.

At eleven years of age, Bryan, like his sire before him, was diagnosed as having cancer. Stout of heart, he fought the disease valiantly, like the great Champion he was - right up to the very end. Bryan finally died late 1996. His ability to pass on his excellent qualities made him a wonderful breed asset and a dog well worthy of being included in the Dobermann Hall of Fame. In retrospect, I think we can safely say today, that Bryan, like the majority of the best of our contemporary stud dogs, has been a far better bitch producer than male producer. But that said, there's no doubt he fits the description of what is parochially termed as a "Breeding Animal" - one capable to stamping his sons and daughters with their own unmistakable superior qualities.

Outstanding stud dogs capable of producing high percentages of equally outstanding sons are a rare breed. In Part Two of my "Sires of Significance" series, I will be covering one of these.

- Chico v. Forell
- Alva v. Franckenhorst
- Amarilda v.d. Wachenburg
- Baron Cekar v. Rensloo
- Bryan v. Forell
- Grafin Graziedotter
- Gravin Grazie (a Bryan v. Forell daughter)
- Baron Bryan v. Harro's Berg (1985-1996)**
- Guys Hilo v. Norden Stamm (a Bryan v. Forell son)
- Nimrod-Hilo v. Franckenhorst
- Olive of Bamby's Pride
- Vitesse v. Franckenhorst
- Ingo v. Forell
- Medina dei Piani di Praglia
- Della v. Franckenhorst (a full sister to Don Dayan, a Bryan v. Forell son)