

New York boy does it HIS way!

Appropriate background music for this column would be Frank Sinatra singing "New York, New York!" My March 2002 breed column was a reflection of my thoughts and feelings right after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on our great country. At this time I am totally thrilled to be able to write about (for the SECOND time) the NEW YORK Miniature Pinscher who once again was awarded the Best of Breed Award at the Westminster Show in February 2002, BIS BISS CH Kimro's Rocket Man a/k/a "Rocky". There is lots of competition leading up to the BOB award which allows a dog to advance to the Group judging that the rest of the country sees on television. And if the newspaper clippings sent to me are any indication, New Yorkers were long overdue for a reason to applaud and give this boy his press time.

Just exactly what kind of life does a show dog of Rocky's caliber lead? Well, to quote his owner Howard Schwell of White Plains, NY, "Let's just say that this wonderful show dog is also a playful pet! His favorite toys are bras, undies and socks, which he likes to pull around and hide. His favorite food... is "food!" When he's not on the show circuit and not at home in White Plains just relaxing and taking quiet walks through the neighborhood, he's got a job. He goes to work as a security guard at the Villa Roma! This mite takes his job very seriously. He thinks big and therefore, is very successful!"

Rocky is the show dog that almost "wasn't," and had an appointment at the vet for neutering destined to live life as a beloved pet, when all the right "equipment" literally "fell into place" and altering Rocky's future in the history of our breed. Since that day he has been a major presence at the shows and is no stranger to Best of Breed awards, Group Placements and the coveted Best In Show award all achieved under the expert guidance of his handler Kim Pastella, who is also Rocky's breeder!

While this is my third opportunity to interview Kim on winning at Westminster and I've also had the good fortune to run into her periodically at some shows, it was my first time speaking with Rocky's owner and he was exactly NOT what I expected. Despite Rocky's success in the ring Howard is very down to earth and I was still laughing days later after our initial phone conversation as he relayed stories about life with Rocky the Miniature Pinscher, the small dog who considers himself a king.

As those of us who have these awesome dogs know, there is a reason they are called "the King of Toys!" Show dog or pet, there is one common trait they all share. Best in Show Winner or couch potato, they are all experts at finding worms to roll in when out for a walk or in the backyard. A trait which tends to keep all proud owners a little humbler!

Please visit the official MPCA website at www.minpin.org for up-to-date information and pictures of Miniature Pinschers. Please breed responsibly, spay your pets and support the rescue efforts done on behalf of our breed. Faith Gordon, 15 Elkhart St., Lackawanna, NY 14218 Maudminpin@aol.com