

Our Guest Columnist this month is AKC judge Sherrie Krogh's article from 1998 which addresses a current topic of conversation on the internet now, in 2004!

"DQ, You Are Out!"

By: Sherrie Krogh(as published in the Pinscher Patter, Dec 1998)

Have you read the breed standard for the Miniature Pinscher? You are asking yourself, "Has she gone nuts? Of course I've read the breed standard." I would not take a dog in the Min Pin conformation ring without reading the standard. Well, someone hasn't read the standard. In fact, several someone(s) have not read the breed standard. If they had, the dog they took in the ring would have stayed at home.

"Why?" You ask? Because that dog had a disqualification! That's right, there are people out there who take dogs in the conformation ring even though the dog must be disqualified under the standard of the breed.

Let's review the Miniature Pinscher standard, the section that addresses qualifications. The first one is "any dog under 10 inches or over 12 1/2 inches in height." What does that mean? It means that if a Miniature Pinscher measures under 10 inches he may not compete in an AKC conformation ring. It also means that if a Miniature Pinscher measures over 12 1/2 inches he may not compete. If a judge believes that an exhibit does not meet the standard for height, he may call for a wicket. It is the judge's responsibility to set the wicket, measure it with a metal tape, and then to ask the handler of the dog to check the accuracy of the setting. The judge asks the handler to stack the dog in the center of the table and when they agree that the dog is stacked properly and is comfortable, the judge slips the wicket from the rear forward to the withers of the dog. If the wicket is set for 10 inches and the judge sees light under the bar, the dog is measured out. If the wicket is set for 12 1/2 inches and the wicket legs swing, the dog is measured out. (Note: The AKC will send you a copy of the proper way to measure a dog. They will also send you a copy of the Miniature Pinscher breed standard. Or, you can write to the editor of the Pinscher Patter and she will see that you get a copy of the standard.)

An "in the Ring" measurement is not only the judge's responsibility. The handler must agree that the wicket is set properly and that the dog is stacked correctly.

The next disqualification is the "Thumb Mark." The standard describes it as a "patch of black hair surrounded by rust on the front of the foreleg between the foot and the wrist: (on chocolates, the patch is chocolate hair)" The patch is on the pastern, and it must be an ISLAND of hair. Extensions of black or chocolate hair do not make a "patch." THUMBMARKS ARE AN ISLAND OF BLACK OR CHOCOLATE HAIR ON THE PASTEREN.

The following seems to be my personal favorite! "White on any part of dog which exceeds one-half (1/2) inch in its longest dimension". This does not say that pigment is involved, nor should it! It just says white. Could be pigment, but more than likely it is just white hair. The AKC tells judges to devise a method by which to determine the length of the white. I use a metal tape measure. I am always sure the lighting is good and I have my glasses on. I feel the exhibitor/handler deserves every chance. I just wish they had that same amount of respect for me.

I am considered a breeder/judge, and it is important for me to protect my breed. If I don't, who will? So it really makes me angry when a breeder/exhibitor, or a handler brings me a dog that I am forced to disqualify. I didn't put the white on the dog, but I did help write the current breed standard. So who are we kidding, and why bring me a dog with a DQ?

"Why is white a DQ," you ask? Because we used to have harlequins in our breed. When the harlequins went, so did the white. Obviously, it is important for us to watch our breeding very carefully. I am sure we can "keep the white buried", but it will take work. Walking in the ring with "it" is surely not the answer. Plucking it out is not the answer either. That means I can get you for altering a dog. Another disqualification!

I have been waiting to write this piece for about three years. I felt it wasn't the time until recently. Several years ago I disqualified six (6) Min Pins for too much white. It made my heart sick! Please, I beg you, don't put a judge in that position. Leave the DQ's at home - they are not show quality!

Very well said Mrs. Krogh and thank you for your permission to re-print this article. Our readers can find the Breed Standard on the MPCA web page at www.minpin.org Faith K. Gordon, 15 Elkhart St., Lackawanna, NY 14218