

**Westminster 2005 – It's No Secret!**

Westminster 2005, a thrilling event for exhibitors and spectators alike. This year's Best of Breed winner in the Miniature Pinscher competition was CH Maraven Pop Secret, bred by Mary Ellen Hatfield & Sally Williams, owned by Roy & Jo Kusumoto of Las Vegas, NV and expertly handled on the East Coast by Kelly Marquis.

I was able to speak with Kelly before she dashed off to another show cluster and her first comment was about how much she is going to miss this little dog who has been not just a dog she shows, but has been very much a buddy and companion animal these many months.

"Secret" is the first Miniature Pinscher for Mr. & Mrs. Kusumoto, but not the last and we all wish them much success in the show ring in the future and congratulations on their success at the Garden!

**On another topic:** I want to share something with other breeders and hopefully prevent anyone else from sharing my experience. We tell our pet puppy owners to spay/neuter right away to prevent mammary tumors or testicular cancer. I recently arranged to have two of my "girls" who were 8 and 9 spayed. They had not been bred in more than several years and there was no sense in having them continue with their heat cycles. You know how it is, you mean to get them done and oops they are in season so you plan to wait until they are finished, then you are in the middle of show season or some other priority event and the spaying just does not get done. Well this time it DID get done, but rather than a simple spay on an older dog, they both ended up having to have full mastectomies and little Robin had to have 4 breast glands removed, plus her spay. This was because little tiny BB sized cancerous tumors were found in the pre-exam. Fortunately the vet and vet tech doing this procedure were top notch and the aftercare provided for my dogs was impeccable, as I did not get them home until the following week. I plan on devoting a full column to this type of tumor in a future issue, with more veterinary terminology, but until that time, I urge you to have your intact aging females examined by your vet. And when you know you have bred your female for the last time, get that spay done immediately. I may have been fortunate in that all the tumors were removed, but they said that Robin had "thousands". They must be like little caviar eggs. And perhaps there will be no recurrence in the remaining glands and we will be lucky. Again, tumors manifest themselves differently depending on the type. Not all females will be "pouchy" and not all tumors will be BB sized. Waiting makes all the difference between a simple spay and more complex hugely invasive and painful mammary gland removal. My girls are bouncing back to their wonderful min pin selves, and hopefully will be with me for many years to come. Please, learn from my experience and hopefully takes steps to prevent this from happening with one of your dogs, in any breed. Respectfully submitted: Faith K. Gordon, 15 Elkhart St., Lackawanna, NY 14218 [maudminpin@aol.com](mailto:maudminpin@aol.com). For more information on Miniature Pinschers please visit our web page at: [www.minpin.org](http://www.minpin.org)