

December 2007 Gazette Article

Let's Get Educated

A funny thing happened when I was reading the paper this weekend; I made the mistake of looking at the Pet Section to see what was for sale.

Min Pin puppies. Males and females, black and tan (blue factored), first litter ready 9/14, second litter ready 9/21. AKC champions bloodlines. Call for prices. Xxx-xxxx. So I called.

I asked about the puppies and I asked about the pedigrees and who the parents are, and if they were champions and did she show her dogs? "No, I don't show, I don't show I don't have time for that, but (maybe) someday." Where are the champions in the pedigree and who are they? "They are about 3-4 or 5 generations back, I don't know the names right off. I think I have the paperwork around here somewhere (ha ha) I guess I should know that information." How tall are the parents? "Oh, not very tall, I never measured them." Do you know anything about the other dogs in the pedigree? "No, I guess I will learn that stuff as a go along." Well, whom did you get your dogs from? "Oh! I ordered them online from a GOOD breeder! They also have German Pinschers and about 3 other breeds!" They only thing she was perfectly knowledgeable about were the prices. She had that information readily available. Oddly enough, she never asked one question of me.

So, it appears her game plan is to buy dogs to breed, not be familiar with inherent breed traits or the genetics of the pedigrees you are breeding. Crank out some puppies and learn about the breed after you start taking in some money. Oh..the puppies are available at 8 weeks old. So there is no intent there to "grow them out" a little, to see what you've got or make sure they have a couple more vet visits and shots before you sell them. Of course, that time and expense would take away from the "profits".

I've said a zillion times in my articles over the years that AKC papers are "only" as good as the breeder that stands behind them. Otherwise you can line your birdcage with them. The reputable people I know do NOT sell "breeding" dogs online this way. Obviously this gal purchased dogs to breed only with the thought of how many puppies she can produce and sell. Does she have a clue about what she is producing? The answer is pretty clear on that. NO.

Looking back, there was nothing "funny" about checking out the pet section. And potential pet purchasers should be on the alert for people like this before they invest they money and hearts in a new family member.

By the time this article is published, the local elections will be over. You can bet your bippy I wore my "I VOTE and I own DOGS" button. I keep it in the car where it is handy when I attend political functions. I am fairly active in local politics and I do everything to get the message out for dog owners. And when candidates come calling on my door looking for votes, I have plenty of questions for them. Make an appearance at your local Council meetings, find out what is going on in your town before it is too late.

I am a dog person and I show and breed dogs. I am educated about my breed. And I vote. Please exercise YOUR right. This is supposed to be a free country. But everyday they are taking more and more of our rights away from us.

I support the educated consumer and the educated voter. I do NOT support the uneducated breeder, and neither should you.

Please consider a donation to the rescue organizations that are flooded with rescue dogs and dogs that need to be re-homed. It has been my personal practice for the past several years not to send cards at the holidays, but to take the money I would spend on cards and postage and donate it to a charitable organization either for pets or children. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all.

To learn more about Miniature Pinschers please visit the MPCA web page at www.minpin.org. Or the AKC web page at www.akc.org. Faith K Gordon, 15 Elkhart Street, Lackawanna, NY 14218 maudminpin@aol.com