

March 2007 Gazette

### **2006 Eukanuba Nationals!**

Congratulations to the breeders and owners of "Sarge", the Best of Breed Miniature Pinscher at the 2006 AKC Eukanuba National Championship show held in Long Beach California. Ch Kimro's Toy Soldier (Sarge), is owned by Robin Greenslade and Howard Schwell, and bred-by Kimberly Pastella-Calvacca, Howard Schwell, Mary Curtin & Robin Greenslade.

This strut your stuff red male is shown by Kim Pastella-Calvacca, and it was my pleasure to call her after the show to offer congratulations and get her comments on this show, and the dog that represented our breed so well on TV. My call probably came as no surprise to her, as I have done several interviews with her in the past after her Miniature Pinscher Breed wins at Westminster. No stranger to these events, Kim had already made a name for herself in Boxers before getting her first Miniature Pinscher. Her comments follow:

We looked forward to the Invitational as "Sarge" is our fourth generation and the second to compete at the AKC Invitational. The first time he went was in January 2006 when he went as a Bred By champion dog when he was 11 months old and he came home with Best Bred-By Exhibitor. We were thrilled and honored at winning under a breeder judge and then he went on to a Group 2 placing. Now this December we were invited again and excited and anxious to go! It was a great venue, and easy on the exhibitor and the dogs. The hotel was right next door and accepted dogs. "Sarge" was the only dog I took with me, and although the flight was over 6 hours, not a peep was heard out of him. He was thrilled when it was over and was out of his carry-on, and lost no time in making friends all over the airport. Although the shuttle service did not work out, I was fortunate to run into a Poodle exhibitor that I was friends with and she gave us a ride to the hotel.

Even with the hotel being connected to the Convention center, it still meant long days as there is so much to see and do. Except for taking care of "Sarge", I spent all the days at the show watching all the different breed competitions, and mingling with friends you see only at the big shows. I was also handling a Pug at the show and was worried about a schedule conflict, but it all worked out and I got "Sarge" to the ring on time and he won Best of Breed, and for the second time he was awarded Best Bred-By Miniature Pinscher, just like his sire (Ch. Kimro's Space Cowboy V Edgewind) who won both Awards in 2005! What a thrill! What an honor! Two Generations of AKC Invitational winners on both ends winning Breed and Bred-By.

He showed like a trooper and he loves the show ring. He hackneyed his way to the group ring and made us very proud! He is not just a super show dog, but a sweet dog that loves people and has never met a stranger. He is a great companion and house dog.

We are grateful to the people and top kennel names who gave us our start in Miniature Pinschers; Pevensey, Sunprite, Edgewind and Mary Curtin and all the dogs in our background for making this feat possible, you can never forget the dogs and people who helped on the way up.

Thank you Kim, for your comments on "Sarge" and the show and making my job easy by being so cooperative. I was proud to watch him as the representative of our breed. Ears and tail up, reaching out in front and showing the world the attitude of a min pin that feels he owns ring. No "Nervous Nelly" here, this boy is min pin attitude and movement at its finest. We all appreciate the effort, and the long hours of travel that it takes to get a quality animal top dog recognition in it's breed. On behalf of your friends and peers in the min pin fancy, we say "ATTA BOY!" ***(This wash 'n wear breed does not have to worry about broken coats or having stains bleached out. They can romp and stomp in the mud and other lovely "things" they find in the yard and a quick bath later can step in to the show ring and show everything they've got, no fluffing needed.)***

Congratulations to all the other Miniature Pinscher breeders and exhibitors and their dogs who also earned invitations to this show due to their impressive show record this past year. I cannot wait to see the results of Westminster and our National Specialty in 2007.

Readers who want to view these lists, or if you are interested in purchasing a purebred dog and need information or breeder referrals, you can do so by visiting the following websites: [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org), and the MPCA website, [www.minpin.org](http://www.minpin.org) for more detailed information on this special breed.

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