

Gazette Sept 2008 Issue

Pigment, or Lack of It

Let's take a moment to re-visit a portion of the Miniature Pinscher Breed Standard, which when "ignored" can have a far-reaching impact via dogs that are used in breeding programs. Especially when these dogs are rewarded with top placings in the show ring. Although not a disqualification, incorrect pigment is a "fault". While there is no perfect dog and overall quality must be assessed.

The AKC breed standard states: "Eyes full, slightly oval, clear, bright and dark even to a true black, including eye rims, with the exception of chocolates, whose eye rims should be self-colored. Ears set high, standing erect from base to tip. May be cropped or uncropped. Skull appears flat, tapering forward toward the muzzle. Muzzle strong rather than fine and delicate, and in proportion to the head as a whole. Head well balanced with only a slight drop to the muzzle, which is parallel to the top of the skull. Nose black only, with the exception of chocolates which should have a self-colored nose."

Unless your dog is a chocolate, all other colors, i.e. clear & stag reds, black/rust & black/tan should have a very DARK eye and eye rim.

Gold, amber, medium or light brown are NOT correct eye colors, and if the nose is not black, then it's not correct. Coloring in a nose to be black may get a pass in the show ring, but not in a breeding program.

The Breed Standard - is what we should strive to breed FOR.

They say the "Eyes are the mirror to the soul". Breeders and Judges should be conscious of desired dark pigment when making breeding and judging decisions respectively.

Congratulations to our Best Of Breed Winner at the MPCA 2008 National Specialty: CH ALTANERO BARNSTORMER. BREEDER: Susan P Goldman & Joanne Wilds. By Ch Charkara Majestic's Madd Max-Ch Altanero Mirra Image. OWNER: Kim Byrd & Susan P Goldman & Joanne Wilds.

Due to illness I was unable to present a column for the June 2008 issue. Please accept my apology.

To see the complete Miniature Pinscher Breed Standard please visit the MPCA website at: www.minpin.org Faith K. Gordon, 15 Elkhart St., Lackawanna, NY 14218 maudminpin@aol.com