

2005 National Specialty Judges' Critiques

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MPCA 2005 SWEEPSTAKES - by Laurie Chism, Judge

I would like to thank everyone for the entry of some of the most beautiful MinPin puppies I have ever seen. A lot of dogs did not receive the recognition they deserved because I simply ran out of ribbons. I was also very impressed with the overall preparation and presentation of the entire entry. It was evident that these breeders had done their homework.

My Best Veteran was a beautiful dark red dog that looked as good on that day as he looked when he was at the top of his game.

My puppy Best In Sweeps was a young dog with type, movement, and soundness. I liked him the minute he walked into the ring. The more I looked the better he got. He was beautifully presented by his handler and in excellent condition. This dog was very proud of himself! I was told later that he had been recognized in a few groups. I predict good things for this dog in the future.

My Best of Opposite was a darling black and rust bitch that would take your breath away. She was always showing at her best. The best thing about her was that hard topline that stayed put as she high stepped around the ring. I would have wished her a little more substance, but I understand she was only six months on that day.

The Junior entry was just as nice and again I narrowed it down to four that were of exceptional quality. My Best In Junior Sweeps was a dark red "type to the standard" male that had an expression that could melt you. He was a complete package and could not be denied.

My Best Of Opposite was a small bitch that thought she was really something. She never let up, not even on the table! She was precious. She asked for a win and she got one. As with my Best Opposite Sex puppy, this was "a Little Bitch, A Lotta Min Pin".

MPCA 2005 REGULAR CLASSES - by Sharon A. Krogh, Judge

I want to thank the MPCA President, Sandee White and the MPCA Show Chairperson, Karen Clausing and her committee. Good job, well done!

I judged 225 Min Pins, and enjoyed every minute. During the last five to seven years I have been worried about our breed. I believe breeds cycle, and I felt that we had reached the bottom of the cycle about a year ago. Having finished this assignment, I am happy to report that we have to be on the top side of this cycle. Things are looking up folks!

When judging the Miniature Pinscher, my priorities are as follows: As a class enters the ring, I watch to see if there is a "show dog" in the group. That just means that I like a dog that is "self-possessed." After that I do a table exam, to check for any disqualifications. When gaiting the dogs I use a triangle, I can get a down/ back, and side gait that way. And, keep the exhibitors from running with a Toy Dog. Movement is extremely important to me. Coming, going and side gait go hand in hand with type. I am not hung up on the "hackney like action". I like a nice lift and a slight break in the pasterns, but I cannot forgive crossing in the front and/or rear. Side gait has to be judged in combination with the down and back.

Feet - what can I say? Our standard says, "cat feet." My thinking is this, would you build a house on a bad foundation? No, then why would you show a dog with flat feet?

Pigment and eye color - our standard says "dark even to a true black" exception in chocolates, of course.

Here is what continues to concern me. Many of the dogs I judged had really bad feet, in the attempt to disguise them the nails had been cut so short I could not see them. The standard says, "nails thick and blunt", it does not say invisible! So, we need to work on feet. Remember you are building a breeding program, and feet are the foundation.

Movement in the Min Pin has always been a challenge. Have someone else move your dogs for you, and see if you have managed to put the package together. The "package" being a sound down and back (no crossing, no hock rubbing and no sickle hocks). Just a true moving dog. Then look at side gait, does the front leg have lift and a slight break at the pastern? If you can honestly say you like what you see then great! If not, go back to the drawing board, in this case the whelping box.

Pigment and eye color in reds and black and rust/red is so important. Light rims and slate noses just do not cut it. I understand that next year at the Nationals the breeder's seminar will be on "Color Genetics". Please go! This seminar should help with "stag red" too.

Personally I prefer two things in our breed, animals over 11 1/2 inches but not over 12 1/2 inches, and black and rust/red. However, I truly believe that the standard allows for four colors and dogs measuring 10 to 12 1/2 inches at the withers. That means I judge them all, as long as they meet the standard. This is what I do, judge every dog that is brought to me equally.

This year the dogs were superior to the bitches, and I mention this as a warning. Because the bitch is the foundation of any breeding program. One can always take a nice bitch to a good stud dog.

My Best of Breed dog was a red male of nice size, good depth of chest and spring of rib. Oh, and feet to die for! He was true coming and going and had a lovely headpiece. This dog was reminiscent of the dogs shown twenty to twenty-five years ago, sound with substance and attitude.

Winners Dog and Winners Bitch/Best of Winners really looked like they could be twins. I was hoping for one really nice black and rust/red and I found two. Plus there were also a couple of others, maybe the work was out? These two were young dogs, true coming and going while holding their top lines. Both with great attitudes.

Reserve Winners Dog and Reserve Winners Bitch were both sound dogs, with nice eyes and good pigment. And again, both had great attitudes.

Best of Opposite Sex, this bitch was sound coming and going, with nice depth of chest and spring of rib. I understand she almost didn't make the trip. I am glad she was there. She is a credit to the breed.

Awards of Merit: Two red males and a red bitch, all specials. The Veteran Bitch and the Winners Dog. All lovely specimens of the Miniature Pinscher, and a delight to judge.

Thanks for asking me to judge this years National Specialty, it was an honor.

MPCA 2005 FUTURITY - by Al DeVono, Judge

I am honored to have been chosen to judge the 2005 Futurity. What a tough assignment! The depth of quality presented to me was no less phenomenal. I had classes in which I could have awarded five first place ribbons and the proceed on with the rest of the class placements.

My Best in Futurity was a red dog that never put a foot down wrong, nor did he ever stop giving it his "all" in the ring for his handler. This dog has it all.

Beautiful arched neck, extremely short back, rock hard topline, depth of brisket and that nearly indescribable "spark" which makes a great show dog. I predict a very exciting future for this dog.

My Best of Opposite was a little black and rust bitch and cute as a button. She has excellent all around type and is a breeders dream. Even at her young age she showed a rock hard topline even when moving. She is everything that a Min Pin should be.

The quality in the black and rust Min Pins shown to me was extremely good. It is usually difficult to find a good black and rust, but today I had many good ones to choose from, making the placements very difficult.

I had some which I wanted to award higher placements, but today was just not their day as they were not showing their best.

This was one of the finest groups of Miniature Pinscher puppies I have ever seen assembled. From what I have seen today. I would have to say that the breed is in excellent shape and in excellent hands.