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A Breeder's Dream – Westminster 2004

In this month's Westminster Winner interview, Roberta (Bobbie) Mills-Bowhay of Red Oak, TX, talks about what it's like to breed and own 2004 Westminster BOB winner CH. Windwalker Cool Hand Luke

I am still walking on air with the exhilaration of Luke's Best of Breed win at Westminster 2004. It has been one of the most exciting dog show moments for me as a breeder/owner/exhibitor of min pins.

The statement "it takes a village to raise a child" in this case a dog, is aptly applied to Luke. Luke owes his success to many friends. I was fortunate enough to be able to obtain his mother, CH T'Seas Me Promise March-On, from Debi Long and Barbara Stamm. It was Barbara who suggested I breed "Promise" to Larry Dewey's dog BISA/BISS CH. Main St. March-On High Roller. Luke was the first of three champions from this litter.

Larry and Penny Dewey recognized Luke's potential when they first saw him as a young puppy and said they would like to show him. They took him home shortly after his ears were cropped and only had him a couple of months before he finished his championship at 10 months old. Luke then came back home. The first time I showed him after he came home he won Best of Breed and went on to win a Group 1. I showed him myself for a couple of months and put him in the Top 20 rankings. I then made arrangements with Pam Dzuik to show him at the 2003 MPCA National since I was not going to be able to attend. Pam and Luke hit it off and made a great team. Luke won Best Opposite Sex at the Futurity and the Sweepstakes and got an Award of Merit at the Specialty following the National. I then asked Pam if she could show Luke for the rest of the year which turned out to be one of the best decisions I have ever made. Pam and Luke were very successful and Luke finished the 2003 show season as the number 3 min pin. Another friend of mine, Paula Gibson (Roadshow), filled in one weekend for Pam and came to Dallas, Texas to show Luke and won the Dallas Miniature Pinscher Club Specialty in Sept. 2003.

Luke is a very happy dog and has an endearing habit of constantly wagging his tail in the show ring. He will turn himself inside out to get a squeaky toy. He loves the attention and will show for anyone who takes him into the ring. He still gets excited whenever he sees Larry and Penny Dewey. Luke simply adores Pam and goes crazy whenever he sees her if he's been away from her for awhile.

Pam showed Luke at the Eukanuba Invitational in December and received an Award of Excellence. I brought Luke back home with me after the Eukanuba show and the week before the Garden sent Luke back to Pam. The ultimate emotional high was when Pam called to tell me Luke went Best of Breed at the Garden. I could hardly believe the news and broke into tears of joy when Pam called. Everyone in the office came rushing to my desk to see what had happened. Not being dog people they did not quite understand the prestige of this win, but they had all heard of the Westminster dog show and were very excited for me and said they would watch Luke on TV and cheer him on.

As you can see, many people have been involved in Luke's success story. To me that is what dog shows are all about – the people you meet and the friends you make. Luke has become the nucleus of a whole world of new friends for me that started the moment I purchased his mother "Promise" from Debi Long and Barbara Stamm. I wish I could take credit for Luke's success, but it belongs to all my friends who helped me make the right choices and to all the judges who felt Luke was worthy enough to win. It has indeed taken a village to raise Luke to the status he obtained in 2003.

Thank you Bobbie for sharing Luke's story with us, and sharing the happy results of a team effort among min pin enthusiasts! Good luck to you and "Luke" in the future and to every other min pin owner who "has a dream!"

Legislation Alert! I encourage every dog owner in every state to be aware of what is going on in their community and state regarding Legislation that is negative breed specific, prohibits breeding and puts limits on ownership. In NYS there is proposed legislation that would mandate every dog owner have specific liability insurance for their animal. This is in reaction to the increase in dog bites in the NYC area by dogs that are free to roam and are neglected and unlicensed. The reality is that responsible pet owners will be made to pay for those individuals who get a legal slap on the wrist for their neglect and irresponsible actions because these people act outside the law, and these regulations are not enforceable upon them. Please let your elected officials know that they have to answer to YOU! Punish the deed, not the breed. Enforce the leash laws we now have, and insist the judicial system make the offenders accountable and not propose blanket legislation that punishes responsible animal owners and show breeders.

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