

Miniature Pinscher September issue 2006

Will the Real Rule Please Stand Up!

Miniature Pinschers “have” a height standard! The day they walk into the ring for their first show they MUST be “at least 10 inches tall at the withers” and “no taller than 12 ½ inches”. Seems pretty clear to me. Measure 9 7/8 or 12 ¾...you are OUT!

But after that first show...there seems to be a gray area for many people. They have a puppy that is in size when they finish it at 7-8-9 months old...then it matures out and goes over-size, and they go on to campaign this animal as a Special.

Nowhere in the breed standard does it say: “if your dog is a Special the height requirement does not apply, so bring on those 12 ¾ and 13 inch dogs!” That comes under the personal and ethical decision process of every person who competes in any sport. Which is also why we have AKC show rules and specific breed standards.

Exhibitors and handlers IN the ring can call for a wicket. I had to do some research here, but it seems to translate into: You can call the wicket on an animal IF you are in that class. Example: If you are in 6-9 puppy, you cannot call a wicket on an animal in the Open class. BUT, if for example, you have WB and the dog in the 6-9 class went WD and you feel it is oversized (or undersized), and you BOTH are in the Breed class along with the Specials, THEN you can call for a wicket on THAT class (Breed), and you must do it before the last dog in the class has been tabled and examined. Whew. Is it no wonder we are confused? And you cannot call the wicket on a dog if you are outside the show ring. Are you the owner of a dog and you are sitting ringside? You have to jump over the chains and grab hold of a leash before you can call for a wicket.

The rule book does NOT say: “if you call for the wicket and it makes the judge cranky, the judge can excuse you from the ring.” (ANY hint of that type of action requires YOU to stop what you are doing and call for the AKC Rep on site! They really are there for a reason, and if you think that the judge in your breed is flat out not adhering to our breed standard – take a stand! It is YOUR breed, and your entry fee.

Exhibitors and judges listen up! My first sentence said: “we have a height standard”. No where in the standard does it say: “adhere to it only if you feel like it.”

Next topic: What is the rule on showing when the major points break? NO WHERE in the AKC rules does it say: Only Specials and/or class dog/bitches “not” needing a major if the points break are eligible to compete for Breed points. (If you have a class dog/bitch that you feel is a serious contender, you should certainly show your dog even if the major points break.) There is “life after WD or WB”. Where does it say that anyone who has made their entry, traveled to the show and got to the ring, has to pull their dog and not show if the points break? If the points go down to singles and the dog that only

needed a major gets that extra single...so be it. They had the better animal! And let the better dog move on to compete for Breed and possible Group placements. What is the reasoning behind pulling a winning animal because the major points break, just to give other dogs (perhaps lesser quality animals) a better crack at the points? Anyone who has a strong contender in the ring should always be looking ahead for Breed and Group points. Not keeping their dog in a crate ringside as if they are waiting their turn, or permission to compete for those awards.

Have you ever heard the saying: "Unless you are the lead dog, the view never changes?"

And many of you know someone who kept their dog in to compete, and ended up with a Group 1, and picked up that elusive major! OK, lots of dogs that get breed wins whether they earned them or the placement was a lucky gift, and they never ever go on to get group placements no matter how long they are campaigned.

Keep your head up, look ahead to your goal and move forward to achieve it. If you don't show it, you can't win it.

God bless our pin heads and the people who love and care for them. And especially those min pins who need new families and are being cared for by IMPS rescue.

(substitute your breed name and height requirements as they apply for other breeds)

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