

## **Breeder's Forum: Can We Talk Min-Pins?**

*Conducted & Submitted by Armando Angelbello (as published in the Pinscher Patter, June 1993)*

Participants:

- Ann Dutton (Sanbrook)
- Gloria Knapp (Chateau Acres)
- Barbara Stamm (March-On)
- Linda Stevens (Redwing)
- Linda Talbot (Shajawn)
- Marcia Tucker (Sunsprite)

In the interest of broadening communication through the "Pinscher Patter," the above mentioned breeders were asked to issue their individual thoughts and opinions on specific subjects. Here are the questions and their answers:

**Question 1: When you got started, who was that first Min Pin (not bred nor owned by you) that made the biggest impression on you (took your breath away!) and briefly state why.**

**DUTTON - Ch. Jay-Mac's Impossible Dream:** Her elegance, presence, beautiful gait, reach of neck and showmanship.

**KNAPP - Ch. Jay-Mac's Impossible Dream:** When I first saw her in the ring, I couldn't look at another dog. It appeared as though she was standing in a spotlight. She was so elegant and showy, she overwhelmed me and I couldn't take my eyes off her. She was very impressive!!

**STAMM - Ch. K-Roc's Kopper Kidd** was the first Min Pin I ever remember seeing in the group ring. I believe it was about 1971. He was a young dog, very flashy and typical of a Min Pin, hard to handle on the day. I remarked to a friend, "if I ever change breeds, that's the kind of Min Pin I would like." I was impressed with his attitude, he was filled with himself and struck me as being the "King of Toys". He did not look like a toy dog. He looked like a large dog scaled to toy size.

**STEVENS - Ch. Bo Mar's King Kong.** This was the first Min Pin I reckoned with. I later learned the dog was a "Road Runner" son whom I had never seen. "King Kong", though he never amassed a spectacular show record, was none the less quite impressive in his presence and his ability to move with the same. I had come from a family of working dogs, precisely Boxers, my first love and then Great Danes. In 1970 I went to work for the well known George Rood who introduced me to the Min Pin in his "string" of dogs. This dog was something I never expected of a toy dog. He had the strength and stamina of the Boxer, the elegance of the Dane, the smooth lines of both. The vivacious bounce and vigor of the Boxer and the aristocratic presence of the Dane and the loyalty of both. All of these attributes in one little package! No longer were toy dogs "beneath me" as I had truly reckoned with the King of Toys.

**TALBOT - Ch. Jay-Mac's Impossible Dream:** Impy was one of a kind, a real show girl!

**TUCKER - Ch. Pinehollow's Peter Pan:** Long before I was even interested in Min Pins, I saw Linda (Krzan) Stevens handling Peter Pan and thought he was an unbelievable showdog!

**Question 2: There is no perfect dog and it can't be built in pieces! Nevertheless, let's indulge if you will. For each of the descriptions listed below, name one Min Pin you bred or owned AND one Min Pin not bred nor owned by you, who best fits each of the descriptions in accordance with your interpretation of the Standard. NOTE: DO NOT INCLUDE ANY MIN PINS CURRENTLY BEING SHOWN.**

**2A. The typical (Overall "Looks):**

**DUTTON**  
**KNAPP**  
**STAMM**  
**STEVENS**  
**TALBOT**  
**TUCKER**

Not Bred Nor Owned By You:  
Ch. Jay-Mac's Impossible Dream  
Ch. Rebel Roc's Casanova V Kurt  
Ch. Pevensey's Cash Dividend  
Ch. Jay-Mac's Impossible Dream  
Ch. Jay-Mac's Impossible Dream  
Ch. Delcrest Gold Nugget

Bred or Owned by You:  
Ch. Shajawn American Dream  
Ch. Pevensey Sara V Chateau Acres  
Ch. March-On Dancing Mood  
Ch. Sunbrook Buckskin Gal  
Ch. Shajawn American Dream  
Ch. Sunsprite Sparkle Plenty

**2B. Overall Movement (Down & Back and Side Gait):**

**DUTTON**  
**KNAPP**  
**STAMM**  
**STEVENS;**  
**TALBOT**  
**TUCKER**

Not Bred Nor Owned By You:  
Ch. Jay-Mac's Impossible Dream  
Ch. Pevensey's Cash Dividend  
Ch. Pevensey's Cash Dividend  
Ch. Jay-Mac's Impossible Dream  
Ch. Jay-Mac's Impossible Dream  
Ch. Fillpins Felicity

Bred or Owned by You:  
Ch. Shajawn Impossible Scheme  
Ch. Chateau Acres Hit Man  
Ch. March-On Face the Music  
Ch. Sunbrook Buckskin Gal  
Ch. Shajawn Semi Tough  
Ch. Pevensey's Cash Dividend

**2C. Side Gait:**

**DUTTON**  
**KNAPP**  
**STAMM**  
**STEVENS**  
**TALBOT**  
**TUCKER**

Not Bred Nor Owned By You:  
Ch. Pevensey's Cash Dividend  
Ch. Allens Brandy Snifter  
Ch. Jay-Mac's Impossible Dream  
Ch. Pevensey's Cash Dividend  
Ch. Jay-Mac's Impossible Dream  
Ch. Pinehollow's Peter Pan

Bred or Owned by You:  
Ch. Sanbrook Savannah  
Ch. Chateau Acres Hiway Harry  
Ch. March-On Velmatt Melody  
Ch. Sunbrook Buckskin Gal  
Ch. Shajawn American Dream  
Ch. Pevensey's Cash Dividend

**2D. Down & Back (Coming & Going):**

**DUTTON**  
**KNAPP**  
**STAMM**  
**STEVENS**  
**TALBOT**  
**TUCKER**

Not Bred Nor Owned By You:  
Ch. Jay-Mac's Impossible Dream  
Ch. Sanbrook Silk Electric  
Ch. Sanbrook Silk Electric  
Ch. Sanbrook Silk Electric  
Ch. Carlee Nubby Silk  
Ch. Carlee Southern Prancer

Bred or Owned by You:  
Ch. Sanbrook Silk Electric  
Ch. Chateau Acres Gun Moll  
Ch. March-On Make My Day  
Ch. Sunbrook Buckskin Gal  
Ch. Shajawn Semi Tough  
Ch. Sunsprite Silk Blend

**2E. The Front:**

**DUTTON**  
**KNAPP**  
**STAMM**  
**STEVENS**

Not Bred Nor Owned By You:  
Ch. Shajawn Semi Tough  
Ch. Mercers Desert Dust Devil  
Ch. Sanbrook Silk Electric  
Ch. Jay-Mac's Ramblin Rose

Bred or Owned by You:  
Ch. Sanbrook China Silk  
Ch. Chateau Acres Officer Briget  
Ch. March-On Midnight Masquerade  
Ch. Sunbrook Buckskin Gal

TALBOT  
TUCKER

Ch. Carlee Nubby Silk  
Ch. Delcrest Gold Nugget

Ch. Shajawn Semi Tough  
Ch. Sunsprite Night Games

**2F. The Rear:**

DUTTON  
KNAPP  
STAMM  
STEVENS  
TALBOT  
TUCKER

Not Bred Nor Owned By You:  
Ch. Shajawn Semi Tough  
(To many to name one.)  
Ch. Lantana's What a Pleasure  
Ch. Fillpins Red Raider  
Ch. Sanbrook Silk Electric  
Ch. Sanbrook Power Surge

Bred or Owned by You:  
Ch. Sanbrook Silk Electric  
Ch. Chateau Acres Black Satin  
Ch. March-On Dancing Mood  
Ch. Sunbrook Buckskin Gal  
Ch. Shajawn Semi Tough  
Ch. Sunsprite Silk Blend

**2G. The Head:**

DUTTON  
KNAPP  
STAMM  
STEVENS  
TALBOT  
TUCKER

Not Bred Nor Owned By You:  
Ch. Pevensey's Cash Dividend  
Ch. K-Roc's Kopper Kidd  
Ch. Pevensey's Truly Awesome  
Ch. Jay-Mac's Impossible Dream  
Ch. Jay-Mac's Top Hand  
Ch. Fillpins Felicity

Bred or Owned by You:  
Ch. Shajawn American Dream  
Ch. Sunsprite Eli V Chateau Acres  
March-On Motivation  
Ch. Redwings on the Cutting Edge  
Ch. Shajawn Free Hand  
Ch. Sunsprite Sparkle Plenty

**2H. The Body:**

DUTTON  
KNAPP  
STAMM;  
STEVENS  
TALBOT  
TUCKER

Not Bred Nor Owned By You:  
Ch. Shajawn Free For All  
Ch. Carlee Nubby Silk  
Ch. Sunbrook Buckskin Gal  
Ch. Jay-Mac's Pat Hand  
Ch. Carlee Nubby Silk  
Ch. Delcrest Gold Nugget

Bred or Owned by You:  
Ch. Sanbrook Silk Electric  
Ch. Chateau Acres Gamblin Man  
>Ch. March-On Velmatt Melody  
Ch. Sunbrook Buckskin Gal  
Ch. Shajawn American Dream  
Ch. Sunsprite Night Games

**2I. Show Attitude & Temperament:**

DUTTON  
KNAPP  
STAMM  
STEVENS  
TALBOT  
TUCKER

Not Bred Nor Owned By You:  
Ch. Shajawn Free For All  
Ch. Shajawn Semi Tough  
Ch. Carlee Nubby Silk  
Ch. Jay-Mac's Impossible Dream  
Ch. Jay-Mac's Impossible Dream  
Ch. Pinehollow's Peter Pan

Bred or Owned by You:  
Ch. Sanbrook Power Surge  
Ch. Chateau Acres Gamblin Man  
Ch. March-On Classic Move  
Ch. Sunbrook Buckskin Gal  
Ch. Shajawn Free Hand  
Ch. Carlee Nubby Silk

**Question 3: Breeders have different "must-have attributes" that a Min Pin must possess to be considered a good specimen. Briefly list some of your "must-have" attributes.**

**DUTTON** - Must have flawless topline; well angulated front and rear and ground covering; reach of neck; dark eye and pigment; chiseled head and pleasing expression.

**KNAPP** - Must have profile - i.e., topline level, high tail set, deep chest, arched neck, lovely head and hackney gait.

**STAMM** - Must have turned on, stallion type show attitude along with the carriage; balance between front and rear; minimal bounce in shoulders when moving; free movement rather than mincing, chopped movement. Reasonably sound coming and going, level topline, length of neck to be in balance. Overall pretty, with pretty head and feet.

**STEVENS** - Attitude - "Ask for it." Typey in looks and character, self presence, outline smooth and balanced. Presence in gait as well as stance. A take charge attitude in movement and presence of a stallion. The stamina of a driving rear, balanced with a reaching high stepping front and gentle "break" at the pastern which has labeled the Breed in its unique gait.

**TALBOT** - Overall attitude has to be most important, head and size of next importance. In my opinion, there are very few "show dogs" under 11" in size and a dog must be "show" in its head and heart to compete. I also have to have a "pretty face" to be a "keeper", if I do not like the head and expression, it cannot stay with me.

**TUCKER** - A head with dark, correctly shaped eye, underjaw. High ear set. A hackney gait, rear angulation enough to drive. High tailset. Correct neckset and good length of neck.

**Question 4: Breeders have different tolerance levels for "faults". Briefly list some of the "faults" you just cannot accept.**

**DUTTON** - Cannot accept any flaw in topline; bad shoulder angulation; long, weak pasterns, long, thin stifles; coarse, cloddy appearance.

**KNAPP** - Cannot accept light eyes and pigment, low tailset and stilted movement.

**STAMM** - I've been told that Min Pins do not run on their heads but I have to look at them and they're the first thing I see. I must have a pretty, pleasing head and expression with a pretty eye. I cannot tolerate light pigment and eye color. I can't accept any shy, unfriendly attitudes (they must be show dogs). Falling off at the croup area is a fault I can't accept, along with, out at the elbow, weak pasterns and flat feet. I want a Min Pin that has balance, not long.

**STEVENS** - Any deviation from the "must-have attributes". Timidity or reticence in the presence of a Min Pin is not characteristic, lack of conditioning, any profound fault that detracts from the total dog as to interrupt his smoothness and or balance and total dog as to interrupt his smoothness and or balance and structural soundness; i.e., topline, poor front or rear, head not typical of our Breed.

**TALBOT** - I cannot accept over and under size, and in most cases, find undersized and too refined, more offensive than a big sound dog. Any amount of white is not acceptable, shyness and spooky is also out.

**TUCKER** - Cannot accept round light eyes, lack of underjaw, rounded top skull, too short backed to move properly, lack of hackney, straight rears, high in rear.

**Question 5: Name one of the breeders who, in your opinion, has made a great contribution to the Min Pin Breed; and provide a brief explanation.**

**DUTTON**- *John McNamara* - for his dedication to elegance and refinement which was introduced by *Maisie Booher* of Bel-Roc Kennels. This type changed the characteristics of the breed in America.

**KNAPP** - *John McNamara* - "Jay-Mac". Mac introduced the pretty, elegant, classy looking Min Pin and

gave us a new look that was very competitive in the group ring.

**STAMM** - *John McNamara* worked at getting elegance into what had been a breed made up of many thick looking, short legged Min Pins. I think many of the good breeders today are breeding for a happy medium between the ultra refined elegant and compact, sturdy Min Pin with adequate neck for balance.

**STEVENS** - *John McNamara* redefined the Min Pin to its typey presence of a stallion in a male and elegance and smoothness of most of his top bitches, was extremely important in the making of today's Min Pin.

**TALBOT** - *John McNamara* changed the look of the Min Pin. His line added size, for the most part, deep red color and wonderful, outgoing temperament. He also made the head less round, the muzzle more extended.

**TUCKER** - *Carol Garrison* it would be. She produced a "type" of Min Pin, and this type can be seen generations down the line.

**Question 6: At the 1993 National Specialty, what was your overall impression of the quality of dogs? Improvements made? Improvements needed? (Do not mention individual dogs).**

**DUTTON** - The overall quality at the 1993 Specialty was VERY GOOD. Fronts (and feet) seem to be the most faulty, along with some poor toplines.

**KNAPP** - Overall quality was excellent. We need better feet and fronts. Head and profile movement has improved greatly. Overall, I would say the quality was very pretty, flashy and showy and lacking somewhat in soundness. Let's keep all the good we saw and improve fronts!

**STAMM** - I saw more beautiful Min Pins at the '93 Specialty than ever before; much better, overall balance; so many more pretty Min Pins that could move, with lovely show attitudes. I also saw many pretty Min Pins with mincing movement; many that looked great in profile and were stepping on themselves coming and going. Toplines and rears overall are greatly improved in the last few years as are heads and necks. One fault that really concerns me is the terrible weak pasterns and bird-like feet that are becoming the norm. I saw many large Min Pins that were long and overdone.

**STEVENS** - It was probably the finest collection of Min Pins I've seen as yet. Overall quality and the numbers that included qualities were more than "just a handful". Improvements Made: Conditioning and presence. Improvements Needed: Depth of brisket with the clean and smooth appearance of most present. In another view, as from the top, a more sprung rib coupled with shortness of back or loin. As viewed from the side, depth of brisket with a more "tucked" underline - less of a tube appearance. Slightly more bend of stifle in rear for drive.

**TALBOT** - I was very impressed with the overall quality at the Nationals. There were some beautiful, outgoing animals, with very similar characteristics coming from at least 4 different bloodlines. Some of these bloodlines carried the same breeding, but one did not, and was still very competitive. Overall, I feel the breed is going in the right direction. However, much education is needed. Unfortunately, those that need the most education would not bother to try and improve their lines. They are the folks that claim the show is "fixed" without realizing that they need to improve to compete. Definite improvement of "feet" is needed; saw quite a few dogs with large, flat feet.

**TUCKER** - The quality was excellent! There were almost no "pet types" shown. Hackney gait (side) was improved. Temperaments good on the whole. A lot of nice black/tans! Coming and gong lacked a lot - loose shoulders, weak rears. A lot of pale, washed out reds, light eyes. Too much refinement (no substance).

**Armando's Note:** Hope you enjoyed this "Min Pin talk". Many thanks to Ann, Gloria, Barbara, Linda S., Linda T., and Marcia for responding in such short notice and for adhering to brevity due to space limitations.

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