

"A View From the Back Porch"

By: Sherrie Krogh (as published in the Pinscher Patter, June 1998)

Dave and I have been very closely associated with the Miniature Pinscher .for the last thirty-three (33) years. We have been breeder-owners-handlers, judges and MPCA administrators. During the last five years it was my privilege to serve as MPCA President. Now it is time.for me to share my thoughts and opinions about the sport of purebred dogs and our breed in particular.

I was sitting at ring side when a recently retired businessman told his wife that, "her best friend was her competitor". Meaning, that even though his wife did not win the day, her product and her ability were so far superior to the competition, that anyone could see she and her produce were the obvious choice. Flying home on the plane I was mulling over the events of our National Specialty, and I believe that one comment impressed me the most. There were many happenings that I shall never forget, but this man started me thinking about our breed, which always leads to these questions, "Where are we ... are we in good shape, or, do we need to play 'heads up'"

I would hope that each exhibitor would examine his/her exhibit, whether it won or not. Is the dog a really good example of the Miniature Pinscher? Is it sound, does it carry only healthy genes? Or, if it is not a good example of the breed, what can I do as a breeder to change that? If it is not healthy and sound, what can I do to change that?

We must be honest with ourselves, before we can be honest with our competitors. Any breed is in BIG TROUBLE when "winning becomes everything". Breeding dogs is a lifetime and beyond affair. Unless we hold ourselves accountable, we are doing the breed a disservice. If we know that our produce are healthy and genetically sound, and we are breeding for better conformation, we are probably on the right track. But, if we take no responsibility, and our dogs are passing along genetic problems, we are committing a criminal act.

There is no faster way to annihilate a breed than to take no responsibility for what we breed. The American Kennel Club and the Miniature Pinscher Club of America can only assist us in our quest for perfection, we as breeders have to hold ourselves responsible for the end product.

This quote from Vince Lombardi, "Winning isn't everything - it's the ONLY thing" might work in football, but heaven help us if we dog breeders believe it. Our competitors are our "best friends" when they hold themselves responsible for preserving and protecting our breed. Now, let's be their best friend, too.

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