

Breeder/Judge Forum: Min-Pins Today

Conducted and submitted by Armando Angelbello (as published in the Pinscher Patter, Sept. 1993)

Participants:

- Dr. Buris Boshell (Bo-Mar)
- Mrs. Sharon Krogh (K-Roc)
- Mr. Ralph Lemcke (Tri-Lem)
- Mrs. Ellen Michel (March-On)
- Mr. Herbert Rosen (Bet-R)

Background Information:

BOSHELL - Active as breeder/exhibitor since 1956 to present. Foundation lines: Bel-Roc & Alema. Judging Min Pins since approximately 1965. Currently licensed to judge All Working, All Herding, All Toys, Half Non-Sporting, Standard Manchester & BIS.

KROGH - Most active as breeder/exhibitor from 1968 to 1988. Foundation lines: Halrok, Bel-Roc & Rebel-Roc. Judging Min Pins since 1973. Currently licensed to judge All Toys, All Non-Sporting, 12 Hound breeds & BIS.

LEMCKE - Most active as breeder/exhibitor from 1961 to 1978. Foundation line: Jay-Mac. Judging Min-Pins since 1977. Currently licensed to judge All Toys, 12 Hound Breeds and BIS.

MICHEL - Most active as Min-Pin breeder/exhibitor from 1979 to present (from 1960 to 1980 in Poodles-Toy & Miniature). Foundation lines: K-Roc & Sanbrook. Judging Min Pins since 1984. Currently licensed to judge Poodles- all varieties and Min-Pins.

ROSEN - Most active as breeder/exhibitor from 1971 to present. Foundation lines: Sunsprite & Sanbrook. Judging Min-Pins since 1989. Currently licensed to judge Lhasa Apso, Tibetan Spaniel, Min-Pin, Dalmation, Boston Terrier, Tibetan Terrier (Chinese Shar Pei pending).

Question 1: During your active years as a breeder/exhibitor, name one min pin (not bred nor owned by you) that comes to mind as an outstanding specimen of the breed and briefly state why. (DO NOT MENTION ANY DOG CURRENTLY BEING SHOWN).

BOSHELL - *Ch. Rebel Roc's Casanove V Kurt*. Not exactly right by the standard; i.e. no hackney, straight front & rear, but a super showman.

KROGH - *Ch. Happywalk's Miss Copy Cat*. She was a lovely b/r, nice size, sound, looked like a red in b/r skin. I would have changed one thing about her, she needed more distinct rust markings.

LEMCKE - *Ch. Jay-Mac's Impossible Dream*. Her elegant type, attitude, showmanship and movement.

MICHEL - *Ch. Jay-Mac's Impossible Dream*. She was the ULTIMATE SHOWDOG and yet she had elegance and balance with true hackney-like action. I was "specialing" a toy poodle at the time she was being campaigned by Joe Waterman. The greatest compliment I ever received on my toy poodle was the time Mr. Waterman, watching my dog, moved from in front of me to the end of the line with "Impy".

ROSEN - *Ch. Jay-Mac's Impossible Dream*. When I saw her last appearance at the Garden, I remembered her elegance and showmanship and thinking "That is the type of Min-Pin I must have in my kennel".

Question 2: Name on Min Pin who you consider among the finest you bred or owned and briefly state why. (DO NOT MENTION ANY DOG CURRENTLY BEING SHOWN).

BOSHELL - Ch. *Bo-Mar's Drummer Boy*. He was probably the best Black/Rust of all times. A super conformation dog. Could have been chiselled under eyes a bit more. Ch. *Redwings On The Cutting Edge* was probably a better dog.

KROGH - Ch. *K-Roc's Kopper Kidd*. He was called "the big red dog". But, he had an exquisite head, a sound body and could move. He was a love and an easy keeper.

LEMCKE - Ch. *Jay-Mac's Summer Song*. Her overall conformation - head, neck, topline, front, movement. With limited showing, she was a multi breed and group winner.

MICHEL - Ch. *March-On Face The Music*. Smooth profile movement with reach and drive--she floats! Her long, well-arched neck and smooth movement is being passed on to her get, in addition to her "isn't this fun" attitude.

ROSEN - Ch. *Sunsprite Bet'R Hi Roller*. Possesses excellent structural soundness and balance with the very best temperament.

Question 3: Think of the changes in the breed throughout your years of involvement and please provide your thoughts on the following:

3A: Do you see changes in the Breed and are they for the better or worse?

BOSHELL - For the better.

KROGH - Yes, I see both good and bad changes. I see more size consistency. Better toplines and tailsets. But, I see yellow eyes and very poor pigment. Not a good trade.

LEMCKE - Definitely for the better since I first became involved in the breed in the mid 50's.

MICHEL - Certainly for the better!

ROSEN - For the better!

3B: Improvements Made:

BOSHELL - I see more Min-Pins with a hackney gait. I see more Group and Best in Show quality dogs.

KROGH - Toplines and tailsets, size consistency, attitude and showmanship.

LEMCKE - Disposition, head, neck, topline, elegance.

MICHEL - Better balance: longer necks, flatter toplines, much better croups, and tailsets. Also, freer movement, more reach and drive.

ROSEN - Refinement: in overall well proportioned appearance without sacrificing type and balance. Showmanship: outgoing "look at me" attitude.

3C: Improvements Needed:

BOSHELL - Better toplines, better eyes, deeper red colors, more hackney.

KROGH - Better pigment and darker eyes, better quality in b/r and c/r.

LEMCKE - Pasterns, feet, pigment, fronts and rears. Too many dogs lack the hackney-like action.

MICHEL - We seem to be neglecting fronts and feet. Lately, I have seen a great many straight shoulders,

weak pasterns and flat feet. The coated breeds can get away with this but Min-Pins with the short coat cannot hide a front "hanging from the eye teeth", as was described to me by a well-known judge.

ROSEN - From what has been shown to me, I would like to see more angulation of stifle joint and hocks, more drive from the hindquarters when moving and less sickle-hocked appearance when standing.

3D: Which would you take home, today's or yesterday's Min Pin?

BOSHELL - Today's.

KROGH - One of each. Maybe I would have a whole dog. We need to keep yesterday's strengths and combine with today's strengths. When you trade off, it just doesn't work.

LEMCKE - Today's, compared to the late 50's early 60's.

MICHEL - I very much like the free movement a great many of today's Min-Pins possess, along with the elegance in carriage and length of neck. I definitely would pick today's Min-Pin over yesterday's.

ROSEN - Today's.

Question 4: A faction of our sport feels that judges should not exhibit as it creates "conflict". Your brief comments on this issue.

BOSHELL - This is hokum. Breeding and showing makes a judge a better judge.

KROGH - I stopped exhibiting when I became uncomfortable in the ring. Most people know when they need to move on.

LEMCKE - I have mixed emotions about judges who extensively campaign dogs. I personally have not exhibited since I started judging.

MICHEL - I can't see any harm in a judge exhibiting as long as he doesn't judge in the same area.

ROSEN - If a judge enjoys the going and showing and is still breeding good dogs, then I think that judge should exhibit them. The judge should be prudent in when they exhibit, however.

Question 5: Is there anything you would like to see changed in the Breed Standard? If yes, describe.

BOSHELL - Yes. In the B/R, if black goes down the leg below the pasterns, I think that it should be a disqualification.

KROGH - No, please let's not change the Standard to fit the dogs we see in the ring. Let's try to breed to the Standard.

LEMCKE - I think we have a good standard. However, we might consider shortening the height span - 2 1/2" is a large variance for our breed. Most 10" dogs do not have the overall quality of a 11" - 12 1/2" dog.

MICHEL - No.

ROSEN - No.

Question 6: When judging, how do you approach or handle the presence of possible disqualification for "height" or "white".

BOSHELL - If a dog is clearly oversized, I measure it. If a white spot is over 1/2" or if thumb prints, it is subject to disqualification.

KROGH - I measure and if necessary I disqualify, both in white and height. If I don't, then who will?

LEMCKE - I use my hand span to estimate a dog's height. If I feel the height is questionable, I call for the wicket. As for the white, this is a visible appearance and judgement call as to the dimension.

MICHEL - It is very difficult to have to disqualify an otherwise lovely dog for height. But white is another thing, it will reproduce. I am looking at the dog from a breeder's standpoint perhaps.

ROSEN - Unless it were obvious and only a question as to height, I would only measure if I wanted to use the dog. Too much white would be disqualified.

Question 7: Some complain "The judges only see red!", in reference to the "reds" doing most of the winning. What are your thoughts on the quality of reds vs. black/rust and chocolate/rust being shown today?

BOSHELL - Black/Rust are improving. Chocolates are generally a disaster.

KROGH - The Reds have the highest percentage, so I suppose they do win more often. The Black/Rust and Chocolate/Rust have the disadvantage of the color break on their cheeks. They appear to have less attractive heads. Also, the Chocolate has the self colored eye rims, which distracts the viewer. I DO NOT have a color preference. I just want a sound typey dog.

LEMCKE - The overall quality of reds has historically been better than Black/Rust and Chocolate/Rust. As a judge, color does not enter into my placements (except for quality of color), as I recently awarded a Black/Rust dog the breed from the classes, with a large entry.

MICHEL - Over the years, the reds have excelled in quality more than the b/r and c/r. However, it is evident that lately we are finally getting quality in the b/r and c/r. The improvement in topline and croup in the blacks and chocolates has been most noticeable to me during the last two to three years. I think most judges have felt this same way but will change as the improvement in the blacks and chocolates continues.

ROSEN - There are more reds being shown and therefore, winning, but I have put up a better black/rust as well as chocolate/rust when I find them.

Question 8: Advice for exhibitors on do's and don'ts of Min Pin handling in your ring.

BOSHELL - Table train enough only for exam of teeth and testicles. Do not stack the Min Pin on the floor and do not "string them up". Do not "eyeball" the judge.

KROGH - DO NOT get down on your knees and prop the dog up. This breed is a self stacker and should be baited off the dog next door, the judge or ringside. Whatever it takes! Handling a Min-Pin is like fishing, you play the dog at the end of the lead.

LEMCKE - Pay attention to your dog and follow the judge's requests. Do not feed your dog on the table while the judge is examining it. Do not stack your dog on the floor; stand and let the dog show itself.

MICHEL - Min-Pins are not easy to handle but I don't like to see them strung up on the lead. Let them have some freedom to show their personality but keep them with you - don't let them get ahead of you or you've lost them. On the other hand, I've seen some that have been so well lead-trained that they look bored and without spirit.

ROSEN - Please take more time to table train your dogs.

Question 9: Name up to three Min Pins (not bred nor owned by you) you have admired during your judging years (personally judged or observed during judging assignments) and briefly state why. Note: Do not mention dogs currently being shown.

BOSHELL - *Ch. Redwings On The Cutting Edge, Ch. Elan's Shiloh V Whitehouse and Ch. Jay-Mac's Impossible Dream.*

KROGH - *Ch. J-Ma's Reach Out For Me:* A red bitch that I only saw once. I understand that she finished, but was sold and never shown. She was under a year when I saw her at the National in New England. I wanted to steal her. I think she reminded me of Ch. Patzie Von Mill-Mass. Sound, sturdy, moved very well and very showy. *Ch. Happywalk's Miss Copy Cat:* This B/R bitch was truly a lovely animal. She was about 11 1/2", sound, showy and just plain Min-Pin. *Ch. Mahan's Tasmanian Devil:* This red male was about 12 3/8" tall, and all dog. He had the elegance of a bitch, but there was no doubt that he was a male. Sturdy, sound, a great mover and asked for it. In fact, as I remember, all of these dogs were great representatives of the "King of Toys".

LEMCKE - Over the years, I have judged and observed many nice Min-Pins, but could not single out just three.

MICHEL - *Ch. Jay-Mac's Impossible Dream:* I was only licensed for Poodles at the time she was being campaigned. As stated earlier, she was the ultimate showdog; elegant and balanced with true hackney-like action. *Ch. Pevensey's Cash Dividend:* Elegance, beautiful balance and free-movement. *Ch. Sanbrook Silk Electric:* Absolute soundness.

ROSEN - *Ch. Pevensey's Cash Dividend:* When I saw him I loved his beautiful gait and show attitude.

Question 10: Some judges place more emphasis on TYPE, others on SIDE-GAIT, and others on DOWN & BACK MOVEMENT. How do you balance the three and do you place more emphasis on one than the others?

BOSHELL - Side-Gait and Type first, Down and Back second.

KROGH - Soundness is first and most important. Type is a VERY close second. Down and Back goes to soundness; Side-Gait goes to type in the Min-Pin.

LEMCKE - Well naturally Type is very important. However, in judging, you must consider the overall quality of the dog and award it accordingly.

MICHEL - I think the Min-Pin is a profile breed. Topline, tailset, length of neck, body contour, in other words - BALANCE - to me, is Type. Certainly there must be hackney-like action (break at the wrists) also, and smooth, free-moving ground covering gait with reach and drive. I can forgive a little in Down & Back movement but Side-Gait and Type are one and the same to me.

ROSEN - Type is very important to me, however, in movement I must consider Down & Back and Side-Gait equally important.

Armando's Note: Thanks to the breeder-judge participants for sharing their thoughts and insights into the wonderful (and sometimes crazy) world of Min-Pins!