

Thoughts on Quality, Faults and Success

By: Armando Angelbello (as published in the Pinscher Patter, Sept 1998)

Ringside comments pointing out the unforgivable faults of any given exhibit are not uncommon; it makes for great conversation among "friends", especially if the exhibit is not from their breeding. It is, however, rather easy to find faults in any specimen, but not necessarily so simple to recognize quality in an otherwise imperfect dog, which is where the key to success lies..

The Standard provides the blueprint for the breed from which to build on, by outlining what is CORRECT on a Miniature Pinscher and DISQUALIFYING points. Additionally, the Illustrated Standard touches on what is NOT CORRECT (faults) on a Min Pin in the discussion sections. Given these tools, there is still room for interpretation variations, particularly in reference to the undefined degree of importance for NOT CORRECT-faults, and given the fact that the perfect Min Pin has not been bred yet.

Although most successful breeders (and judges) evaluate the overall dog to define quality and not the individual pieces, they are very aware of the faults, and have developed their individual standard of tolerance for faults that can be forgiven and those that are difficult to forgive. This is why sometimes Breeder X may render a disapproving opinion on a given specimen, whereas Breeder Y may feel otherwise, and still, both are working within the confines of excellence. Of course, this standard of fault tolerance would apply to their own stock as well as that of others.

Review the Standard and the Illustrated Standard Discussion documents. Which faults are less desirable than others? You won't find the answer there, otherwise it would imply measuring the quality of a Min Pin by the degree of faults instead of the standard of perfection. Regardless of fault tolerance nuances, most successful breeders have developed the knowledge, experience and the "eye" to capture the essence of the breed, recognizing quality, breeding it consistently and having it recognized as such, in spite of imperfections.