

# Spirit Min Pins

Spirit Min Pins is all about Miniature Pinschers



## MINIATURE PINSCHER

Official U.K.C. Breed Standard

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### History

Well known as the "Min-Pin," the Miniature Pinscher has been bred in Germany for hundreds of years. One theory is that it was developed by breeding the German Pinscher to Dachshunds and Italian Greyhounds to obtain a smaller-sized dog. It was one of the breeds included in the Pinscher-Schnauzer Club formed in Germany in the 1980's.

The Miniature Pinscher was recognized by the United Kennel Club in 1936.

### General Appearance

The Miniature Pinscher is structurally well balanced and sturdy. It is compact, short coupled. The breed is smooth coated and naturally well groomed. In character, it is proud, vigorous and alert.

Faults: Structurally lacking in balance. Too long, too short coupled.

### Characteristics

Characteristic of the breed is its hackney-like gaiting action. It shows fearless animation and complete self possession, accompanied by a spirited presence.

### Head and Skull

The narrow, tapering, well-balanced head is in proportion to the body. There is only a slight drop to the muzzle. The well-fitted, but not too prominent, foreface balances with the skull. The head shows no indication of coarseness. The skull appears flat, and tapers toward the muzzle. The muzzle, which is in proportion to the head as a whole, is strong, rather than fine and delicate, and is parallel to the top of the skull. The lips and cheeks are small, taut and closely adherent to each other.

TEETH -- A full complement of strong, white teeth meet in a scissors bite.

EYES -- The full, slightly oval eyes are clear, bright and dark, almost a true black. The eye rims are black, except in chocolate-colored dogs, which have self-colored eye rim pigment.

NOSE -- The nose is black, except in chocolate-colored dogs, which have self-colored noses.

EARS -- The ears may be cropped or uncropped. They are set high and stand erect from the base to the tip.

### Neck

The slightly arched, clean, muscular, gracefully curved neck blends into the shoulders. It is in proportion to the head and body.

### Forequarters

The clean, sloping shoulders have moderate angulation, coordinated to permit the hackney-like

action.

**FORELEGS** -- The forelegs have strong bone development and small, clean joints. When viewed from the front, they are straight and upstanding. The elbows are close to the body. The pasterns are strong and perpendicular. Dewclaws should be removed from the forelegs.

Fault: Weak pasterns.

### **Body**

The muscular, compact body is slightly wedge shaped. The ribs are well sprung. The forechest is well developed. The base line of the brisket is level with the point of the elbows. Whether gaiting or standing, the backline is level or slopes slightly. In males, the length of the backline is equal to the height measured at the withers. In females, it may be slightly longer. The croup is level with the backline.

The loin is short and strong. The belly is moderately tucked up.

### **Hindquarters**

**HIND LEGS** -- Viewed from the rear, the hind legs are straight and parallel. Viewed from the side, they present a well-angulated appearance. The thighs are well muscled. The stifles are well defined. The rear pasterns are short and set well apart. Dewclaws should be removed from the hind legs.

### **Feet**

The small, catlike feet have strong, well-arched, closely-knit toes. The pads are deep. The nails are thick and blunt.

### **Tail**

The tail is set on high and held erect. It is docked in proportion to the size of the dog.

### **Coat**

The short, smooth coat is hard, straight and lustrous. It closely adheres to, and uniformly covers, the body.

Faults: Thin, too long, dull coat.

### **Color**

Acceptable colors include:

Solid clear red;

Stag red, which is red with an intermingling of black hairs;

Black, with sharply defined rust-red markings on the cheeks, lips, lower jaw, throat, twin spots above the eyes and chest, on the lower half of the forelegs, inside of the hind legs and vent region, on the lower portion of the rear pasterns and on the feet. Black pencil stripes are found on the toes.

Chocolate, with rust-red markings found as specified for the Black dogs, except that brown pencil stripes are found on the toes.

Blue, with rest-red markings found as specified for the Black dogs.

In the solid red and stag red, a rich, vibrant medium-to-dark shade is preferred.

Disqualifications: Any color other than those listed; a thumb mark, which is a patch of black hair surrounded by rust, on the front of the forelegs between the foot and the wrist (On chocolate-colored dogs, the patch is chocolate.); white on any part of the dog which exceeds one-half inch in its longest dimension; albinism.

### **Height and Weight**

The acceptable height range is from 10 inches to 12½ inches. The desired height is 11 to 11½ inches. The height is measured at the withers.

Disqualifications: Height under 10 inches or over 12½ inches.

### **Gait**

The fore and hind legs move parallel, with the feet turning neither in nor out. The hackney-like action is a high stepping, reaching, free and easy gait in which the front leg moves straight forward and in front of the body, and the foot bends at the wrist. There is a smooth, strong drive from the rear. While gaiting, the head and tail are carried high.

### **Disqualifications**

Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid. Viciousness or extreme shyness. Any color other than those listed. A thumb mark, which is a patch of black hair surrounded by rust, on the front of the forelegs between the foot and the wrist (On chocolate-colored dogs, the patch is chocolate.). White on any part of the dog which exceeds one-half inch in its longest dimension. Albinism. Height under 10 inches or over 12½ inches.

