

Thank you to the North Central Illinois Pekingese Club for requesting me to judge your specialty Memorial Day weekend. It was an honor and quite the pleasure. I was greeted with a lovely gift bag full of all kinds of goodies and it is my understanding that all of the members contributed to it. That was really nice. Also, the exhibitors were awesome and obviously very devoted to the breed of Pekingese.

The quality overall was excellent. I think there were many nice representatives of the breed exhibited. I always worry that breeders of such a unique breed and structure don't fully understand how it should all fit together. I am pleased to say that I had only one exhibit that was badly out at the elbows. This is a step forward from what I have observed in the past.

The areas that I am going to suggest working on are: amount of bone, length of leg, length of back, and topline.

Some of the Pekingese need more bone. As your standard states: "It has a stocky, muscular body." and referring to forequarters, "They are short, thick and heavy-boned." It was not overly concerning in most of the dogs, just keep that little tidbit in the back of your mind when planning your next breeding. I also believe that if you have the proper amount of bone that will add to the proper structure of the head piece. Remember, your standard says, "massive" when referring to the topkull. It is impossible to have a massive topkull if you do not have enough bone.

There were a couple of the exhibits that had a little more leg than I believe is correct. The wording from your standard, "low to the ground" and "well-balanced, compact." I believe compact would also be important when considering the length of back. Keep the length of back in the rib cage and not in the loin. I might point out that your standard actually says, "The topline is straight and the loin is short." Remember, those judges that know how to touch a dog will feel a bad topline no matter how well you groom.

And with that thought, I will say that the coats and grooming overall were good. All of my exhibits were brushed and clean. There was one dog that I thought the coat obscured the shape of the body (words stolen from your standard). This can be a difficult point because your standard does state that you are not to sculpt or trim so that it will distract from its natural appearance. It is a fine line to walk.

Both of the bred-by-exhibitor classes were very nice, especially the bitches. I also really liked my open dog which ended up becoming my winners dog. I believe he will only improve with age. My best of breed dog was the kind of dog that I do not get to judge very often. He is as nearly perfect as I have ever seen and touched. What a pleasure. In this case, the select dog was also a very very nice dog. It was a joy to have many dogs in the best of breed ring with such amazing quality.

Thank you again for having me judge your specialty. Kudos to you because of the time, effort, and expertise that you continue to put into your breed year after year. It is a lot of work but you are seeing it come to fruition. Congratulations!

Terri Lyddon