

It is my pleasure to take a moment to thank The North Central Illinois Pekingese Club for the honor of Judging their Specialty on May 27, 2017. My very first Pekingese Specialty to enter was hosted by this Club. And over the many years since, it has been a highlight on my show calendar. Being asked to Judge brought things full circle. I am truly humbled and grateful for the experience.

Judging the lovely entry was truly a joy. And I fear my attempt to write a critique will fall short of doing the experience justice. But here goes.

The overall entry was mostly of compact, low, well balanced dogs. Happily most had straight toplines and I felt all the heads fit within the standard. Topskulls broad and flat. Many nicely shallow. Large, dark, wide set eyes. And well placed noses. Some excelled more than others in the desired envelope appearance. There were some with beautiful spring of rib giving the coveted pear shape. Would like to have seen more of them. Something that has been concerning of late is movement. Whether it be a current trend in the breed or my becoming more aware. I am noticing many dogs bouncing around the ring. But more worrisome are the jarring heads coming at you. With what appears to be a laborious attempt to bring front legs forward. And an exaggerated pitch to and fro. Clearly not the gait the Standard describes as , free, smooth, and effortless. With a SLIGHT roll over the shoulders. Getting back on a positive note. Breeders have done a good job improving soundness in the hindquarters.

Speaking of movement, I'll start with;

WD BW: Daiquiris Mr. Big. On the first go round of the Open Dog class his correct movement and ability to hold his outline, which was one of the best outlines of the day, made him a standout. Nothing about the exam changed my mind. A pleasing face, nicely framed by well set ears. Good rib spring. Level back. I was thrilled to award him. If he is not already, he will surely become accustomed to being in the ribbons.

RWD: Pekeden Persistence. Expertly conditioned and presented in the Bred by class. The nicely textured coat accentuated his correct shape beautifully. Good substance for his size. Another proper mover when his handler could talk him into it. His name suits him well!

WB: Muhlin Stormy Weather. This compact Bred by girl charmed me with

her glamour and lustrous gaze. Her shallow head and lovely expression were evident from across the ring. Not easy for a black.
Her topline, shape, and short loin didn't hurt her either.

RWB: H T Don't Cry For Me Argentina. Similar to my WB in many ways. Lovely large, dark eyes. Good substance for a young bitch. A very pretty package. Sure to do her share of winning.

BOS: CH Mack Island Oriental Pearl. Another pretty black. Compact and low with an endearing envelope face. Dignified and unimpressed by the hoopla around her. She obviously owned her space and deserved her placement.

SD: CH Diaquiris Distinctly Dior. A considerable lionlike dog with good body and bone. Heavier in the front. An exceptionally broad, flat top skull. Well filled under the eye. With a flat muzzle. All coming together nicely on a pleasing headpiece. A beautiful well groomed coat finishing off the picture quite nicely.

BOB: CH Diaquiris Cabaret. This dog checks so many of the boxes I won't begin to name them all. When I pick up a Pekingese, he is what I hope to feel. Soundly made. Compact and pear shaped. Good substance and bone. Moves according to the standard. And if the massive, flat skull, large eyes, broad short nose with open nostrils and fill weren't enough, the exquisitely strong wide lower jaw brings together an expression in keeping with the bold directness of this type Lion Dog.

Congratulations to the breeders, exhibitors, and North Central Illinois Pekingese Club on a superb Specialty. And again, Thank you all for this wonderful honor.

All the best,
Ted Lee