

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about a Miniature Pinscher ****But were afraid to ask***

1. WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

It is believed that the Miniature Pinscher evolved from the ancient German Pinscher family of dogs, which ultimately produced a number of the breeds recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC) today. In 1836 Dr. H. G. Reinchenbach, a German writer, stated the Miniature Pinscher is a cross of the Dachshund and the Italian Greyhound. This conclusion of Dr. Reinchenbach is now generally accepted by historians and those who have researched the background of the breed. In any event, Germany is undisputed as the home of origin, where the Miniature Pinscher was known as the "Reh Pinscher" due to its resemblance to a small red deer, the Reh, which freely roamed the German forests many years ago.

2. ARE THEY BRED DOWN DOBERMAN PINSCHERS?

Absolutely not. In fact, the Miniature Pinscher is the older of these two breeds, as it was not until 1890 that Louis Dobermann bred his first Doberman Pinscher. Mr. Dobermann stated he wished to breed "...a giant terrier that would look much like the five pound Reh Pinscher (our Miniature Pinscher) but that would be fifteen times heavier and larger."

3. IS THERE A MINIATURE PINSCHER CLUB?

Yes! The Miniature Pinscher Club of America was formed and recognized by AKC in 1929. Additionally, there are thirteen "local" Miniature Pinscher Clubs which are spread throughout the United States. The National Parent Club, "MPCA" holds an annual Specialty Show between March 1 and June 30 of each year, with a rotating location. This annual Specialty Show has become a 2 day event and includes Puppy Sweepstakes, Regular Conformation showing and Obedience Competition. As of 1998 the Entry in the MPCA National Specialty has grown to well over 300. Each member of MPCA receives the Official Publication called "The Pinscher Patter", which is mailed quarterly and is a wealth of information on the Breed.

4. WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

The Miniature Pinscher is a small, compact dog who is not under 10" and not over 12 1/2" at the shoulder blades. The 1990 Reformatted Official Breed Standard of the Miniature Pinscher Club of America allows for the Miniature Pinscher to be the following colors only: Red, Stag - Red, Black and Rust, and Chocolate and Rust. The dog should appear well balanced, sturdy and short - coupled, with a smooth, hard, short and lustrous coat. When the dog moves, it is distinguished by its "Hackney - Like" gait and lively animated attitude.

5. HOW DO THEY ACT?

A well - bred and properly socialized Miniature Pinscher is quite simply a "character". Spending only a few minutes with one makes it immediately apparent that these dogs really earn their title "King of Toys". You will find the Min Pin to be fearless, animated, intensely curious and always full of vim and vigor. Breeders have been quoted as saying "It's like living with a roomful of toddlers who never grow up" and "This is not a beginner's breed". Because of their high energy levels and inquisitiveness, the Min Pin bears close watching. They need to investigate everything and will go to great lengths to do so - which includes being "escape artists". You should find dynamite in a small package or something is wrong. Rarely does anyone own "just one" as they seem to grow on you and accumulate. Plan to spend many a night when you turn off the TV because your Min Pins are putting on a much better,

and funnier, show.

6. ARE THEY GOOD WITH KIDS?

Yes and No. If the Miniature Pinscher is raised around children who treat them in a gentle way and are taught responsible dog ownership, they will adore children. However, if children are allowed to grab at them, hit them or treat them roughly in any way, the Min Pin will run from a child. It is important to realize that even as a full grown adult, the Miniature Pinscher is a very small dog. The wrong type of play and handling can easily result in broken bones and worse. Even though the Min Pin is a bundle of energy and will bounce from sofa to chair to floor to bed . . . dropping one from that same sofa can easily result in unnecessary injury. Always let the Min Pin approach the child, not the other way around and you should have a wonderful companion. Patience, love and good old common sense make a great recipe for raising a Miniature Pinscher with children - or adults.

7. ARE THEY GOOD OBEDIENCE DOGS?

Yes! With a knowledgeable and persistent trainer, the Miniature Pinscher can excel in obedience. Depending on their mood on any particular day, they can also leave onlookers and even their owner in stitches with their antics. As typical of the Min Pin personality, the more a crowd laughs, the more they will dis-perform! However, they definitely have their serious moments in the obedience ring and many have earned the highest obedience ratings and titles possible.

8. HOW DO I TAKE CARE OF THEM?

Because the Miniature Pinscher has a short coat, the grooming element is minimal. It is necessary to give them a good, brisk brushing every few days to ensure a clean, shiny coat. Toenails need to be trimmed at least every 2 weeks to avoid having them grow too long and cause nail-trimming to become nail-cutting: a very unpleasant experience for dog and owner. Frequent bathing is discouraged as it tends to dry out the coat. It is better to take a warm, damp washcloth, using plain water, and wipe the dog down. Begin with the face, paying particular attention to the area under the eyes, and work back towards the tail. Done every few days, this will keep your dog clean and healthy. Make sure your dog is completely dry before a trip outside.

Because of the natural tendency of the Miniature Pinscher to investigate everything, it is absolutely essential that protective measures are taken in several areas. First, do not leave small objects laying on table tops where your Min Pin can get to them. This includes paper clips, coins, lipstick, pens, etc. Be scrupulously careful to never leave any medication out and be sure to retrieve any pill or capsule you may ever drop on the floor. Otherwise you may quickly find yourself in the emergency room of your veterinarian, with your Min Pin who found it first. Secondly, you must go over every inch of any yard or outdoor space your Min Pin will have access to. If you find any hole or opening big enough to put your hand through - your Min Pin will find a way to fit through also. Fix it immediately. Additionally, make sure that any doors or windows in your home which are opened onto an area other than your secured yard have an extra screen, beyond what you normally have. Nothing is sadder than losing a Min Pin because he or she slipped out under your legs while you were signing for a package. Every Breeder knows of this inherent danger and will gladly show you how to install special screens on doors and windows to prevent this from happening. It is strongly advised that you purchase several of the books which are recommended for additional tips on caring for your Miniature Pinscher.

9. WHAT DO THEY EAT?

While the exact quantity may have to be adjusted according to specific needs, a rule of thumb follows:

- Growing puppies need about one half to one ounce of dry, premium dog food per pound of body

weight every day. This is distributed throughout 3 to 4 meals, depending on the age of the puppy.

- Adult dogs need less: One fourth to one - half ounce of dry dog food per pound of body weight every day. Adult dogs can usually eat just one meal per day.

In addition to the dry dog food, a small amount of canned dog food can be added. If you are using quality dry and canned food, a good ratio is 2/3 dry and 1/3 canned. Nutritional supplements should not be necessary if your dog foods are of the premium variety.

At the time of actual possession, should you purchase a Miniature Pinscher, the Breeder will give you specific instructions on how to feed your particular dog. You should be sent home with at least one week's worth of the food your puppy has been eating so the dog suffers no transition in his/her diet. This gives you plenty of time to buy a normal supply of food along with the type of bowl your new puppy is accustomed to eating from.

At the same time, the Breeder will send home with you a record showing the immunizations your pup has received and will explain exactly what others are needed, if any.

Although it would be most unusual for these things not to be automatically supplied, it might happen. In such an event - ask for them. In regards to the shot record, never accept any puppy that is not accompanied by a record of all immunizations and the dates they were given.

10. WHAT ABOUT BREEDING THEM?

The Miniature Pinscher Club of America clearly states in the Constitution and By Laws in Article 1, Section 2, subsection (a) ". . . to encourage and promote quality in the breeding of pure - bred Miniature Pinschers and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection." Before you even consider breeding Miniature Pinschers you must give careful thought to the endless amount of responsibilities you are taking on. There is a responsibility imposed by AKC on every Breeder to keep full and accurate records of all litters and the dispensation of all animals owned by you. This is not to be taken lightly, as AKC now has Authorized Representatives who have the right to come to your door and ask to see your records, your dogs (each of which must be in possession of something which identifies that particular dog - such as a tattoo) and the facilities you provide for your dogs.

Following the objective set out by the MPCA Constitution and By&endash;Laws as stated above means the only valid reason for breeding is to improve the Breed. For this to be accomplished it is necessary to have a thorough knowledge of the Breed and the Approved Breed Standard, followed by careful research and study of the ancestry of the the bitch and the stud dog. Personal knowledge of both animals is preferable, as breeding any animal with poor temperament - regardless of the merit of all other characteristics - is absolutely discouraged. Never breed with the intention of earning money, as breeding quality Miniature Pinschers is strictly a labor of love, and an expensive one. Ask any reputable Min Pin Breeder and they will verify that. If you are devoted to the Miniature Pinscher as a Breed and desire to spend copious amounts of time and money so as to breed for quality only - then you might begin talking to other, established Miniature Pinscher Breeders for more detailed information. Breeding is something to be taken very seriously. Please avail yourself of several of the books for recommended reading before you even think of breeding.

11. WHERE DO I GET ONE?

Whether you desire a pet or a show prospect, you will obtain your Miniature Pinscher from the same place - a Professional Miniature Pinscher Breeder. Professional Breeders are striving to breed quality animals who will adhere as closely as possible to the Official Standard of the Breed. During this process, it is common to have a litter which has some puppies that for one reason or another are not show quality. These pups will be placed in homes seeking companion pets. It is strongly

recommended, but not required, that these puppies be spayed/neutered prior to placement in their new homes. The logic being that if an animal is not of sufficient quality to compete in the show ring, it is not of sufficient quality to enhance the breed.

Professional Breeders have spent years with the Miniature Pinschers and are a wealth of information. Rare indeed is the Breeder who is not eager to talk endlessly about his/her dogs. Also, a Professional Breeder will give you many more specific details about the care and maintenance of your dog than you could find in any reading material. Since the Professional Breeder is always interested in the welfare of his/her animals, you will be encouraged to keep in touch as more questions arise while your puppy grows into adulthood. The Miniature Pinscher Club of America has a Breeder Referral Service. The people listed with the Service are all members of MPCA and are located throughout the United States as well as several foreign countries. This service is free from MPCA. Please use it.

12. DO I WANT TO OWN ONE?

Although the information provided here is specific to the Miniature Pinscher, it is by no means conclusive. It is highly recommended that prior to the purchase of a Miniature Pinscher you do several things: Attend as many dog shows as possible and after the judging is over spend time talking with the Breeders and Exhibitors. As the purchase of a life long companion or potential show prospect is a major expense, spend the few dollars to buy some, if not all, of the books listed as recommended reading. Read and study the material and talk this over seriously with anyone else who will be involved with your dog.

A Miniature Pinscher who is well cared for and properly socialized is a delight to own and will live well into its teens. This is a very long term commitment which can be consummately rewarding if the decision is informed and well thought out. Armed with advance planning and education your decision will be the right one. Hopefully the information provided here will enable you to decide if the "King of Toys" is meant to "Rule" in your home - and act as the resident "Court Jester" more often than not.