



kingpin growl

vol. 1 no. 1

october 2000

imps spotlight alumnus of the month

by jennifer jones



Jackson (blue bandana), Jennifer, Missy and Cathy as team Coca-Cola at the 14th Annual Oakland SPCA Dog Walk. Jennifer fostered and later adopted Missy through her volunteer work with IMPS.

I think the story of Jackson really began when I took Alex, my Min Pin, to the 13th Annual Oakland SPCA Dog Walk in October 1999. At the dog walk, I met several other people with Min Pins, one of which was a rescue dog. I thought how wonderful it was that these people had taken him into their home.

When Alex was diagnosed with kidney disease a year earlier, it absolutely ripped my heart out. One thing that I had decided about his disease was that I was going to give him the best quality of life that I possibly could and spend little time with treatments that may only prolong his misery. Alex was MY dog and loved me pretty much exclusively. The more ill he got the more dependent on me he became. I carried him everywhere (even to the bathroom). On December 3, I had to have Alex put to sleep. He was too weak to even stand up. I love Min Pins and knew when I lost Alex I wanted another right away.

A friend of mine who had recently lost her Australian Shepherd had adopted another through Aussie Rescue. I decided to check rescue services and found IMPS. Because there were no dogs in California at the time, I scrolled down and saw Jackson's picture in South Carolina. I worried that Jackson had some behavioral problems but I decided to e-mail Emily to get some info. I needed to start somewhere. The only real fear I had was that IMPS might not allow such a long distance adoption.

The more I wrote to Emily, the more I knew Jackson would be perfect for our home. His bio stated that he needed other dogs, a six-foot fence, obedience training and lots of love and attention. He got all of those here. When he's not with me he is at my mom's for daycare with her Min Pin—Alex's sister Roxie—and my Boston Terrier Cathy. Emily loved the idea of daycare because Jackson had severe crate

anxiety. He fought so much in his crate that he even set off the motion detector alarm at Emily's house, which prompted more than one visit by the police!

Jackson flew out of Charlotte, NC on January 22, 2000. A snowstorm closed the Charlotte airport that day, and Jackson's plane was one of the last allowed out. Emily said that she kept telling him, "Jax, this plane ride will be the last time you are crated ever. I promise." When I brought Jackson home from the airport, I took his crate apart and stuck it in the garage. It still sits in the same place.

One day last month at daycare, Mom started crying while petting Jackson as he slept on her lap. She said, "I just kept thinking about him being locked in his cage all day and how sad that must have been for him. I just couldn't stand it."

I was thankful when Jackson finally adjusted to California time. Being woken up at 4:30 a.m. was getting tiring!

Jackson loves everybody and gets along well with all of the dogs. He is not possessive or jealous. He's a big boy at 16 pounds. His coat is absolutely gorgeous—softer than the finest velvet. He's smart and funny, playful and friendly. Everyone tells me how much he looks like Alex but I think they are as different as night and day. I love them both and do believe that Alex was our guardian angel. It does my heart good to see such a healthy, active dog.

I was nervous about taking him to obedience school. It turned out great though. He made friends and loved our special time together. It helped us form a stronger bond and was the turning point for our becoming dog and master. I am grateful to Emily for knowing just what Jackson needed in a home and having the faith to send him across the country to find it.

"leave it" is a lifesaver

by donna luzzo

Dogs should know things that fall on the floor or smell good aren't always theirs to eat. Teach "Leave It" and prevent your dog from eating dropped medication, cooked bones and other dangers. You'll also be able to leave a bowl of popcorn on the sofa while you get a drink refill!

- Step 1. Put your dog in a sit on your left side.
- Step 2. In a normal voice tell him "Leave It." Drop a treat on the floor in front of him.
- Step 3. When he moves to get the treat, cover it quickly with your foot and keep it covered.
- Step 4. Get the sit back. (Put the dog back; don't repeat the command.)
- Step 5. Uncover the treat. Repeat steps 3, 4 & 5 until the dog holds the sit. (It's OK to "worship" the treat as long as he sits still.)
- Step 6. Praise and reward him for holding the sit by giving a treat from your hand.
- Step 7. Pick up the treat from the floor.

NOTE: Never let him get the "Leave It" treat off the floor. If he does, take it out of his mouth. Practice several times a day (dog can be in a sit or a down). Up the value of the treats gradually (human food) until you can leave your dinner on the floor, walk away and still come back to a full plate. Use it consistently, and "Leave it" is eventually transferable to non-food objects including the cat, skunks, other dogs, children, etc.

did you know?

Since July 1998, IMPS has placed 725 MinPins into permanent, loving homes. Another 125 are currently in foster care.



Frabo enjoys his favorite rawhide chew in the warm sunlight. Frabo is the proud owner of Marcy Blank in Marengo, IL.

question:
Why shouldn't I breed my Min Pin?

answer:

This is a very commonly asked question. Lots of people have absolutely no idea what it takes to breed a really good quality dog of any breed. Many are also under the misconception that breeding is an easy way to make money.

Three very good reasons NOT to breed your pet Min Pin are:

1. There is a tremendous pet overpopulation problem in the United States. Millions of dogs are euthanized each year at animal shelters and dog pounds.
2. Only dogs that meet the breed standard as set by the American Kennel Club should be included in breeding programs.
3. Breeding is a complicated and expensive endeavor, which really requires in-depth knowledge of the breed, genetics, temperament testing, whelping, pre and postnatal care and much more.

Pet Overpopulation: Breeders of quality do not contribute to the pet overpopulation problem. If you choose to breed, you should be responsible for every pup whelped for its entire life. That means you must be willing to take a dog back into your home, regardless of its age or medical condition, if the owner you placed it with can no longer care for it. (Statistics show that only 2 out of 10 animals born find their way to good, responsible homes.) It also means ensuring that the pups you whelp are not allowed to breed and add further to pet overpopulation. (In six years, one female dog and her offspring can theoretically be the source of 67,000 dogs.) There is no sense in breeding if the pups produced will end up in shelters to be euthanized.

Most reputable breeders sell pet puppies on a spay/neuter contract to ensure they can't be bred. Ironically, you'll pay far less for a well-bred, pet quality puppy from a good breeder than you will for a poor quality specimen sold at a pet store. We are more concerned with the home our puppy is going to, and we also offer a lifetime of advice and help.

Breeding to the Standard: The purpose for breeding truly should be to maintain the breed standard for Miniature Pinschers. Min Pins should be between 10" and 12 1/2" at the shoulder. Any Min Pin smaller or larger shouldn't be considered for breeding. The breed standard also goes into great detail about head qualities, overall body qualities (including movement) and color.

If you look at the pedigree of a well-bred Min Pin, you will find quite a number of Champions in his/her ancestry—going back many generations. Quality breeders ensure and prove that their dogs and bitches are up to snuff by competing in dog shows in order to earn a Championship. Participating in shows takes time, expertise and monetary investment - so it isn't for the faint of heart. We participate in shows so the dogs/bitches can be examined by many different AKC judges who know the correct things to look for in a Min Pin. The competition is stiff, and only the very best examples of the breed earn their Championships.

Dog show participation is also a very, very good test of temperament. Temperament should be one of the most important things considered before breeding a dog or bitch. Looks alone mean nothing if the dog isn't friendly, outgoing and full of the appropriate Min Pin "attitude." Overly shy, easily frightened, aggressive, temperamental, unpredictable, snappy or otherwise badly tempered dogs should not be bred. However sad to say, there are people who will breed a beautiful bitch with a great pedigree regardless of temperament. As a responsible breeder, I will only breed from really good temperament.

Breeding Knowledge and Misnomers: If you want to breed to make money, look for a different hobby. Done properly, breeding actually costs more than it makes. In addition to the expenses involved in showing a dog to Championship, there are bills to consider for prenatal exams, puppy vaccinations, tail docking and dewclaw removal. Also, there is puppy food, and supplements for the bitch. And, should there be complications, there could be very expensive c-section surgery. A complicated birth could result in stillborn pups, and could also kill the bitch. You need to know what to look for when the bitch goes into labor, and once she begins to whelp. A mistake on your part can lead to the loss of your beloved pet. If the whelping goes off without a hitch, there's still the chance your girl won't produce enough milk to feed her litter. In that case, you'll have to pinch hit and bottle-feed pups every few hours, day and night, for several weeks.

What about genetic problems? Are you certain, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that your bitch, the stud and their ancestors are free from conditions including luxating patellas, hip dysplasia, heart murmurs, PDAs, skin problems, hearing or vision problems? If you aren't certain, you could produce pups that have genetic defects. Dogs purchased from pet stores or back yard breeders—even if they have AKC or other "papers"—should not be bred because you can never be certain of their lineage. AKC registration is simply

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left: Min Pin puppies at two hours old. above: Some of Brackley's finest.



Ch. Brackley She's A Lady with puppies, including "Peter" who just went to list member Tracey.



left: This is my special Ch. Brackley I'm Wild About Harry with his little pet grand-puppy "Lucy" owned by Vince and Nancy Giamusso. right: Picture of show quality puppy bitch at 7 mos old: Brackley Melting Moment "Mellie." She now has 5 points from only 3 shows!



left: A group placing picture of Ch. Brackley Wild Hilarity "JoJo" at 7 months old! She is an ideal little bitch to be used for a breeding program. right: This is a "Harry's" son "Romeo" who became a Champion by beating some of the top dogs in the country!



above: This is "Nathan" taking a Group II when he was only 9 months old. This picture is the best illustration I have of very correct movement showing the hackney gait along with the reach and drive.

above: Just for Fun! What to do with 101 Min Pins on a Rainy Day!

did you know?

IMPS receives nearly 90 Potential Home Applications each month.

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breeding, continued from page 2

that—a registration. It says nothing about the dog's quality, lineage or genetic makeup. Only the pedigree can speak for a dog's quality.

If you have a bitch with an impressive pedigree and sound temperament, participate in AKC conformation events. Once she has earned her Championship and reached an appropriate age for breeding, you can start to consider stud dogs. The male, who should also be a Champion, should have a compatible pedigree. You may want to find some specific traits to compliment those of your bitch. That's where genetic knowledge and a true understanding of the breed become important. You also need to know "who's who" in the Min Pin world in order to find the perfect match. Sometimes you and your bitch, or the stud dog, will need to travel considerable distances. You'll have to pay for all expenses in addition to a stud fee—so it is not a cheap proposition. What can make it all worthwhile, however, is that absolutely awesome puppy, and future champion, that comes out of the breeding.

A note here to say that most of the very good reputable breeders only breed their females about three times in their lifetime. That is quite unlike back yard breeders and puppy mills that breed their bitches every time they come in to season, until they die—tired and worn out from constant motherhood, poor food, unlivable conditions and little or no vet care.

Remember, we all love our pet Min Pins very much—but they should **not** be used for breeding. If everyone acknowledged this, we would never have puppy mills or BYBs. Instead, we would have beautiful, healthy happy Min Pins of good quality and excellent lineage. If you think your pet is terrific and want another just like her—keep in mind that no two are ever exactly alike! Protect and love her. Keep her healthy. Have her spayed. And enjoy a long, happy life with her.

If you purchased your pet from a reputable breeder, chances are you can go back to the breeder and find another pup with similar temperament. Or, you can choose to rescue a Min Pin who isn't as fortunate as yours. You'll not only get a fabulous pet, you'll save his or her life.

the rules

1. Dogs are never permitted in the house. The dog stays outside in a specially built wooden compartment named, for very good reason, the dog house.
2. Okay, the dog can enter the house but only for short visits or if his own house is under renovation.
3. Okay, the dog can stay in the house on a permanent basis provided his dog house can be sold in a lawn sale to a rookie dog owner.
4. Inside the house, the dog is not allowed to run free and is confined to a comfortable but secure metal cage.
5. Okay, the cage becomes part of a two-for-one deal in the lawn sale, and the dog can go wherever he pleases.
6. The dog is never allowed on the furniture.
7. Okay, the dog can get up on the old furniture but not the new furniture.
8. Okay, the dog can get up on the new furniture until it looks like the old furniture and then we'll sell the whole works and buy new furniture on which the dog will most definitely not be allowed.
9. The dog never sleeps on the bed. Period.
10. Okay, the dog can sleep at the foot of the bed only.
11. Okay, the dog can sleep alongside you, but he's not allowed under the covers.
12. Okay, the dog can sleep under the covers but not with his head on the pillow.
13. Okay, the dog can sleep alongside you, under the covers with his head on the pillow, but if he snores, he's got to leave the room.
14. Okay, the dog can sleep and snore and have nightmares in your bed, but he's not to come in and sleep on the couch in the TV room, where you're now sleeping. That's just not fair.
15. The dog never gets listed on the census questionnaire as "primary resident" even if it's true.

-Submitted by Marcy Blank

paw-lickin' good

Beefy-Cheesy Pupcakes

1 pkg. corn muffin mix (like Rag-A-Muffin, Jiffy Muffins, etc.)

¼ c. rolled oats (good old-fashioned oatmeal)

¼ c. flour

2 sm. jars beef (or other meat) baby food - 1 Gerbers/1 Beechnut

1 egg

1 baby food jar of water (if you use 2 jars of Gerbers food, reduce the water significantly - may not need at all. If you use 2 jars of Beechnut, you may have to double the water)

1 tbs. Vegetable oil

3 slices cheese

12 pieces of kibble, small dog treats or broken biscuits

Combine muffin mix, oats, flour, baby food, egg, water and oil and blend well. Spoon into 12 muffin cups. Bake at 400 degrees for 15-20 minutes. Fold cheese to make four square pieces out of each. Top oven fresh cakes with a piece of cheese and return to oven for a minute or so, until cheese is melted. Top each muffin with a piece of kibble/treat while cheese is still melted. Serve cool. Refrigerate leftovers.



Glory, Lightning Bug and Buddy enjoy a well-deserved nap on LB's last day at the McGinnis' home.

the last howl--find your niche

by emily mcginnis

Let me be the first to say that I'm not an expert on anything. I have never been, nor will ever be, a breeder. I will never be an obedience expert or dietician. I'm simply your average person who fell in love with Min Pins after adopting my Glory from a local shelter. I found IMPS when searching for information about Min Pins prior to adopting her. My husband Michael and I wanted to be sure that she would fit our lifestyle. And she does. Because of that, we adopted Buddy in January 1999 through IMPS. I signed up as a volunteer then and am now the South Carolina Regional Coordinator.

My area of coverage is probably one of the least busy for IMPS. That's the good news. It took me nine months as a volunteer before I took in my first foster, Tazzie (now Bettie Jane). And even now, nothing looms immediately on the horizon, as far as fosters are concerned. Of course, we all know that could change in a minute. For now, my home is quiet. But that doesn't mean I don't have something to contribute. I do have something called time and a little design and writing experience to offer. So, I found my niche and organized this newsletter.

Some of us, for whatever reason, cannot open up our home to fosters. Don't feel that you are not an important part of IMPS because of it. You have a niche; you just need to find it. IMPS offers countless ways that you can be a tremendous help.

You can offer to help transport, like Susie and the Mercy Mobile, or help out with local Adoption Days. You can volunteer to visit your local shelters, veterinarians and pet stores to distribute fliers about IMPS. You can search your local paper's classified section and check with local shelters for unwanted Min Pins. If you can crochet, you can make blankets for fosters. The list is virtually endless.

While I don't have room to list all of the ways that you can help IMPS, I want to assure you that there is somewhere you can help. Just contact your Regional Coordinator to see where she needs help. No job is too small. No volunteer is any less important than the next.

Volunteers have made IMPS what it is. It is a joint effort. While some of us may be more upfront about our participation, that doesn't mean the many of you behind the scenes (who often go without accolades) are any less important. You are just as important as the next person. You are the backbone of IMPS. Without you, we would all fail.

I encourage you to find your niche. And when you do, make it your personal crusade!