

Pekingese Club of America National Specialty Critique - Jason Hoke

I want to thank all of the Members of PCA for the honor of a lifetime to ask me to judge the Pekingese National.

Winners Dog/Best of Winners/Best of Breed:

Seldom is there a time when perfection walks into your ring. Today was the day I believe near perfection rolled into the ring and lived up to the artistry I was presented with. From the Bred By Exhibitor class this young puppy gave an immediate appearance of a low slung dog with a true envelope head. Soft and expressive large eyes set wide apart with a nose placed well between the eyes, well padded with an exquisite open nostril. His jaw was broad and strong, wide with a very typical oriental expression.

Typically in many cases is the face hides the flaw in the body, however this was not the case in this dog. He, upon exam carried the virtue of type all the way through his body. A dog with a short thick neck, his elbows tightly knit to the body, low to the ground and set well between his legs. For a young dog he had a correct broad chest with proper bowed legs. His topline was level and as flat as his top skull. His loin tapered to a lovely pear shape not seen as much as one would like in the breed. As you follow his shapely body you find a high tail set with a straight plumed tail carried well over the back.

On the move this dog showed his true nobility with his front coming at you broad while his rear tapered close and to finish the picture the ever elusive roll. Perfection in motion. The youngster I believe only eleven months old had the temperament and poise of a veteran. A true showman without exaggeration always composed with a slight air of arrogance combined with dignity which personifies the Pekingese. This dog I learned was only shown three days in the classes and won the Breed from the classes all three times, my award being the finale. This speaks to his true quality as there were many lovely exhibits shown.

Winners Bitch:

Another puppy of lovely quality. This bitch excelled in her type in the head with her expressive eye and well set on ears framing her head. When looking at the catalog she had quite a few litter mates in her class with her and she edged them out handily on type and structure. Her body was well made with again the tight elbows so needed in this breed and a solid level back.

She picked up heavy and held her body well. On the move she stayed low to the ground and walked with beauty and carriage. Clearly this bitch will have no problem finishing her championship.

Best of Opposite Sex:

A lovely substantial bitch born and bred in Mexico. She was what breeders love as she is the quintessential brood bitch. Lovely in type and construction. This bitch carried great body which always is desired in a bitch to produce quality puppies. One must never forget the value in a strong bitch. They

are what can carry a line and allow for type as well as structure to carry on in their get. For a bitch she was also well coated with the correct texture, with strong dense hard hair.

The winners on the day were magnificent. Along with them were my Select dog and bitch. Both lovely examples. My Select dog I had just awarded a Toy group first a few weeks prior. He is a lovely mature dog in perfect condition. He is another example of a dog who is made well both in type and soundness. I have always admired this dog and felt he was deserving of more wins than he had.

On an observational note I would like breeders to pay special attention to a few areas of concern. First being details in the head. More attention needs to be placed on the size of the nose as they are becoming too small and pinched. Also the breadth of underjaw is becoming pinched and too close together. Missing were the broad strong jaws a Pekingese must have. Finally the elbows of the Pekingese need dire attention. There should never be the ability to place your hands on the elbows and feel large amounts of space between body and elbow, let alone have them be so loose that they point outward from the body. They should always be very close and tight to the body; special attention is needed in this area.

Thank you once again for this lovely honor.
Jason Hoke