

**INTERNET MINIATURE PINSCHER SERVICE  
IMPS**

**[www.minpinrescue.org](http://www.minpinrescue.org)**

**Internet Miniature Pinscher Service attempts to assist Miniature Pinschers ( Min Pins ) in need by providing Foster Care, transport, adoptive homes, veterinary care and other services and information for the well-being of Min Pins. All Min Pins placed through IMPS will be spayed or neutered PRIOR TO PLACEMENT. Under no circumstances are you to attempt to adopt a Min Pin through IMPS for the purpose of breeding !**

**All Min Pins placed through IMPS have been thoroughly evaluated by an IMPS approved Breed Representative for temperament and training needs.**

**ADOPTION FEE**

**An Adoption Fee is charged for all dogs placed through IMPS. This fee varies with each adoption, depending upon the age, health and individual circumstances of the dog being placed. In addition, IMPS will request a reimbursement of any veterinary costs such as spay/neuter procedures, microchipping and other veterinary care prior to placement. In some instances, travel costs may be required. The adoptive home will pay for any costs in transporting the Min Pin to their area. In all cases, fees and payment will be agreed upon PRIOR to placement.**

**While the Adoption Fee may be negotiable for some dogs, please remember that the care and upkeep of a dog -- even the "King of Toys" requires some financial outlay. If a small placement fee, along with the cost of a yearly trip to the vet for shots and teeth cleaning is beyond your means, you may wish to reconsider adopting a Min Pin. Before making the final decision to bring home your newly adopted Min Pin, please keep in mind the day to day expenses such as feeding a Premium Food like Eukanuba, Nutro's Natural Choice or RCCI Size Small Breed and the supplies you will need such as a crate/bedding, leash/collar, dishes, toys and the like.**

## **What is Breed Rescue?**

**Hundreds of thousands of dogs, both pure-bred and mixed-breed are put down every day in shelters across North America. Breed Rescue Groups like IMPS were formed by individuals wishing to assist in the Re-Homing of the breeds they love.**

**IMPS, in particular, was formed by a group of Miniature Pinscher lovers who recognized a need to place cast-off Min Pins in appropriate homes. Breed Rescue Groups spay/neuter animals prior to placement. This is one way to avoid producing MORE Min Pins in need of rescue in the future. REMEMBER : The only valid reason for breeding is to improve the breed. Without investigating pedigrees, doing the appropriate health screening and having a clear understanding of the breed standard -- YOU CANNOT POSSIBLY CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING POSITIVE TO THE BREED!! After all, how can you improve on something you have no working knowledge of ?? You also have no hope of placing your puppies into appropriate homes without an in-depth knowledge of the breed and how to care for them.**

**The Min Pins adopted through IMPS are placed with a written contract ONLY after the dog's temperament has been evaluated and ONLY after the prospective home has been carefully screened and approved by IMPS. We work closely with adoptive homes before and after the adoption. We are actively searching for Miniature Pinschers in need of assistance on an ongoing basis -- rescuing and placing an average of 40 Min Pins each month. IMPS is always in need of donations -- crates, dishes, blankets, toys, in addition to cash donations for veterinary care and transportation costs.**

**IMPS.....dedicated to placing Min Pins in safe, loving homes where they can become the family members they were MEANT to be!!**

**Visit us on the Internet !  
[www.minpinrescue.org](http://www.minpinrescue.org)**

**Miniature Pinscher Booklet**

**Written/Compiled by  
Kelly-Sue Thompson, Pindemonium Min Pins  
Proud Volunteer for IMPS in Canada**

**Thank you for your interest in these fantastic little dogs!  
We would love to hear your feedback on this booklet  
and will try to answer any questions you may have.**

**You may use this information to educate others, but PLEASE !! Quote the  
sources accordingly, give credit to those who did the writing and research and  
DO NOT MAKE ANY CHANGES TO THIS INFORMATION WITHOUT CONTACTING  
ME FIRST.**

**In advance, I thank you for your co-operation. If we all work together, we all  
benefit!**

**Kelly-Sue Thompson  
korpany@telusplanet.net**

**Everything you ever wanted to know about  
Miniature Pinschers  
( .....but were afraid to ask )**

**\*\* Special thanks to the MPCA for this information \*\***

### **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 today by both the American and Canadian Kennel clubs. In 1836, a German writer -- Dr. H.G. Reinchenbach -- 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 research the background of the breed. In any event, Germany is undisputed as Miniature Pinscher's home of origin. The Miniature Pinscher was known as the "Reh Pinscher", due to it's strong resemblance to a small red deer, the Reh, which roamed the German forests many years ago.**

### **2. ARE THEY BRED DOWN DOBERMAN PINSCHERS / IS THAT A MINIATURE DOBERMAN?**

**Absolutely not. In fact, the Miniature Pinscher is the older of these two breeds. It was not until 1890 that Louis Dobermann bred his first Doberman Pinscher. Mr. Doberman stated he wished to breed "....a giant terrier that would look much like the 5 pound Reh Pinscher but that would be 15 times heavier and larger." ( the Reh Pinscher referring to today's Miniature Pinscher ) The Miniature Pinscher is the elder of the two breeds by over 50 years.**

### **3. IS THERE A MINIATURE PINSCHER CLUB?**

**YES!! The Miniature Pinscher Club of America ( who graciously provided a great deal of this information ) was formed and recognized by the AKC in 1929. Additionally, as of 1994 there are 13 "local" Min Pin Clubs which are spread throughout the USA. The National Parent Club, "MPCA" holds an annual Specialty Show between March 1 and June 30 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 1993, the Entry in the MPCA National Specialty has grown to well over 300 ( the Entry for the 1997 Show was a perfect example at around 300 Min Pins ).**

**Each member of the MPCA receives the Official Publication "The Pinscher Patter", which is mailed quarterly and is a wealth of information on the breed.**

#### **4. WHAT DO MIN PINS LOOK LIKE ?**

**The Miniature Pinscher is a small, compact dog -- not under 10 inches and not over 12.5 inches at the shoulder. The 1990 Reformatted Official Breed Standard of the MPCA allows for the Miniature Pinscher to be of the following colors only :**

**Clear Red / Stag Red / Black and Rust / 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 it's "Hackney-Like" gait and lively, animated attitude.**

#### **5. HOW DO THEY ACT ?**

**A well bred, properly socialized Miniature Pinscher is quite a character. Spending only a few minutes with a Min Pin makes it immediately apparent that these dogs really earn their title "King of Toys". ( personally, I think they held a secret meeting and bestowed the title upon themselves !! )**

**As a rule ( they seem to create more rules than most canines ) Min Pins are fearless, animated, intensely curious -- always full of, well, THEMSELVES! Many Min Pin parents have been quoted as saying "It's like living with a roomful of toddlers who never grow up"..."dynamite in a small package"..."this is not a beginner's breed". Because of their high energy levels and inquisitiveness, Min Pins are not to be left to their own devices. They need to investigate and will go to great lengths to do so.**

**Many Min Pins I know have earned the nick-name "Houdini". They can escape from almost anywhere, including an inexpensive crate!**

**Rarely does anyone own "just one". They seem to grown on you and accumulate. Plan to spend many a night with the TV off -- Min Pins put on a much better, more entertaining 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, they will adore children. If children are not taught responsible dog ownership...if they are allowed to grab, hit, scream at or treat them roughly in any way, a 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 -- possibly worse. Min Pins are little bundles of energy -- bouncing from sofa to chair to floor to bed. Dropping one from that same sofa, however can easily result in unnecessary injury.**

**Always let the Min Pin approach the child, NOT the other way around and you'll have a wonderful companion. Patience, love and common sense make a great recipe for raising a Min Pin with children...or adults.**

## **7. ARE THEY GOOD OBEDIENCE DOGS?**

**YES !! With a knowledgeable and persistent trainer, the Min Pin can excel in obedience, flyball, agility and scent hurdle racing. Depending on their mood on any particular day, they can also leave onlookers and their owners in stitches with their antics. As typical of the Min Pin personality, the more a crowd laughs and cheers, the more they will dis-perform!**

**They definitely have their serious moments in the obedience ring -- many earning the highest obedience scores and titles possible!**

## **8. HOW DO I TAKE CARE OF THEM?**

**Because the Min Pin has a short coat, the grooming element is minimal. It's necessary to give them a good, brisk brushing every few days to ensure a clean, shiny coat. Toenails need to be trimmed about every 2 weeks. This avoids having them grow too long, causing trimming to become cutting : a very unpleasant experience for both dog and owner. Frequent bathing is discouraged as it tends to dry out the coat. You can take a warm, damp washcloth and wipe the dog down. Begin with the face, paying particular attention to the area under the eyes and work backwards towards the tail. This keeps your Min Pin clean, healthy and cuts down on the "doggy smell". Your dog must be completely dry before a trip outside.**

**Because of the natural tendency of the Min Pin to investigate everything, it is absolutely essential that protective measures are taken in several areas. Do not leave small objects laying anywhere your Min Pin can get at them. This includes paper clips, pen caps, coins, lipstick, pencils, etc. Be scrupulously careful to never leave any medication out and immediately retrieve any pill or capsule you ever drop on the floor. ( this is where the command "leave it!" come in VERY handy -- it could save your Min Pin's life!! ) Go over every inch of your yard. If you find any hole or opening big enough to fit your hand through, your Min Pin will find a way to fit through. Fix it immediately.**

## **9. WHAT DO THEY EAT?**

**It's important that the food be as natural as possible while remaining low in fat. At the time you actually take home your newly adopted Min Pin from IMPS, the foster home should 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 supply of food, along with the type of bowl your new puppy is accustomed to eating from.**

**At the same time, the foster home will send a record with you showing the immunizations / procedures your Min Pin 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 may happen. In such an event, ask for them.**

#### **10. WHAT ABOUT BREEDING MINIATURE PINSCHERS?**

**The MPCA clearly states in the Constitution and By Laws -- 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"**

**Because you are adopting a Min Pin from IMPS, you will be required to adhere to a strict non-breeding agreement. If the Min Pin is not already spayed/neutered -- and this would be highly unlikely -- you will be required to do so within a set time period and provide proof of the procedure to the adoption representative.**

**DO NOT EVEN THINK ABOUT BREEDING YOUR RESCUE DOG!!! You will only be producing more Min Pin in need of eventual rescue.**

**For those of us who do breed, following the objective set out by the MPCA Constitution and By-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. This must be followed by careful research and study of the ancestry of the bitch and the stud dog. Personal knowledge of both animals is preferred, as BREEDING ANY ANIMAL WITH POOR TEMPERAMENT -- regardless of the number of ribbons and titles -- IS ABSOLUTELY DISCOURAGED!!**

#### **11. WHERE DO I GET A MIN PIN?**

**Because you are interested in adopting a Min Pin from IMPS, there is only one place to refer you to...IMPS. By acquiring this information, you are headed in the right direction.**

**Breeders who have spent years with Min Pins are a wealth of information. Most are more than happy to talk for hours on end about their "kids". You can gain much insight, as well as more specific details about the care and maintenance of your dog. Min Pin owners can provide a lot of information you won't find in ANY book.**

**Once you adopt your Min Pin from IMPS, you'll be encouraged to keep in touch -- which is beneficial to everyone.**

## **12. DO I WANT TO OWN ONE?**

**The adoption of a Min Pin from IMPS is an expense, not only financially but also emotionally. Spend a few dollars to buy some, if not all of the books listed as recommended reading at the end of this section. Above all else, talk this over seriously with anyone and everyone else involved with your new dog.**

**A Min Pin who is well cared for and properly socialized is a delight to own and will live well into their teens. This is a very long-term commitment which can be 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.**

**Miniature Pinschers ( Min Pins ) are good-natured, fun-loving dogs - alert, active and intelligent. They tend to be sassy at times and love to show off - often stealing the show at family gatherings and training classes.**

**Min Pins need a sense of home - as well as a firm grasp on who is boss. Establishing your role as "Packleader" must be based on trust, friendship and love - not physical abuse and force. Believe me, if your Min Pin thinks he can get away with standing on the kitchen table, he'll do just that. You must carefully set your boundaries and stick to them -- otherwise you may as well stamp "WELCOME" on your back, because he's gonna walk all over you! Many spoiled Min Pins have been returned to the breeder or surrendered to rescue organizations such as IMPS for one reason... itthey've become impossible to live with. They will only do what they think they can get away with. A properly socialized, disciplined Min Pin is a delight to own. You may find your friends wish to acquire one of their own!**

**Min Pins are territorial and need to have their own belongings. My experience has been that the more toys they have to hoard, the better they like it. Squeaky toys, dolls and teddy bears made for infants work well, as they have no small pieces to swallow. Throw it all in a small, inedible box in the corner and you're set!**

**Most Min Pins I've had the pleasure of meeting like to be warm at all times - my advice is this : unless you want to give up YOUR favorite blanket, get your puppy one of his own. Most fabric stores sell fun fur in pieces too small for larger craft projects, yet are the perfect size for a little dog's bed. Thermal fleece is their absolute favorite!! ( I was given a fleece blanket for Christmas and I am determined that it will NOT become a dog blanket!! ) I crochet blankies for my "Kids" -- and many of their friends. A 3x3 granny square takes no time at all to make, as well as being rather inexpensive. Besides, the "Kids" love them!**

**Min Pins tend to be very curious and need some supervision. I recommend using a baby gate to set some physical boundaries in your home. This way, he doesn't take any unwanted trips downstairs to chew holes in your laundry or get himself into potentially dangerous situations like taking a fall, choking on a pen cap or eating plant food.**

**Many people feel that it's cruel to "crate" a dog when you're not home. They think that he should be free to roam and oversee his domain. The fact is, your puppy will be asleep 98% of the time that you're away - why not keep him safe? The last thing you want to come home to is a Min Pin with a broken neck because he was roaming the house and fell off the kitchen table! Each of my dogs has their own crate with their own bedding. This is where they sleep at night and when I am away from the house. Sometimes they stay in the kitchen, which I enclose using my two baby gates. I put paper on the floor for potty time and a couple of dog beds to sleep on.**

**If you have more than one dog, it's important that you are careful not to interchange the crates. This only causes the dogs to become territorial and soil their bedding. ( an adhesive name plate works well and only costs a few dollars at any engraving store ) They will soon become secure in the fact that "this is MY bed and MY blanket" - thus reinforcing their own security and sense of home - eliminating the need to mark their territory.**

**There is a large misconception about small dogs and barking. Almost any dog can be taught that excessive barking is an undesirable trait and is NOT tolerated in your home. My advice is to consult an obedience trainer who can show you the most effective way for you and your dog to come to an understanding - simply, positive reinforcement is usually all that's needed to deter this annoying habit. Do not attempt to train your Min Pin without help**

**from an expert and never, under any circumstances use a shock collar on your Min Pin as a way to stop them from barking! This will only result in misunderstanding, mistrust and retaliation from your dog. If you are uncomfortable with the methods used in any class -- tell the trainer! If the trainer forces the issue -- pick up your Min Pin and get the heck out of there! There is absolutely no excuse for the use of physical force, slapping, punching, kicking, pinching, hitting, shaking or otherwise abusing your Min Pin. A firm tone is all that is needed and a reputable trainer will not tolerate negative behavior from those in the class, much less use it as a training method.**

**Min Pins require little grooming. One thing I strongly recommend is that when you DO bath your dog, place a hand towel in the bottom of the tub for him to stand on. This prevents him from slipping and hurting himself - especially if he tries to jump out. NEVER LEAVE A DOG IN THE TUB ALONE! No matter what size or breed, your dog could easily drown in a mere inch of water. I also recommend that you let him out for a quick potty BEFORE you put him in the tub. Then you're able to keep him inside while he dries off - this usually doesn't take more than 20 or 30 minutes.**

## **Sailorís Blanket**

**I did a great deal of research before deciding that this was the breed for me. Once I made the final decision, I was hooked! I sat down, much like an expectant mother, to crochet a blanket for the Min Pin I was waiting for.**

**Sailorís Blanket travelled with him to dog shows across the country and kept him warm in his retirement. It had to be mended more than once, but I couldnít bear to part with it. It was a symbol of how much I loved the breed. Every time I look at it, I am reminded that making Sailorís Blanket helped pass the time while I waited for him to become part of my life.**

**Sadly, Sailor crossed the Rainbow Bridge July 24, 2000 with his friend and my first rescue, Snowy. It is in his memory that I started a project for IMPS called ìSailorís Blanketî. It is my hope that, together with caring people across North America, we can provide IMPS with enough blankets for every Min Pin we are able to rescue in 2001 and beyond.**

**If you are able to donate a blanket ( or 2 or 3 ), please e-mail me for details. You will receive the name/address of the Volunteer Co-ordinator nearest you. If I am the closest IMPS contact, you can simply forward the blankets to me and I will send them with my next shipment to IMPS.**

## **Things you will need for your newly-adopted Min Pin :**

### **Crate**

**The very best crate on the market for Min Pin kids is the Deluxe VariKennel 200 (small ). It is the most durable with the bonus of an excellent door latch and no screws to fall out. Another alternative is a Medium Kennel Cab. Please speak to the foster home before purchasing a crate, as many of the Min Pins adopted through IMPS are oversized ( over 12 1/2 inches tall ) and will require a larger crate.**

### **Bedding**

**You will need something for your puppy to lay on and something to snuggle up in while he's in his crate. If you're handy with a sewing machine -- it's less expensive and more fun to make your own. Just measure the floor of the crate and make a "mattress" thick enough so he's comfortable. While I like to crochet blankies for the kids, I also use baby blankets purchased at thrift stores. I would recommend at least 2 sets of bedding in case of accidents and on laundry day.**

**If you'd rather not make it yourself, crate pads are available at dog shows and pet supply stores ( shop around for the best price ). The very best beds/blankets I have purchased are from Purrfect Designs by Terry McRae in Calgary ( 403 ) 236-9566 Terry makes Thermal Fleece blankets that my dogs can't get enough of. Her crate pads/beds are practically indestructable and wash like a dream! Receiving blankets are a good investment, too. Cool in the summer, warm in the winter.**

### **Flexi Lead**

**There are a lot of imitation extended leads on the market, but the ONLY one I recommend is the Flexi Brand. The cheaper versions are just that -- CHEAP. They have a tendency to jam or break and the locks are far from reliable. These malfunctions never occur when the lead is hanging by the door, but rather when your dog is trying to run after a squirrel !!**

**The Flexi 2-5 is the size I recommend for Min Pins. They come in a variety of colors and cost around 30 dollars. Once again, the extra money spent is worth the peace of mind -- you will know that the lead will not tangle,**

**jam or break with NORMAL everyday use. Again -- NEVER, EVER ALLOW YOUR MIN PIN TO BE OFF LEAD OUTSIDE YOUR FENCED YARD!!!**

## **Collar**

**I don't recommend the use of a buckle collar, as they are difficult to put on in a hurry and damage easily. The best type of collar ( and the only type I recommend ) is one made of Nylon at least 1/2 inch wide. Min Pins are strong and tend to pull -- the more narrow collars snap under pressure. The best fastener is one that you simply snap into place to put on and pinch the sides together to get off. It's quick, easy and strong.**

**Many people now make collars that work great for the Min Pins. Visit them at your local dog show -- just measure the dog's neck and tell them what size you'll need. They come in a wide variety of colors and styles to suit any Min Pin!**

**Another alternative, but harder to get.....**

**I discovered the Mes Amis collars at a dog show and they're the very best. They cost under 15 dollars and are guaranteed not to break hair or cause a irub line around the neck. They come in almost every color of the rainbow and in either the choke style or with the fastener I am so fond of. Size? Extra Small, 1/2 inch wide, adjusts from 8-14 inches around the neck. Mes Amis collars are made with love in Seattle, WA -- order from Redmeath Enterprises. Shirley Culpin / PO Box 2471 / Abbotsford, BC / V2T 4X3 Phone (604) 824-9813**

## **Dishes**

**Stainless steel dishes are the only kind I use. Plastic dishes can trap bacteria and germs -- they also dull the skin and coat color. You need a larger bowl for water -- this must be kept out at all times, get one that won't tip over easily. Stainless steel water buckets can be found at most dog shows and some pet supply stores and work best. Get a food bowl large enough to hold a cup of food, even though your puppy may only need half that amount. They seem to like a larger bowl than is needed.**

**Find a spot ( preferably in the kitchen ) for the water dish. Choose a corner where the puppy will have easy access without the fear of being tripped over or stepped on. You may even want to purchase a placemat to keep it on.**

**Food IS NOT kept out all day. Obesity will KILL your Min Pin. They are not picky eaters by nature, but can easily be taught this annoying habit by a parent unwilling to set some simple rules. Min Pins are also easy keepers and DO NOT need to have an endless supply of food. You need to monitor how much they are eating -- this way you can prevent future health problems and possibly spot a problem much earlier. A Min Pin that doesn't want to eat has**

**either already had his fill for the day, which you should know about and is probably more than enough. OR he is sick and should be examined by a vet.**

## **Baby Gate**

**This is a must when dealing with Min Pins. You have to have some sort of physical barrier in order to set boundaries in your home. You must also have some way to prevent your Min Pin from running out the front door. I have two "Elfe" brand baby gates, available at Zellers or Walmart for about 30 dollars. Scout the garage sales, you may be able to pick up a good quality gate for a lot less! The wooden expandable ones DO NOT WORK !! The holes are too big and the Pins will crawl through. Remember, if you can fit your hand through, your Min Pin won't have trouble getting through.**

**I couldn't have Min Pins in my house without my baby gates! Having two gates comes in handy when I want to enclose the kitchen and leave the house for a short time. The kids have access to water and paper -- less time in a crate makes for a happier Pin!**

**No one can tell you how many you need -- walk through your house and decide for yourself. I am willing to bet you'll make use of AT LEAST two!**

## **Grooming Supplies**

**A Min Pin's grooming needs are minimal, but not non-existent. You will need a pair of nail clippers and a small bottle of "Quick Stop". No matter how careful you are or how often you trim the nails, each dog usually has at least one that ALWAYS bleeds. The Quick Stop will do just that. Stop it quickly. There is a myth that a dog can bleed to death if you cut his nail too short. If you trim the nails faithfully, the bleeding will be minimal. Trimming nails should not be a big production number or a dreaded chore. A small toothbrush and canine toothpaste. You will have to take your Min Pin to have his teeth cleaned by the vet at least once a year.**

**These are the basic supplies. The cost is such that you shouldn't expect the foster home to provide all of them for you. Your Min Pin may come with a collar, some even arrive with a crate. Talk to the foster home before making any major purchases. IMPS is always in need of extra crates to transport dogs in need and cannot always afford to give you a crate with the dog.**

**History of the modern-day  
Miniature Schnauzer in relation  
to our Miniature Pinscher**

**( taken from an Internet site created by Chris Levy )**

**Wire-haired Pinschers, as the Standard Schnauzer was then called, were first exhibited at the Hannover show in 1879. The Pinscher-Schnauzer Klub continues to this day from its origin in 1895. In addition to Standard Schnauzers, the first volume of the Pinscher-Schnauzer Klub's stud book contained Smooth-Coat Pinschers, Miniature Pinschers, and Wire-haired Miniature Pinschers ( now known as Miniature Schnauzers ).**

**The oldest Miniature Schnauzer was a black bitch -- "Findel" -- whelped in October, 1888. Of the eight bitches registered in the first volume of the stud book, the colors were as follows : 3 black, 3 yellow, 1 black and rust, 1 salt and pepper. There evidently was much crossing between the types and it seems that the breed they were registered as depended more on their outward appearance than on their genetic makeup. For instance : One Miniature Pinscher is registered as having a Standard Schnauzer dam, while a Miniature Schnauzer had a Miniature Pinscher sire.**

**During the years, other crosses were invariable made, but there are no definite records as to the outcrosses. Affenpinschers, Miniature Pinschers and Toy Spitz ( Pomeranians ) are mentioned.**

**Black and Rust....Red....or Chocolate?  
Male or Female?**

**These are questions you are probably asking yourself. Or perhaps you knew exactly what you were looking for long before you received this booklet. I always tell those looking for a Min Pin puppy or those wishing to adopt one through IMPS -- especially if they have a particular color in mind -- to build your house before you paint it. You may be looking for a black and rust female, yet a red male that is presently available may be the perfect Min Pin for you. Do not restrict yourself to color or sex before you even start to look, you could be missing out on the friend of a lifetime!**

**All Min Pins adopted through IMPS are spayed/neutered and are NOT TO BE BRED OR USED IN ANY BREEDING PROGRAM FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER!!!! Once your Min Pin is fixed -- sex will not matter. All behaviors associated with sexual drive will be non-existent. I have also found many differences in personalities from Min Pin to Min Pin and none of those differences are related to their sex.**

**As a breeder, I carefully screen prospective homes and evaluate each puppy with aptitude testing, matching each family to a puppy that would best fit into their lifestyle. IMPS attempts to do as much pre-screening and evaluation as possible before a Min Pin is available for placement. We will not adopt a puppy to a home that would not fit in with that particular family or their activity level. If you are an active person who wants to take your Min Pin with you everywhere, a Min Pin that is happier sleeping on the couch is NOT the one for you. Here is another example.... If you are a home-body who just wants someone to cuddle and watch movies with, I would not recommend a high-energy Min Pin who enjoys a 2 hour walk every day. I live with both personality types and can tell you with conviction that sex is not the issue here, but temperament and individual personality.**

## **WALK YOUR MIN PIN !**

**You have a very fashionable collar with a flexi to match -- PUT IT ON YOUR MIN PIN and head out for adventure! It gets you out of the house, helps you bond and you'll be amazed at how many people stop to admire your beautiful puppy. NEVER, EVER -- UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES ALLOW YOUR MIN PIN TO ROAM OFF LEAD! I don't care how well-trained you THINK your Min Pin is. Eventually, your puppy will encounter a larger, aggressive animal or a moving vehicle. Trust in the fact that you do NOT want to have to call to inform me that -- after reading this information -- your Min Pin has died as a result of being off-leash!!**

**What about an off-leash park? ABSOLUTELY NOT!!! Min Pins are notorious for their strong will and independent nature. Any dog with these qualities cannot be trusted off leash. Many people use off leash parks and only a small percentage of their dogs are actually trained. NEVER VISIT AN OFF-LEASH PARK WITH YOUR**

**MIN PIN !! I cannot stress this point enough. Even if you intend to keep your dog on a leash, you may encounter trouble from another dog running loose.**

**When walking your puppy.....CLEAN UP AFTER HIM!!!! Remember the last time you encountered a pile of poop? Don't leave a mess for someone else to enjoy. There are enough laws out there against those with dogs. Let's make a good impression for a change.**

**Make sure that your Min Pins do not have access to any open doors or windows, other than the door to your fenced yard or dog run. Trust is not an issue if a neighboring cat or dog is running loose, your Min Pin will scoot out the door and down the street before you realize what's happened. Nothing is more heartbreaking than losing a Min Pin because they slipped through your feet while you were signing for a package. Many times a friend stops by for a visit and "didn't know your puppy wasn't allowed out the front door". Once again, I must stress SAFETY FIRST !**

**Allow me to stress the following point once again, for it cannot be said often enough.....NEVER -- UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES -- ALLOW A MIN PIN TO WALK OFF LEAD OUTSIDE THE SAFETY OF YOUR HOME AND FENCED YARD !!! Even the most highly trained Min Pin can be distracted and "forget" the most basic commands. Ask yourself this : If your Min Pin runs out onto the**

**street in front of a car, do you want the correction for this behavior to be DEATH?**

**Remove that choke chain from your dog's neck. NOW !**  
**by Alice Bixter -- Journalist, Judge and Bearded Collie Breeder**  
**from the January 1998 issue of Dogs in Canada Magazine**

**You'd think, by now, everyone would realize the possible dangers of using a choke chain for daily wear, but it's surprising how many well-meaning people still don't have the message. Why remove that choke chain??? Here are some reasons.....**

**Great Dane reclining comfortably on the deck behind his owner's home. The dangling end of his choke chain dropped down between the slats of the deck and the loose ring turned, locking him in place. The Dane almost succeeded in strangling himself before his frantic owner could free him. She had to crawl underneath the deck to do it.**

**Golden Retriever gets choke caught in pegs of dishwasher. The Golden jerked back, pulling the rack out of the dishwasher. The Golden, understandably shaken, survived the encounter. The dishes didn't.**

**Adult dog in car. Choke gets caught in emergency brake. Luckily the dog remained still and did not panic. The owner was able to rescue him. NEVER RIDE WITH YOUR MIN PIN LOOSE IN THE CAR!! My motto is 'Stay safe mate, ride in your crate'.**

**NEVER PUT YOUR MIN PIN IN THE CRATE  
WHILE WEARING A CHOKE CHAIN !!**

**WHY?? One owner returned to find their dog in their Vari-Kennel gagging and in a frenzied state. Somehow, the dog had managed to get the chain into her mouth and had bitten down and the sliding ring, locking it firmly on the chain. As a result, the chain was taut around her neck and through her mouth. It took heavy-duty wire cutters to release the distraught dog.**

**Some are rescued....some end in tragedy. A Shih Tzu was tied out on a choke chain at the bottom of a flight of stairs. The little dog apparently climbed halfway up the stairs, then slipped through a railing and hung to his death. A Pointer met a similar fate when he succeeded in climbing out of his run, only to have his collar catch on a projecting bit of chain link. The owners returned to find the dead dog dangling from the top of the fence.**

**Many people each and every year are warned by their obedience-class instructors and by many excellent training books. But they thought it couldn't happen to their dog. They thought it was safe for their dog to wear a choke chain in his crate, his pen, on a run in the woods, in the car and so on. Unfortunately, there appears to be no end to the terror, pain and death that can be inflicted on our pets by that simple piece of chain -- and it's so easy to prevent. Just remove that collar when it is not being used for training. Why do you think they're called 'CHOKER CHAINS'?**

**DO NOT  
UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES  
LEAVE A CHOKER CHAIN  
ON YOUR MIN PIN !**

**"It Works for Me"**

**A helpful hit learned from someone else and improved upon  
from Faith Gordon**

**( taken from the June 1, 1995 Pinscher Patter )**

**TRAY POWER !!**

**Take paper training one step further! They use flat crate trays in the spare room, which is designated the "dog room". With three adult females in the house and because they have no yard at all, they use two trays 28" x 38", and start out with a base of one day's newspaper on each one then all you have to do when you get home is "pick with a tissue" and flush. Then spray the paper with neutralizer and add two more clean sheets on top. Have a smaller tray handy that you can take along when you travel. Use it in motels...motor homes...or wherever you're visiting if there's no grassy area to use.**

**(You can buy newsprint roll ends from your local newspaper -- I don't use the actual newspaper because the ink gets all over the carpet and your clothes and your floors and makes a mess and stains everything )**

**They have even used it when visiting someone with a kennel. While the other dogs were jumping and running in the area they messed in, their girls kept clean and used the tray they put on the run floor. Since they have no yard at all, the girls never ask to "go" outside. They simply go their room and use the tray. The TRAY is what they recognize. They know it is the approved area and that 1/2' lip tends to keep them from playing all through the papers during the day. Even the babies seem to recognize this defined area. This has worked for the author for several years now. They shared it with a friend who has IG's ( Italian Greyhounds ). This friend has a female who requires privacy when she goes potty and would hide or just wait and go in her crate. Not any more, thanks to the TRAY! This was a bitch who drove her owner crazy -- messing in her crate every day for 2 years! A true testimony to TRAY POWER!**

**\*\* I use a rubber boot tray from Canadian Tire -- cost, only 5 dollars each. I put paper on top of the tray and change it as needed ( usually 2 times a day ). The tray has a lip, so the peeps doesn't leak onto the floor. It is also easy to take outside and hose off. \*\***

## **Killing with Kindness "people food" and your dog**

**Like most people, I was never one to deny my "kids" a nibble of my snack food here and there. UNTIL I began seeing more and more articles about the danger of feeding certain foods to our dogs.**

**I had known for years that chocolate was a definite no-no! Dogs cannot metabolize certain ingredients in chocolate and candies. In fact, ingestion of these goodies can KILL a dog!**

**However, I was NOT aware of the adverse affects of potato chips and the like on our canine companions. A dog eating one chip is the equivalent in fat/salt/chemicals that a human would ingest if they ate an entire 200 gram bag!!**

**Snack foods are not only dangerous to their health, but are extremely hard on their teeth! Speaking of teeth -- a quick side note. It is very important that you take your dog to the vet AT LEAST once a year for a checkup. While you're there, ask if the dog should have his teeth cleaned. If the vet says "Yes" -- book the appointment ASAP! A dirty mouth is uncomfortable for the dog, and will eventually become uncomfortable for you. If his breath smells offensive -- he's OVERDUE for cleaning!**

**If his teeth are left for an extended period of time, the dog can develop mouth, throat, ear infections that can eventually spread to the rest of his system and make him very sick. A dog with a clean mouth is happier, healthier and more pleasant to be around.**

## **HEALTH INFORMATION**

**( Taken from the June '97 issue of the Pinscher Patter )**

**Report from the MPCA Health and Welfare Committee**

**( Back and Disc Problems )**

**by Larry and Penny Dewey**

**Some back injuries involve not much more than sore muscles. But, a spinal disk injury can cause extreme pain, loss of muscle control or severe nerve damage -- including paralysis. This problem can happen to any breed. For minor muscle stiffness and back pain, apply a hot pack or warm compress. Heat can boost circulation to the area and can be soothing. If you can, do this for 15 minutes, three times a day.**

**One way to check for damage is by checking your dogs' "placing response". While he's standing, flip one of his hind feet so the top of the paw is touching the ground. The dog should pick the foot up and put it right-side up in two seconds or less. If he doesn't, there could be an injury putting pressure on a spinal nerve. Call your Vet right away.**

**( I have my Vet's business card taped to the answering machine, so it's handy in case of an emergency )**

**Even if your pet passes this test and the pain persists for more than a day or two, call your Vet.**

**To prevent the dog from adding insult to injury, keep him quiet until the sore area has a chance to heal. Keeping him on crate rest and away from the other dogs for 3 to 4 weeks will give the inflammation a chance to heal and not cause further damage.**

**Always consult your Vet if injury appears serious or before medicating in any way.**

**Health Committee Report  
by Virginia Brookings, DVM  
( taken from the June 1, 1995 Pinscher Patter )**

## **LEGG-CALVE-PERTHES DISEASE**

**What is it?**

**The head of the femur fits into the hip joint in a tight, smooth manner. In Legg-Calve Perthes ( LCP ), the head of the femur collapses on itself, resulting in a very loose joint with a bumpy surface. This causes moderate to severe pain and instability. This collapse results from a loss of blood supply to the bone. No one knows why this happens.**

**What will I see if my dog has LCP?**

**A usually slow progressing lameness of one rear leg. This occurs between 3 and 10 months of age. The lameness may come and go or be constant. Muscle loss, shortened stride and an actual shortening of the leg may occur. If you lay the dog on it's back and pull the affected leg GENTLY from side to side, you will cause pain.**

**A definite diagnosis can only be made by a veterinarian using radiographs. A slipping stifle can also cause intermittent to constant lameness and is much more common than LCP. A veterinarian can make that determination for you.**

**Is this seen in Min Pins?**

**YES! Min Pins are one of several breeds that seem to be over-represented. Others are Poodles, Lakeland Terriers, West Highland White Terriers and Cairns. This disease can occur in any breed with an adult body weight of 20 pounds or less. Both sexes are equally affected.**

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**RECOMMENDED RESOURCE MATERIAL :**

**Miniature Pinschers -- A Complete Pet Owner's Manual** by D. Caroline Coile, Ph.D.

**ISBN# 0-8120-9346-1** Barron's Educational Series

**\*\* This book is REQUIRED READING for anyone hoping to adopt a Min Pin.**

**The New Miniature Pinscher** by Sari Brewster Tietjen

**ISBN# 0-87605-211-1** Howell Book House

**Adopting the Racing Greyhound** by Cynthia Branigan

**ISBN# 0-87605-190-5**

**an excellent reference for anyone adopting a rescue dog of ANY breed**

**On the NET :**

**IMPS ( Internet Miniature Pinscher Service )**

**[www.minpinrescue.org](http://www.minpinrescue.org)**

**An organization that helps re-home Min Pins that have been surrendered or rescued from inappropriate or dangerous situations.**

**MPCA ( Miniature Pinscher Club of America )**

**<http://members.aol.com/mpcapec/>**

**From the MPCA site, you can surf to tons of other Min Pin web pages. BEWARE !**

**Anyone can design a page and put it on the internet -- it doesn't have to be true. Have a copy of the standard close by and go with your gut. If you get the feeling it's a puppy mill, it probably is!**

**Special thanks to the MPCA for the information provided in the "Everything you ever wanted to know about Miniature Pinschers....but were afraid to ask" section of this booklet.**

**) 425-4860**