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# **Miniature Pinscher**

## **Origin & Purpose**

The Miniature Pinscher originated in Germany several centuries ago as an efficient barnyard ratter. The first breed standard was recorded in the German Stud Book in 1880 and was officially recognized by the Pinscher-Schnauzer Klub in Germany in 1895. In Canada the first Miniature Pinschers were registered in the Canadian Kennel Club Stud Book for the years 1937 – 1938.

## **General Appearance**

The Miniature Pinscher is structurally a well-balanced, sturdy, compact, short-coupled, smooth-coated dog. He naturally is well groomed, proud, vigorous and alert. Characteristic traits are his hackney-like action which is very important, fearless animation, complete self-possession, and his spirited presence.

## **Temperament**

Fearless animation, complete self-possession, and spirited presence.

## **Size**

10 inches (25.4 cm) to 12 1/2 (31.7 cm) inches in height allowed, with desired height 11 (27.9 cm) inches to 11 1/2 (29.2 cm) inches measured from the ground to the highest point of the shoulder blades. All heights within the allowable range should be judged equally. Length of males equals height at withers and Females may be slightly longer when measured from ground to top of shoulder blade, and from point of posternum to rear point of ischium.

## **Coat**

Coat smooth, hard and short, straight, and lustrous, closely adhering to and uniformly covering the body.

## **Colour**

Solid clear red. Stag red (red with intermingling of black hairs). Black with sharply defined rust-red or tan markings on cheeks, lips, lower jaw, throat, twin spots above eyes and chest, lower half of fore legs, inside of hind legs and vent region, lower portion of hocks and feet. Black pencil stripes on toes. Chocolate with rust-red or tan markings the same as specified for blacks, except brown pencil stripes on toes. In the solid red and stag red, rich vibrant medium to dark shade is preferred.

## Head

In correct proportion to the body. Tapering, narrow with well fitted but not too prominent foreface which balances with the skull. Skull appears flat, tapering forward toward the muzzle. No indication of coarseness. Head well balanced with only a slight drop to the muzzle which is parallel to the top of the skull. **Muzzle** strong rather than fine and delicate, and in proportion to the head as a whole. **Lips:** smooth and tight-fitting to the jaws. Corners of the lips closed. **Throat** skin tight-fitting without folds. **Nose** black only, with the exception of chocolates which should have a self-colored nose. **Teeth** meet in a scissors bite. **Eyes** full, slightly oval, clear, bright and dark even to a true black, including eye rims, with the exception of chocolates, whose eye rims should be self-colored. **Ears** set high, standing erect from base to tip. May be cropped or uncropped. Drop ears should be set high, V-shaped with the inner edges lying close to the cheeks, turned forward towards temples. Folds parallel, should not be above the top of the skull.

## Neck

Proportioned to head and body, slightly arched, gracefully curved, blending into shoulders, muscular and free from a suggestion of dewlap or throatiness.

## Forequarters

**Shoulders:** clean and sloping with moderate angulation, co-ordinated to permit the Hackney-like action. **Elbows:** close to body. **Legs:** strong bone development and small clean joints. As viewed from the front, straight and upstanding. **Pasterns:** strong and perpendicular. **Dewclaws** should be removed. **Feet** small, catlike, toes strong, well arched and closely knit with deep pads. Nails thick, blunt.

## Body

**Topline:** Back level or slightly sloping toward the rear both when standing and gaiting. Body compact, slightly wedge-shaped, muscular. **Forechest** well developed. Well-sprung ribs. Depth of brisket, the base line of which is level with points of the elbows. **Belly** moderately tucked up to denote grace of structural form. Short and strong in loin. **Croup** level with topline. Tail set high.

### Hindquarters

Well-muscled quarters set wide enough apart to fit into a properly balanced body. As viewed from the rear, the legs are straight and parallel. From the side, well angulated. Thighs well-muscled. Stifles well defined. Hocks short, set well apart. Dewclaws can be removed. Feet small, catlike, toes strong, well arched and closely knit with deep pads. Nails thick, blunt.

### Tail

Docked: Set high, held erect, docked to 1/2 – 1 inch (1-3 cm). Natural: a sabre (set high and held erect) or sickle (set high and held slightly curling over the back) tail carriage.

### Gait

The forelegs and hind legs move parallel with feet turning neither in nor out. The hackney-like action is a high-stepping, reaching, free and easy gait in which the front leg moves straight forward and in front of the body and the foot bends at the wrist. The dog drives smoothly and strongly from the rear. The head and tail are carried high.

### Faults

- Structurally lacking in balance, timid or dull, shy or vicious.
- Poor in action (action not typical of the breed requirements).
- Head too large or too small for the body, too coarse or too refined.
- Nose any colour other than black (with the exception of chocolates which may have a self-coloured nose)
- Bite overshot or undershot
- Light coloured eyes are not desirable
- Loose, flabby or wrinkled skin on neck
- Forequarters: Shoulders too straight, too loose or too short
- Forelegs bowed or crooked
- Weak pasterns
- Feet turning in or out
- Loose elbows
- Body: Too long, too short, lacking in body development, sway back, roach back, or wry neck

- Forechest not dropping to elbows
- Spring of rib too narrow (or too shallow and underdeveloped)
- Lacking tuck up
- Tail set too low, drooping or hanging

### **Disqualifications**

- Under 10 inches (25.4 cm) or over 12 ½ (31.7 cm) inches in height
- Any colour other than listed, specifically light blue and rust, dark blue and rust, blue and tan, fawn and rust, Isabella fawn and fawn with tan points
- Thumb mark (patch of black hair surrounded by rust on the front of the forelegs between the foot and the wrist; on chocolates, the patch is chocolate hair).
- White on any part of dog which exceeds one half (1/2) inch in its longest dimension

### **Scale of Points**

General appearance and movement (very important) .....	30
Skull .....	5
Muzzle .....	5
Mouth .....	5
Eyes.....	5
Ears.....	5
Neck .....	5
Body.....	15
Feet .....	5
Legs.....	5
Colour.....	5
Coat .....	5
Tail .....	5

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**TOTAL**

**100**