



THE PEKINGESE

A Breed Seminar Created and Approved By The Pekingese Club Of America, Inc.

Foreword

- This seminar was created in 2014 by the Pekingese Club of America JEC and is to be used at breed seminars along with other PCA-approved educational materials.
- No part of this presentation/document may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the Pekingese Club of America.





WELCOME!



BREED HISTORY



According to one famous Chinese legend, the Lion fell madly in love with the Marmoset monkey in the Magic Forest in China. The disparity in their sizes made this an impossible love, so the love-stricken Lion begged Ah Chu, the protector of the Animal Kingdom, to shrink him down to the size of a marmoset so that the two could marry. Ah Chu consented, and from the union of the two descended the dogs of Fu Lin, or the Lion Dogs of China, as we know them today.

It is interesting to note that to this present day, these Lion Dogs retain some characteristics of both the Lion - profuse mane, regal bearing, bold and courageous, and the Marmoset - monkey-faced, small and an abundance of amusing antics.

With DNA confirming it to have existed in China some 2,000 years ago, Pekingese were bred for centuries to be the cherished companions of the Imperial family of China. There was little documentation until the time of the Empress Dowager Tzu Hsi during the Qing Dynasty.

Empress Dowager Tzu Hsi was stern and powerful, but doted fondly on her beloved Pekingese. During her reign, and perhaps long before, the Forbidden City had marble kennels lined with silk cushions for the Pekingese dogs to sleep in. The animals got the highest grade rice and meat for their meals, and had teams of eunuchs to cater and tend to them.

The Pearls Of Wisdom

Written by Empress Dowager Tzu Hsi, this is often considered as the very first Breed Standard, and it still portrays the essence of the breed today.

- Let the Lion Dog be small; let it wear the swelling cape of dignity around its neck; let it display the billowing standard of pomp above its back.
- Let its face be black; let its forefront be shaggy; let its forehead be straight and low.
- Let its eyes be large and luminous; let its ears be set like the sails of war junk; let its nose be like that of the monkey god of the Hindus.
- Let its forelegs be bent; so that it shall not desire to wander far, or leave the Imperial precincts.
- Let its body be shaped like that of a hunting lion spying for its prey.
- Let its feet be tufted with plentiful hair that its footfall may be soundless and for its standard of pomp let it rival the whisk of the Tibetans' yak, which is flourished to protect the imperial litter from flying insects.
- Let it be lively that it may afford entertainment by its gambols; let it be timid that it may not involve itself in danger; let it be domestic in its habits that it may live in amity with the other beasts, fishes or birds that find protection in the Imperial Palace.
- And for its color, let it be that of the lion - a golden sable, to be carried in the sleeve of a yellow robe; or the color of a red bear, or a black and white bear, or striped like a dragon, so that there may be dogs appropriate to every costume in the Imperial wardrobe.
- Let it venerate its ancestors and deposit offerings in the canine cemetery of the Forbidden City on each new moon.
- Let it comport itself with dignity; let it learn to bite the foreign devils instantly.
- Let it be dainty in its food so that it shall be known as an Imperial dog by its fastidiousness; sharks fins and curlew livers and the breasts of quails, on these may it be fed; and for drink give it the tea that is brewed from the spring buds of the shrub that grows in the province of Hankow, or the milk of the antelopes that pasture in the Imperial parks.
- Thus shall it preserve its integrity and self-respect; and for the day of sickness let it be anointed with the clarified fat of the legs of a sacred leopard, and give it to drink a throstle's eggshell full of the juice of the custard apple in which has been dissolved three pinches of shredded rhinoceros horn, and apply it to piebald leeches.
- So shall it remain - but if it dies, remember thou too art mortal

FORM & FUNCTION

FORM



- The Pekingese is categorized as a brachycephalic achondrodysplastic (i.e. dwarf) breed, so its desired attributes are not normally what you desire in a dog.
- The Pekingese should be **DENSE** and should pick up much heavier than it looks with a greater proportion of the weight distributed in the front half of the dog. A Pekingese shall have a disproportionately massive head and thick, heavy bones for its diminutive stature.
- The Pekingese has an unusual pear-shaped body that is wide in front and narrower in the rear.

FUNCTION

- The Pekingese were bred for centuries to be the cherished companions exclusively for the Imperial family of China. Today they are still cherished, but as devoted, loving family companions, and also successful show, obedience, agility, and therapy dogs.

GENERAL APPEARANCE



The Pekingese is a well-balanced, compact dog of Chinese origin with a pear shaped body featuring a heavy front and lighter hindquarters. Its temperament is one of directness, independence and individuality. Its image is lion-like, implying courage, dignity, boldness and self-esteem rather than daintiness or delicacy.

What You Want:

- A compact, low-to-ground dog with a wide front tapering off to the rear.
- Heavy set with a proportionately large head and heavy bone
- Good overall balance and proportion
- Surprisingly heavy and dense when lifted
- Weight not exceeding 14 lb

NOTE: To properly evaluate a dog, you must touch the dog and get under the coat. To evaluate substance and weight balance, you must lift the dog. A large coat can camouflage a multitude of sins. All weights are correct within the limit of 14 pounds, providing type and balance are not sacrificed.



HEAD

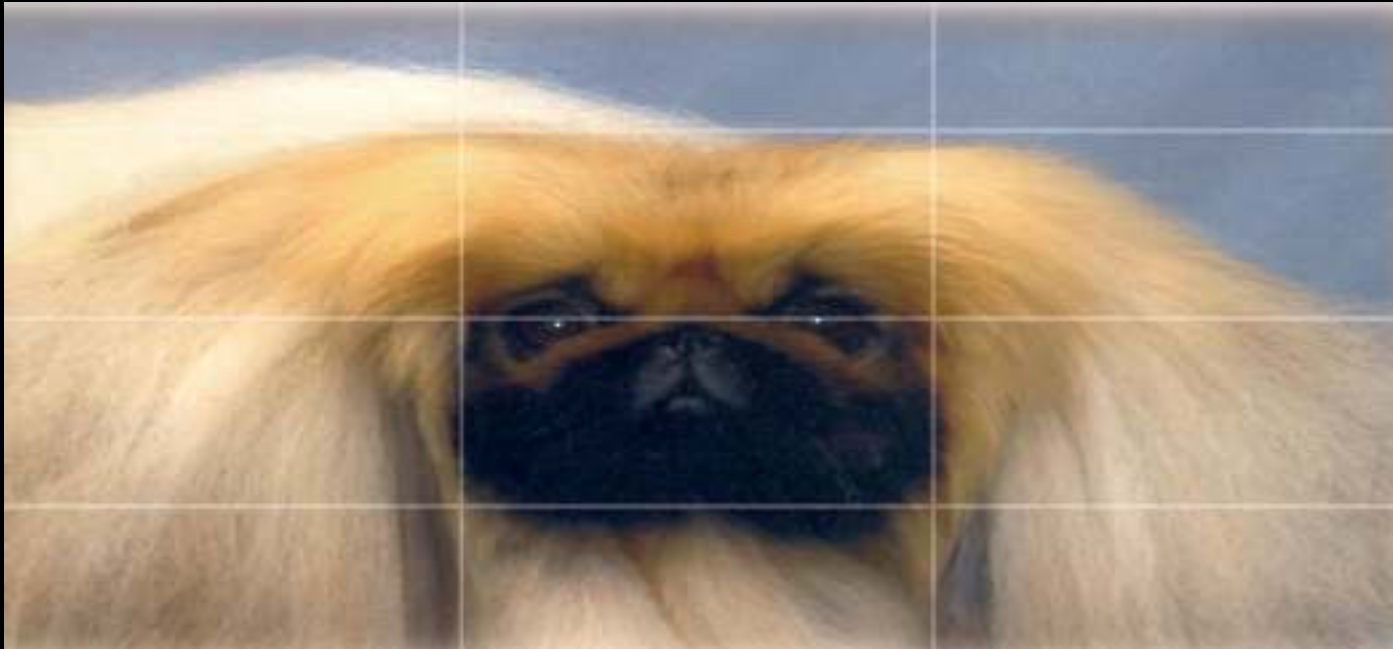
Correct Head Profile:



Incorrect Head Profile:



HEAD



“The Pekingese head is the stamp of the breed and no matter how wonderfully conformed a Pekingese is or how typically it moves, without a good enough head, its progress will be minimal.”

-Nigel Aubrey Jones

Topskull...Massive, broad, flat between the ears.

Eyes.....large, dark, bold, round, lustrous, set wide apart, no white to show when looking straight ahead.

Wrinkle.....Separates upper and lower areas of the face

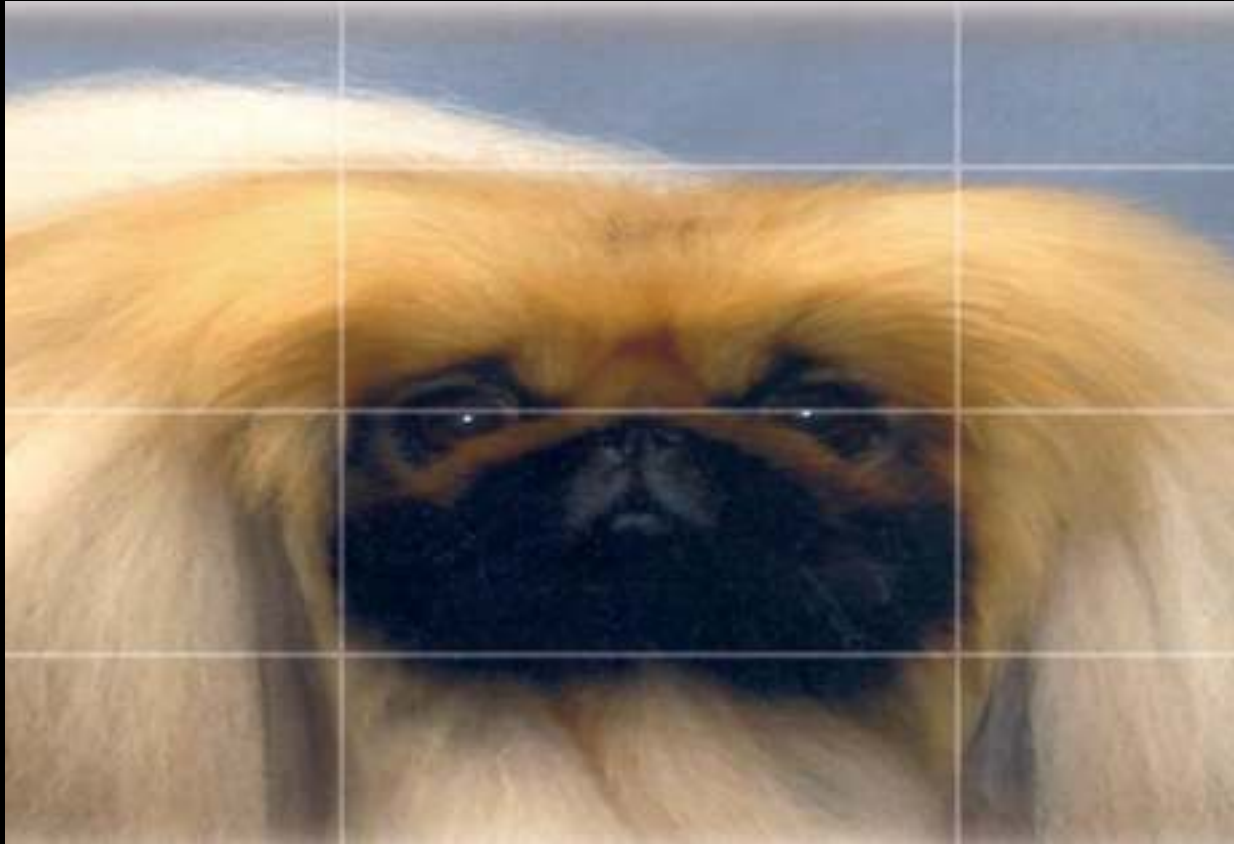
Ears.....Set on the front corners of the topkull, with their heavy feathering, frame the face and add to a wide rectangular head.

Nose....a line drawn horizontally over the top of the broad, short, black nose intersects slightly about the center of the eye.

Mouth....The lower jaw is undershot and broad. Neither teeth nor tongue shall show when the mouth is closed.

Muzzle....Flat, broad with black skin.

FACE



- The head is massive, rectangular, with an envelope shaped appearance with a wide, flat top skull and shallow forehead.
- Wide set eyes with open facial features.
- In profile. Head is flat and slants slightly from chin to forehead.
- Jet black pigment on nose, lips, eye rims.
- No teeth or tongue shall show when the mouth is closed.

NOTE: you do not want a small head, nor a square head with too much forehead or top skull. Close set and bulging eyes are not desirable. The wrinkle must not be so heavy as to obscure the nose or eyes.

EYES



They are large, very dark, round, lustrous and set wide apart. The look is bold, not bulging. The eye rims are black and the white of the eye does not show when the dog is looking straight ahead.

NOTE: The eye rim should be black, and eyes should show no white when the dog is looking ahead. Common faults include small and light-colored eyes.

EARS

What you Want:



They are heart-shaped and set on the front corners of the top skull, laying flat against the head. The leather never extends below the jaw. Correctly placed ears, with heavy feathering and fringing, frame the face and add to the appearance of a wide, envelope shaped head.

NOTE: Bad ear set can be disguised with clever grooming. Improper ear set is usually accompanied by incorrect shaped head or topkull.

NOSE

What you Want:



It is broad, short and black. Nostrils are wide and open rather than pinched. A line drawn horizontally across the top of the nose intersects slightly above the center of the eye. A dog that has difficulty breathing should never be considered.

NOTE: The nose should be black, regardless of color of dog. Nose should be set high, as low set nose spoils the expression, and gives appearance of a "Down Face."

WRINKLE

What you Want:



It effectively separates the upper and lower areas of the face. It is a hair-covered fold of skin extending from one cheek over the bridge of the nose in a wide inverted V to the other cheek. It is never so prominent or heavy as to crowd the facial features, obscure more than a small portion of the eyes, or fall forward over any portion of the nose leather.

NOTE: Over nose wrinkle covers the deep stop, but it should not be so heavy that it covers part or whole of the nose leather, and contributes to a crowded face.

MUZZLE



It is very flat, broad, and well filled-in below the eyes. The skin is black on all colors. Must have a firm chin and level lips. Whiskers add to the desired expression.

NOTE: A broad well-cushioned muzzle with wide underjaw, level lip-line and firm chin adds to the aura of an impish aristocrat. While a snipey narrow muzzle, poor pigment and lippy pendulous flews subtract from the desired bold expression.

MOUTH



The lower jaw is undershot and broad. The black lips meet neatly and **neither teeth nor tongue shall show** when the mouth is closed.

NOTE: It is not necessary to open the mouth. Only if the mouth is suspect should the judge gently lift the lips to examine further. A Peke that pants due to excitement or weather should not be confused with one with a protruding tongue.

SIZE/SUBSTANCE



What You Want:

- A thickset, muscular body with massive head
- Surprisingly heavy and dense when lifted
- A deep chest with a good spring of rib
- Weight not exceeding 14 lb

What You Don't Want:

- A lanky, tubular body with small head
- Lacking weight, muscle and substance when lifted
- Weight over 14 lb

NOTE: It is imperative to examine the Structure, Substance and Bone beneath the coat when judging. A profuse coat can camouflage a multitude of sins. All weights are correct within the limit of 14 pounds, providing type and balance are not sacrificed.

PROPORTION

What You Want:



The Pekingese is slightly longer than tall when measured from the forechest to the buttocks. The overall outline is an approximate ratio of 3 high to 5 long. A compact body does not mean a square body. Too short a body is just as undesirable as too long a body. The balance of a ratio of 3:5 in height to length is ideal.

BODY



The body is pear shaped with a narrow waist, low to ground and slightly longer than tall. It is heavy in front with well sprung ribs and the chest should be slung between the forelegs rather than sitting on top of them. The forechest is broad and full without a protruding breastbone. The underline rises from the deep chest to the lighter loin thus forming a narrow waist. The topline is level and the loin is short. You should feel a compact dog with heavy substance, broad chest and spring of rib.

NECK



The neck is short and thick and fits neatly into the shoulder. The neck may appear very short due to a heavy mane of hair.

NOTE: *Pekingese should have a short, thick and strong neck. A dog with an elongated neck usually also comes with the undesirable traits of longer back, and taller legs. A dog out of coat may appear 'necky.'*

TAIL



The high set tail is slightly arched and carried well over the back, free of kinks or curls.

Long, profuse, straight fringing may fall to either side.

NOTE: A dog, with a high tailset and profuse tail fringing carried flat on its back, completes the carriage. One with a low set tail will tend to pull its tail towards the rear on the move, which may make the dog appear longer.

FOREQUARTERS



They are short, thick and heavy-boned. The bones of the forelegs are moderately bowed between the pastern and elbow. The broad chest, wide set forelegs and the closer rear legs all contribute to the correct rolling gait. The distance from the point of the shoulder to the tip of the withers is approximately equal to the distance from the point of the shoulder to the elbow. Shoulders are well laid back and fit smoothly onto the body. The elbows are always close to the body. Front feet are turned out slightly when standing or moving. The pasterns slope gently.

HINDQUARTERS

What you Want:



They are lighter in bone than the forequarters. There is moderate angulation of stifle and hock. When viewed from behind, the rear legs are reasonably close and parallel, and the feet point straight ahead when standing or moving.

COAT



It is a long, coarse-textured, straight, stand-off outer coat, with thick, soft undercoat. The coat forms a noticeable mane on the neck and shoulder area with the coat on the remainder of the body somewhat shorter in length. A long and profuse coat is desirable providing it does not obscure the shape of the body. Long feathering is found on toes, backs of the thighs and forelegs, with longer fringing on the ears and tail.

Puppies may have a big coat of a softer feel

Adults must have a standoffish coat of harsh texture

NOTE: Pekingese is a double-coated breed with a big mane, and profuse long ear fringes, tail plume and skirt. A form-fitting body coat is totally acceptable. Do not reward a dog on the basis of coat only. The coat should be the icing on the cake that adds to its leonine outline and pear-shaped body, not hide/disguise it.

COLORS

All colors are equal.

The breed standard states:

All coat colors and markings are allowable and of equal merit. A black mask or a self-colored face is equally acceptable.

Regardless of coat color the exposed skin of the muzzle, nose, lips and eye rims is black.

Don't award a dog because it is a

good one "for a _____"

Reward it because it is a good dog.



DIFFERENT COLORS AND MASKS



Self Mask



Parti Color



Black



White/Cream



Black Mask



Black & Tan

All colors and markings must be judged equally, and of equal merits, as long as they have black pigmentation, black eye-rims, nose and lips.

PRESENTATION



Presentation should accentuate the natural outline of the Pekingese. Any obvious trimming or sculpting of the coat, detracting from its natural appearance, should be severely penalized.

NOTE: The Breed Standard states that any obvious trimming, scissoring or sculpting of the coat, detracting from its natural appearance, should be severely penalized.

GAIT

It is unhurried, dignified, fluid, free and strong with a slight roll over the shoulders. The motion is smooth and effortless and free from bouncing, prancing or jarring. The rolling, side to side gait results from a combination of the bowed forelegs, well laid back shoulders, full broad chest and narrow, light rear, all of which produce adequate reach and moderate drive. The Pekingese must be shown at its own natural speed on a loose lead to correctly evaluate its smooth, rolling motion.



NOTE: The correct Pekingese roll should be **SMOOTH, FLUID and EFFORTLESS**, but never laborious. Do not confuse jarring, bouncing or rocking action as the correct Pekingese roll.

KEY POINT TO REMEMBER

A Pekingese should always move on a loose lead at an unhurried speed, and soundness is key.



TEMPERAMENT



A combination of regal dignity, intelligence and self-importance make for a good natured, opinionated and affectionate companion to those who have earned its respect.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER



On the first impression, look for a compact (not square), thickset dog that is low to ground, with a large envelope shaped head, high tail set and a self-important attitude.

On the table examine the headpiece for lustrous dark, wide-set eyes, broad muzzle, firm chin and pleasing facial features. Line drawn horizontally over the top of the nose should intersect slightly above the center of the eyes.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

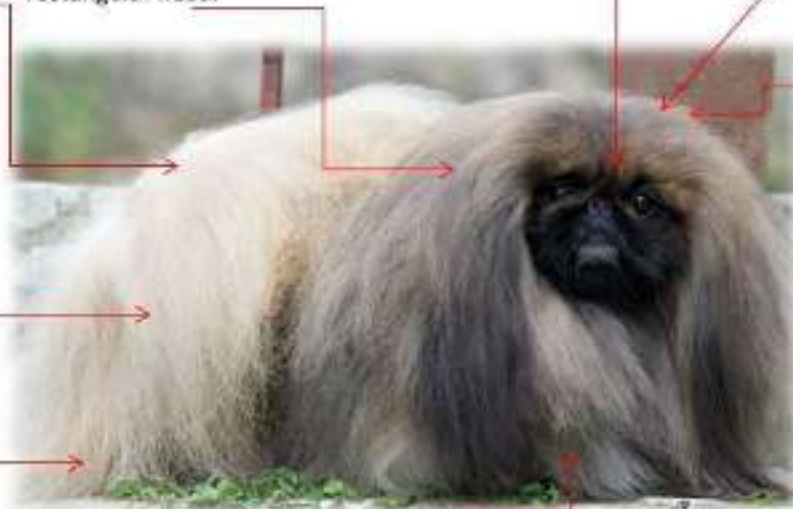


Tail Set high and carried over the back

Body Pear shaped with a narrow waist and a heavy forechest, compact, stocky muscular, surprisingly heavy for its size. Well sprung ribs. Slightly longer than tall with a short loin. Low to ground and should be slung between the legs rather than sitting on top of them. The topline should be level.

Coat Long, coarse textured, straight stand off outer coat with a soft undercoat that forms a noticeable mane on the shoulder and neck area with the remainder of the body somewhat shorter. Long feathering is found on the ears, tail, toes, backs of thighs and forelegs. The coat should not obscure the body shape. Obvious trimming/sculpting should not be tolerated.

Ears Heart shaped, set on the front corners of the top skull and lie flat against the head. The leather does not extend below the jaw. Correctly placed ears with their heavy feathering and long fringing frame the sides of the face and add to the appearance of a wide, rectangular head.



Forequarters The bones of the forelegs are moderately bowed, short, thick and heavy boned. The broad chest, wide set forelegs and closer rear legs all contribute to the correct rolling gait. The correct movement is a slight side to side roll from over the shoulders.

Wrinkle effectively separates the upper and lower areas of the face. It should never be so prominent as to obscure more than a small portion of the eyes or fall over the nose leather or to crowd the facial features

Eyes Large, dark, bold, round, lustrous, set wide apart. No white to show when looking straight ahead. The look is bold not bulging, the eye rims are black.

Head Massive, broad, flat, when combined with the wide set dark eyes, cheekbones and broad lower jaw, forms the correctly shaped face. When viewed from the front, the skull is wider than deep which contributes to the desired rectangular, envelope shaped appearance of the head. Nose, lip and eye rim pigment is black. The nostrils are open, not pinched. A line drawn over the top of the nose intersects slightly above the center of the eyes. No teeth shall show, level lips, undershot jaw. The neck is very short and muscular.

Feel for a short thick neck that fits neatly into the well laid-back shoulder. Check for depth of chest, good spring of ribs, level topline, short loin and high tail set. You should find a broad front and deep chest slung (below elbow) between slightly bowed forelegs. Tight elbows. Remember to feel for the pear-shaped body with broad front, distinct waist, lighter hindquarters and sound legs that travel effortlessly. Check that the dog picks up surprisingly heavier than it appears.



DISQUALIFICATION

- **REMEMBER:** The only disqualification in Pekingese is weight over 14 lb.
- Equal consideration should be given to all dogs within the 14 lb range.
- Always pick up the dog to confirm it is indeed dense, and surprisingly heavier than it would appear, but use a scale to determine its actual weight.

COMMON FAULTS

- Smaller head size with smaller/lighter eyes, and narrower underjaw
- Straight front legs
- Lacking bone, body, rib spring and substance (weedy and shelly specimens)
- Incorrect top lines – roached and sway back, or high in the rear
- Flat, or bouncing actions and unsound movement
- Longer neck, with longer back and longer legs
- Bodies that sit on top of the legs, instead of being slung between them
- Exaggerated wrinkles that give a crowded appearance
- Eyes set too close together, giving an atypically non-arrogant appearance
- Incorrect ear placement, giving the effect of either flying ears or a “houndy” expression
- Tongue tipping, or teeth showing when mouth is closed
- Low tail set

When you are judging, please....

- Do not bend over the dog while it is on the floor to examine its head or body.
- Never try to pry the mouth open if suspicious of a wry mouth or incorrect bite, rather ask the handler to show you the bite.
- Remember that a Pekingese should always be shown on a loose lead and moved at an unhurried, dignified pace, even at the Group and Best in Show level.
- Don't forget to gently lift the dog on the table to assess weight distribution/balance and density. However, if you suspect the dog is over 14 pounds, call for the scales. Do not make your judgment on weight based on anything other than the scales.
- Do not ask a handler to lift a Peke up from the floor, so you can more closely study its head, facial features or expression. Return the dog to the table, if you need a second or further look.
- Never lift a dog high up from the table, and swing it around to check expression.

FAMOUS WORDS

‘The Pekingese head is the stamp of the breed and no matter how wonderfully conformed a Pekingese is or how typically it moves, without a good enough head its progress will be minimal’ ~ Nigel Aubrey-Jones

‘In judging, the eye is not sufficient criterion, the dog must be felt.’
~ Mrs. Ashton Cross

‘Judging is about putting up great dogs because of virtues, and not putting them down because of their faults.’ ~ Nigel Aubrey-Jones

‘The Pekingese dog should be judged as a whole. It must present a picture of balance and type. It must be evaluated for its good points rather than torn apart for its faults. In evaluating a Pekingese, one must keep in mind that it is a toy dog of great substance and character for its small size.’ ~ Rose Marie Katz

‘The Pekingese must have bone and substance, and the ratio of weight to size is of much greater importance than either weight or size in isolation.’
~ Nigel Aubrey-Jones



THANK YOU!

