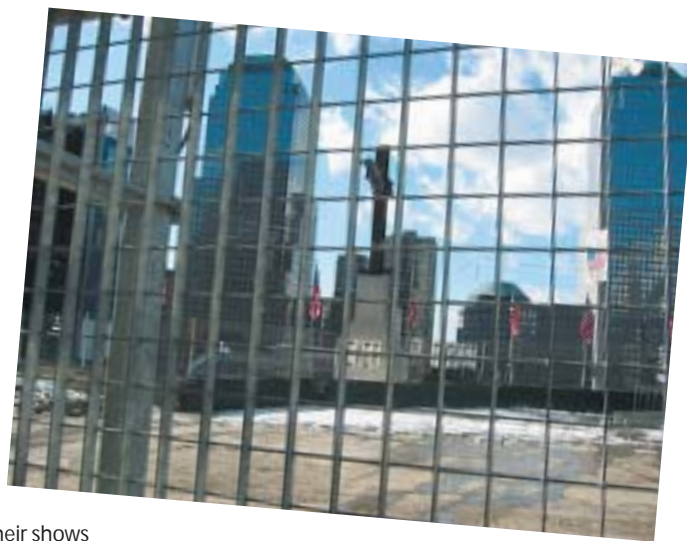


# Judging the Pug Specialty of Greater New York

## Chan Weng Woh



It was a great honour and privilege to be invited to judge the Pug Specialty of Greater New York. This show was one of the Specialty Shows in a series of three days before the Westminster Dog Show 2003, from the 6th to the 8th February 2003.

The Toy Progressive Dog Club and breed clubs held their shows under the umbrella body of the Garden Specialty Association. The shows were held in two venues; one was the Pennsylvania Hotel in New York and the other was the Meadowlands Exposition Center in New Jersey. These venues were 5 miles apart and shuttle buses were ferrying exhibitors, dogs and spectators all throughout the day.

New York City was on high alert and there was fear of terrorist attacks at people gathering in public places. As a visitor to the city, I felt the tension too. You can see police and their vehicles in almost all street corners. Police were stationed at rail subways. People going into the Madison Square Garden were frisked and bags were searched. But looking at the large gathering of people at the Westminster Dog Show and Garden Specialty, exhibitors and spectators did not mind the hassle. The extra safety precautions were taken to safeguard the people visiting the Westminster Dog Show. The American flags were flown in almost all buildings in the city. New York City still remembers the September 11 incident.

The Westminster Dog Show drew entries of top dogs from all over USA and Canada. Naturally these top dogs were entered at these Specialty Shows. There were 3 Pug Specialty Shows held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The Show on Friday had an entry of 57 Pugs, the Show on Saturday had an entry of 59 Pugs and the Show on Sunday drew an entry of 73 Pugs. I judged the show on Sunday, 8th February at the Meadowlands Exposition Center in New Jersey. Flipping through the catalogue of the Garden Specialty Association before I started to write this article, I found that I was the only foreign judge to be given the honour to officiate on this occasion. I sincerely thanked the Committee for the invitation.

The AKC judging system is nothing new to me as I had judged in Thailand and The Philippines that followed the AKC system. In USA, a judge is to mark his own book. Unlike FCI countries, Asia and Australia, stewards are allowed to mark the judges book. I was warned that correct entries of dog placings, marking of absentees and remarks of dogs excused must be accurately entered in the judges book. My stewards, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Shuman were of great help which made my first judging assignment in USA easy. The Show Superintendent, Mrs. Holland was always around to answer my inquiries.

For non-titled dogs, I had 6 classes with a total of 13 dogs. My eventual Winners Dog was MYSTIC CELESTIAL SKYRAIDER, 14 month old, fawn dog of very good size. The body was short and compact. Head was large and round with correct large round eyes. Nose was big and well placed between the eyes. Head was deeply wrinkled with thumb mark on forehead. Good length of slightly arched neck. Very good fore and hind quarters. Well-placed double curled tail. Moved well with a slight roll. I found this dog to be of very high quality, worthy to be graded excellent. Later, I was very pleased to award this dog the AWARD OF MERITS.



### Ground Zero

My Reserve Winners Dog also came from the 12-18 months class, a 16 month old fawn dog. MAHJONG JOELLE JUST JEFFERY, another high quality exhibit of very good size with very good head and expression. Body was short and cobby with correctly placed double curled tail. Moved well with a slight roll.

In the non-titled bitches, I had 6 classes of 31 bitches. I was very impressed with the quality of my bitches. Not only the bitch entries were stronger and most of my class winners were of excellent quality. My Winners bitch, GAS HOLLOW'S SHIRLEY DIMPLE, 17 month old fawn bitch of excellent quality and aptly fitted the description of 'multurn in parvo'. Excellent head of very good expression deeply wrinkled and well pigmented. Nice length of slightly arched neck. Excellent body which was short and cobby. Her perfect double curled tail was very well placed. It was a joy to go over her and even more pleased with her when she moved correctly with a slight roll. Her handler showed her to her best. I would like to take her home. I was extremely pleased to award her BEST OF WINNERS too. She could be my BEST OF BREED winner for the day!

Reserve Winners bitch, TOIBOX ISABELLA, 12 month old fawn bitch, another worthy exhibit of excellent quality. She is also from the Bred-by-Exhibitor class of similar quality to the winners bitch.

Best Puppy of Breed was awarded to GAS HOLLOW LIKE IT LIKE THAT, 9 month old bitch of very high quality. She was also bred by the same breeder as my Winners bitch. Head was of excellent pigmentation and of very good expression. Nice short cobby body. Excellent tail. She moved well and was shown extremely well by her handler.

I would also like to mention another winner from the 12-18 month class. REBELRUN GAS HOLLOW MULAN, litter sister to my Winners bitch. She was full of quality. I must congratulate the breeder of the GAS HOLLOW KENNEL for breeding such outstanding bitches.

In the Best of Breed Competition, I had 23 Champion dogs, 6 Champion bitches, Winners dog and Winners bitch. This class was rather big and I had to separate them into 3 sections. Overall, they were of very good quality. In some exhibits, tails could be better set and would prefer shorter body on some. Missing traces on the back is a worldwide problem. Pigmentation was generally good. My eventual Best of Breed winner was CH. ALANTIS' SHIVER ME TIMBERS, 2 years old fawn dog of excellent quality. He had a beautiful, deeply wrinkled head of excellent expression with dark pigmentation. A good length of well arched neck to support the head. Good level topline with well placed double curled tail. The fore and hind quarters were very well angulated. He moved extremely well with a slight roll. The handler showed this dog to perfection and it was evident that the handler and dog had a great bond for each other. This dog had won Best in Show at the 3 Specialty Shows in a row! He also took Best of Breed at Westminster and was short-listed for the Group. This dog had won 11 Specialty Shows and 5 Best In Shows All Breeds.

Followed very closely behind the BOB was Ch. GAS HOLLOW'S RHUMBA. Another worthy exhibit of excellent quality with excellent head and expression and short cobby body. This dog was given the Award of Merit.

I must thank all exhibitors for showing their dogs under me and taking my opinion sportingly. I must admit that I enjoyed my day of judging this show. At the end of the show, I was extremely pleased when handlers, breeders and spectators came up to me and shook my hand.



Best of Breed - Ch Alantis' Shiver Me Timbers



Best of Winners Gas Hollow's Shirley Dimple



Winners Dog - Mystic Celestial Sky Raider