



Top dog: Malachy posing with the Best in Show award during the 136th Westminster Kennel Club Annual Dog Show at the Madison Square Garden yesterday. — AFP

Malachy the Pekingese wins prestigious US dog show

NEW YORK: A placid Pekingese slowly trotted to victory at the 136th Westminster Kennel Club dog show, beating a Dalmatian, a German Shepherd, a Dachshund and three other canines to become the first of his breed to win the prestigious annual event since 1990.

Malachy, a four-year-old dog formally known as Ch. Palacegarden Malachy, charmed the packed Madison Square Garden arena crowd, who roared their approval when his win was announced.

Judge Cindy Vogels, who was sequestered from the two-day competition until she entered the ring for the best-in-show finale, described the 11-pound Malachy as “a super dog who had a stupendous night.”

“He was spectacular,” she said of the dog who has been number-one in the toy group for the past two years and has won 115 best-in-show titles yesterday.

“He conforms to the (breed’s) standard so magnificently .. tonight, he was flawless,” she said.

The Pekingese, who drew a fair amount of affectionate laughter from the crowd with his mop of highly fluffed hair, won them over with soulful glances up at handler David Fitzpatrick, as he strode about the ring at a deliberate pace that contrasted with the other dogs’ trotting gaits.

“Their gait should be slow and dignified,” Fitzpatrick said of the toy breed. — Reuters