

breeding age, and some older veterans who had captured her heart when she showed them, and as a result had been intended to live with her until they died.

Thankfully, the family knew her friend and mentor who had traveled with her and helped her at shows. When they turned to this woman for help, she agreed to try to place all of the dogs in suitable homes. Knowing people in the dog fancy, she made phone calls to friends and as it often happens, they started to help by looking for homes. It was not too long before all the dogs were placed.

This incident started me thinking of what happens when we are gone and our dependents—those dogs we have bred, raised and shown, but above all loved—are left for others to deal with. With the graying of the fancy, it behooves all of us, even if we haven't reached old age, to consider the problem and do what we can to ensure that our dogs will have a life. It is not age-related illnesses alone that cause death, but unfortunately (especially with all the driving that dog-show people do) there is also the chance of accidents occurring.

I know my doctor and others have reminded me to make a will, arrange our finances to avoid probate, assign power of attorney, and do other legal things—but how many of us have thought about what our loved ones will be able to do when faced with the disposal of multiple dogs? If they do not have contacts within the dog fancy, will they be able to place them without resorting to the local humane society? Will they be able to expend the money, time, and labor to take care of them until homes are found?

After much thought, I asked a friend, a much younger friend who also shows dogs, to agree to help my family place the dogs in the event of my death. I have written up instruc-

tions, such as that my family would get first pick of the dogs and that all co-owned dogs would be placed with their co-owner. I alerted my friend and my family as to where the paperwork on my dogs is located and vowed to myself to keep it up to date with health records, show records, pedigrees and registration papers. I made sure that even if they were unsure of the identities of individual dogs, the dogs were microchipped and identifiable. I made sure that if possible, much of the money spent on this would be paid by my estate.

While I am in good health and certainly not expecting to expire anytime soon, I admit I slept well that night, happy with the knowledge that my dogs, all of them so close to my heart, would live on in comfort even after I was gone.

I hope after reading this, some of you will out of concern for your animals make sure that if something happens to you, your dogs will go on to a new life after you are gone.

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## Irish Terriers Hunting the Answer

“I screwed up,” Harold said. “I shouldn't have become a judge.”

I looked up from my steward's table and practically jumped backwards. “Jeez-o-Pete, you look terrible!” I said. He was ash-white and sweating like a pig on a spit. “What's wrong, Harold?”

“I haven't got what it takes to be a judge,” he gasped, and collapsed into the judge's chair.

The national specialty show for Monongahela Brush and Swamp Terriers was about to begin, and Harold was listed as the judge of record, so I stated the obvious. “This is a fine time to decide that,” I

rasped, trying not to shout.

Back when Harold was debating whether to apply for his judging license I had tried to warn him off. I told him he had no business besmirching his reputation as a breeder of long standing by making a fool of himself at center stage. And I let him know the old gang would be ticked at him for giving up his role as ringside critic extraordinaire. Now before it all blew up on me I sailed against the wind.

“Harold, if you're not qualified to judge this breed, then who on the planet is? Good gosh, you've breeding them since Saul saw the light, you know every bloodline in the country, and every nuance in the breed, and you're not beholding to anyone for your good reputation. You're the perfect person to bring knowledge, common sense, and a high ethical standard to the breed and the sport.”

Harold tried to steady himself by sipping some ice water and wiping his brow. “The problem is, I can see the choices too clearly,” he said.

“Huh?”

“At the end,” he said, “I know what will be out there. It will come down to some beautifully headed, typically coated, sound little paragon of type matched up against a big, flashy show horse begging for the win.”

“And what will you do?”

“I don't know,” Harold lamented. “I haven't decided. What if I can't ever decide?”

The first class came into the ring. Now I was ashen faced and perspiring. Lamely I encouraged him, “Do your best.”

Like a lot of good judges, Harold worked his way through the classes, rewarding virtues and penalizing faults.

The wishbone-stuck-in-the-throat moment came in Best of Breed competition, when the two phantom prototypes appeared one

behind the other in the first go-round.

Harold didn't panic, however. He worked his way through the class and came up with a handy little dog who didn't stand out too much at first, but later you couldn't get him out of your mind.

"How did you find that dog?" I asked after the photos were taken.

"I nearly panicked," Harold said, "but then I began to look at the class like a group of hunting dogs—the purpose for which they were created. I just asked myself which one I'd want to take out on an inclement day and trudge through the fields with, and that vision of a dog appeared."

"You dodged a bullet today because he was there," I pointed out.

"Yes," Harold agreed, "but I have something to look for from now on."

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## Kerry Blue Terriers Attend Your Breed Specialty

The timing of publication of our breed's column falls right in line with many major events in the breed—the national club's traveling specialty, numerous chapter-club or regional specialties held in Ohio, St. Louis, and New York, and the upcoming national specialty, sweepstakes, and futurity held this fall at the Hatboro Kennel Club shows and Montgomery County Kennel Club show in Pennsylvania. Throughout the year, the Kerry Blue Terrier chapter clubs have also hosted events in California, Texas, Missouri, Hawaii, Pennsylvania, and Illinois.

No matter what breed you have, you can usually find a special event in your area. There are many benefits to attending a breed specialty, and since most of these events are

held on weekends within a cluster of shows, it can also be economical for exhibitors and spectators to see the greatest entry of a particular breed.

The sheer numbers of dogs of your breed to be seen are not the only benefits of attending a specialty. The many other benefits include:

- Specialties offer a higher percentage of majors in conformation.
- Educational seminars are often held by the show-giving club or the breed club.
- A wide interpretation of the breed standard can be seen in the ring.
- Newcomers can meet and learn about the breed from exhibitors.
- A variety of performance events, such as, obedience, agility, rally, herding, earthdog, or even lure-coursing are often offered or demonstrated.
- Well-attended events allow you to review possible sires for future breedings.
- Ringside mentoring of new judges affords one a broader view of the breed.
- Boutiques offer unique breed items.
- Club meetings provide updates on events, health issues, legislative concerns, AKC news, and new AKC titles and classes that help promote future participation in the sport of dogs.
- Sweepstakes allow you to compare puppies from various sires as well as see the strengths and weaknesses in the breed.
- New-exhibitor mentor programs help get you started in the sport.
- Health clinics and exams are frequently offered at reduced rates by the breed club or show-giving club.
- You can meet with national-club and chapter-club board members to share your concerns and express your points of view on club issues.
- Special events can be offered,

such as classes in Junior Showmanship and Amateur Owner-Handler, puppy and veteran sweepstakes, futurities, breeders' stakes, and brace and brood-bitch classes.

• Your participation supports the national and chapter clubs, and this in turn helps your breed.

• The event provides a general gathering where breed owners share thoughts, helpful tips, and their experiences with the breed.

• It is a great deal of fun! Great hospitality, raffles, and potluck dinners all add to a good time.

Presenting the spectrum of events offered at a specialty requires the efforts of volunteer club members who have worked for months in preparation. Don't forget to stop by and say thank you. Better yet, next time, join in and volunteer your services at a club event. Your help is always needed.

Visit your national club's website for information on breed activities. The United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club's site is at *uskbtc.com*, and you can exchange your latest dog news with Kerry owners on Facebook by visiting [facebook.com/group.php?gid=108698155851338](https://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=108698155851338).

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## Lakeland Terriers Autoimmune Disease

The immune system is essential to life just as a powerful military is essential to a country's defense. And even though the mission of the military is absolutely necessary, developing and training these forces results in some injuries and deaths during training, as well as deaths due to "friendly fire" during war.

Just as soldiers must be physically and mentally developed into warriors, the cellular soldiers of the