

in creating these Fox Terriers are health and temperament. You never will be able to create the perfect dog, but hopefully you will get one who comes close as you can. So many things can add up for a near-perfect specimen: structure, movement, size, natural ears and tails, again temperament, health—and last but not least, the ability to produce future generations.

You might have noticed that I did not mention color. To me, it is the cover of a very great book, and though it would be nice to have a white dog with no ticking, solid head, and perhaps a saddle, it really doesn't matter when it comes to quality. This is just my opinion.

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## Wire Fox Terriers

### Expand Your Horizons

So many clubs and breeds are having a tough time these days. For clubs, entries are down across the board, expenses continue to rise, and many are losing money with every show they put on.

In our breed, majors and even points are hard to find. There are many shows where no Wires are entered. In some states, they have not seen our breed at their shows for several years. If that were not bad enough, membership is down, and those hardworking members who remain are getting older, while the work putting on a show is harder.

It would seem only those shows very special to the exhibitor are doing OK, but even some of those are having money problems.

One of those shows where exhibitors come from across the U.S. and Canada to see what their friends and fellow fanciers have brought to show is the Wire Fox Terrier Club of the Central States (WFTCCS). For the last few years, the club's board of directors have been taking a long, hard look at what was happening and decided to take some steps that would involve fanciers in different aspects of the Wire Fox

Terrier. This year, the club added several new events that made the show more interesting and attracted many new entries and people. On Thursday was the Barn Hunt day, and after the seminar on Barn Hunting, the entered dogs had a go at it. Owners, spectators, and (especially) the dogs had a fun time. The general consensus was that even more people were going to consider trying it next year.

Wires have not been considered great obedience prospects, mostly due to their tendency to get bored easily, and that independence streak that urges them to "do it their way." However this year's obedience and rally trials drew a large entry, and the dogs did very well.

I had tried obedience about 42 years ago with one of my first champions. I vowed never again after Samantha really embarrassed me in the ring. However, this past year some of my friends sort of pushed me into trying rally, since for this sport the dogs do not go off lead.

After a few training classes and some home practice, I decided to enter three rally shows in Duluth, Minnesota, and get the nerves out of my system.

I gathered up my courage and went in the ring. Keaira was great; me, not so much, but adequate. We picked up two legs at Duluth and then entered WFTCCS.

I have to admit I was a bit nervous since I really did not want all my friends to see me flop, but my Keaira did it, and she now has her Novice Rally title.

Now those same friends are encouraging me to move up to more difficult classes. Seeing all those other Wires doing so well in both obedience and rally has given me more courage, so I guess I will make the effort.

With barn hunt, rally, obedience, futurity, puppy and veteran sweeps, and regular classes, the entry was up about one-third over the previous years. We are also getting some new and energetic members who will be a benefit to the club. Those clubs across the country who are trying other attractions seem

to be the ones who are doing better and most likely will survive the downward trend. I think there also is a benefit to being able to tell prospective puppy buyers that your breed is very versatile and can hunt, be a well-trained citizen, and be a loving pet. When people find that they can have more activities and fun with their pet, they may decide to become active in the breed.

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## Irish Terriers

### The Mysterious Stranger

No judge could miss my dog. The competition was too sorry. Suddenly a cloud covered the sun, turning the show grounds dark. The other dogs, exhibitors, and spectators stopped moving. I should have been frightened, but then the little man appeared.

He wore a tux and top hat and stood in the center of the ring. He and I were the only figures in full sunlight.

"So, your dog is going to win again?" he asked lasciviously.

"Of course! Did you think these miserable pigs could beat me?" I leered.

"Not a chance," he growled. "I gather you don't think too much of your competition?"

"Who could?" I said, beginning to feel a bond with the stranger. "Do you see these pigs?"

"I'd like to," he cackled.

I glanced at the lineup of dogs just as their bodies began to bloat, swell, and mutate into something awful—or edible. They turned into pigs! Some of them snorted and wiggled their snouts.

"I'll be going now," the little man said. "I know you can beat these pigs."

"Hey, I can't show against pigs!"

"You didn't mind beating them when you just thought they were pigs?"

"Beating pigs or animals you don't respect doesn't mean much."

He looked crestfallen. "This doesn't have to be meaningful, does it? I'm afraid you're not going to be any fun."



“Some of them are decent. I never looked too closely before.”

“Get an eyeful,” he said. Several of the dogs, turned stiff and hard as stone, whisked into place beside my dog. “What do you think?”

“He has a reasonable head,” I said begrudgingly. “That one has a good jacket, and the other has a beautiful outline.”

“That sickening flattery won’t make your dog any better.”

“Yeah, but if I don’t respect the competition, then what have I gained by defeating them?”

“Oh, please. I’m sickened by respect.” His head whipped around. “Tell me about these fools at ringside.”

“There are some simpletons! They wouldn’t know a good dog if they bred one.”

“I love it,” he cackled. “There’s no use beating these dolts. Let’s go brag about your wins to some real people.”

The Best of Breed ribbon leapt into my hand, and we fell through a dark tunnel only to appear on a strange, crowded street corner.

“Brag to these people,” he commanded. People were staring.

“Best of Breed.” I said, showing the rosette.

“*Hmmpft!*” said a dignified woman, “but what kind of a dog is that?”

“He won from the American-bred class,” I said.

“Isn’t an American-bred some kind of horse?” a man asked.

“This is no good,” I said. “These people don’t know anything about dogs. My win means nothing to them. I’d rather go back to the dog show.”

“But those people at the show are morons,” he reminded me.

“Well, we do have different points of view, but at least we share a common interest and language. Maybe that’s a basis for learning to respect one another.”

“What a nasty turn of events,” he said, his head blushing bright red. “I loved to think of you showing against pigs in front of morons. Let me know if you get that attitude back. We could

have a lot of fun together!”

A flicker of flame appeared inside his body and then he was gone, leaving only a

burned, acrid smell.

My dog and I reappeared at the show. The show resumed and the light returned, but clearer than before.

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## Kerry Blue Terriers Need a Contract?

There are mixed opinions regarding the need for a contract when selling or placing a dog. Many breeders supply a contract for any relocated dog for the sole purpose of safeguarding his health and welfare. Others believe that any contract can be broken, so having one is a waste of time. I believe that a signed contract may suggest and motivate an added layer of accepted responsibility by the seller and the buyer and is therefore a protection for the dog, the new owner, and the breeder.

The AKC does suggest that agreements between individuals should be in writing that clearly states all obligations and circumstances, and that all parties should receive a copy of the agreement. More details can be found in the document titled “AKC Procedures for Registration Matters,” which is available on the AKC website at [images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RREGS2.pdf](http://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RREGS2.pdf).

My contracts have evolved and are specific to the dog being placed, but following are some very general points you may want to consider. It should be obvious that the overall intent is the protection of the dog.

- The Buyer shall provide the dog with:

1. Adequate food, fresh water, shelter, affection, and medical care upon sickness, disease, or injury. Maintenance should include an annual health exam and routine vaccinations as recommended by a board-certified veterinarian.

2. Humane care and maintenance in accordance with all current and

future state, county, and municipal laws and ordinances where the Buyer resides.

3. A fully fenced yard or other humane means of exercise. The dog shall not be kept chained or constantly outdoors.

4. A collar and identification tag and/or microchip. Never permit the dog to roam unattended.

- The Buyer shall keep the dog as a household pet and shall never use it as an attack dog.

- The dog shall reside with the Buyer.

- The Buyer shall notify the Breeder immediately if the dog cannot be kept by the Buyer.

- The dog shall not be sold, transferred, or given to any individual or to any retail or wholesale establishment for the purpose of sale or resale to the public or to any research institution where medical experimentation or other practices take place.

- The Buyer and Breeder agree to keep each other informed of their current addresses.

- The Buyer agrees that it is the Buyer’s responsibility to accept the dog as described. The Breeder has provided and the Buyer has acknowledged a full disclosure of the health, habits, and temperament of the dog. The dog’s health records, from [*name of veterinarian*], will be supplied at time of purchase.

- The Buyer shall have [*insert number*] months from the date of this Contract to return the dog for a full refund of the purchase price. After [*insert number*] months and for the life of the dog, the Buyer may return the dog to the Breeder at any time and for any reason.

- The Buyer agrees to sign the necessary papers to return the Breeder as sole owner of the dog in the event the dog is returned.

Contracts can become very involved when they include show dogs, dogs used at stud, bitches to be bred, or co-ownership, the last of which is quite common but is not recommended by the AKC. However, basic safeguards can