

TERRIER GROUP

Although somewhat independent, the Glen of Imaal Terrier is intelligent and trainable.



tine has become fun while adding more value to the skills and heeling is no longer a boring exercise.

Having an intelligent, independent dog such as a Glen makes the handler think outside of the box. Instead of battling against what could be distractions in the dog's environment and instead turning those things around to use as a

reinforcer, the handler can create more value and interest in the dogs training. Most of the time a powerful distraction in a dog's training can be turned into a motivator; these techniques keep the clever dog in the training game.

The environment can be a great resource for motivation for Glens. For example, my Glen,

Griffin, is highly motivated to play in our pond to cool off and chase dragonflies. Turning this less traditional reward into a training tool can be a powerful motivator. Think along the lines of "complete your homework so that you can go to the concert" and this same technique can be successfully applied to training. After Griffin works retrieving a dumbbell, running agility weaves, or working scent articles, he can be rewarded with a release to the pond; a reward that can trump food rewards in Griffin's case.

Probably the most important thing to remember when training these intelligent Glens is whatever behavior the Glen gives you is just information. Dogs are honest creatures, living in the moment; if their behavior is flawed there is a failure in the training somewhere along way. The dog isn't hiding a private agenda, blowing you off, stubborn, or ignoring you since dogs always do what is reinforced. It is the handler's job to make it worthwhile for the dog, whether that is a classic motivator like treats or a chance to chase dragonflies. One thing is for sure with a clever breed like Glens, they make the journey more entertaining and they push the handler to be a better trainer. —K.W.

—Jo Lynn,

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[Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America](#)

Irish Terriers

WHAT TYPE IS THAT?

Ms. D gasped sharply, as if a fireball had appeared in the sky.

I followed her eyes to ringside and immediately saw the source of her dire concern. There in the first row was Wax Waneforth, the breed's most avid breeder and critic and cynic extraordinaire. Immediately to his left was Mrs. Maxine Fuller, whose deep pockets and drive to win had carried our poor Brush and Swamp Terrier over the yawning chasms of periods of low registrations and insufferable quality, right up to the heights of success at all-breed competitions.

My own companion threw off her usual impeccable manners and feigned illness in order to chase a couple of newbies out of their seats in the second row. She looked well enough to me as she leaned forward to catch every nuance of the conversation in front of her.

"I disagree," Wax said emphatically, but he turned and smiled as he saw us settle in behind him.

"With that beautiful dog I like in this class?" Maxine's voice sang out.

"I disagree with everything. You haven't picked out the dog in this class with the most breed type, you've picked out another show horse—one that I might point out exhibits

MARK BROWN

TERRIERS GROUP

some substantial variances from breed type.”

“Humph!”

“I disagree that there’s any value speculating which dog is going to win a class, the points, or the breed based upon the insight of a judge whose qualifications and character I find suspect, but with whom you or your handler have a special relationship.”

“Wax, really, I ...”

“I disagree that your win record should take precedence to the development and maintenance of breed type within a breed. If you lose a dog show, Max, you can always win another one down the road. But if you lose an important trait or two of breed type, and encourage others to follow suit because of your success, then don’t you at least threaten a long recovery for the breed?”

Maxine’s voice was smoky and hot, but she kept it harnessed. “Well, I didn’t mean to destroy the breed.”

“And I didn’t mean to destroy a friendship by being so frank,” Wax said. “My brevity is a byproduct of my age. Shortness of time, you understand.”

Maxine said nothing but watched unhappily as her dog choice won his class.

“Max, you’re a great competitor, but your ability to win exceeds your judgment regarding type. While it’s nice to receive some individual recognition for your accomplishment in

this sport, it’s more important for someone of your stature to be a leader in another way. Be an arbiter for the right type of dog. Posterity will treat you well.”

Maxine sat in stony silence, appearing to take in that lecture for what seemed like endless moments. Finally she turned toward Wax and flashed her pearly whites. “You won’t object if I continue to beat you like a drum, will you?” She smiled until the corners of her eyes crinkled.

Wax looked simultaneously relieved and pleased. “I wouldn’t expect any less.”

“Well, then, I’ll pay better attention to my type and count on your critique if I fail.”

—Ellis West,
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[Irish Terrier Club of America](#)

Kerry Blue Terriers

PUPPY TRAINING FROM THE WHELPING BOX

A simple whelping box to deluxe, custom-made, multi-optional four-star whelping suites can be part of a breeder’s supply of goods when raising a litter.

Just as with choice of whelping boxes, the way a breeder chooses to train her puppies varies from breeder to breeder and changes as experiences dictate. All puppy-training takes

time and effort, but the results are worth it.

Supplies Needed

- Fence/gate to contain the puppies. Start small, and expand as the puppies grow. Make sure the fence material does not allow a puppy’s foot or head to get caught in any opening.

- Floor covering. A piece of vinyl flooring can be used, if the current floor needs to be protected.

- Paper, both newspaper and unprinted clean paper end-rolls or “pee” pads.

- A small, square piece of outdoor carpeting.
- One small crate. Ultimately each puppy will have his own crate.

- A comfortable sleeping area. Do not use material or rags that can easily shred, since small puppies can get tangled in loose threads at the ends of a cloth.

- A designated “elimination” area that is portioned off from the other parts of the puppies’ fenced-in area.

- A variety of toys and items they can climb onto or hide under.

- A food bowl. The typical round puppy-feeding bowl that has a bump-up in the middle is sometimes replaced with a skinny, long rectangular trough, followed by individual bowls as the puppies mature.

- Small water bowl. Be careful to not leave a water bowl in with very small puppies. They

can drown in something as small as a water bowl.

- Plastic bags or a covered trash bucket for all the soiled puppy papers.

Divide and Conquer

- The puppies’ area should be divided into four specific spaces: Sleep, play, eat, and defecate/urinate.

- Place the play area closest to the side you use when you come into the room. Since puppies usually run to that area, and you would not want them stepping into something they shouldn’t. I also place a piece of indoor outdoor carpeting in this area to give the puppies better traction as they run and play. Vary their toys periodically.

- Place the “poop” area furthest away from your typical greeting area. Some people actually place a solid divider within the puppy enclosure with an opening, so puppies have to go through the opening before they poop. I allocate an area the size of an open New York Times newspaper and place a very thin piece of wood down to secure the start of that area. The few pages of newspaper are covered with a sheet of clean, unprinted paper on top. Believe it or not, puppies learn to use that area even before their eyes are totally opened. Make the pups get used to a clean environment by cleaning out this area several times a day.