

TERRIER GROUP

freedom of movement and endurance to do the work for which it was developed.”

“Free and even,” “effortless” movement with good reach and drive does not equate to excessive speed. Correct movement in a Glen can best be viewed at a medium gait, where the handler is walking with purpose. Most important is to observe true reach and drive, and not the illusion due to speed. There should be an observable time when all four feet are elevated off the ground. If short legs are moving very rapidly to compensate for correct movement, this can be missed, especially if those legs are loaded with hair.

Leg length is an important part of this equation. The Glen is a dwarf breed but should not appear “dwarflike.” In other words, they should be balanced.

The breed’s original Irish standard from the 1930s has changed little in almost 100 years. Old photos show a dog with a front that was approximately one-half leg and one-half body. Yet today you will often see dogs in the ring with less than one-quarter of the front in leg, often due to a shortening of the upper arm, or an extremely bowed front. This extreme is not correct for the breed and is in direct conflict with our desire to maintain “antique features.”

Historically, Glen fronts for the last 50 years have been about two-thirds body to one-third leg. That allowed them to navigate the rugged



From the breed standard of the Glen of Imaal Terrier: “This is a working terrier, which must have the agility, freedom of movement and endurance to do the work for which it was developed.”

terrain of Ireland’s Wicklow Mountains with ease and agility. It also allows them the reach described in our standard. The *slight* rise to the rear should be maintained when the dog is gaited, but the dog should never appear to be moving downhill or pounding the ground due to an ultrashort front leg.

Judges should ask for Glens to move at a slow pace on the down and back and then

carefully observe the placement of the feet. Paws should not flip, and legs should not cross over! Heavy furnishings on the front or rear of the dog should be a red flag to judges. “Rough and ready working terriers” would not carry excessive furnishings, but that hair can be used to disguise a myriad of faults, from long hocks to fiddle fronts.

I’ve had several judges tell me that speed

only emphasizes poor movement in dogs, but that is not always correct. The human eye only sees so much, and fast can be mistaken for “free.”

So the next time a handler is racing around the ring with a Glen, ask yourself why.

—Jo Lynn,
irishglen@aol.com

Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America

Irish Terriers

THE POWER TO DO GOOD

As breeders, owners, and enthusiasts we all have the power to do good. Every time the phone rings, an e-mail arrives, or we are stopped in a public place and we are asked about our dogs, we have the opportunity to make a positive impression. We have the chance to share our enthusiasm, appreciation, and knowledge with others who may not know much but are investing the time and effort to make honest inquiries. We can explain what our breed was bred to do, why it looks like it does, and how it interacts with its surroundings and people—and maybe we can help people decide if the breed is right for them.

And every time we sell a pup to someone—whether a newcomer or a longtime owner—we have the opportunity to enhance her experience of the breed. By encouraging

COURTESY GITCA



new owners to stay in touch and by sometimes taking the initiative and making contact ourselves, we show commitment to our breed and to the owners who love their dogs. These are the sorts of interactions that help nurture a good impression of “dog people.”

Most of us have dealt with people who just don’t have a clue about how to get started. Openings like “How much do you charge?” “Are your dogs healthy?” or “I need one in time for Christmas” can challenge our otherwise sunny and civil dispositions. Sometimes the urge to cut the inquiry short can be overwhelming. The alternative, however, is to dig deep and find that last bit of patience to ask some questions ourselves and impart some helpful guidance. After all, the person may not know the first thing about how to search for the right dog, but they may be earnestly trying to go about it the right way. You have the opportunity to educate and to help the person understand what the real questions and concerns should be.

It’s just a little thing, but what a difference it can make. To that person you may be representing your breed, your club, and the sport. It could be that the person is trying to determine why to buy from a breeder and not from a pet store or over the Internet. It could be that your patience, knowledge, and kindness will make such a difference that a puppy from

a responsible breeder or from a breed rescue will find a good home.

Know the club representatives who can help. Visit itca.info for details on all things Irish Terrier, including contact information on breeder referral and breed rescue.

And let’s not forget the dogs we have placed. We should be concerned and proactive about any health and behavior issues that are reported to us, whether the dog is 15 months or 15 years old. Our puppy buyers should be encouraged to participate in the parent club’s upcoming breed-health survey. The objective of the ITCA—as that of every AKC parent club—is to preserve and protect our breed. Take that responsibility seriously, and encourage others to do the same. Share knowledge and be open and honest in all our dealings with the public, and we safeguard both our club’s and our breed’s reputation. Knowledge and honesty are powerful tools we can use to do good things.—*Bob Clyde and Marianne Kehoe, 2011*

[Irish Terrier Club of America](http://itca.info)

Kerry Blue Terriers

“KERRY-ING ON” WITH YOUR KERRY BLUE

You have made the decision to add a Kerry Blue Terrier to your family. Some of you may have been asked to show this

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