

TERRIER GROUP

working Glens. It gave the dog leverage for pulling large vermin from dens and for walking the wheel or treadmill that drove a turn-spit or churn.

The ratio of height (withers to ground) to the length of body (point of chest to point of hip) is 3:5. The maximum height is 14 inches and the minimum is 12½ inches. Though this is a range of only 1½ inches in height, given that the breed is 40 percent longer than tall, this can mean there is upwards of 2½ inches difference in length. Add to that the third dimension of substance, and you have a substantial range between the smallest and largest Glens. There is no preference for size and overall balance must always take precedence over any particular number. Glens should have well laid back shoulders leading to strong, short, bowed front legs. The forearm curves around the rib cage and the elbows are tight. The feet turn out slightly from the pasterns only. Correct Glens have enough forechest and keel to prevent fiddle-fronts. The hindquarters of a Glen are impressive. They are well-boned and -muscled and have a well-defined second thigh and good bend of stifle. They should never be soft or flabby since they are the driving forces of the dog.

The Glen is the only one of the four terrier breeds of Ireland that is not defined by color. They come in an array of colors that fall

within the wheaten, blue, or brindle ranges. There is no preference for color or depth of color. Regardless of color, the coat is harsh—not wire—with a soft undercoat. It is kept at a medium length of approximately 1½ inches over the body, and longer on the head and furnishings. The hair of the furnishings is generally softer than the shorter body hair. It is also commonly a bit lighter in shade. The Glen should give the appearance of a rough-and-ready working terrier. He should never be over-trimmed. The coat is hand-stripped and *never* scissored. It may be neatened by hand but should never be sculpted.

You may be surprised at how freely a Glen can move. They can cover ground well with good reach and drive. They are clean coming and going without paddling of forefeet and carry their tail gaily. Move them on a loose lead and allow room between dogs. We do not encourage sparring. Glens are generally gentle and docile but can be exceptionally game when called upon. Their short, stocky bodies can be difficult to control if they are focused on a challenge. Aggression in the ring should never be tolerated. Any departure from the standard is considered a fault, and the seriousness of the fault is in proportion to the degree of departure.

Remember:

- Judge on the ground, examine on the table

- Antique features
- 3:5 ratios
- Appearance of maximum substance for size in a dog of approximately 35 pounds
- This is a rough and ready working dog, not a groomer's idea of a generic terrier. — M.McD.

Thank you, Mary.

—Jo Lynn,

Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America

Irish Terriers

LEADING THE WAY—ON A LOOSE LEAD

“He’s about to start,” Ms. D said, her voice teeming with merriment.

Other cell phones going off around me confirmed the news.

Our friend Harold recently began judging, and he’s proving to be an entertainment feature at the shows. This is particularly true when his favorite breed comes into the ring and his ownership of the details goes off the chart. Just as now people rush from all over the show grounds to his ringside to see the circus.

“What’s he up to?” I asked Ms. D when I reached the seat she had saved for me.

“This is great.” Ms. D beamed. “He’s already given two handling lessons, and we’re not even out of puppies.” The crowd was tittering.

“That’s terrific,” I said. “He hasn’t covered

handling technique since the big stacking demonstration over the Labor Day circuit.

What do you suppose set him off?”

Ms. D shushed me with a finger across the lips. “Shhh, the master speaks.” Her head nodded toward Harold.

Harold had checked off the last dog in line in Bred-by before addressing the class. “There’s a theory going around,” he said in a caustic tone, “that unlike the last class of novices, you people actually know what you’re doing. Well, I hope so. Take them around on a loose lead.”

The results were not pretty. Not that the dogs couldn’t walk in front, but their handlers either missed or ignored the judge’s instruction. Harold’s entire body was stiff, and he wasn’t so much wringing his hands as clawing them against one another. He examined the first dog in line and then put his hands together in supplication. “I’m begging you,” he said to the breeder-owner-handler, “move him down and back on a loose lead.”

It didn’t happen. Someone laughed out loud. For a moment it looked like Harold would step over the ring ropes and hunt down the offender, but he gathered himself and got back to the task at hand. Still, all the dogs moved on a tight lead. There were dark clouds and thunderbolts above his head as he marked his book and called the Open Dog class.

Harold suppressed his sneer and feigned a

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wan smile, apparently presupposing that this class of mostly professional handlers would be equal to the task. “Take them around on a loose lead,” he barked through clenched teeth.

Harold was due to be disappointed by his new knowledge that in the matter of loose-leading, money was no better a motivator than the experience and responsibility of being a breeder. Guffaws came from the crowd.

The blood rose in Harold’s face so that he looked like a volcano ready to blow. He snatched the lead from the first handler in line and pulled the dog to him. “Ladies and gentlemen, I’m going to loose-lead this dog to the corner and back. This is what I want you to do when it’s your turn.”

To say the dog *moved* with Harold handling would be a stretch. To no one’s surprise, the dog threw his front something awful.

Ms. D and I were close enough to hear the dog’s handler tell Harold, “If I started moving dogs like that, I’d never get any clients.” The breeder behind him said, “If I moved a dog like that nobody would ever send a bitch to him.”

“If you people don’t start moving them all that way,” Harold sneered, “the breed will never move correctly again.” He promptly awarded the breed to a common little dog who could actually move in front.

—Ellis West,
Irish Terrier Club of America

Kerry Blue Terriers

This month’s guest columnist is Gene Possidento, of [Lughnasa Kerries](#). Gene has been showing and breeding Kerry Blue Terriers for almost 25 years. He has judged national sweepstakes, given seminars, and done ring mentoring though the years.

JUDGES’ EDUCATION IN THE BREED

How many of us have heard (or said to ourselves) “They didn’t have the first clue about our breed” after a less than happy day in the conformation ring? Thoughts like this emphasize the importance of breed seminars and ringside mentoring in the continuing education of judges who seek to judge our Kerries. I was recently asked to lead a judges’ seminar on our breed and to mentor ringside at two shows with large entries of Kerries.

For the seminar, the USKBTC sent me folders with materials for each judge candidate. After reviewing a number of documents, articles, and the official standard in an hour-long presentation, the seminar proceeded to a hands-on examination of six dogs. The available dogs were three male puppies (10 months), two mature bitches, and one mature male.

Throughout the lecture and hands-on, the judge candidates asked many questions. Fronts were explained in detail after someone asked

about “terrier fronts.” Coat texture and color were asked about by many, as was the concept of a soft, silken, open or marcel wave as opposed to tight curls and/or a harsh coat. How much curl in a tail is allowed? The breed’s standard says the straighter, the better. This question allowed for a discussion of tail carriage and set-on of tail.

Once the hands-on was complete, the judges discussed what they had found when they had gone over the dogs, and they voiced which dog they liked best and why. The seminar was held in conjunction with the Foothills Cluster in Greenville, South Carolina. Several of the judges were planning to travel to the Steel Valley Cluster in Canfield, Ohio, the weekend following. They asked me if I was going to be there (I was) and if they could receive ringside mentoring.

According to the AKC, “A ringside observation may be experienced with individuals who are a parent-club approved mentor, have judged the national specialty, have 12 years’ experience exhibiting or 12 years as an approved judge in that breed. The ringside mentor may become a long-term mentor or not. A ringside observation may be completed at specialties where formal ringside mentoring is offered or at any AKC conformation event where a major in at least one sex has been entered.”

I feel that ringside mentoring should be a conversation where the mentor points out what is best about a particular dog or class of dogs. Generally the judges will ask about something they think is faulty and if it is a fault, just how bad is it. Things like coat texture and color, movement, and behaviors in the ring are questioned. One point that I tried to clarify was that judging a Kerry’s color under indoor lighting in most venues could be difficult. I mentioned that many exhibitors preferred to have their dogs judged outdoors for this reason.

In both the seminar and with the mentoring, I was happy to find that the judges who wished to judge Kerries were highly motivated students who really observed and quickly picked up on all that makes our Kerries the special breed that they are. —G.P.

Thank you, Gene. For more information, visit the national club’s website.

—Carol Kearney,
[United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club](#)

Lakeland Terriers

TEACHING THE NEXT GENERATION

What are we teaching the next generation?

It is said that a cynic is a frustrated idealist. I just wish the AKC would decide once and for