

splits. An amicable divorce will end with the pet in a good home. However, pet custody can also be a tug of heart-strings versus purse-strings. If one spouse knows the other wants the dog, the pet gets to be a bargaining chip, and the dog can end up bearing the brunt of the parties' anger. If the couple cannot agree on who gets the dog, or if one is out for revenge, having a neutral place such as the breeder's home for the pet to go is essential.

There are several ways to prevent a pup you bred from ending up homeless, but one of the best is to sell the dog under contract. Yes, I know that many contracts are not legally enforceable, but they do let the buyer know that you value this dog and want him to have a long, happy life. They ensure that the owner knows what you consider important in the care of this dog.

Contracts can and should include more than just the price of the dog and a neuter or spay agreement. Since I tend to be a bit of a fussy budget, my contracts also include a health guarantee not only on immediate health, but for serious inheritable problems that could cause death or prevent a dog from living a normal life with a reasonable expenditure of funds. I advocate limited registrations and give advice on feeding, behavior, and the importance of continuing the training and development of temperament and personality. Most importantly it includes my phone number, so they can call for advice.

I also require that the dog be returned to me if the owners for various reasons are unable to care for it. It still was a bit of a surprise one day when a young man came to my door with a rather familiar-looking Wire. His comment was, "My dad died, and no one in the family can take the dog. His will says you get him back." Of course, the dog came back—who could refuse him—and seriously, as a breeder, you do have the responsibility to see to the care of the ones you've bred from cradle to grave.

Even if a contract is not strictly legal, it gives you a good talking point if you

should ever have a conflict with a buyer and end up in court. It could save a dog's life. —Virginia Matanic, Brainica@airlink.net; American Fox Terrier Club website: aft.org

Glen of Imaal Terriers Attention Must Be Paid

The above title quotes the iconic line from Arthur Miller's masterpiece *Death of a Salesman*, a highly acclaimed revival of which is currently gracing the boards on Broadway. In the play, the line references the life led by its lead character. I use it here to reference the passing of three extraordinary Glens in the past few months, each of whom lived long, influential lives that spanned the most eventful years of our breed's history in America.

Ch. Coleraine's Little Man Tate recently left us in his 17th year. Bred by Maura High and co-owned by her with Peg Carty, with whom he lived, Tate was an exemplary ambassador for the breed. One of our favorite dogs to use at judges' education seminars, he was also supremely photogenic. His photos graced numerous publications, including the AKC's "Meet the Breeds" brochure. In those pre-AKC recognition days, Tate won a record-setting four national specialties, becoming the first Glen to retire the club's challenge trophy. When AKC recognition finally arrived, he became the breed's third AKC champion, finishing on the second weekend after recognition. Upon his passing, Peg was inundated with messages from around the globe, all pretty much saying the same thing: "We got into the breed because of your wonderful Tate."

Not a show dog, but a diva nonetheless, was Tate's daughter, Emma (Rainbow Springs Irish Rose, ME, CG), who recently passed away just shy of her 15th birthday. Bred by Peg and owned by Les and Monique Anthony, Emma was a working girl. In 2000, the American Working Terrier Association recognized Glens, and Emma quickly earned a Certificate of Gameness. She

remains the only Glen with that title from the AWTA. When Glens were approved to compete in AKC earthdog events, she instantly earned her AKC Junior Earthdog title, the first Glen to do so. She then became the first Glen to earn a Senior Earthdog title. Still not satisfied, Emma went on to be the first Glen (and the only one to date) to earn a Master Earthdog title. When she was not getting down and dirty, she had another favorite pastime. She liked to sing opera. Don't take my word for it; visit YouTube and enter "Emma the Glen sings opera" in the search field. Then prepare to shout, "Brava!"

And finally, there was our own Kafka, whom we recently lost after 15 and one-half glorious years. Though achieving great success back in the days of rare-breeds shows, including a climactic Best in Specialty Show at our national specialty, Kafka's main claim to fame was as a stud dog. When he arrived in America—we imported him from Fiona and Roy Kelly, of Wales—he was the darkest and clearest blue-brindle any of us had ever seen. He turned out to be prepotent for the trait, passing on his gorgeous color and pigment to all 37 of his puppies. One of them, our India, became the breed's first AKC champion as well as the first, and only to date, AKC all-breed Best in Show winner. Well-named, he was a deep thinker. We often wondered if he could read. And if by chance he's reading this, I know he would want me to mention his proudest achievement: he was housebroken in 24 hours. —Bruce Sussman, BLUEKAFKA@aol.com; Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America website: glens.org

Irish Terriers

Welcome to our guest columnist, Dale Gordon, an Irish Terrier breeder-owner and experienced competition obedience instructor.

Temperament Testing, PART TWO: The Test Itself

This is the test I have used for many years to help students pick a competi-

tion prospect and to help evaluate Irish Terrier puppies prior to placement in homes.

Some basics:

—Arrange the time of the test so that the puppies are fed, exercised, and rested before being taken to the test site (usually in a crate in a car—possibly their first car ride).

—The test site can be outdoors or indoors—it should be clean, safe, and free from major distractions.

—Present can be the breeder, a tester, a helper, a video-camera operator, and a few guests (instructed to stay seated and quiet).

—Puppies are brought in by the breeder one at a time for testing. An ex-pen has been set up in the middle of the area, and the puppy to be tested is placed in it and left there alone.

The Test

1. Observe the puppy's reaction when:

(a) placed alone in ex-pen in a strange place

(b) the tester comes up and walks around the ex-pen and stands silently looking at the puppy

(c) the tester talks to the puppy
(This will indicate degree of self-confidence, dominance vs. submissiveness, and degree of social interaction.)

2. Observe the puppy's reaction when:

(a) a plastic bag attached to a wooden stake is dropped into the pen

(b) a container filled with small rocks or coins dropped in or near the pen (away from the pup while he is not looking)

(c) a referee's whistle is blown
(This will test degree of sight and sound sensitivity and the ability to hear and locate sound.)

3. Tester removes the puppy from ex-pen and cradles him upside-down in their arms. Observe puppy's reaction.
(Tests degree of dominance, independence, and social attraction.)

4. Helper holds puppy, and tester (from 15–20 feet away) calls puppy. Observe puppy's reaction.

5. Tester walks off, talking to puppy and encouraging him to follow.

Observe puppy's reaction.

(The two exercises above test the puppy's degree of social attraction vs. his independence.)

6. Tester supports the puppy underneath the belly and elevates him about 1½ inches above the floor, holding that position for about 30–60 seconds.

Observe puppy's reaction.

7. Tester places puppy on his back on the floor and holds him there for about 30–60 seconds. Observe puppy's reaction.

(The two exercises above test the puppy's degree of dominance and reaction to restraint.)

8. Tester holds the puppy in arms and then gently pinches the webbing between the toes of one foot. Tester counts until there is a reaction from the puppy (e.g., a yelp or pulling foot away) and then stops pinching. (This tests the puppy's pain tolerance.)

9. Tester cradles puppy and sees if the puppy shows forgiveness (e.g., licks tester's face or hands) afterward.

(Exercises 6, 7, and 8 are all relatively unpleasant.)

10. Tester throws a variety of toys (two or three) and encourages puppy to retrieve.

11. Tester tries to engage the puppy in a tug-of-war with a suitable toy.

12. Tester simulates a prey object by moving a piece of towel tied with a string along the ground and around in a circle.

(Exercises 10, 11, and 12 test whether the puppy is a natural retriever or not (10), how dominant the puppy is (11), and how much prey-drive the puppy has (12).)

13. Tester offers a bit of food—something the puppy has not had before.
(This tests the level of food drive.)

When all the puppies have been tested individually and the results noted, I then get all the puppies and let them run around together and play with the new toys. —D.G.

Thank you, Dale, for sharing all this great information! Next time: Conclusions we can draw—and act on.

—Marianne Kehoe, m_dkehoe@verizon.net; Irish Terrier Club of America website: ita.igf

Kerry Blue Terriers

Our guest columnist is Lisa Frankland.

The Allure of Lure Coursing

Imagine taking your Kerry to a wide-open field, removing his leash and collar, and allowing him to chase things to his heart's content—without any concerns about running afoul of leash laws, property owners, other loose dogs, or cars. Now imagine earning qualifying ribbons and titles if your dog is good at doing this, with no formal training required. That's the allure of lure coursing!

Lure coursing is primarily a sport for sighthounds—such as Greyhounds, Salukis, and Whippets—who were bred for and are still used to run down game. Beginning in the late 1800s, coursing began to evolve from a practical application to a competitive sport, first in enclosed areas with live game and then, starting in the 1920s, with a circular racetrack and mechanical rabbit.

In the 1970s, a California breeder, Lyle Gillette, came up with the idea of running a mechanical lure in an open field, using pulleys and string to pull an artificial lure around a course. This system allowed operators to vary the distance and design of the courses, and to simulate the sudden twists and turns of live prey. Thus modern lure coursing was born. It was approved as an AKC performance event in 1991, with participation and titles limited only to breeds classified as sighthounds.

The AKC launched the Coursing Ability Test (CAT), as a tiding event for all dogs, in February of 2011. By the end of the year, 412 dogs from 90 breeds (including two Kerry Blue Terriers) and mixes earned the basic Coursing Ability title (CA, awarded for successfully completing three runs), along with 25 Coursing Ability Advanced titles (CAA, 10 runs), and one Coursing Ability Excellent title