

## TERRIER GROUP

breeders who either have a plan or will make a plan for the continuation of their lines? If not, what's going to happen to our beloved breed?

It's something to think about.

—Diane Ryan,

[afterallca@gmail.com](mailto:afterallca@gmail.com)

American Fox Terrier Club

<http://www.aftc.org>

## Glen of Imaal Terriers

### ANTIQUE FEATURES, MODERN TIMES

There were seven Glen litters registered with the AKC in 2016—yes, only seven. That amounted to 33 individual registrations. The previous seven years (2009–2015) saw 12 to 16 litters born. The highest number of individual registrations in that same period was 84 pups in 2014 (14 litters).

Glens make wonderful family dogs. They are smart and very trainable. They shed very little and are a nice-sized dog for country or city living, at 35 to 45 pounds on average. They don't need a lot of exercise. They are not a high strung or busy breed, at least not in their adult years. They have a big bark, but they use it judiciously, not to excess. They are versatile and can be found competing in events including obedience, agility, tracking, scent work, barn hunt, coursing, and earthdog. Those of us who

live with them can't imagine life without them.

This dog with antique features (front legs that turn out very slightly, and a topline that has a slight but perceptible rise) has some wonderful qualities, but they are still without a doubt a terrier.

The AKC website describes the terrier group this way: "People familiar with this group invariably comment on the distinctive terrier personality. These are feisty, energetic dogs whose sizes range from fairly small, as in the Norfolk, Cairn or West Highland White Terrier, to the grand Airedale Terrier. Terriers typically have little tolerance for other animals, including other dogs. Their ancestors were bred to hunt and kill vermin. Many continue to project the attitude that they're always eager for a spirited argument. Most terriers have wiry coats that require special grooming known as stripping in order to maintain a characteristic appearance. In general, they make engaging pets, but require owners with the determination to match their dogs' lively characters."

In this short paragraph, three things stand out: "typically have little tolerance for other animals," "have wiry coats that require special grooming," and "make engaging pets, but require owners with the determination

to match their dogs' lively characters."

Early socialization is very important, but even with socialization they might not be the best breed for taking to your local dog park. Going for walks around the neighborhood on a leash is much safer, considering the typical terrier temperament.

Glens shed very little, but they must be groomed or their undercoat will mat. It takes some time to learn to strip, and breeders are happy to teach you—but when buyers live hundreds or even thousands of miles away from their dogs' breeders, it can be a challenge.

To welcome a Glen into your family is to accept their "terrierness." It means you'll need to learn to strip their coat or find someone to do it for you. You may have to skip the dog park and walk on leash instead. You should try to find a puppy obedience class to get your relationship off to a good start.

Owning a rare breed of terrier helps to preserve them for future generations. I am very grateful for all the families who keep a Glen not for breeding or showing, but for the companionship, warmth, and enjoyment this old Irish breed brings into our modern lives.

—Jo Lynn,

[irishglen@aol.com](mailto:irishglen@aol.com)

Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America

<http://www.glens.org/>

## Irish Terriers

### WORST BIG WIN

Ms. D was so pensive, I knew I was supposed to say something. So I did.

"Whazzup?"

Apparently I didn't say the right thing, or say it the right way, because her brows narrowed and her eyes darkened before she forgave me and proceeded.

"You know another couple that doesn't show anymore ...?" Her voice trailed off.

I thought about it for a second and took a guess.

Her eyes brightened. "That's just who I was calling to mind!"

"Dropped out due to insufficient success, I believe."

"Do you remember when they won the breed at their first big Wunderkind Kennel Club show?"

"How could I forget?"

A cloud passed over her face. "Do you remember what Wax said that day?"

"Why would I remember that?"

"Think about it, baby. Everybody was so happy for them ... except for Wax."

"Oh, yeah." I was beginning to recall. "He said it was the worst big win ever."

"What a Grinch! Do you suppose he was right?"

Her sudden flip caught me by surprise. "I

## TERRIER GROUP

don't know," I stammered, and stalled, trying to dredge up a scintilla of Wax's exquisite thinking or irony. "Well, obviously Wax didn't believe the dog deserved the win."

"I'll say," she agreed.

"But I thought his main concern was that the win would only further inflate their assessment of their dog."

"They loved that win," she said.

"They loved that dog, and felt he was a good one," I said. "Which he wasn't."

"I think that's what upset him. He was afraid that big win would make them love that mutt of a dog so much they'd never move beyond him."

We were both silent for a few moments as we called up memories of their dogs.

"I can't remember them having anything but a series of very mediocre dogs," Ms. D said with a slight wince. "Odd to think that wins or losses in the ring should affect our judgment so."

I saw my opportunity to insert a Kipling line. "If you can meet with triumph and disaster—and treat those two imposters just the same..." Then I shook my head to indicate that I too couldn't remember them having any really good ones. "But very nice people," I added.

"Oh, I agree there," she said, followed by some moments of silence before begrudgingly adding, "You know, Wax may have had a point."

"He has a habit of that." I said.

"I know," Ms. D said. "Just when I think he's merely an old curmudgeon, he turns back into a sage."

—Ellis West,

[e.f.west@att.net](mailto:e.f.west@att.net)

Irish Terrier Club of America

<http://www.itca.info>

## Kerry Blue Terriers

### DEWCLAWS: TO REMOVE OR NOT?

Dewclaws are those little nails up on the side of the leg above the paw, most often on the front legs. A few breeds, including Briards and Great Pyrenees, have dewclaws on all four legs. In fact, Pyrs are required to have double dewclaws on the rear legs. This fact is written into their standard. My friend who has bred and shown Pyrenees for 50 years said that those rear dewclaws were supposed to give the dogs extra grip while moving through the terrain of mountainous regions. It was considered proof of their purebred ancestry.

Ironically, in the Kerry breed, I read in an old book that said many centuries ago, breeders would remove rear dewclaws because they believed it demonstrated their ancient ancestry, and that would suggest to potential new owners that they were not modern purebreds. This inherited trait of rear dewclaws is called



Kerry Blue Terrier

*preaxial polydactyly*. This fifth digit has no bone and is attached only by skin in most breeds.

What do most Kerry owners do? I believe, most rear dewclaws are removed when they are puppies three to five days old. If not done at this early age, the vet will have to do it under general anesthesia, and stitches may be required, which often bother the dog enough so he licks the area, which may cause other problems. Some countries, as well as some parent clubs, do not allow dewclaw removal,

with the exception of hunting breeds, since dewclaws could present a danger to the dog under some circumstances. Sporting breeds, hunting dogs, and dogs that run quickly through the fields often have dewclaws removed because it was believed dogs that run through brush with exposed plant roots covering the ground could get their rear dewclaw caught and ripped off. So, to avoid the dewclaw from being caught on the roots and brush and being pulled off causing damage,