

TERRIER GROUP

its den. They were then required to engage the quarry, and preferably drag it through the tunnels and out of its den. Only a balanced athlete with great agility can accomplish this task.

The Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America is determined to keep Glens within the height and weight range described in our standard. To that end, Senior and Master Versatility awards can only be earned by dogs who have a Junior or higher Earthdog title. A dog with correct length of leg, mass of body, and length of back should be able to fit through a nine-inch tunnel, negotiate right-angle turns, and reach the end within a short amount of time. Master Earthdog tunnels with their squeeze-chutes are probably too small for the average Glen, but the lower levels are achievable.

So, without a scale, how do you determine if a Glen is too large? You must familiarize yourself with the standard, attend judges' education events, and put your hands on enough Glens to become familiar with correct size and proportions. When all else fails, think of the earthdog tunnel. If the round dog can't fit through the square hole, he or she is just too big. —Dr. Mary McDaniel

—Jo Lynn,

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Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America,
<http://www.glens.org/>

Irish Terriers

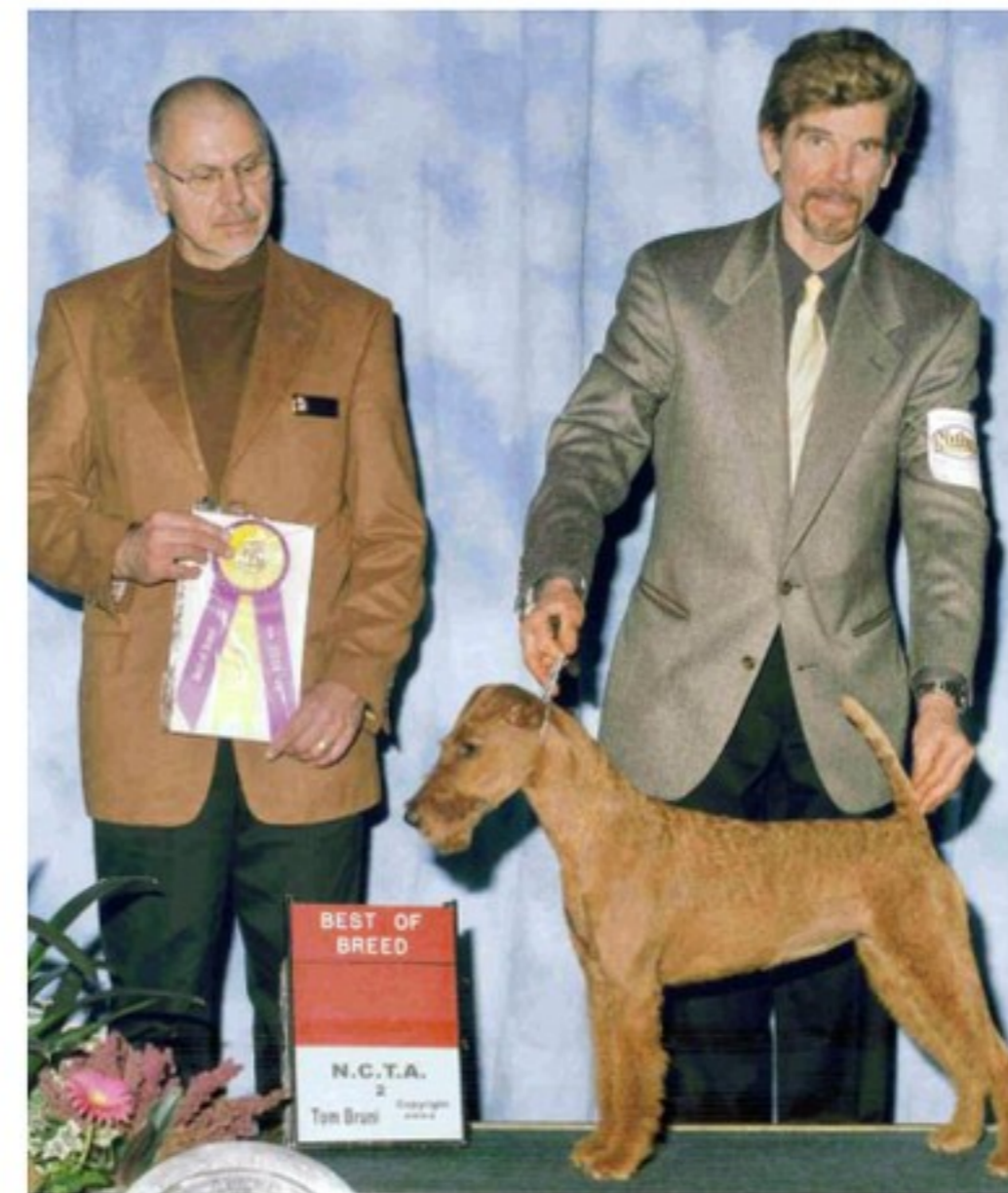
MY FRIENDS BRUCE AND NANCY PETERSEN

Longtime Irish Terrier fanciers Bruce and Nancy Petersen died on July 31 as a result of an altercation with their son that took place at their home. See page 4 of this issue for details.

It was those people who'd buttonholed me at Grayslake—the persistent Petersens. They found me and boxed me in at ringside at Hatboro. He seated himself on my left, and she on my right. You could hear Chicago in his voice; see it in his confident, toothy smile and slicked-back dark-blond hair. She was a downstate redheaded girl who had got herself educated and who spoke like it, but nicely.

They'd been showing for a couple of years, but wanted changes. They wanted dogs who looked like the old Tauskey prints of the Ahtram-Kilvara dogs. That struck a chord with me, as I'd often thought those old prints represented some of the finest images of our breed.

They began to lay out their plans, and how they would accomplish them. They would divide the work, with Nancy doing the grooming and Bruce the showing. They even had plans for their club participation. Suddenly it dawned on me that the Petersens wanted more than a puppy; they wanted guidance, a mentor. Thanks to the resemblance of Jake and



Bruce Petersen awards Best of Breed at the Irish Terrier Club of America to Ch. Gloccomara Requisite Memory, handled by owner Ellis West.

Summer, the dogs I was then showing, to an idea in our collective consciousness, the three of us began a dialogue about the breed and a friendship that was to span three decades.

The following summer, Bruce and Nancy drove to Houston to look at two litters I had co-bred—one with Walt Bebout, the other with Teresa Garza. John and Beth came down. We looked at puppies and lunched at Pappadeux, eating until we had to unbuckle our belts. We hid from the humidity by order-

ing dessert and more margaritas. John and I told dog stories, and we all laughed.

They called their puppy bitch Charlie. They dumped her on me to show in sweeps at Montgomery. There wasn't a bone in her 6-month-old body that wanted to be led or stacked, but Jim Tebbitts liked her and put her Best in Sweeps. Nancy was showing some, too. We teased that they'd conceived Brian on their trip to Texas. Charlie became the Petersens' first group winner, and her quality and character helped soothe some hurt feelings about their having gone to Texas to get a dog.

They asked questions, worked hard, and learned fast. There were more trips to Texas to learn how to evaluate puppies. There wasn't a show at which Nancy didn't ask, "Could you look how I've done her [feet, ears, eyebrows]?" We groomed. After losing at Grayslake we held a pity party at Maggiano's and ate until we couldn't stand. Bruce had begun wearing a green jacket at every show so the judges would recognize him as "the guy in the green jacket." The coat was fraying from trips to the dry cleaners. Nancy and I split our sides laughing. Bruce flashed his best self-deprecating smile.

Nancy was so nice (and competent) she took the club by storm. She was appointed specialty show co-coordinator for the national club and was transformed into the club's most useful, involved, and active member. She would talk

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with anyone, never met a stranger, was faultlessly polite, and never tied you up on the phone with pointless chatter. She was all business, but so nice.

Bruce served on the board, wrote the breed column for the AKC GAZETTE for a while, and rose into the presidency of the ITCA. The club needed money, so he agreed to oversee publication of another breed book and made the 1997 edition a matching bookend to the 1983 edition. Bruce served as the chair of the judges' education committee and put together a nifty guide for judges. As important as Bruce and Nancy were to the national breed club, I can only imagine their significance to the Chicago breed club.

After Bruce retired his group-winning dog Cody, he stepped back from showing, and Nancy began exhibiting. He began judging the breed and was looking forward to judging the 2016 Montgomery entry. She was having her best results ever in the show ring with her bitch Bug.

Amateur organizations are fortunate to have such competent leaders. To lose two such figures in our club will be difficult, to say nothing about the personal loss.

For me, when I see images of a particular type of Irish Terrier, I will mumble some aside intended for Bruce and Nancy, and the long dialogue we had going will continue.

Someday when our grieving subsides and we've dealt with forgiveness, we will still have our memories. Occasionally we will still have tears, but the day will come that we can laugh again, too.

—Ellis West,

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Irish Terrier Club of America,

<http://www.itca.info>

Kerry Blue Terriers

THE NEED FOR REVIEW

“Repetition is the mother of learning, the father of action, which makes it the architect of accomplishment.” —Zig Ziglar, author and motivational speaker.

I can't understand why the same issues about judging Kerries repeatedly come up. The standard is misquoted by handlers, breeders, and even judges. Recently, Facebook was filled with the comments from frustrated dog owners who have been walked out of the ring for what they thought were insufficient reasons or incorrect justifications. So where does the fault lie? The owner? The handler, the judge, the breeder, the national club, judges' education, or the AKC? Rather than assign blame, we should look for ways to correct misconceptions on all fronts by revisiting the breed standard. We have to accept that at different times, we all

can accept blame for misinterpretation.

Since breed standards are usually available on the national club's website or on the AKC's site, all should accept the responsibility to understand the standard and protect the future of the breed. I will once again try to try to focus on important Kerry Blue traits associated with the form and function of the breed:

- A moderate, well-balanced dog with tail carried erect.
- A soft, dense, wavy coat that can be in any shade and variations of shades from light gray to dark slate gray, noting that a black dog is not acceptable over 18 months. Dark points on legs and muzzle are acceptable. (Indoor shows with the poor lighting make it difficult to distinguish the fact that the dog is a dark gray and is not black. This should be considered when looking at coat color indoors.) My suggestion is, if you have a dark gray dog, show the dog outdoors so errors in judgment are less likely.

- Fluid movement, with good reach and drive.
- A dark, almond-shaped eye.
- A flat skull with scissors or even bite, flat cheeks with full foreface, and a folded ear on top of the skull.
- Disqualifications: A solid black dog of 18 months or older.

Questions asked repeatedly at seminars are: *Are KBT fronts the same as that of some other terriers?*

A Kerry should *not* move like a Fox Terrier. They should have fluid movement with good reach and drive. I compare it closer to a sporting dog's movement, and when you remember that Kerries were considered an overall versatile farm dog, you understand why they should be fluid movers.

What texture does the coat have?

It should be soft, dense, and wavy, and not wiry or hard. Yes, some people blow out the coats, which changes the coat texture, and if done often enough this makes it dry or harsh, and eventually it looks more like a Poodle coat.

A soft, dense wave is the goal.

How tall?

Bitches should be 17½–19½ inches, and dogs 18–19½ inches—but not over 20 inches.

How much curve should the tail have?

Regardless of length, the tail should have a good set-on and be carried erect. For me, that means the straighter the better, but most tails have a slight curve like a crescent-shaped tail, not one that curves over so much that it touches or lies on the dog's back. It should be carried erect.

Where can you find this information? To repeat, read and then re-read the breed standard. Review the standard when evaluating your dogs or before you judge the breed. It is all there—in the breed's standard. Read it ... again.