



Glen of Imaal Terriers



Allow me to introduce our guest columnist Mary McDaniel, DVM, who chairs the Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America's judges' education committee.

The Mentor and the New Breed

New breeds with low registration numbers are sometimes the quickest way to measure success in the breed ring. Less-than-worthy specimens are rewarded with majors for just showing up. Based on their success in the ring, they are bred, sold, and their breeder becomes the main source of information for new owners. After a while, the breed is left with many so-called experts and few knowledgeable mentors. How do new, uncommon breeds overcome this hurdle?

Glen of Imaal Terriers managed to avoid some of the new breed pitfalls by attracting those with success and long experience in other breeds both here and abroad. These breeders have already learned patience and focus from previous experience. A basic knowledge of genetics, breeding, and type has also been a great help when delving into a second breed. Though relatively new to Glens, these people have used their training to help others in multiple ways.

European breeders, mostly in the British Isles and Scandinavia, are also a wealth of knowledge. Decades of experience in Glens make them invaluable mentors. Most will readily share their knowledge. In fact, there is a concerted global effort to preserve and promote the breed, and a great sense of community. For example, a remarkable worldwide pedigree database is available online thanks to the efforts of a dedicated Dutch breeder.

Sometimes, valuable mentors are not necessarily those from within a breed. Often a more unfiltered opinion is secured from someone without a vested interest. Such advice can help novice breeders maintain focus when they become too emotionally attached to a

so-so dog or decide to breed a mediocre bitch.

Yet with all these opportunities for counsel, we still have challenges to conquer. Not long ago, exhibitors of some experience were complaining that judges only liked a particular type of dog and it was not the type they owned. I realized that they meant judges were selecting only dogs that fit within the AKC standard. These were not the first exhibitors to confuse conforming to standard with the concept of type. Who was mentoring the mentors?

In a perfect world, breeders would provide direction to each person who purchases a puppy from them. In the real world, many have only a passing knowledge of the AKC standard and are incapable of properly coaching others. They expect the standard to conform to their dogs rather than the other way around. Those who choose to stay in Glens for the long haul need to find mentors they trust and who do not solely tell them what they want to hear. And they should keep a frequently read copy of the breed standard in their back pocket.

The Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America boasts many current and potential mentors in its ranks. Several have owned Glens for 10 or more years and have decades-long experience in other breeds. They share a fervent desire to preserve this fascinating Irish breed for future generations. They are only too eager to mentor those willing to learn. —M.M.

Thank you, Mary. —Bruce Sussman, New York, N.Y.; bluekafka@aol.com ♦



Irish Terrier Jacket

This very distinct feature of our breed generates heated discussion as well as firmly held and often-expressed opinions.

We have two pieces of advice for novices looking for a quality Irish or embarking on a breeding program that seeks to adhere to the standard and improve the breed.

The first and most critical is to get your hands on as many Irish Terriers as you can. Examine the texture (on the back—is it rough to the touch?), the density (can't see the skin?), the condition of the undercoat (is it fine and abundant?), and the quality of the furnishings (like what you feel on the body?), and compare what you see and feel to the standard.

The second is to understand and remember the seven coat types:

Smooth: Characterized by hard, straight, and short coat like a Whippet, but lacks undercoat and furnishings.

Flat/straight: While showing longer and more dense hair than smooth, it is characterized by sparse undercoat (very sparse at the back and loins), profuse but poor-quality head furnishings, and sparse leg furnishings. **Open:** Open-coated dogs are generally shown with too-short coats to offset the problem—consists of a harsh body coat until it matures, then it opens (blows) and abundant but soft leg and face furnishings appear. **Soft/silky:** Rarely seen in the ring but characterized by grayish, wheaten furnishings, extremely soft coat that may show some body when short, but the effect only lasts two weeks or so.

Curly/kinky: Usually dark red, extremely hard, and curly with no furnishings. The coat can be prickly to the touch and may include bald spots under the eyes and on the body. (In the writers' opinion, this sort of coat in the show ring should be disqualified.) **Hazy:** This is a good coat with proper furnishings and undercoat. The body coat has the appearance of marcel (raised pattern) waves. Care must be taken when breeding two wavy-coated dogs as curly coats can be the result. **Broken:** This is the only proper coat! It has abundant undercoat and a hard, dense top coat that lies close to the body—at the proper length of 1¼ to 1½ inches—in broken lines. This kind of coat extends "from the nose to the toes" with just enough furnishings to finish the outline.

The red jacket is not an ornament. It protects the dog from the elements, so if it is deficient, our Irish Terriers' ability to perform their function is compromised. The coat should be dense and full of life so that it can be short enough to show off the racy outline. Too much coat is as bad as too little. Keeping a broken coat



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in good condition is a lot less work than the wavy, open, or flat coats, and the less we see the kinky, silky, and flat, the better off the breed will be! —Robert Clyde and Marianne Kehoe, Plainfield, N.J.; m_dkehoe@verizon.net ♦



Kerry Blue
Terriers

Are We Doing Enough?

The French novelist Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr coined the proverb, "The more things change, the more they stay the same." This proverb is relevant when comparing some of the comments found in old Kerry Blue breed columns to the current events in the sport of dogs. To prove that point, I set up a mock interview with two previous GAZETTE breed columnists and used only their comments in response to the questions asked. Try not to look at the publication date ahead of time and see how relevant their observations and opinions are today.

How would you describe the Kerry's popularity, and what advice would you give to improve the public's perception of the breed?

"Each year we hear statements of concern about our breed's decline in popularity. In other words, Kerries appear to be increasing in popularity more slowly than other breeds. I think that the Kerries' lack of public image or in some cases an incorrect one is a major reason. "What kind of dog is that?" "Is it a Schnauzer?" You have all heard these questions. I believe that at least some of us are not doing all that we can. Don't pass up opportunities to display your Kerries. Turn out a healthy Kerry Blue with a truly typical temperament and provide good breeder services. Producing a healthy Kerry with a sound temperament should be the aim of every breeder and is just as important in a show dog as in a pet" (Dr. Roger L. Macha, May 1969).

Would you explain how exhibiting dogs can influence the breed?

"The greater the competition, the better it is for the breed. A breed demands competition to advance its betterment. Not only do the entries continue to be

greater, but the shows are also increasingly multiplied in number. This I consider not an improvement. Too many shows tend to make it too easy for the dogs to acquire their championships. This, in turn, will not advance the betterment of any breed. So many opportunities to enter shows is bound to give points to dogs not of the correct caliber, and this, assuredly, cannot benefit the respective standards.

"It is difficult to find many thoroughly informed judges of a breed, and after all, a judge through his knowledge—or lack of knowledge—can be the making or the breaking of that breed. It seems to me that with such a responsible burden, they should be thoroughly schooled beforehand in the knowledge of their duties. A great many judges, indeed, possess all the necessary grounding and discernment, but there still are not enough good ones for the number of shows that are perpetually demanding their presence" (Edwin A. Sayres, August 1937).

People still do not often recognize a Kerry, and because of the rise in event fees, they are being very selective about the shows and the judges under which they exhibit. Each one of us needs to become a more active ambassador for our breed and make every effort to ensure that our Kerries are representative of what is best in our breed. Judges too must have a more practical understanding of the current standard and take every opportunity to improve their observations of the breed. Obviously, if things are very much the same, we are not doing enough. —Carol Kearney, Somers, N.Y.; heritagekerry@optonline.net ♦



Lakeland
Terriers

It's All About Hair

Grooming and ring presentation of the wire-coated terriers is an art form. Learning to evaluate and manage coat is one of the most challenging aspects of breeding and showing Lakelands. The average pet owner can resort to clippers. This shortcut sacrifices

texture and color in favor of expediency. Well done, it is easily maintained and can preserve the basic expression and outline. The focus here, however, is on the purist who wants the real thing.

Of course, a breeder's goal is to produce quality dogs of sound mind and body, but having pulled a mountain of hair over the past 40-plus years I always pray, "Please let them be wrapped in a hard, dense jacket." Call me lazy. With few exceptions, I never kept a dog with a bad or even a marginal coat. A proper coat is more than decorative icing on the cake: It is an example of form following function. The Lake District offers up its fair share of foul weather, and the local vermin can be unforgiving to the terriers bred to control them. A dense, harsh coat sheds dirt and water and protects from the cold and the teeth of quarry. To be honest, over the past 75 years, Lakelands have gotten a bit fancier. Originally they looked more like their modern Irish cousins. However, our standard cautions the breeder to avoid excess, calling for furnishings (hair on legs and foreface) to be "plentiful" rather than "profuse." The latter is often paired with a soft, overpowering undercoat that mats easily, dilutes color, and absorbs rather than repels water. Ideally, furnishings should have much the same (natural) color and texture as the body jacket.

Like all puppies (except a few hairless breeds), Lakelands are born sleek and smooth. In the first month, the experienced breeder can begin to recognize differences in coat quality. Look for the following: Individual hair shafts will be thick, straight, and dense on the body; coat on the legs and face will be very short and finer in texture; color, regardless of shade, will be bright and clear; coat will be shiny and feel crisp to the touch. Conversely, dull or washed out color; soft, linty texture; and any tendency of the coat to lift, wave, or separate before 5 weeks indicates that problems are coming.

During the next two months of a puppy's life, obvious coat differences emerge. Quality, or its absence, becomes clear. The jacket will begin to separate into two distinct layers, starting on the topkull and ears, gradually

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