

mask feature of the breed and contributes mightily to what makes a Glen unique.

For this column, we will focus on topline.

The AKC standard for the Glen contains one sentence on the subject:

Topline—Straight, slightly rising to a very strong, well-musled loin with no drop-off at the croup.

Among breed standards, this language is entirely unique, which might speak to why it has been one of the more difficult aspects of Glen anatomy for judges to grasp. I might add that they are not alone; several Glen enthusiasts and breeders trip up here as well.

To help illuminate the subject, I asked Dr. Mary McDaniel, chair of our judges' education committee, who also happens to be a veterinarian, if she could speak to the issue in anatomical terms. Following is her response.

"The Glen is a dwarf breed. Unlike many breeds with achondroplasia that have been refined over the years, Glens maintain the unique features originally found in all achondroplastic breeds, among them bowed front legs with a slight but perceptible turnout at the pasterns. Both the bowing and the turnout shorten the length of the front legs, causing the front of the dog to be slightly lower than the rear. This alone can account for the slight rise to the rear called for in the standard. When the stifle is incorrect—that is, straight—the rise can become exaggerated. Add the excessively short forelegs found in some Glens, also incorrect, and an undesirable sharp rise occurs.

"Glens also have loins that are relatively short when compared to the length of rib cage. This along with a well-musled loin prevents many of the back problems seen in breeds that are longer than tall. While the loin should appear powerful, it should not rise above the plane of the back forming an arch or 'roach.' Roach-backs or breaks in the topline can occur when the spinous processes on top of the vertebrae do not smoothly tie in with each other and the muscles that overlay them.

"The last part of the topline involves the croup, which is formed by the pelvis and sacrum. The croup should not be

prominent or slope significantly, hence no drop-off. The pelvis and well-musled rear do form a 'shelf' behind the tail."

So, as the standard states, the correct topline for a Glen is straight, but like Hemingway's son, it also rises—*slightly*. I would add that many Glens when stacked, especially when on the table, will manifest a level to level-ish topline. But when they are in repose and on the move, the correct, straight-but-slightly-rising topline should be evident.

Glens bring particular relevance to the old adage "Examine on the table, judge on the ground."

Next time: ears.

—Brewer Susannah, New York, N.Y.;
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Irish Terriers

For this issue we imposed upon our club historian, Mike Kowalczyk, to share the fruits of his latest research activities. Legend has it that there was no room on the ark for the Irish Terriers, so they swam alongside. As with many other IT facts and fables, we are unable to document this. So you can imagine our glee when we learned of the Howard Rice archive. We look forward to further study and access of this potentially important collection.

Google Search Yields Bonanza!

Have been sticking too close to home to have picked up any news or gossip. Write me soon, or better still, bring me some.

So wrote Brigadier General E.B. Cap McKinley in a 1952 letter to his friend of 30 years, Howard "Pappy" Rice.

Both of these gentlemen were prominent figures in the history of the Irish Terrier. Rice served as president of the Irish Terrier Club of America (1936-1943, 1951). He also published five breed books for the club from 1928 to 1959. Likewise, McKinley served as club president (1944-1947, 1950).

This is one of over 1,000 pages of historical documents and photographs we recently obtained from the University of

Vermont's Howard Crosby Rice Archive, which was established because of Rice's active political and civic career in the state of Vermont. He served six consecutive terms in the Vermont General Assembly, was president of Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, and was a participant in various charitable interests.

The documents include personal correspondence with major figures in Irish Terrier history, such as McKinley, Martha Hall, and Marcus Boyd. They bring these people to life, offering frank opinions of the Irish Terrier and reflecting their efforts as breeders and exhibitors. It includes articles containing interesting insights on issues of importance to breeders of that time. It's interesting how relevant they remain today.

There are records of human interest as well. We have learned of the show successes of former New York City Mayor Jimmy Walker, who was an active Irish Terrier breeder-exhibitor after he left office. Rice kept a detailed account of one of his own dogs, Alehouse Annie, when she was stolen from the Westminster Dog Show in 1948. It includes telegrams from the Westminster Kennel Club with updates on the search and eventual recovery of his dog, who was found in a tarpaulin-covered crate behind a lunch wagon.

The first ITCA newsletter was published by Rice in 1944, and he kept copies of all the club's newsletters until his death in 1965. These provide an important chronicle of the club's activities.

The photographs in the collection are an invaluable visual record of the breed during his time. There are pictures of important show dogs, such as Ch. Another Norah, who used to be just names in the pantheon of the breed's history. One can clearly see in reviewing these materials that Rice understood the importance of preserving records for future generations.

Thanks to a very fortunate Google search, this important collection was uncovered. The ITCA thanks the Special Collections Department of the University of Vermont for providing us access to the collection. We hope to make good use of



it to advance our appreciation and understanding of Irish Terriers. —M.K.

Thank you, Mike.

—Marianne Kehoe, Plainfield, N.J.;
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Kerry Blue Terriers



This month's guest columnist is Susan Dunivant, a longtime breeder, owner, and handler of Kerry Blues and Wire Fox Terriers.

Sparring is often seen in the terrier ring, whereby a judge will call two dogs to the center of the ring or away from the other dogs in the lineup and have them face each other, with handlers keeping control of the dogs.

Why Spar?

There appears to be a wide range of opinion concerning the practice of sparring in the Kerry Blue Terrier ring. Many KBT folks feel that sparring is a valuable conformation judging tool used to determine alertness, courage, and confidence in a good dog. A true test of the KBT's mettle is how he reacts among his peers. The act of sparring Kerries allows a judge to determine which KBT possesses the greatest amount of poise and fire, tempered with dignity and control. In other words, sparring shows the judge "who's who!"

KBTs are sparrred at the judge's direction and by the exhibitor's choice. Rarely is there an incidence of inappropriate aggression. One might observe an abundance of excitement, but few problem incidents occur.

The question is sometimes asked, "Is sparring fighting?" My answer is *no*. KBTs are intelligent dogs, and it's important to remember that a good measure of their mental quality may be judged on how they react when sparrred.

If a problem occurs, it is almost always due to handler error or inexperience or a broken or slipped lead. The judge can control a spar by directing how close the dogs should stand next to each other.

From the judge's perspective, questions to ask might include: *Does the KBT pull*

himself up on his toes, arching his neck to show interest, while exuding a definite attitude of warning to the other dog? Or does he drop his tail and refuse to make eye contact? If a dog loses control, will the judge reconsider the specimen if the handler pulls out of the spar, only to return and spar successfully?

Experienced and knowledgeable bystanders of KBT sparring have questioned the wisdom of this practice in view of the attitudes toward dogs held by the public today. Spectators might consider our breed in a bad light when witnessing sparring at shows today and not understanding it. Maintaining order in the ring, while providing a forum to showcase proper temperament, has become more important as dog shows grow bigger and become more visible to the public. To this end, exhibitors and judges must make every effort to learn how to spar KBTs properly, resulting in a picture that is thrilling to behold by all spectators and exhibitors alike.

In the end, perhaps we can all agree that there is nothing as glorious as a ring full of beautifully conditioned KBTs pulled up on their toes, displaying control, "resting on a hair," thereby exemplifying true KBT character and intelligence.

If done properly with skill and respect, sparring presents an opportunity to display fine KBT temperament at its best! —S.D.

Thank you, Susan.

—Carol Kearney, Sowers, N.Y.;
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Lakeland Terriers

Reflections on the Original Standard PART ONE

My last column, in the February issue, included the original Lakeland Terrier standard, written in the early 1920s. If you recall, the standard was brief and left a lot of room for individual interpretation.

Fortunately one of the authors of that document, Thomas Hosking, shared his interpretation and leaves little doubt that form was intended to follow function. I

will take the remainder of this anniversary year marking 75 years since AKC recognition to discuss his comments in light of the breed as we now know it.

If you wish, refer to the original standard and the current one, and reach your own conclusions.

Hosking wrote the following about "Head, Eye, Ears, & Mouth":

"First of all, a working terrier must have a good, sound mouth as it is his best protection. ... the scissors or pincher mouth was adopted. A great deal of consideration was given to the formation of the jaws at that time, as the old school of hunters had little or no use for the long jaw of the fox terrier because they thought it lacked strength. So here a happy medium was struck which calls for a rather stronger head to enable him to carry a strong jaw so essential to a working terrier. Eyes were in many cases large and prominent, often getting torn or full of sand in the conflict underground. The small, piercing, deep-set eye was then accepted, as it gives better protection and a keener expression. Ears were at that time large and heavy, frequently getting badly torn. No doubt Bedlington or Dandie Dinmont blood was introduced, although I have no evidence of either being used. Therefore a small ear closely carried to the skull was adopted, which gives finish to the head."

The breed's modern AKC standard remains true to this ideal, while providing a more detailed description meant for a broader audience of fanciers who don't evaluate breeding stock based on their dogs' prowess exterminating fox and other vermin. Because the Lakeland was meant to kill his quarry rather than simply draw or hold it, a powerful jaw of medium length with large, strong teeth was life preserving. Perhaps this is why a bad bite is the only disqualification in our standard.

Keep this in mind when you hold your dog's head in your hand. It should feel comparatively heavy, without coarseness, with good fill under the eyes. Think of a brick, rectangular with smooth planes. For go-to-ground terriers, ears and eyes are

