

able to show her. She did have absolutely marvelous fill on her muzzle. I had no idea what a fire ant was until that episode.

Since then I have been very careful when away from home, no matter what the weather. —Virginia Matanic; briarlea@citlink.net; *American Fox Terrier Club website: aftc.org*

Glen of Imaal Terriers

The Letter PART TWO

The last installment of this column was devoted to a shard of breed history that in Glen circles is simply known as “the letter.” Written by Frank Fallon, former secretary of the Glen of Imaal Terrier Club in Ireland, it was published in a Dutch monograph about the breed written by Susanne Bagaya and Jean Beats.

Now, as promised, we’ll examine the significance of Mr. Fallon’s revelations. First, however, for reference, here once again is “the letter.”

In the early days, Glens and Wheaten Terriers often came from the same litter. In the late thirties, Maureen Holmes registered the long-legged dogs as Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers and Dan O'Donoghue registered the short-legged ones as Glen of Imaal Terriers. ...

Fearless Dan's sire was called Tinahely Lad, part old Irish Terrier, part Staffordshire Bull. His Dam was a long-legged Wheaten bitch, part Kerry Blue, part White Bull Terrier.

Tinahely Lad was a long, low, powerfully built dog with a short, hard red coat. This bitch also bred several litters of Wheaten Terriers depending on which sire was used. ... In the old days, a dog could be registered on inspection by a member of The Irish Kennel Club if they conformed to the standard laid down by Dan O'Donoghue.

Mr. Fallon is referencing two critical periods in our breed's history. In his first sentence he's referring to the formative years just after Irish Kennel Club recognition of the Glen of Imaal Terrier in 1933. Maureen Holmes was a titanic figure in the history of Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, which were recognized a few years later in 1938.

Dan O'Donoghue was equally iconic in the history of Glens.

Then in the next sentence Mr. Fallon references the “revival” period some 30 years later—the early 1960s. Fearless Dan and Tinahely Lad refer to founding sires of that revival. Behind them, the trail vanishes and does not pick up again until 1934.

Though his revelations shock some in our breed, they should not.

If you trace back the origins of most breeds, there will be a similar history. After all, there was a time when the prototypes of breeds we now know as Scotties, Cairns, and Westies could all be found in one litter—and, going even further back, spaniel types and setter types appeared in the same litter.

From time to time we can still see the echoes of this history in what we dog fanciers call “the drag of the breed.” Though occurring less and less in our breed these days, there is still the occasional throwback to long, straight legs on a dog standing about 18 inches at the withers—the desired height of a Soft Coated Wheaten. Similarly, the occasional individual is born possessing what we call a “smooth” coat that never produces much length—a throwback to Irish Terrier and Bull Terrier ancestors. Note Mr. Fallon's description of Tinahely Lad's coat.

And we still see the occasional Glen with Staffie expression, Kerry Blue soft curls, or Bull Terrier pump-handle tails and patches of white. You won't find them in the show ring, of course, but they exist.

I, for one, am grateful for “the letter.” How rare it is to have a document that offers such unflinching truth on a subject that more commonly is embroidered with fiction. —Bruce Susman; BLUEKAFKA@aol.com; *Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America website: glens.org*

Irish Terriers

Temperament Testing

PART ONE

Let's face it: Matching puppies and new owners is one of the most anxiety-inducing aspects of breeding.

What—besides the luck of the Irish—can we depend on to increase the probability that our decisions are the right ones?

I consulted with others who have used temperament testing with good results and am pleased to share the following thoughts with you.

By 8 weeks we have grown very familiar with the individuals in the litter, and it would be a rare breeder who at that point has not already made judgments with respect to each of them.

Our ability to evaluate the puppies may be compromised by our own preferences for certain personality traits or certain conformation aspects. However, only unfettered honesty and objectivity will ensure that we discharge our responsibilities properly to each of these little daredevils and their future owners. A sound practice to follow is to employ a well designed, properly administered and documented temperament test.

We accept that Irish can be reserved with strangers and that they may exercise sensible caution when faced with a new situation. It's what happens after the unfamiliar has been processed that will give us insight into the pup's real temperament.

Temperament testing is ideally done when the puppies are 8 weeks old, by experienced people and in a location unfamiliar to the pups. It is important that each pup is tested individually, following a strict and uniform protocol.

A video recording of the test will allow the team to focus on the full process with analysis, discussion, and interpretation following with the review of the recording. The video also allows for repeated reviews, and copies can be a nice gift for new owners—sort of like a party favor!

The test deliberately stresses the puppy in order to see how he will react. The puppy is taken away from his litter to an unfamiliar location and is tested as an individual, by strangers.

The puppy's reaction to this separation compounded by unfamiliar people

and surroundings will tell you a great deal about his level of self-confidence, even before the exercises begin.

The puppy is then put through a series of experiences in order to test key characteristics. These include dominance versus submissiveness, sight and sound sensitivity, social attraction, pain tolerance, forgiveness, food and toy drive, prey drive, and energy level.

The test can be very helpful to the breeder making placement decisions. The test may simply be an independent confirmation of what an observant breeder had already suspected about the individual puppies.

On the other hand, some surprises may turn up that alert the breeder to the need for behavior-modification work prior to placement in a home.

Take for example a puppy who tests quite sound-sensitive. The breeder now knows to spend some time getting this puppy accustomed to strange noises in a positive way.

Consider the temperament test as a reality-check opportunity that helps us avoid situations where we might have tried to push that round puppy into a totally square opening.

We are so lucky to have tools at our disposal to help us properly evaluate and place our precious puppies. If temperament testing is not a tool you have used, why not look into it? Ask around and give it a go.

Next time we'll address the test itself. Stay tuned! —*Marianne Kehoe; m_dkehoe@verizon.net; Irish Terrier Club of America website: itca.info/*

Kerry Blue Terriers

Guest columnist Barbara Wolf-Dorlester, a New York-licensed psychologist, has worked with a special-needs population for 20 years.

Five-year-old Kerry Blue Terrier Moxie has been her therapy partner for the past four years, collaborating with dog trainer Lois Platt.

Certified by Therapy Dogs International, they are a Reading Education Assistance Dogs team. Their participation in the goal-directed

Animal Assisted Therapy is an important part of the therapeutic process.

A Kerry Classmate

"Hi, Moxie!"

A chorus of greetings rings out as Moxie and I enter the school for adolescents with special needs. The students know her name, and Moxie responds with a wagging tail and gyrating body. Moxie knows that going to school is equal to a day of play, and she is more than happy to have the students read to her, take her for walks, or play fetch, bowling, and basketball. I consult with the primary specialists who are involved in the care of the students, and we jointly develop treatment goals that include working with Moxie to encourage student growth.

Moxie's training uses shaping of behavior techniques and positive reinforcement. Building on her love of treats, toys, and games, I chose activities that could be used for many different goals.

Moxie has learned how to take out and put back puzzle-pieces that have large wooden knobs that allow Moxie to grab them in her mouth. On the cue "Moxie's turn," she can remove a piece and give it to the student, or she places the piece on the puzzle board when told to "place." Alternating turns with her, the student is learning how to take turns, wait for a turn, and sequence actions.

As a puppy, Moxie began using her nose to hit a rolling ball.

Using her style of play, I developed a game in which she is put on a down-stay, and the students roll a medium-sized ball to her, which she bats back with her nose. She remains in the down-stay position until the ball is close; this encourages the student to aim for her nose, requiring good eye-hand coordination.

For some students, maintaining focus and attention to task is the goal, because they have to watch Moxie as she runs.

You always have to know where your dog is and to know when she is ready to "give" back the ball. Getting the ball

from her, throwing the ball overhand for her to fetch, or throwing it underhand for her to catch are all motor-planning and sequencing tasks, which are difficult for some students.

Other times, reading to the dog or writing a story about her is a good way to strengthen decoding and encoding skills in an environment that is relaxed and nonjudgmental.

In rally trials, I have found that following rally signs around a course requires focused attention, motor planning, knowledge of directionality, and an awareness of body in space. Students who need practice with these skills have become avid rally fans, and we are planning to have a mock rally trial at school so that they can demonstrate their expertise.

At the end of the day, Moxie walks out the door with goodbyes that always include an expression of anticipation about her return. This Kerry has become a welcome and important part of the school community. Not only is she contributing to the emotional, cognitive, and motor development of the students, but she is also enriching their lives, as they are enriching hers. —

B.W.-D.

Thank you, Barbara. —*Caryl Keamey; heritagekerry@optonline.net; United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club website: uskbtcc.com*

Lakeland Terriers Breed Type Conformation Essentials

Form follows function in Lakeland breed type. Heading the list of essential traits is a full muzzle with broad nose-bridge and large, strong jaws and teeth.

If you don't look at a Lakeland face and think, "What a big nose on such a small dog!" you are not seeing a correct head.

Few individuals in the ring these days have the correct full muzzle with the large nose. Go look at the Airedale ring, where you will typically see both the correct muzzle and the more finely boned ones without the big noses.