

TERRIER GROUP



Glen of Imaal Terrier

of hips and elbows, genetic testing for crd3, and a dilated eye exam every two years from the age of 2.) Are the test results shared through the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals website (<https://ofa.org>)? Can the breeder provide you with CHIC ID numbers for both sire and dam? The Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America (GITCA) in its Code of Ethics requires these evaluations on all breeding stock and also requires that the test results be shared publicly.

Is the breeder of the litter a member of the parent club? Working with a breeder who is a member of the Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America means that he has agreed to follow its Code of Ethics, which can be viewed on the club's website, <http://www.Glens.org>. Are there proven champions and grand champions referred to as prefix titles in the pedigrees? The grand championship program wasn't introduced until 2010, so dogs who retired from showing prior to 2010 could not have that title.

Have dogs in the pedigree taken top placements at important shows like our national specialties, Westminster, or the National Championship? These shows tend to draw good entries of Glens due to their prestige.

A breeder who has met the AKC criteria (at least five years involvement in AKC events, titles on a minimum of four dogs they bred, member of an AKC club, certification that health screens required by the parent club are done, and registering all pups with the AKC) can be given a Breeder of Merit designation by the AKC. There are Advanced Recognition levels within the Breeder of Merit Program as well, Bronze through Platinum. At the Platinum level of recognition, the breeder must have a minimum of 100 dogs earning AKC titles, with a minimum of 60 earning prefix titles.

Are there performance or suffix titles on Glens in the pedigree? Breeders are justifiably proud of their dogs who have earned "titles on both ends." Performance titles are an indication of the owner's participation and dedication—but more importantly, of the dog's trainability and temperament.

If you are thinking about adding a Glen to your family, take your time and be careful in your research. Don't be afraid to ask lots of questions, and ask them of as many different breeders as you can. Finding someone who

will be responsive to your questions and concerns will be a valuable asset over the life of your dog.

—Jo Lynn,
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Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America

Irish Terriers

BREEDING WINNERS

“What have you done now?” I asked, recognizing the cynical laughter on the telephone as that of my friend Wax Waneforth.

“Remember that winning group of breeders that sat next to us at ringside a couple of weeks ago?”

How could I forget them? They were a loud little group who didn't mind broadcasting either their ignorance or their naiveté. For about 15 minutes they had held forth and shared details of their breeding plans and aspirations with anyone within 30 yards of them. During this dialogue there had been no mention of canine anatomy, function, or pedigree. These people were speculating about buying and breeding dogs based solely upon the dogs' win records.

I had finally turned to Wax and said, “Sounds a lot like fantasy baseball.”

“I want to help them,” Wax had replied

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Irish Terriers: "Irish Members,"
by Maud Earl

"Of course you do," I'd agreed dryly. "I think you'd better leave these people to their own destiny."

Wax had been unrestrained by my concerns. Within a few moments he had found a way to barge into the conversation.

"In my experience," he began at a very high decibel level, "I've found the best way to improve breed type is to breed to a specialty winner." The group fell silent for a moment before they began asking follow-up questions.

"Give them a break," I pleaded, sotto voce. "At some level everyone, including *vous*, is influenced by a dog's win record."

"Of course, if it's soundness you're concerned about," Wax droned on, "you should really breed to the most successful group winners in your breed." The little crowd murmured assent to the newest wizard of the winning philosophy.

"I don't think these people grasp irony," I whispered to Wax.

"Of course, if it's showmanship that concerns you," Wax continued, "then nothing will do like breeding to a Best in Show winner."

"I don't believe this is what they mean by mentoring," I said to him, in a stern whisper.

"You know there's a lot of research now that indicates there may be a special gene for winning located right on the DNA chain."

"I'll be leaving now," I told Wax. But I hadn't moved fast enough to escape earshot before he told them that during the actual mating, it was helpful to have a lot of win photos and rosettes present in the room. "Very atmospheric!" he had added.

In answer to the question with which Wax had begun our phone conversation, I simply replied, "Yes, I think I remember that lurid little scene."

"Good news!" Wax said. "I just spoke with several of those people, and I think I've convinced them to cut to the chase."

"How so?"

"I think we can agree that people who just want a winner, regardless of type or quality of the dog, have issues—yes?"

"No argument there."

"Well," he said chortling with self-amusement, "I convinced them to give up on breeding dogs and just become collectors of win pictures, ribbons, trophies, and plaques—all the trappings by which their friends will recog-

nize and admire them!"

"You don't think they're getting out of dogs because of the psychos wandering around the showgrounds?" I asked.

"I can't be the judge of everything," Wax said.

This was an original piece written by Ellis West and appearing in the November 2005 AKC GAZETTE.

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[Irish Terrier Club of America](#)

Kerry Blue Terriers

Our column for this issue is from KBTCA member Jon Hebert, who is a Kerry Blue Terrier breeder, owner-handler, and groomer.

THE KERRY BLUE TERRIER—THE PARAMOUNT BREED

The Irish native once known for his rugged skills and fearless outlook is now revered as a family companion emulating power and beauty. Taking the Terrier Group by force, the Kerry Blue Terrier is easily a recognizable winner. He is a consummate gentleman; sophisticated, elegant, and majestic in appearance. Underneath the blue coat is a medium-sized dog with a heart of gold, with

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