

how to read, or bring a smile to the face of someone fighting a terminal illness. Go out and find what makes you and your dog happy.

Tula is the exclamation point to the statement that Glens and their owners are some of the most versatile and adventurous out there. She recently added her RATN title, and she is not done yet. Not bad for a first-time “show dog,” and for her dedicated and energetic owners.

What’s next for this breed, you ask? Perhaps the sporting breeds will let a Glen try his paw at field and hunting trials. Glens are not the best swimmers so we will leave the retrieving to the retrievers, and the water rescue to the water dogs.

With all of the nicknames for the Glen of Imaal Terrier, perhaps we should include The Doin’ It All Terrier. —C.B.D.

Thank you, Colleen!

—Jo Lynn, [irishglen@aol.com](mailto:irishglen@aol.com)

Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America website: [Glens.org](http://Glens.org)

## Irish Terriers

### Hunting the Answer

“I screwed up,” Harold said. “I shouldn’t have become a judge.”

I looked up from my steward’s table and practically jumped backwards. “Jeez-o-Pete, you look terrible!” I said. He was ash-white and sweating like a pig on a spit. “What’s wrong, Harold?”

“I haven’t got what it takes to be a judge,” he gasped, and collapsed into the judge’s chair.

The national specialty show for Monongahela Brush and Swamp Terriers was about to begin, and Harold was listed as the judge of record, so I stated the obvious. “This is a fine time to decide that,” I rasped, trying not to shout.

Back when Harold was debating whether to apply for his judging license I had tried to warn him off. I told him he had no business besmirching his reputation as a breeder of long standing by making a fool of himself at center stage. And I let him know the old gang would be ticked at him for giving up

his role as ringside critic extraordinaire.

Now before it all blew up on me, I sailed against the wind.

“Harold, if you’re not qualified to judge this breed, then who on the planet is? Good gosh, you’ve breeding them since Saul saw the light, you know every bloodline in the country, and every nuance in the breed, and you’re not beholding to anyone for your good reputation. You’re the perfect person to bring knowledge, common sense, and a high ethical standard to the breed and the sport.”

Harold tried to steady himself by sipping some ice water and wiping his brow. “The problem is, I can see the choices too clearly,” he said.

“Huh?”

“At the end,” he said, “I know what will be out there. It will come down to some beautifully headed, typically coated, sound little paragon of type matched up against a big, flashy show horse begging for the win.”

“And what will you do?”

“I don’t know,” Harold lamented. “I haven’t decided. What if I can’t ever decide?”

The first class came into the ring. Now I was ashen faced and perspiring. Lamely I encouraged him, “Do your best.”

Like a lot of good judges, Harold worked his way through the classes, rewarding virtues and penalizing faults.

The wishbone-stuck-in-the-throat moment came in Best of Breed competition, when the two phantom prototypes appeared one behind the other in the first go-round.

Harold didn’t panic, however. He worked his way through the class and came up with a handy little dog who didn’t stand out too much at first, but later you couldn’t get him out of your mind.

“How did you find that dog?” I asked after the photos were taken.

“I nearly panicked,” Harold said, “but then I began to look at the class like a group of hunting dogs—the purpose for which they were created. I just asked myself which one I’d want to

take out on an inclement day and trudge through the fields with, and that vision of a dog appeared.”

“You dodged a bullet today because he was there,” I pointed out.

“Yes,” Harold agreed, “but I have something to look for from now on.”

—Ellis West, [e.f.west@att.net](mailto:e.f.west@att.net)

Irish Terrier Club of America website: [itca.info](http://itca.info)

## Kerry Blue Terriers

### Internet Presence Needed

The way people search for the right dog is changing. Facebook, YouTube, photo-sharing sites, live-streaming videos of dog events, and all the other online media sources have taken a lot of the “legwork” out of the search. Now a family can sit by their computer comparing the pros and cons of different breeds as they look at cute little photos of dogs. In addition to taking all the necessary steps to ensure a happy and healthy litter, today a breeder must be Internet-savvy enough to expose his breed online to potential owners who find most of their information in front of a computer screen.

I am *not* endorsing those sites that seemingly sell puppies of every breed, with very little questions asked, to anyone who forks over the money. Just because information appears online does not mean it is accurate. There are many large sites offering numerous breeds for sale, some bragging that they have positive reviews from the public about their sellers. What they don’t say is that it may be the friends of sellers or even the sellers themselves placing favorable reviews on the site.

The Internet is a good tool in *starting* the discovery process about a breed or even a breeder. Personally, I still believe that a responsible breeder meets and interviews all potential owners, and good potential owners want to meet and interview the breeder. If they cannot do that personally because of distances involved, then they ask a trusted friend to carry out the interview or home visit.