

black. Isn't that genetically impossible?

A: Yes, it would be impossible, and yes we do require black pigment. A contradiction? No. The blues and blue brindles in our breed are not the result of the classic dilution genes that produce the so-called "true dilutes," as in blue Dobermans or blue Greyhounds. It is indeed genetically impossible for blue dogs in those breeds to produce black pigment. In Glens, however, the blue color is a product of a graying gene, which allows for black pigment. It is the same gene at play in Kerry Blue Terriers and Bedlington Terriers. As in those breeds, the blue and blue brindle pups in our breed are born black or near-black, lighten with age, and, if correct, possess black pigment.

Q: In the section on Temperament, what does the phrase "dead game" mean?

A: "Dead" is used here to mean

"absolutely," as in "dead right," "dead wrong," or "dead even," and speaks to the prey drive of the breed: Glens are absolutely game.



Q: The standard says, "Bottlehead undesirable." What does that mean?

A: The "bottlehead" reference has puzzled judges and fanciers alike. This is language that dates back to the original Irish standard of 1934 and was probably more relevant then, when the founding mothers and fathers of the breed were eager to distinguish Glens from their sleek-headed cousins in the Terrier Group. Such a head—narrow back-skull with long muzzle—is still unacceptable, though judges are unlikely to see it in the ring today. Personally, I do not find the language useful anymore, since it confuses more than it enlightens. That said, judges will still see snipy muzzles and overly long muzzles, and this is as undesirable today as it ever was.

Q: Given that bowed forequarters are required, is this a fiddle-fronted breed?

A: No. The forequarters, another hallmark feature, are bowed with slight wraparound. The key word is slight. There is an obvious turnout of the feet.

It is correct if it is somewhere between 11 and 1 o'clock, and 10 and 2 o'clock. Ideally, the turnout should be symmetrical, though it seldom is. Unlike a classic fiddle-front, there should be good width between the legs and for the entire length of the legs, and no sharp convergence of the pasterns. After a Glen is stacked on the table, I like to be able to slip my hand (minus the thumb) between the front feet and have a bit of room to spare. And I like to see that same space between the feet at the free-stack after the down and back. I have examined many Glens with narrow fronts, usually due to lack of depth of chest, or Glens with traditional fiddle-fronts that would be the envy of a Stradivarius, exhibiting far too much wraparound and with pasterns that converge to the point of nearly touching or, worse, actually touching. This is not correct. —Bruce Sussman, New York, N.Y.; Bluekafka@aol.com ♦

Irish Terriers



Remembering Robert E. Clyde

On December 9, 2010, my co-columnist Bob Clyde died in a tragic auto accident. I knew Bob for 27 years. He was my mentor and my friend. In my opinion there was no one in our breed who knew more or was more passionate about Irish Terriers. His opinions mattered to all of us who seek to preserve and protect our breed.

Since his death my thoughts have returned to Bob Clyde the man. He wasn't perfect, and I wouldn't shame his memory by insisting otherwise. There was some blarney about him. He insisted that one of his early Irish could remove the cover to the sugar bowl, help himself, and put it back on. Another availed himself of the liquor cabinet—so said Bob.

He was a longtime professional handler and in 2002 was approved to judge the Terrier Group. He was the architect behind many fine Irish Terriers. He was the father of seven children, one of whom, Todd, has followed his father's footsteps into the marvelous world of dogs. Altogether his was a lifetime of

achievement!

He was generous with his time and patient. He did not pontificate; he asked you what you liked in a particular dog. He warned against focusing on dislikes. He knew pedigrees inside out and could spontaneously write down the genealogy of a dog (on whatever was handy) so you could take it home and check it out yourself. He had both perspective and wonderful instincts. He knew what was important, and he knew who was well intentioned.

When a person has made dogs his life's fascination and career, it is hard to separate the man from his history. But perhaps it is his choice of breeds that can help explain what sort of man Bob was. His first (and last) love in dogs was unquestionably Irish Terriers. He shared all the attributes that made an Irish Terrier an Irish Terrier. He too was full of integrity and was smart, stubborn, loyal, generous, persistent, directed, inquisitive, challenging, and completely dedicated to the moment. Even his beard and keen expression were Irish Terrier-like.

Bob was known to occasionally employ diplomacy, but it was the direct approach that he most preferred. When you asked a question of Bob, you had better be ready for an answer you might not like. He never hesitated to share his views and his expansive knowledge. But he never imposed, and his persistent truthfulness was just that—the truth as he understood and believed it to be. Fudging was for sissies.

We collaborated on this column because it was well known that Bob would never have written anything to capture his thoughts or beliefs, yet our history would have been lacking had we not made the effort to capture as much of his conviction, understanding, and love of the breed as we have tried to do here. He was a true believer in the oral tradition. So perhaps his legacy is the constant mentoring—ringside and elsewhere—he did with anyone interested in our breed.



Like his beloved Irish Terriers, his persona might have been considered "an acquired taste"—perhaps not fully appreciated by all, but certainly respected. Bob was "old school" and proud of that. He was a gentleman in every respect that mattered, and he will be sorely missed.

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



Need a Contract?

There are mixed opinions regarding the need for a contract when selling or placing a dog. Many breeders supply a contract for any relocated dog for the sole purpose of safeguarding its health and welfare. Others believe that any contract can be broken, so having one is a waste of time. I believe that a signed contract may suggest and motivate an added layer of accepted responsibility by the seller and the buyer and is therefore a protection for the dog, the new owner, and the breeder.

The AKC does suggest that agreements between individuals should be in writing that clearly states all obligations and circumstances, and that all parties should receive a copy of the agreement. More details can be found in the document titled "AKC Procedures for Registration Matters," which is available on the AKC website at akc.org/pdfs/members/RREGS2.pdf#name.

My contracts have evolved and are specific to the dog being placed, but following are some very general points you may want to consider. It should be obvious that the overall intent is the protection of the dog.

- The Buyer shall provide the dog with:

- 1.) Adequate food, fresh water, shelter, affection, and medical care upon sickness, disease, or injury. Maintenance should include an annual health exam and routine vaccinations as recommended by a board-certified veterinarian.

- 2.) Humane care and maintenance in accordance with all current and future state, county, and municipal laws and ordinances where the Buyer resides.

- 3.) A fully fenced yard or other

humane means of exercise. The dog shall not be kept chained or constantly outdoors.

- 4.) A collar, identification tag and/or microchip. Never permit the dog to roam unattended.

- The Buyer shall keep the dog as a household pet and shall never use it as an attack dog.

- The dog shall reside with the Buyer.

- The Buyer shall notify the Breeder immediately if the dog cannot be kept by the Buyer.

- The dog shall not be sold, transferred, or given to any individual or to any retail or wholesale establishment for the purpose of sale or resale to the public or to any research institution where medical experimentation or other practices take place.



- The Buyer and Breeder agree to keep each other informed of their current addresses.

- The Buyer agrees that it is the Buyer's responsibility to accept the dog as described. The Breeder has provided and the Buyer has acknowledged a full disclosure of the health, habits, and temperament of the dog. The dog's health records, from [name of veterinarian], will be supplied at time of purchase.

- The Buyer shall have [insert number] months from the date of this Contract to return the dog for a full refund of the purchase price. After [insert number] months and for the life of the dog, the Buyer may return the dog to the Breeder at any time and for any reason.

- The Buyer agrees to sign the necessary papers to return the Breeder as sole owner of the dog in the event the dog is returned.

Contracts can become very involved when they include show dogs, dogs used at stud, bitches to be bred, or co-ownership, the last of which is quite common but is not recommended by the AKC. However, basic safeguards can be included in all contracts.

—*Carol Kearney, Somers, N.Y.*; heritagekerry@optonline.net ♦

Lakeland Terriers



"A Dam Shame," Indeed

I read Kathleen Monje's article "A Dam Shame" in last December's GAZETTE with considerable interest. She discussed the optimum breeding age for bitches, pointing to the conundrum of balancing a show career with time out in the whelping box.

I agree that, ideally, the first litter should be planned when mom is between 1½–3 years old. Future breedings can then be planned based on the results of that initial effort. Many show dogs, Lakelands included, are maturing and coming into their prime between 2 and 3 years of age. When the fortunate breeder has a bitch with superstar potential, she is caught on the horns of a tantalizing dilemma.

I found myself in that position some years ago with my bitch Ch. Kalfel Pointe of Vu. Flirt, slow to mature, just began to hit her stride at 2½. She began consistently winning and placing in groups and had several Bests in Show before whelping her first litter a few months before her third birthday.

She came back better than ever and put together an enviable record, including BIS at Montgomery County, before whelping her second litter.

She returned to the show ring once again and continued her winning ways. She ultimately had four litters—a total of 14 puppies and 10 champions, to match her 10 BIS. She came out of retirement with breed wins and group thirds at Montgomery County and Westminster in her seventh year.

Could her show record have been even more remarkable if she had been campaigned without interruption? The answer is undoubtedly yes, but I made a decision based on the premise that dog shows are a showcase for the breeder's art.

If the best dogs aren't bred, then why bother? How many Bests in Show, groups, and spe-

