

storm, with power, telephone service, heat, water, elevators and Internet access gone, Rob, the dogs, and I perched ourselves by the living-room windows and saw sights that I, for one, had never seen in my 40 years of looking out those windows. At about 11 P.M., for the first time ever, the Hudson River overflowed its banks this far uptown. And it did so with the sort of fury one associates with a tsunami.

As we saw the black (because the street lights were out) water approach, cars parked on our street suddenly began to float and bob. Eventually they sank. The emergency lights were triggered on a few of them and provided us with the eerie sight of submerged cars flashing yellow and red lights beneath the water.

Rob and I probably could have toughed it out for the duration, but our short-legged Glens were not able to negotiate the 15 flights down to the street and back up. And they'd rather die than relieve themselves in the apartment.

So, at dawn the next morning, the floodwaters having sufficiently receded, we packed up and, after four trips up and down the 15 flights, got everyone and everything down to the street for a trip uptown to friends who still had power.

Our travails were trivial compared to the horrible devastation that affected so many of our family, friends, and colleagues on Long Island, the Jersey shore, and Staten Island.

Amid all the gloom, however, there was one bright spot for us, involving the dogs, that made us smile and scratch our heads in wonder. I thought I might pass it along for those of us who are connected to each other through our dogs.

First a bit of set-up. I normally walk the dogs on no particular schedule. If I'm up late working, the last walk may be at two in the morning. If I have an early start to the day, say for a dog show, that first walk might be at dawn. Regardless of the hour, I invariably run into a neighbor, Jeffrey, with his two

Dachshunds. For some odd reason, we appear to be on the same dog-walking non-schedule. It has become such an odd but reliable occurrence that should we not see each other for a day or so, we get a bit concerned that something might be wrong.

So, during our evacuation uptown, my catch-as-catch-can dog-walking routine continued. On the second night as uptown refugees, during a dog walk, we progressed halfway down the block when I heard a familiar voice: "No way. Bruce, is that you?" Jeffrey and the two Doxies. His dogs and my dogs went berserk. We two humans just stared at each other dumbstruck.

Then, in unison we yelped, "What the hell are you doing here?"

He pointed to a building where he was staying with friends, which was next door to the one where we were nesting. Jeffrey wondered out loud, "How do we explain this?"

I pointed to the dogs, who were having their own exuberant reunion. "I think we'll have to ask *them*."

—Bruce Sussman,
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Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America website: *glens.org*

Irish Terriers

But Before I Go . . .

Like many other contributors to these breed columns, I have cited actions and attitudes critical to the health and reputation of the sport of purebred dogs. I have done this because I believe it is important to stress appreciation for and adherence to our standard, and the importance of sound temperament, integrity in breeding, and integrity when interfacing with the public.

I believe it is important to encourage cooperation and dialogue because breeders and exhibitors must set and meet the highest standards, as they can influence the public's perception of all of us.

Now the question is, however, how do we do this if breed clubs, including ours, become extinct? Like many clubs,

we are seeing a serious decline in membership. The aging demographic, the economy, and dissatisfaction with the status quo all contribute to this sad reality.

But need I state the obvious? We are Irish Terrier people, and even if (like our dogs), we abhor change, we can also (like our dogs) adapt when necessary!

We can manage this circle conundrum. We recognize that people are needed to do the work of the club; we need people who are knowledgeable, and willing to share that know-how; and we need volunteers to be successful in their tasks—and if all this works, harmony and a sense of well-being will prevail. Who wouldn't want to be a part of this harmonious, effective, collegial club dedicated to the *best dog breed on earth*?

Other clubs are finding creative ways to "incentivize" membership. We need to do this too—and then we need to find ways to keep the people who join as members.

Let's bid farewell to the dictatorial, *ex cathedra* sort of knowledge-passing tactics, and replace them with a culture of support and cooperation. Let us work to maintain membership of active and inquisitive Irish Terrier lovers, and let us reward that commitment with a convivial and open environment.

The next step: We must entice people to serve the club, promising them help and instruction as well as limits. We need to match up tasks with skills—getting coffee and donuts to ringside requires different skills than those needed to run a committee or do a mailing.

Guidance is essential. There is nothing more deflating than muffing a project because you didn't know what to do. That person who did not have the guidance needed will not volunteer again.

Another pitfall volunteers run from is the fear that if you do one thing you'll be asked to do more. Rather than to stress—and possibly burn out—a small base of workers, we need to cultivate a broad base of willing and successful volunteers. This will provide a pool of members who have experience

and an understanding of the club's objectives and workings before they assume leadership positions. These are the people we want to lead our club's operations, because they understand the club's objective: to advance the interests of our breed.

Our future, both the breed's and the club's, depends on all of us contributing to this circle.

This is my final column. I want it to reach all of our members, because the continued vitality and even the existence of this fine club can only be assured by a lot more of us doing some little part.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the club's GAZETTE columnist. Thanks, and kisses to the four-legged redheads!

—Marianne Kehoe, M_dkehoe@verizon.net

Irish Terrier Club of America website: itca.info

Kerry Blue Terriers Seminar Presenters

I am in the middle of preparing material for a seminar on the breed standard that may be used for upcoming breeders' or judges' seminars, so it is only fitting that I question what should be included in such a presentation.

The standard should always be the seminar's main focus—its "backbone." However, as a presenter, you should consider an approach other than going through it line by line in front of a roomful of people. Such would not be the best use of your time. Contacting participants before the seminar to provide them ahead of time with any written material—the standard included—may bring their participation to a more educated level.

OK, so what would be helpful to a presenter in outlining information for such a seminar? Giving answers to some of the questions below may make the breed standard more easily and correctly interpreted.

How does the breed's original purpose demonstrate itself in the current standard?

Here is the old discussion of form

and function and its relationship to type. For Kerries, with the breed's origins as versatile working and hunting farm dogs in Ireland, this approach may lead you into an analysis of body structure, balance, fluid movement, and even a coat texture that was able to hold up in the wet weather on the coast of County Kerry.

Are there any variations of the specific points within the standard that lead to confused interpretations?

It seems that the more that is written about a Kerry's coat, the more people are confused—a point expressed by Jud Perry in his "Commentary on the Breed Standard." The fact is, there is a full range of shades—from slate to gray, blue-gray, light gray, silver-gray, and all the shades from light to dark of these colors—that are acceptable without preference (although a black coat on a dog older than 18 months is not acceptable).

Should there be a difference between what a breeder selects as a good example of the breed and what is favored in a show ring?

In an ideal world, a good Kerry is a good Kerry, and other factors, like who is handling or who is judging, should not enter into the process. (I did say *in an ideal world*.)

How does a dog's temperament and showmanship affect his assessment?

People know about a terrier's spirit, alertness, and prey drive, but a Kerry who stands his ground must also show the balance and intelligence that allow him to demonstrate his love of family and enjoyment of play. No one wants an uncontrollable dog, whether he is in a show ring or a living room.

If you were to make a "punch list" for your breed's desired qualities, what would you put on the list?

For a Kerry, it might be: balance, good movement, proper coat and color, clean head, good tail-set, proper temperament, and proper size.

Are there videos or PowerPoint presentations available that could help people understand the breed?

In this technologically driven world, most breed clubs have videos, CDs, or PowerPoint presentations for review.

Using those technologies to complement a live presentation are fine—but they should not be used as the sole presentation, in place of real dogs. Ideally, in any presentation of a breed, the participants should be able to review a variety of real dogs.

Participants should be able to go over male and female dogs, as well as dogs of different ages and different types.

Do you allow time for questions and discussions?

Presenter-dominated seminars with little group interaction lead to poor retention of anything you tried to communicate. Get the participants actively involved in exploring your breed's qualities, and you will have a more informed public.

—Carol Kearney,
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United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club website: uskbt.com

Lakeland Terriers New Outpatient Treatment for Parvo

Recent research at Colorado State University Vet School has demonstrated that it is possible to treat parvovirus infection in puppies on an outpatient basis. The study included 40 cases, half of which were assigned to one arm of the study, which received the gold standard of inpatient care. The other half were treated with the outpatient protocol under investigation.

The survival rate for the inpatient group was 90 percent, and the survival rate for the pups treated at home was 85 percent.

This would be noteworthy under any circumstances, but when you add to the data the fact that inpatient care typically costs \$1,500–2,000, and the outpatient protocol costs \$200–300, this study is mind-bending!

The outpatient protocol utilizes maropitant, an anti-nausea drug for severe vomiting that can be given subcutaneously once a day; convenia, an antibiotic given SQ once (which lasts two weeks); and SQ fluids given three times a day.