

THE IRISH TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA

SEPTEMBER , 1980

editor: edna sillavan
p.o. box 53856
lafayette, la. 70505
(318) 984-2415

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the members of the Irish Terrier Club of American will be held at the Ramada Inn, Junction of Route 309 and Exit 26, Pennsylvania Turnpike, Commerce Drive, Fort Washington, Pa. 19034 (215) 542-7930- on Saturday, October 4, 1980. The schedule will be as follows:

- 4:30 PM Symposium Committee's presentation of the Irish Terrier Standard, by Joseph P. Sayres, DVM, and John S. Best.
- 5:45 PM Brief meeting of Board of Governors to vote on new ITCA members who may be present.
- 6:00 PM Annual Meeting called to order
Roll call, Announcement of new members
Minutes of last meeting
Appoint tellers to count ballots
- 6:30 PM Recess - Social hour
- 7:30 PM Dinner - Details in July Newsletter and elsewhere here. Be sure

to make dinner reservations accordingly!

8:45 PM Meeting reconvened
Reports of Officers
Reports of Committees:

ITCA Newsletter	Edna Mae Sillavan
Puppy Referral Service	Mary R. Roberts
Specialty Shows	Charles F. Ritter
Others	

Reports of Regional Clubs: Chicago, Greater Detroit, New Jersey,
New York, Northern California, and Southern California.
Election of Officers and Board
Unfinished business
New business - Awards, and Others

Immediately following the adjournment of the members' meeting, a meeting of the Board of Governors and newly elected officers will be held in accordance with Article II, Section 3, of the By-Laws.

A special ITCA Hospitality Room will be open to all on Friday night, Saturday afternoon, and after the dinner on Saturday night.

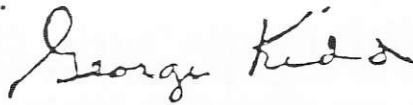
PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Most of you very likely have questions about some points of the Irish Terrier conformation and temperament. You will have an opportunity to ask these questions at the symposium that will be a feature of our Fall Specialty week-end in Pennsylvania. The symposium is scheduled for 4:30 PM, Saturday October 4, at the Ramada Inn, Ft. Washington, ITCA headquarters for the week-end. The symposium will be conducted by Dr. Joe Sayres, supported by members of the Symposium committee that the Board of Governors appointed more than a year ago to study and comment on the Irish Terrier Standard of the Breed.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN, continued

This will be the first such symposium at an ITCA annual meeting in the past 20 years at least. I hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to participate.

You will have noted that we have moved the site of our annual meeting from the Holiday Inn at King of Prussia, Pa., to the Ramada Inn at Ft. Washinton, several miles eastward on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. The Board of Governors made this change hoping it would be more convenient for a majority of our members attending the shows and meeting. The new site is only about 3 miles from the grounds where the Fall Specialty is held. It also is closer to the show at Hatboro (Friday Oct. 3) but is farther from the Devon show (Saturday Oct. 4) than was our headquarters at King of Prussia. After the Specialty week-end, please let us know what you think of the change.



George Kidd

SECRETARY'S REPORT

To date the Club is still in need of the assistance with the Newsletter duplication and mailing as outlined on page one of the July Newsletter! The situation is now serious! Is there a volunteer out there?

The Judicial Selection Committee chaired by Joe Sayres announces that the members poll of preferred judges for our Specialty Shows resulted in a pool of eight judges, because of ties, and the Board has voted to increase the pool from the previously stated number of six. Listed alphabetically, they are: William Bergum, Nick Calicura, Jack Cummings, Mrs. L. Hutchinson, Kenneth M. McDermott, Robert C. Peters,

Derek Rayne, Mrs. T. Stevenson. The committee further has instructed the Secretary to invite Peters to judge New York 1981 and McDermott to judge Montgomery 1981. Both gentlemen have accepted our invitation (pending AKC approval).

The ITC Northern California is proceeding with plans for the 1981 Traveling Specialty in their area with Dennis Sheehan as chairman.

The ITCA has presented a gift of Belleek cream and sugar set to Mrs. Lois Aanderson, John Best's secretary, in grateful appreciation of her many hours of assistance with our mailings over the years. A card accompanying this gift was signed by as many ITCA members as possible, in behalf of all, at the 1980 Specialty in June. Mrs. Anderson has written to us as follows: "Thanks to the entire ITCA for the lovely and unexpected gift. The Irish set is something to really treasure. I shall think of the ITCA with warmth and appreciation."

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED INTO THE IRISH TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA!!

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Dorre (Phyllis)
3601 Malner Lan
Las Vegas, NV 89108
(702) 645-3458

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Robinson
P. O. Box 323, Oak Ridge Rd.
Sandown, NH 03873
(603) 887-3020

Miss. Karen A. Ford
Rt. 1, Box 108
Valleyford, WA 99036
(509) 928-3126

Ms. Susan A. Rowe
522 Crapo, Apt. 2
Flint, MI 48503
(313) 232-1842

Miss Olga M. Peterson
2629 Reagan Road
Knoxville, TN 37921
(615) 693-9077

Miss Ann Vinton
312 Flora Dr.
Champaign, IL 61820
(217) 352-5609

SECRETARY'S REPORT, continued

Former Member Reinstated: Mrs. John C. DuVally, Sr. (Anna E.)
197 Calla St.
Providence, RI 02905

Member inadvertently omitted from April 1980 Roster:

Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Clyde (Betty)
315 Sixth St.
Lindenhurst, NY 11757

Address Changes:

Ms. Laurri Boyler
135 N. Coldbrook Ave.
Chambersburg, PA 17201
(717) 264-1881

Mr. James E. Cain
2200 Rachel Dr.
Green Bay, WI 54301
(414) 468-7482

Mr. & Mrs. Chester J. Favre (Lisa)
213 Nancy Ct.
Wetumpka, AL 36092
(205) 567-3257

Mr. Maurice J. Kellogg
4022 Ivy Dr.
Nashville, TN 37216

Mr. & Mrs. Edward F. Worth (Karen)
372 Concord Rd.
Bedford, MA 01730
(617) 275-0708

New Zip for Martha Salem, 93006

SPECIALTY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 13, 1980 The Irish Terrier Club of Northern California
(judge not given)

SEPTEMBER 28, 1980 The Irish Terrier Club of New York
Judge, Kenneth McDermott

OCTOBER 5, 1980 The Irish Terrier Club of America
Judge, Joseph Sayres for regular classes
Judge, June Gately Kennedy for Sweepstakes

Our Fall Specialty on Sunday, Oct. 5, 1980 is held in conjunction with the All Terrier Montgomery County Show. The show site is located on the grounds of Temple University Music Festival, Butler Pike, Ambler, Pa. Show superintendent is Moss-Bow, Box 20205, Greensboro, N.C 27420. Closing Date: Spetember 17, 1980!!! And don't forget the other two shows that same week-end, Hatboro and Devon.

The annual meeting and dinner will be held Saturday, Oct. 4th, 1980 in the Cornwell Room at the Ramada Inn, Commerce Dr., For Washington, Pa.

Room reservation should be made directly to the Ramada Inn, specifying that you are with the Irish Terrier Club, by September 19.

Dinner reservation should be made with Dwight Kubacki by September 15. Please use the bottom form for making these reservation:

SPECIALTY NEWS, continued

A cash bar will be open for the dinner.

The hospitality suite will be open to all Irish lovers (dog lovers, that is)!!!! in the Amber Room of the Ramada Inn.

Any questions about this week-end that has not been covered, please contact our Show Chairperson, Joyce Wilson, 20 Seneca Trail, Wayne, NJ 07470

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE, your editor.

FEBRUARY 8, 1981

The Irish Terrier Club of America
Judge, David C. Merriam

Dear Fellow Members,

On Sunday, February 8, 1981, The Irish Terrier Club of America will hold it's Annual Specialty Show in New York City. The specialty, as in past years, will be run in conjunction with the specialty shows of The Associated Terrier Clubs.

I am writing at this time to offer you an opportunity to be represented in the catalog as an advertiser and/or a Irish Terrier Booster. If you would like to do so please send me your names for the booster page and/or your advertising copy on or before NOVEMBER 15, 1980.

The catalog rates for 1981 are as follows:

FULL PAGE	\$25.00
HALF PAGE	\$17.00
QUARTER PAGE	\$11.00
BOOSTERS	\$ 3.00 per name

Please note that there will be an additional charge of \$4.50 for each photo that you wish to have included with your copy. All photo should be black & white glossy.

Kindly make all checks payable to The Irish Terrier Club of America.

As always your enthusiastic support of this, your specialty, not only as a booster or advertiser but also as an exhibitor or spectator are vitally important towards making it a success. Thanking you in advance for your anticipated support and cooperation, I remain

Your's sincerely,
Robert F. Wynne
6601 Broadway
Bronx, New York 10471

Dear Members

Our Club's Annual Specialty will be held in conjunction with the Associated Terrier Clubs of New York, on Sunday February 8, 1981. Our judge this year will be the Honorable David C. Merriam, a well respected judge of terriers.

Our Club members are enthusiastic, loyal and proud of the Breed and its excellence. One tangible way in which we can demonstrate our pride and enthusiasm is to support the Specialty with a generous donation to the trophy table. A trophy is only a symbol but one which reflects over to the casual observer at ringside the high

SPECIALTY NEWS, continued

We look forward to hearing from you soon and to seeing you and all the fine Irish at the Specialty.

Sincerely,
Fran Maginn
59 Tipton Dr. East
Shirley, NY 11967

Sandra L. Neider
64 Tipton Dr. East
Shirley, NY 11967

I WILL DONATE: \$ _____ CASH OR

_____ TROPHY FOR

_____ CLASS

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

SPECIALTY RESULTS

The following was received too late for the last issue...editor

The 1980 Traveling Specialty show is history, and those of us who attended the Lake County Fairgrounds at Grays Lake, Illinois, and the Irish Terrier Club of Chicago Specialty the previous day, were treated to the unforgettable sight of many, many good Irish Terriers that can only be seen on a specialty weekend. The sight of so many good ones never ceases to thrill those that truly love the Micks. As Show Chairman for the Traveling Specialty, I would like to thank Pat Kostal who acted as Trophy Chairman, Bob Otter who handled advertising, and the Irish Terrier Club of Chicago, who as a group was responsible for the hospitality. As in other years when the show was held in Chicago, the help of the Chicago Club has made the event a large success.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all who showed their dogs on the two days for their support, and a special thanks to those who came from far away places like Virginia, Colorado, and even California. I am sure that everyone enjoyed the weekend, win, lose or draw, that is except for the weather, which was hot and humid on Saturday, but was reminiscent of Montgomery County weather on Sunday. Those who don't understand the reference to Montgomery County, should plan to go there this year since that is the next big one (in fact, the biggest), and maybe the weather will be lovely again (once every 5 years isn't too much to ask, I hope!).

Tom Johnson

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I am a relatively new member of the Irish Terrier Club and as new an owner of an Irish. I am writing to share an experience with you and hope you might find it newsworthy enough to share with other members of our club.

When I bought my Irish last August he had an unquestionably "black" nose. Within 4 months he began losing the color in his nose. Since I hope to show him, I became concerned. Each of the three veterinarians I consulted suggested the problem was related to the plastic feeding and watering dishes I was using. After discontinuing using the plastic dishes and replacing them with metal dishes the color has returned to Tucker's nose.

Probably old hands at owning Irish Terriers know better than to feed them with plastic bowls but I surely didn't know that plastic dishes have been suspected of affecting the coloration in dogs noses.

I share the experience in hopes that breeders caution their "neophyte" customers against using plastic feeding bowls with their dogs.

Sincerely, Eleanor Hillegeist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, continued

This next letter was written by John Best to Martha McVay, AKC Gazette Editor for the Bedlington Column. This letter has ended my long search for the meaning of the word "Taneous". Thank you, Mr. Best.

In scanning the terrier columns in the July 1980 Gazette, my eye was instaneously drawn to the Bedlington column where I saw a familiar work---"Taneous".

I know nothing about Mark Douglas or his knowledge of Irish Terriers, but I have been familiar with that breed for nearly all of the past 20 years and consequently am familiar with the work "Taneous".

It cannot be found in any dictionary for the very good reason that it was the name of a dog rather than a descriptive term. This dog must have been whelped shortly before or after 1900, since his name appears in pedigrees published in the terrier volume of Dogs by Wellknown Authorities (1906) and appears in several places in the Irish Terrier chapter of James Watson's The Dog Book, first published in 1905.

As will appear from the following quotations, Taneous was a very poor-headed dog and his name has been used to describe faulty structure rather than virtue. I don't know whether Daniels used the word as descriptive of desirable qualities with tongue-in-cheek or not, but it would be a strange perversion if it were now seriously used to describe admirable qualittites.

The following are quotations from Watson:

(p. 472) "It was to Yorkshire we owed that monstrosity, the 'Taneous' head, the narrow round skull with sunken temples.....

"This could not last forever...and the day of the dog with the 'Taneous' head was at an end. The name Taneous came from a dog which had a very narrow, long head, and anything approaching his style of head still goes by his name."

(p. 482) "There was no loss of 'varminty' expression when cropping was stopped, until the sleepy, tired look came in with the 'Taneous' head and the fluffy

foreface."

(p. 483) ".....we believe there is a disposition to let the 'coffin' foreface follow the whiskers and Taneous head into oblivion."

In 1929 the American Irish Terrier standard was revised and the following sentence was added:

"The 'bumpy' or 'alligator' head, sometimes described as the 'taneous' head, in which the skull presents two lumps of bony structure with or without indentations above the eyes, is unsightly and to be faulted."

This sentence proved troublesome and led many people on vain searches in countless dictionaries, and when the American standard was again revised in 1968, the sentence was deleted.

I would not have the temerity to say whether the skull structure described as "taneous" in the 1929 Irish Terrier standard would be desirable in a Bedlington or any other breed, but if it is desirable, I would think it would be preferable to describe it in some other way than by reference to the name of an Irish Terrier which exhibited what the devotees of that breed considered as a grievous fault and not an admirable characteristic.

I hope this bit of Irish Terrier history will be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours, John S. Best

USEFUL DIRECTORY, from Gaines Dog Research Center

"Touring With Towser", motels nationwide that welcome pets. Send \$1.00 to Gaines TWT, P. O. Box 1007, Kankakee, IL 60901

(6)

LITTER BASKET

Mrs. Martha Salem P. O. Box 6404 Ventura, CA 93003 (805) 642-3418	Ch. Telstarr Ya Gotta Believe ex Ch. Gloccomara Dust Bowl Baby	4 M 6-14-80
Charles & Laureen Ritter 1706 Stablersville Rd. White Hall, MD 21161 (301) 472-4214	Ch. Glannagalt Now Peace ex Ch. Inisheer's Irish Eyes	4M, 1F 6-15-80
Mary R. Roberts 10503 Cheddar St. Norwalk, CA 90650 (213) 864-5080	Trackways TNT ex Ch. Tralee's Remembrance	4M, 1F 6-23-80
Betty Scott 2001 W. Oak Ave. Fullerton, CA 92633 (714) 526-0497	Ch. O'Hara Caught Red Handed ex Ch. Greenbank Fair Winner's Rose	1M 10-3-79
Jan & Andy Miller 2815 Hayes Road Chelsea, MI 48118 (313) 475-7850		1 Bitch pet
Rev. Dennis S. Fernandes 1011 First Ave. New York, N.Y. 10022 371-1000	Blazer's Pepper Tree ex Ch. Bally-Hoo Blaze	2M, 2F 6-22-80
Edna Sillavan P. O. Box 53856 Lafayette, La. 70505 (318) 984-2415	Ch. Rockledge's Goss ex Ch. The Irishman's Miss Rockledge CD	

A reminder from our Puppy Co-ordinator, Mary Roberts, to send in each month your information on puppies available to her at 10503 Cheddar St., Norwalk, CA 90650.

IN THE RIBBONS:

Buffaol Kennel Club, July 6, 1980, Judge, Florise Hogan
Group IV Ch. Irish Showstopper, owner, Dr. Joe Sayres

Wheaton K.C., June 7, 1980, Judge Virginia S. Hampton
Group I Ch. Blackacre Barrister, owner John S. Best

Danville K.C., June 28, 1980, Judge Thelma R. Brown
Group I Ch. Blackacre Barrister, owner John S. Best

Champaigne, Ill, June 29, 1980, Judge Jean Fancy
Group I Ch. Blackacre Barrister, owner John S. Best

Kishwaukee K.C., July 19, 1980, Judge Jack W. Cummings
Group I Ch. Blackacre Barrister, owner John S. Best

Kettle Moraine K.C., June 26, Judge Maxine Beam
Group IV Ch. Blackacre Barrister, owner John S. Best

Greater Racine K.C., August 10, Judge Virginia S. Hampton
Group II Ch. Blackacre Barrister, owner John S. Best

CONGRATULATIONS!

THE IRISH TERRIER ON THE MOVE WITH ANOTHER "BEST IN SHOW"

Ch. Blackacre Barrister, an outstanding dog, bred and owned by John S. Best wins "The Best In Show" at the Anderson Kennel Club, August 17, 1980. Barrister won the Group under Judge Phil Marsh and Best IN Show under Judge Alfred E. Treen.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!

ACROSS COUNTRY

Living with an Irish, by Kathy Robinson vis The Daredevil Messenger

I don't know why we did it. I think the idea came to us in a moment of complete insanity. Whatever the reason, we decided to become a two dog family. Since Grover, our first dog, was a beagle Terrier X (with more X than anything), we decided to buy a purebred dog. We wanted something that would make the question, "What kind of dog is that?" an easy one to answer. So last December, we went out and bought an Irish Terrier puppy, bitch. (Since our first dog was named Grover, what could be more logical than to name the second one Cookie Monster?) We are still having problems though, Cookie Monster is having an identity crisis.

When we first bought her, she bore only a faint resemblance to the pictures of Irish Terriers we had seen. Her coat was soft and fluffy, her ears were going all different directions, and she had a skinny little rattail. Her personality though was all Irish Terrier. At nine weeks of age, she moved in and began to dominate our poor mild mannered mute who could then often be found hiding under our bed muttering something about that "darn fool kid."

Her lack of physical resemblance to an Irish didn't bother us much at the time. We figured that would change as she grew. It did, but not quite the way we expected. We brought her back from her first grooming bee half naked. A few more vigorous sessions at home and she had several completely bald patches. (The worst part was when the Vet wanted to know if she had mange.) Because of an allergic reaction to the glue we had used on them, her ears were loose at this time and more often than not, standing straight up. Jim suggested perhaps we could show her as an Irish Crested ---she certainly didn't look like an Irish Terrier!

Then we brought home a bottle of pills from the Vet. Her name on the bottle was C. Monster (Sea Monster?) Perhaps the Vet knew something we didn't. She has since jumped in the bathtub three times with someone in it! She also loves Mr. Bubble (fed to her by one very willing 2 year old)!

She has greatly improved at this point. Her coat looks much better now, and after many feet of masking tape, two tubes of eyelash adhesive, one tube of skin gel, and one can of ostomy glue, her ears are beginning to come down some. They are still up too high when unglued though. She looks like the flying nun with a beard. Oh well, someday we'll get an Irish that looks like an Irish. The flying nun got us hooked!

editor note: Gee, but this brings back memories--especially the first visit to the local vet here in Lafayette. I can still see his serious face when he first saw my dog stripped out. He really thought he had a tough case, there for awhile.

The Town of Center Moriches located in Suffolk County celebrates "A Day In Ireland" with the help of 2 Irish Terriers. In typical Irish fashion, the two micks lead the parade with heads held high.

SHOW GROOMING THE IRISH TERRIER
by Ellis West

If it takes 12 weeks for your "Irish" to reach full coat, the first section of the coat should be stripped 12 weeks before your "big show". Start about two finger widths behind the top of the shoulder blades. Pull all the long coat right down to the soft, tawny undercoat. The back, tail sides, the shoulders down to the elbow, the hind quarters down to the hock, and the stomach all should be stripped in the first section.

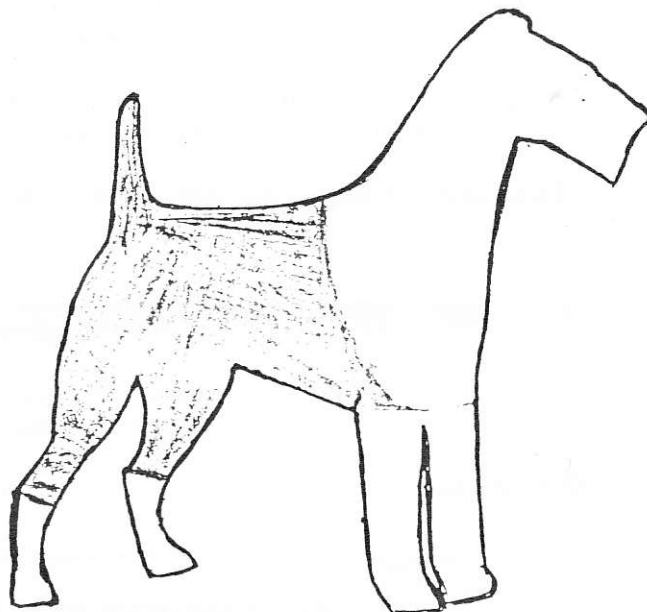


FIG. 1

(8)

6-23-80
4M, 1F

Ch. Tralee's Remembrance
ex
Trackways TNT

Mary R. Roberts
10503 Cheddar St.
Norwalk, CA 90650

6-15-80
4M, 1F

Ch. Glannagalt Now Peace
ex
Ch. Inisheer's Irish Eyes

Charles & Laureen Ritter
1706 Stablersville Rd.
White Hall, MD 21161
(301) 472-4214

6-14-80
4 M

Ch. Telstarr Ya Gotta Believe
ex
Ch. Glocomara Dust Bowl Baby

Mrs. Martha Salem
P. O. Box 6404
Ventura, CA 93003
(805) 642-3418

LITTER BASKET

SHOW GROOMING THE IRISH TERRIER, continued

There should now be a semi-circle of long hair from the withers and front of the shoulders towards the head. Wait four days after the initial stripping and take off a two finger width strip around the back of the neck. Continue every four days taking off another strip from one ruff to the other. When you reach the bass of the skull, STOP!

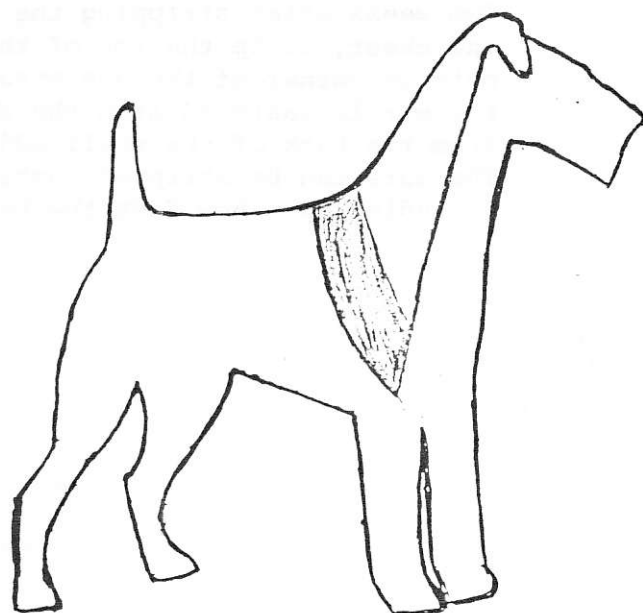


FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4



FIG. 5

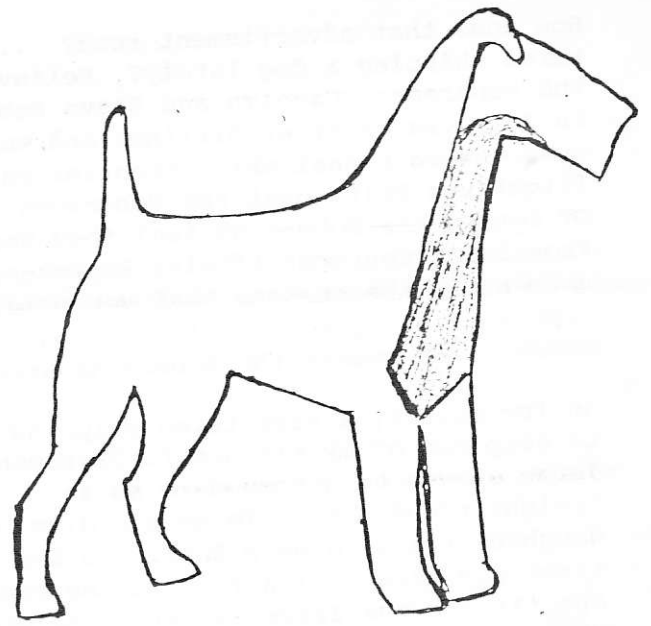


FIG. 6

SHOW GROOMING THE IRISH TERRIER, continued

Two weeks after stripping the throat, underneck, and chest, strip the top of the skull from the outside corner of the eye straight back to where the ear is fastened atop the skull, and take from the back of the skull adjoining the neck. The ears can be stripped anytime after this, depending upon how fast the hair grows.

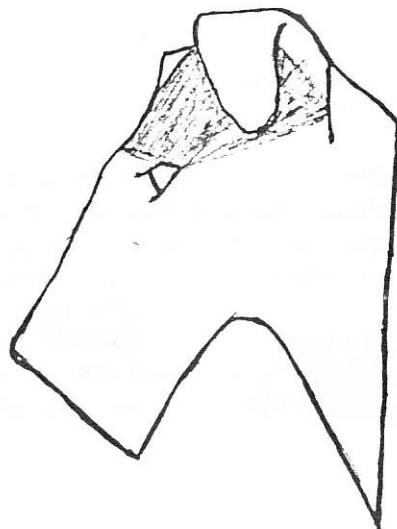


FIG. 7

The sides of the skull, from the outside center corner of the eye to the corner of the mouth, under the chin and the cheeks, should be stripped very close about two to four weeks before the first show.

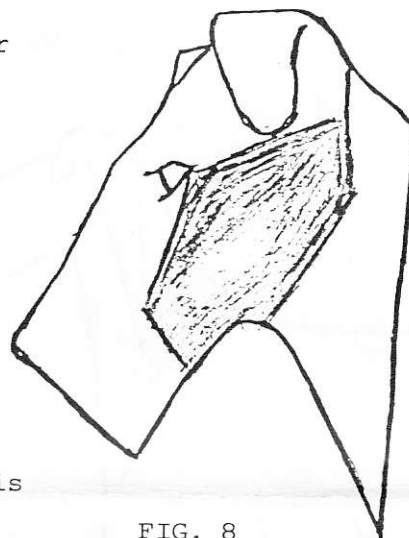


FIG. 8

(editor's note) These directions were given to me many years ago by Ellis and I have used them since with very good results. Each Irish's has his own time table for growing coat. To really be effective a Calendar should be kept on each dog based on his adult coat. My only variation from these directions is that I do not pull the tail and rear until Fig. 6. The hair in this area grows too fast to be pulled at the Fig. 1 stage on most Irish. Grooming tools should include, rubber finger tips, Magnetic Stripper, Stripping knives, and of course your brush and comb.

Next issue: THE FINISHING TOUCH

EDITOR'S COLUMN

How does that advertisement read? "the friendly skies". Well, has anyone tried shipping a dog lately? Believe me, there are no "friendly skies". Let's ask the Roberson: Carolyn and Steve Roberson shipped their bitch from Denver to Dallas in July via Frontier Airlines and were charged \$118 (one way) for the dog and owner-owned kennel which Frontier said weighed a total of 52 pounds. The return flight via Delta cost the Robersons \$49.60, and Delta listed the weight as 42 pounds. Of course the Robersons feel they were "fleeced, " and in reply to their complaint Frontier's Consumer Affairs Representative wrote, "we are unable to make any adjustment in the charges that you paid, and we will appreciate you understanding. We hope you will give Frontier a future opportunity to serve your travel and shipping needs." Of course the Robersons aren't going to give Frontier any more chances!

As for myself, I have tried shipping twice this year. First, friends of mine tried to ship one of my bitches to Sacramento, CA. Delta insisted that they buy a crate large enough to accommodate an Irish Setter, and were going to charge them \$380.00 freight round trip. To my big dissappointed, my bitch was not shipped. Second, my daughter tried to ship Rockie to Los Angeles in a crate that I had used three other times for her. Delta refused the crate and my daughter ended up buying the larger one fit for the Irish Setter. The weight was still less than required, so Delta charged air space. Frieght charge \$101.00

EDITOR'S COLUMN, continued

On a happier note, here's a good tip on air travel for your dogs from Buss Taylor's column in the Front and Finish: "In addition to having your name and address on your air crate, I made a very attractive large sign which reads: Here comes Goober, the Obedience Champion and Tracking Dog.. I then attached this sign along with two first palce ribbons to the door of crate. You would be surprised how inquisitive and interested baggage handlers are, as a result will give this "Champion" Special Care, and that, my friend is what we are all after. On my last trip Goober did not come on the conveyer belt, instead two handlers carefully took him to the baggage office. I thanked them and one said, "We thought it better if we brought him into the office as it is warm and we did not want anything to happen to this Champion.

SOMETHING OF INTEREST

One of the natural byproducts of living a life with and around dogs, is a fight involving two or more animals. It can happen anywhere and at any time and in situations and between dogs that often surprise even seasoned fanciers. That dog fights do not happen more frequently and cause more damage is a tribute to alert handlers. But, when they occur, they are likely to erupt suddently and are capable of inflicting serious injury, even death, if not controlled.

Novice dog people and visitors to dog shows are amazed to learn that even in an all day gathering of several thousand dogs, there likely will not even be one serious fight. There are a lot of good reasons for this. But, when that occasional confrontation develops and a real fight ensues, quick action is essential.

Your first indication of just how serious the fight is will come when your stern voice commands fail. Even the most obedient dog will ignore instructions in the heat of a fight. The question, then, is how do you stop a serious fight, one in which the participants can do real damage to each other?

Films taken of dogs fighting, when shown in slow motion, reveal that the leverage for a dog's bite is derived from his hindlegs. Every time a dog attempts to close his jaws in a firm bite, he plants his hind feet as securely as he can. It happens so fast that it is extremely difficult to see except in slow motion. The idea is to break his bite by breaking his leverage. Move to the rear of one of the animals, grab him firmly and quickly at the loin with your fingers beneath his rear legs, and lift him from the ground, using your whole body, swing him in an arch away from his opponent. If two people are available, it is best to use this technique on each dog simultaneously. If you are alone, choose the dog who appears to be winning (the one on top in most cases.) The loser will usually be ready to run away.

Always remember that stopping a fight can be dangerous and no method works every-time. It is possible that a dog grabbed in the loin area will turn to bite whatever grabs him. In fact, this method is similar to "flanking" a device used to agitate docile dogs in attack training. But done right, it is usually effective.

Very loud noises, such as a blank gun, also work well. They create a momentary stunning effect that allows humans to take control of the situation. One method that will not work is a water thrown on the warring parties, unless you have a ten-inch water hose or a thousand gallon bucket.

There is one method which I do not recommend, even though a friend of mine used it with some success. He fired a gun in the air, the bullet struck a tree branch which fell, hitting him on the head and knocking him out. The dogs stopped fighting, came over and looked down in his face and must have wondered when the tree season had opened and why this human shot them from such a strange position.

OBEDIENCE NEWS

The 1980 United States Dog Obedience Classic sponsored by Gaines will be held on November 22 & 23, 1980 at the Coliseum, Denver, Colorado. The Trial is hosted by the Rocky Mountain Obedience Association. Entry requirements are: Exhibitors must have placed in the top ten dogs at the Regional Competition or have three scores averaging 195 or better. Irish Terriers are smart, let's give them a chance to show their stuff in the obedience rings.