

The modern Irish Terrier remains a "ratter" at heart. While his independence and heedless pluck contribute to his attraction, a potential owner must understand that this is a big dog in a relatively small body. New owners must make a sincere commitment to provide early and consistent socialization and training so that while preserving the wonderful Irish spirit, they will also help create a loving companion and well-adjusted dog.

Living with an Irish Terrier involves spending time with him. Your Irish will want to be with you and will not be happy observing household activities from a distance. They don't need to be the life of the party, but they do expect to be invited!

#### LOCATING A PUP

When you search for an Irish Terrier, contact as many breeders as you can. Tell them what you are looking for in a dog. Details such as what sex, age,

price range, whether you want to show the dog in conformation, obedience, or agility, or whether you want a companion only, are important for a breeder to know. Puppies may not be available in your area at the time you want your puppy. The ITCA has a Breeder Referral service that you can contact for the names of members who currently have puppies for sale. Some breeders are willing to ship puppies if you cannot find one for sale in your area.

#### AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB (AKC) REGISTRATION

The public demand for puppies that are "AKC Registered" has created a market for the unscrupulous dog breeder whose only aim is to raise dogs for money. Such breeders give little thought to the selective mating of their dogs, with the result that physical and temperament attributes of a breed sometimes change or vanish.

AKC "papers" specify only that the parents of the registered dog are of the same breed and were, in turn, registered by the AKC. Registration does not guarantee the quality of the registered animal. Quality puppies are most likely to be found with breeders dedicated to maintaining the true type and temperament of the Irish Terrier breed. These breeders are ITCA and regional club members and are listed with ITCA puppy referral service.

#### THE BREEDER

An Irish Terrier breeder should show a great deal of interest in you, your family, and your plans for your prospective puppy. Breeders should encourage you to inspect their kennel and they should be full of advice about grooming, feeding, ear setting, health care, and training. A breeder should be eager to answer all of your questions. The breeder should be familiar with all of his or her dogs' pedigrees and be ready to explain them to you. When you visit the breeder look for clean and safe kennel conditions. The puppies should have been raised in the home, not outside in a dog run. Puppies exposed to normal household activity and human attention are likely to be happy and outgoing. You should be able to meet the puppies' mother. If there are other adult dogs living with the breeder, they should be friendly and well cared for.

#### QUALITY

Quality in a puppy is difficult for the experienced breeder, let alone the novice buyer, to establish. Physical characteristics change rapidly in the growing puppy. Be wary of breeders who advertise that their whole litter is show quality. The basics of quality in any puppy are a solid constitution and an outgoing personality. Beyond that, the novice buyer is largely dependent on the reputation and good advice of the breeder. The breeder may be able to evaluate, better than you, which pup is the right one for your situation or family.

#### CONSIDER AN OLDER DOG

There is little in the canine world to match the appeal of a tiny Mick puppy. Cute they may be, but also labor intensive. If you would love to have an Irish Terrier but feel a puppy is not the right choice for you, consider an older dog. Often they are housebroken, leash trained and able to stand for grooming and nail clipping. Although not quite as exuberant as a small pup, they too require kind attention to adapt to their new home.

#### BRINGING YOUR NEW PUPPY HOME

Within forty-eight hours of purchasing your Irish Terrier puppy, you should visit your veterinarian to have a complete well-puppy check up. The breeder should have given you all the history of any medical treatment the puppy has received as well as the dates any vaccines were given. Inform the breeder immediately of any health concerns the doctor mentions.

Assuming all is well, you now are ready to begin life with your new pup.

**FOOD** — It is best to continue what the breeder was feeding at first and if you want to change foods do so gradually over a period of several days. Always provide a bowl of fresh water.

**CRATE** — Almost all dog experts agree that the dog crate is a terrific invention. Dogs like the den aspect of the crate. Crates provide a safe, quiet environment for rest and at meal time. They are an invaluable tool while housebreaking and can give new owners a much-needed break when puppyhood becomes overwhelming. Read up on crate training, don't abuse the use of the crate, and never use it to punish the dog.

**FENCING** — The Irish Terrier needs exercise to keep fit and happy. Get the backyard fencing up and functioning to ensure your puppy's safety before the puppy makes his first escape. The fence should be five to six feet high and should be secure at top and bottom. Irish Terriers love to

jump and sometimes like to dig. Invisible fencing is not recommended.

Irish always enjoy walks and jogging. Such activities should be done with your Irish on a leash.



#### COMMON SENSE

You can't have too much of this. Know where the puppy is at all times. Be sure to puppy proof your home and yard before the puppy gets home. If you have small children, supervise them whenever they are with the puppy. Be gentle, this little dog is only a baby.

#### AS THE PUPPY GROWS EAR TRAINING

Not every Irish Terrier is born with those perfectly folded little triangle ears on the top of his head. It is often necessary to assist the proper ear carriage by gluing or taping the ears to the head for a period of time. This ear setting, can begin at about twelve weeks but it is most effective during the pup's teething period, which lasts from four months to eight months of age. You will need guidance from your dog's breeder or from an experienced Irish Terrier person. Persistence in this exercise will be rewarded with the look of intelligence and roguishness much desired in this breed. If ears are glued correctly,

and owners are attentive, the process should not be painful for the dog.

## GROOMING

Regular grooming, including brushing and combing the coat, brushing teeth and nail trimming help maintain both the health and dashing appearance of your pup. At the same time it strengthens the bond between you and your Irish.

Tools you will need include a grooming table, a good quality natural bristle brush, metal comb, scissors, nail clipper, palm brush, toothbrush and canine toothpaste. Early exposure to these activities will also help prepare your Irish for the coat care that will be necessary as he grows older.

By 5 months the coat will need to be "stripped". It is important to pull the hair out rather than to cut it. Cutting the coat will diminish the rich, red color and will soften the texture of the coat. Your breeder should describe to you the different techniques involved in the stripping process. With patience and tenacity you and your Mick will learn the art of grooming.

*The Irish Terrier Club of America 1997 Handbook Centennial Edition* is available on the ITCA website (<http://www.itca.info>). This valuable handbook offers detailed descriptions of how to hand strip your dog. You can also find helpful grooming tips and demonstrations of stripping on YouTube.

## THE IRISH TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA

The Irish Terrier Club of America was founded in 1897 to further the interests of the Irish Terrier. Our website has been designed to address many issues concerning the breed and also allows you to connect with members both in your area and all around the country.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### *Is it true that Irish are hypo-allergenic?*

No. No dog is "shed-free" although the wiry Irish coat does seem to shed less than most. Some

allergy prone people can coexist with an Irish. Dander sensitivity should always be pre-tested by visiting breeders and being with Irish several times before making the final decision.

### *Are they good with children?*

A properly socialized and well-cared for Irish Terrier is a wonderful playmate. There is a quote from an old dog book that states: "A growing lad could wish no finer friend to grow up with — mischief overlooked by one will certainly be exploited by the other!"

All young children need supervision when playing with any dog, no matter what the breed. Older children need to understand the importance of respect and kindness towards all animals.

### *Are they a healthy breed?*

The ITCA updates health data through periodic health surveys. Breeders should be forthcoming with you about health issues. As we acquire more information about the health of our breed, we will include it on our website.

### *I've heard that terriers are difficult to train — Is this true of the Irish?*

All puppies require your TIME and COMMITMENT so that they will grow into the kind of dog you want as the family pet. The Irish Terrier is no different.

A puppy is ready to begin learning about the outside world shortly after he is 7 weeks old. Focusing on consistency and fun, everyone in the household can work on teaching simple commands such as sit, stay and come. Irish learn rapidly and they like to do things with the people they love. Harsh training is neither required nor recommended. Remember that Irish Terriers are quick learners but very independent. You will need to find just the right mix of firmness and gentleness to make you and your dog happy to be sharing the same home.



## The Irish Terrier-

### A joy and a responsibility

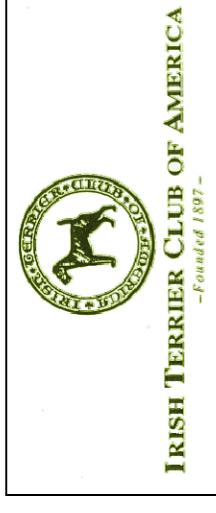
## CHARACTERISTICS

The Irish Terrier is a breed with distinctive appearance and personality. The size is ideal. Approximately eighteen inches tall at the top of the shoulder, the Irishman stands just below the average human knee. Large enough to be a robust worker in the field, this terrier is small enough to be a house pet and to be transported easily in the family car.

His wiry, golden-red, double jacket protects him well in all types of weather and terrain. Less prone to shed than long or smooth-haired coats, this "broken" coat is easy to brush and doesn't tangle easily. The coat should be hand stripped two or three times per year.

## TEMPERAMENT

Originally bred to control vermin on the farms of Ireland, the Irish Terrier was also the guardian of home and family. To function in his environment he needed to be intelligent, independent, and courageous as well as gentle with his people.



for more information, go to: <http://www.itca.info>

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