

Breeders Forum

- a) Please fill out questionnaire
- b) Include a brief bio with a photo
- c) Include up to 3 Photos of personal favorites, please include captions
- d) Please scan photos at 300 DPI save as JPEGs do not compress
- e) I also need photos of the top winning dog, bitch & top producing dog & bitch

1) Are Scottish Terriers your original breed? How many years have you been involved with the breed?

Yes, Scottish Terriers are my original breed. My first dog was born in 1970. Since then I have also owned and shown a few other breeds, but Scotties have always been closest to my heart.

2) Since your involvement have you seen many changes within the breed?

Yes. One of the changes that has affected the breed adversely is the fact that virtually all of the famous British kennels which hosted stud-dogs have ceased to exist resulting in a very difficult position for present time breeders, most of whom are unable to keep more than a handful of dogs. There are still many good Scotties around but type varies from time to time and so do more superficial faults!

3) Do you believe the quality has improved or declined since your involvement? And why?

I do think there were a lot of very good dogs shown towards the end of the 70's and this continued throughout the 80's. In the 90's, I feel the overall quality in Europe started to decline. One reason for this could be the fact that there are far too many shows and many of these shows do not have knowledgeable Scottie judges ultimately resulting in a situation where poor dogs are also made into champions and used at stud! The fact that some of the breed's most respected authorities passed away has also led to a lack of proper guidance. However, there are still many good dogs around and if used wisely the future of the breed could be good.

4) Who do you believe to be the greatest Scottie you have seen?

This is a very difficult question as greatness is also linked to personal preference and also to success as a stud dog or as a brood bitch. There is also a potential risk of over valuing fairly mediocre dogs shown at a time when overall quality is fairly poor but also vice versa. However, on reflection, I think that the dog that has made the greatest impression on me was Dick Hensel's Ch Sandoone's Democrat at Dunbar. He was a wonderful dog in every way with great movement and he exuded breed type, always handled to perfection by Bergit Kabel.

5) If different from Question #4 who would be your greatest contribution to the breed?

I think this must be Ch Raglan Rory, Sweden's Top Dog All Breeds 2001 and a wonderful dog to live with. He was a daily source of joy and sired a string of top-winners, several of which have made valuable contributions in other countries including Britain's Top Terrier 2003, Ch Raglan Rose Maiden at Brio and Ch So What Excalibur, runner-up Top Terrier in the UK the same year.

6) If you had just one dog to incorporate into your breeding program past or present who would it be and why?

My choice would be Ch Kennelgarth Viking, top sire of all times in the breed in the UK. He sired dogs of exactly the type I admire and he has proved a sound basis for future generations of top class Scotties. Viking came from along line of Kennelgarth-dogs, all bred for type and temperament and the importance of this line cannot be overestimated.

7) If you were to stop breeding today do you believe the breed to be in capable hands?

There are some very good breeders in a lot of countries, but it would be nice to see them being on friendlier terms with one another!

8) Do you believe that the judges, judging your breed have a firm understanding of what makes a Scottie a Scottie?

Generally speaking, no. Far too many judges cannot distinguish between major faults affecting breed type and superficial failings. A Scottie should be a combination of substance and quality and many judges do not quite understand this requirement but tend to favour dogs that are either too fine or too heavy.

9) In as few words as possible describe the essence of your breed.

A sturdy thick-set dog with good bone, deep body, a long clean head, well-set tail, big quarters moving and showing with an air of dignity.

10) When judging a Scotties what advice do you offer judges as being the most important?

That body properties are of paramount importance and that a Scottie must never be a racy, elongated dog. I would also advice prospective judges to try and understand the essential combination of quality and substance.

11) Least important?

Superficial faults which have no bearing on type, movement and temperament.

12) Do you believe the depth of quality in your breed to be within dog's or bitches?

This varies from time to time and from one country to another. Currently, I think there are some very good bitches shown in Europe.

13) What words of advice would you give to someone wanting to get involved with your breed?

Acquaint yourself with the breed by attending shows and seminars. Approach knowledgeable long-time breeders who have been successful for some length of time. Ignore instant experts and know-alls and be prepared to take chances in your breeding efforts, but above all be faithful to the breed and loyal to those that have sacrificed years of apprenticeship for the betterment of the breed.

14) Are there any major heredity or health concerns one should be aware of when purchasing a Scottie?

Scottie cramps still exists and does occur in most lines from time to time. In Europe we also have very high percentage of caesareans which I personally think is biggest health problem in the breed.

15) How do Scottie's within your country compare to the breed abroad?

Sweden's best Scotties can win anywhere in the world, and this has been proved on many occasions.

16) Final thought?

Breed type varies too much and I would urge judges to study the breed more closely. The opening of most national borders worldwide has led to a healthy widening of the gene-pool, but also of a dilution of existing, successful blood-lines which has been detrimental to the breed as a whole. We also need new breeders of stamina!!

17) Who has been your greatest mentor?

Undoubtedly, Mrs Elsa Meyer of the famous Reanda Scotties closely followed by Miss Betty Penn Bull of the Kennelgarths.

I would just like to thank you!!! For taking part of the Breeders Forum.

Regards,
Shawn Nichols
Editor, Terrier Type