

“The STCA at work”

With so many conversations flowing at the recent Westminster show, there was one reoccurring topic from everyone: the diminishing numbers in our sport and drop in registration numbers. That got me thinking about a point I briefly mentioned in my last column. It was that the Scottish Terrier Club of America (STCA) has taken steps into looking at this issue for our breed.

I was flattered they used my column title from 02/16, “Where have all the Scotties gone?” for the club’s Thursday night discussion at Montgomery. The Board sponsored this event as open discussion for club members. As a direct result of that and concerns voiced by membership, I am proud to share this news with all Scottie lovers. Our STCA President, Lori Kelly, established an ad hoc committee called the Strategic Planning Committee to factually research these issues. She had full support of the Board and all are pleased to learn what this committee will bring back to the club’s membership

STCA members Marcia Dawson, DVM, and Michael Bishop, PhD, an Animal Reproductive Molecular Geneticist and Genomic Specialist co-chair this exciting initiative. Both are well known to the club and the Scottie fancy. In addition, they have brought in members, Lisa Kincheloe, Michele Geiger-Bronsky, Kirsten Simmons, Whitney Shafer, Barbara Gibson, Lisa Hills and Karen Propokeptz

I spoke with Marcia recently about the focus of this committee, its direction and goals. She offered me the following objectives:

1. The Committee will define the decline in Scottie registration numbers over the past 2-3 decades, looking at causes, contributing factors and consequences. Our Committee is collecting a wealth of data from many sources such as AKC registrations, information from other Registries in the US and Canada, Conformation entries and titles, Companion and Performance entries and titles, information on the impact of anti-breeding legislation and local ordinances, examination of the extensive non-STCA Scottie owner populations, review of health and reproductive data from the HTF surveys, evidence of shrinking Scottie genetic diversity, and more.

2. The Committee will examine the data from this fact-based platform in order to determine where our breed has been, where we stand currently, and how we got here. This phase will involve an extensive polling effort, to reach out to a wide and diverse population of STCA and non-STCA Scottie owners and breeders who wish to contribute their experience to the process.

3. The Committee’s goal is to propose realistic strategies to the STCA for the preservation and advancement of the Breed, and to provide the STCA with tools to lead the Club and our Breed into a strong and healthy future.

4. Final report to the STCA Board is scheduled for late August 2017 with a presentation to STCA members at Montgomery in October 2017.

As you can see from this information, the STCA’s Strategic Planning Committee will look at a variety of issues that may impact trends in the breed, membership and activities, all driving a roadmap for our breed’s and club’s future. It is through this type of introspection that we as members can help to fulfill one of the driving “objectives” in our constitution and that is *“to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the Breed.”*

I can't tell you just how proud I am that our club and this board are taking leadership in an issue that impacts all lovers and owners of our wonderful Scottish Terrier in all facets of the breed and sport.

There are no quick solutions, but hopefully this first step will offer insights and help us create a roadmap for our future. For more information, please contact STCA President Lori Kelly via the club website (www.stca.biz).

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