



SCOTTISH TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA

What, if Anything, Is Wrong In Our Breed Today? (1940)

by John Kemps

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Provenance of Janet Tomlinson, Historian

'It is foolish to deliberately close our eyes to the rather obvious fact that if the decline in Scottie entries should continue at its present rate, our breed will have practically disappeared from the show ring in another year or so. This is all the more surprising because the Scottie has not lost appreciably in general popularity and a considerable number are still being registered every day.

'No, there isn't anything wrong with our breed, but evidently our breeders have temporarily lost their grip on the situation. That, together with the possibility that further importing may have come to a dead stop for an indefinite period, gives cause for worry and the sooner we realize that we had better get busy and do something about it, the better.

'In order to remedy a bad situation, it is necessary, first of all, to be sure of the causes that brought it about and if we closely examine the gradual decline since 1936, we find that, in the first place, large numbers of local exhibitors have given up the fight. It was a process of gradual elimination and, through it, the quality in the show ring did not suffer very much. Therefore, although their absence became more and more noticeable, not a great deal of attention was paid to it. There still were plenty of others left and competition continued to be keen for a while. In fact, the Scottie was still riding fairly high on the tail-end of a boom. However, almost imperceptibly, entries continued to drop and evidently dogs that were finished were no longer immediately replaced by others. Scottie entries dropped fast in the Southwest and Southeast until, out of a possibly thirty-odd shows with formerly pretty good entries, at least two-thirds now have a hard time bringing a one-point entry. The Mid-West and Northeast held up pretty well since they are strong Scottie territories with many kennels located within a small radius. It's not until the spring and summer of this year that the "depression" suddenly descended upon the Northeast, where entries dropped 50 per cent and more, notwithstanding the fact that the recent importing had been fairly heavy. The A.K.C. took notice and point ratings came down once more. It then became clear that there must be something wrong somewhere and by now many fanciers are wondering what is going on and what can be done. Some believe that others are holding back because of grievances against the selection of judges and that what they consider to be a bad situation has suddenly come to a head. Others think that it's the war and worries about the war, still others advocate more puppy shows, better and more trophies and similar things that may have a stimulating effect.

'But very few seem to realize that in order to obtain larger entries there must be more good dogs available! When there are plenty of good ones in circulation, dogs of which people feel proud and for which they have paid decent prices, most of them will also show up in the ring. The fact that they don't show up is in itself convincing proof that they aren't in circulation! Which brings us at once to the real cause of the present decline: Not enough good ones are being raised! In other words, we, the American breeders, are to blame.

We have lived for years off the fat of the land, but as a group we have not kept an eye on the future. We simply have become lazy and have rocked ourselves to sleep, that's all. Now, all of a sudden, we are waking up to find that by lying down on the job, by just playing around a little, we have created the present situation! Yes, let us be honest, for a change, and admit, because if we don't admit it and continue to do nothing but blame our judges, our fellow-breeders, the show giving clubs and everyone else but ourselves, our show Scottie will, before very long, become a museum piece and a curiosity.

Things are not going to be easy and certainly not if we continue to strike a self-satisfied attitude. There exists, at present, a spirit of indifference among just those kennel owners who used to be the pillars of the breed. What has caused that indifference is another matter, but it isn't healthy for a breed when its fanciers decide to rest on their laurels and live on their reputation for a while! Just think of the hundreds of wonderful matrons owned in the United States today, think of the tremendous possibilities they afford if we do the right thing by them!

'It is a rather lame excuse to say that there "seems to be no market, these days." Certainly there is a market, but not for mediocre dogs at high prices! WE must not forget that with the breed, the general public has also grown up! There is a market for good ones, the trouble is that lately the supply has not met the demand, consequently very few good ones are being shown.

'No, we do not have far to look for the cause of our present trouble. All we have to do is take a good look around in our kennels, not at all the winners of yesterday who have had their show careers, but at our young dogs ... if we have any that are worth looking at. That should be sufficient.

'The Scottie will "come back" again, if we want it to come back. Not if we shrug our shoulders and return to our favorite easy chair to dream some more about our past victories and the good old days!'

Mr. Kemps noted the following which he titled "Call of Champions":

Mr. and Mrs. Albers W. Roth 1832 East 75t St., Kansas City, MO

477. Black Imp of Barnridge, A-130,299, Bitch, whelped 8-12-35. Bred by Dr. F.W. Zimmerman. Owned by Dr. F.W. Zimmerman and W. Neil. In finishing her Championship Black Imp went Best of Breed twice placed second in the Group and took Four Major shows. Her first being at Louisville, Ky., then Columbus, Ohio, Huntington, W. Va., and Youngstown, Ohio. Black Imp of Barnridge is by Ch. Walnut Adonis of Briarcroft out of Ch. Broxton Buttonhook by Bravo of Corse out of Wrockwardine Dawn by Albourne Double Scotch out of Barlae Bracken. Bravo of Corse by Barmston Brigadier out of Tune of Corse. Ch. Walnut Adonis of Briarcroft by Albourne Blackbird out of Fickle of Corse by Garrell Toddler out of Plaid of Corse. Albourne Blackbird by Ch. Albourne Barty out of Songstress of Docken.

478. Gillsie Dictator. A-376,763 dog; whelped 5-31-38. Bred by Mrs. W. Gill of England, owned by the Relgalf Kennels of Mrs. Flagler Mathews. Dictator is by Niddbank Advert out of Gillsie Black Lassie by Randolph of Rookes out of Gillsie Gloria by Reefer of Rookes out of Borwood Speculation. Randolph of Rookes by Radical of Rookes out of Borwood Speculation. Niddbank Advert of Walsing Waiter out of Niddbank Miss Modern by Masterpiece of Rookes out of Remmerl Judith. Walsing Waiter by Randolph of Rookes out of Walsing Waitress. Dictator's first major show was at Springfield where he went Best of Breed and then won the Terrier Group. His next major show was at Washington, D.C. He finished his championship points at South Orange, J.J.

479. Darcie O'Giadscot. A-329,002, Bitch, whelped 5-14-37. Bred by Roy T. Gladney, owned by Mrs. R.T. Gladney. Darcie took three major shows, at Chiro, Calif., Santa Cruz, Calif., and Salinas, Calif. She completed her title at Chico, Calif. During her show career she went Best of Breed once placing fourth in the Group. Darcie is by Fraochen Wise Guy out of Glencannie Lady by Ch. Glencannie Crusader out of Glendu Glamour of Simondale. Ch. Glencannie Crusader by Ch. Drum Major of Docken out of Ch. Albourne Red Mary. Fraochen Wise Guy by Sandhey's Solomon out of Croindene Nosegay by Croindene Crack O'-Doom out of Croindene Concoction Sandhey's Solomon by Heather Necessity out of Albourne Annie Laurie.

480. Nonnie of Glenafton. A-328,171, bitch, whelped 1-21-37. Bred by Mrs. J.M. Wilson of Scotland, owned by the Glenafton kennels of Miss E. Hull. Nonnie's First major show was the Scottish Terrier Specialty held at Rye, N.Y. Her next major show was taken at Garden City, L.I., N.Y. Nonnie is by Aber Leven lad out of Caileag by Heather Fashion Hint out of Brendon Bubbles by Albourne Barty out of Tarvet Troda. Heather Fashion Hint by heather Necessity out of Innerkip Irma. Aber Leven Lad by Heather Realisation out of Aber Lady by Feemont out of Ober Bell, Heather Realisation by Heather Fashion Hint out of Gaisgill Sylvia.