



TERRIER GROUP

semen, the process became much easier. Finding veterinarians to work with is the hardest part.

Many have tried, almost all have failed, to replicate a top-winning dog. In trying to breed too closely to that dog, you are not only potentially doubling up on its strengths, but also doubling down on its genetic weaknesses. If you have a dog with a weakness for cancers, for example, you may be doubling the chances for that dog to develop cancer in its lifetime, and then passing on that vulnerability.

My father was a wildlife biologist, and he explained that in wolf packs, the alpha male and alpha female are the only breeding pair in that pack, to prevent inbreeding. The young males are driven away at puberty to establish their own pack or to become the “lone wolf.” The young females are kept as nursemaids or leave and enter a new pack.

When examining genetics and why it is so hard to

replicate a winning dog, a useful example to look at in Scottish Terriers is the wheaten gene. It’s a recessive gene, and therefore both the male and female have to carry the gene in order to produce any wheaten puppies. Yet when you breed a black carrier to a brindle carrier, how likely is it that you will get any wheaten puppies? You may get an entire litter of wheatens, or none. Think of that with any trait you are trying to either enhance or introduce into your breeding program. You are still at the mercy of nature and which egg and sperm matched up.

Genetics has proved to be incredibly useful to our breed and breeders. We have been able to identify the gene that carried von Willibrand’s disease and through thorough testing and selective breeding have for the most part eradicated it from our gene pool. And with the newly established STCA DNA Databank, we can begin work on eliminating others. Let’s not set

ourselves up for introducing yet another vWD trait into the Scottie gene pool.

Nature loves diversity, and when you step outside the box, who knows, you may produce that next fluke.

—Richard C. Bumstead,
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Scottish Terrier Club of America

Sealyham Terriers

THE “SEALYHAM SIT”

A kiss is just a kiss, but a sit is not just a sit—it’s the Sealyham Terrier soulful sit, enthralling spectators to this day.

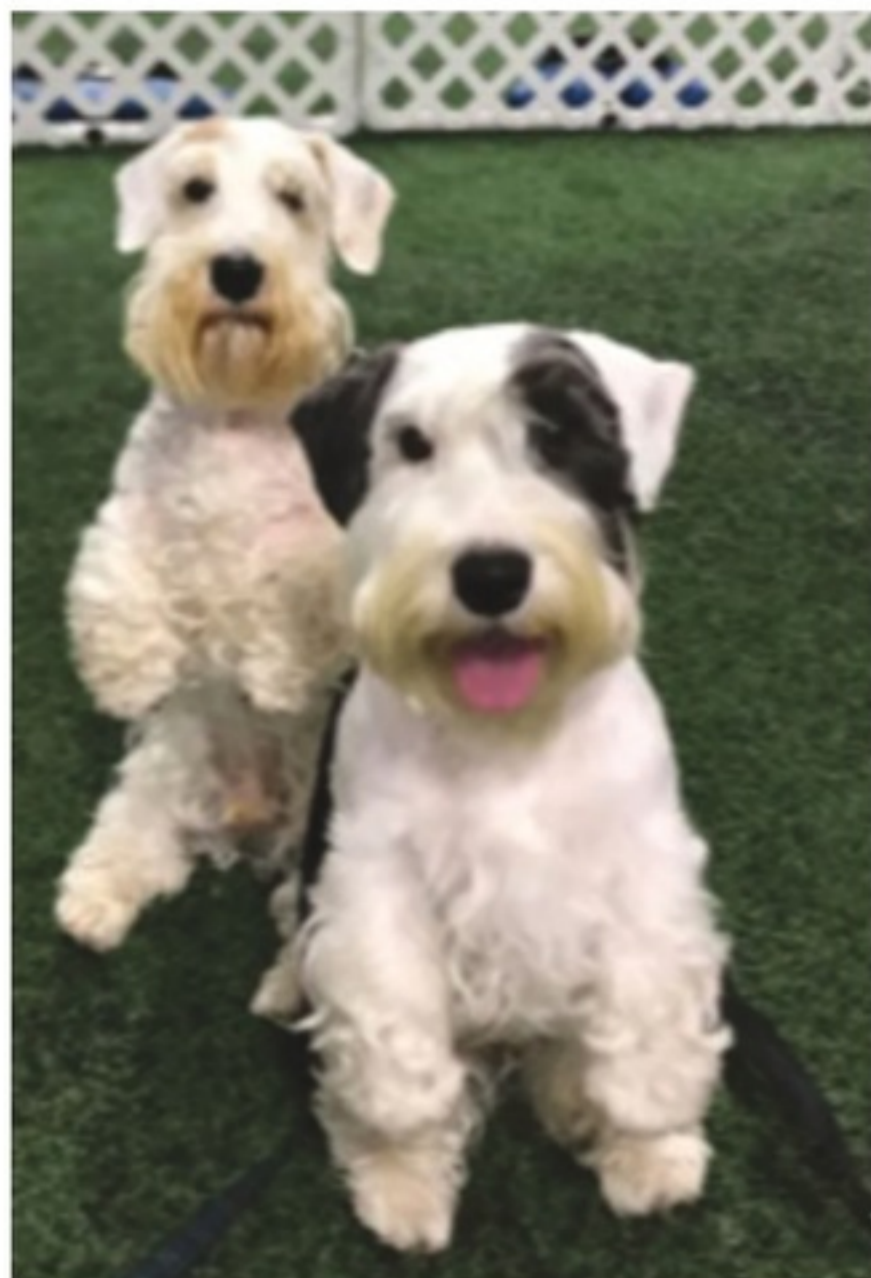
Cecil Aldin (1870–1935) was a British illustrator who considered a dog’s eye the most important feature to show personality: His sketchbooks are full of dogs’ eyes. A Master of Foxhounds, Aldin is lovingly known for his sketches of Cracker, his Bull Terrier, his Irish Wolfhound Mickey, and his Sealyham Terrier, Susan.

Aldin captured the soul of the “Sealyham Terrier

BREED COLUMNS



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The “Sealyham Sit”—demonstrated by real-life Sealys and notably depicted in vintage illustrations by Cecil Aldin, Maurice Sendak, and Lucy Dawson.



sit” long before the camera lens. His most well-known illustrations in the terrier world are of “Slickson, The Beggar” and “Cracker As a Silly Ass,” from *An Artist’s Model*, published in 1930 and a prized possession in



my rare book collection.

In 1932, Aldin’s illustrations were also published in the *Bunch Book*, by James Douglas, about the life of a Sealyham Terrier named Bunch. Also in the book are plates of an Irish Terrier,

a Wire Fox, and the Skye Terrier Greyfriars Bobby.

“A near neighbor of mine, and a great character, is Slickson. He will sit on his haunches through eons of time, he sat to me for all the three Sealyhams in the Christmas Number Plate of the Illustrated London News of 1929, and when I told him he could get down, looked very annoyed that he was not allowed to remain posed for a longer period.”
—Cecil Aldin, *An Artist’s Model*

More quotes from Aldin:
(Is the Sealy Soulful Sit about training?)

COURTESY ASTC

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“At home if Slickson is shut outside the front door of his house he will sit up alone and beg at that door. Half of his life he has spent on his hinder-end and it is as natural for him to sit on that part as it is for us. You’ve only got to speak to Slickson and he says, ‘How do you do?’ to you, by begging. No food is necessary: he does it for convenience and not for food. Slickson is the Champion Beggar.”
—C.A.

(Is the Sealy Soulful Sit about conformation?)

“Also, Slickson has the right conformation for it. First of all, he has very short legs and a tubby body, and at the end of his body sports (*sport* is the correct word) just one inch of stump to act as a lever in balancing.”
—C.A.

LUCY DAWSON’S AND MAURICE SENDAK’S “SEALY SITS”

Lucy “Mac” Dawson, captured the essence of the “Sealyham Sit” in her illustrated book *Dogs As I See*

Them, published in 1935. Her graphite and pastel drawings include hand-written notes about the mood and characteristics of various breeds.

Higglety Pigglety Pop! or There Must Be More to Life, written and illustrated in 1967 by Maurice Sendak, is a children’s book about the fictional adventures of his pet dog Jennie, a Sealyham Terrier. Jennie leaves a comfortable life and takes off on a journey for new adventures and stardom.

The 2010 Canadian live-action/animated short film based on *Higglety Pigglety Pop!* featured the voices of Meryl Streep, Forest Whitaker, and Spike Jonze.

Dawson and Oliver do the “Sealy Sit” in tandem for owner Conny Gosschalk Henry, ASTC member. Oliver’s entire litter did the Sealy Sit on their own at 7 weeks. Dawson needed a few “super treats” to do the Sealy Sit, and added a “two-footed high-five” in record time.

The Sealy Sit is indeed a cherished and beloved breed characteristic, captured by artists and owners alike through generations of Sealyhams.

—Bev Thompson,
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Terrier Club

Skye Terriers

THE VERSATILE SKYE TERRIER

Often, on weekends, Kathleen Brodie’s 6-year-old rescue Skye, Demi, can be found sniffing around—barns, containers, interiors, exteriors, tracks, and tunnels. Rather than hearing “What did you get into?” Demi’s “finds” are praised, as she is a multi-hunting-sport Skye Terrier.

Kathleen grew up in Texas, where her English teacher was the famous dog person Dorothy Nickles (1910–2009). Sometimes Ms. Nickles gave Kathleen a ride home (during which Kathleen graded the younger children’s spelling tests) and encouraged her to