



BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

Following judges

We all have favorite judges and love to show to the ones who seem to enjoy the task at hand and whose opinion we respect, and who hopefully have a reputation for being impartial and picking the best dog on the day.

Again, the nature of the sport is to receive numerous opinions from various judges as to the quality of our dogs. While the AKC requires that only the first two majors be from two different judges, it provides no guidance regarding the single points. Additionally, it's probably not a good idea to belittle judges on social media when you don't agree with their decisions.

Finished dogs in the classes

Before the internet made such information readily available, exhibitors had to call AKC to verify the points progression of their dogs to determine if they had finished their championship or not. There was always the gray area when entering shows while waiting for the

AKC championship certificate to arrive in the mail, and until that verification arrived, one could technically still enter shows as a class dog; this rule has been frequently sidestepped as we approach the Montgomery County weekend. Now, within about two weeks that information is available on the AKC website. Check the AKC point progression online if you suspect your dog has finished—and if so, move it up as a special. AKC will alert you if you have miscounted points.

Be a gracious loser

We all enter the ring thinking our dogs deserve to be there and hope to walk out with the win, that's why we enter. But often, we have to take the loss, and we all must remember to do it graciously. I recently overheard a judge telling an exhibitor after he lost, "If you aren't happy, you should go home!" Just remember how good it feels when your competition congratulates you on your win ... and

return that feeling. When inside the ring, we are competitors there to go for the win; outside the ring (where we spend most of our time), we should be seen as the stalwarts of our breed.

It's hard not to let the human ego get the better of us sometimes, but the sport of showing purebred dogs in the conformation ring should not be about what we take out of the ring, but about the quality of the dogs we take into the ring.

—Richard C. Bumstead,
glenclark6517@yahoo.com
Scottish Terrier Club of America

Sealyham Terriers

MENTORING MATTERS: BE THE REASON ANOTHER DOG PERSON FEELS INSPIRED

No matter what your age when beginning to breed or show your Sealyham in companion or performance sports, getting support—mentoring—matters.

Mentoring:

- promotes appreciation;

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Five-year-old Elena Dunlavy shows Sealyham Terrier Jags; sister Kalyn helps Elena with Jags in the ring; Elena with Jags on the table; Meghan Trostle with Winnie, whom she helped whelp and raise, on the show site, and after a win; Meghan and Winnie earning CGC; Meghan taught Winnie to give her paw; Amy Jonas's first mentor, Helen MacPherson; Amy showing Wynston; Amy with Jazz Fitzgerald, whom she is now mentoring, and their Sealyham family.

COURTESY ERICA ERIKSON-GROVE / MEGHAN TROSTLE / AMY JONAS



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- encourages belonging;
- brings clarity; and
- nurtures contributions.

A family affair

“Like all young kids, showing dogs helps them learn about distractions in and outside the ring, take direction, maintain focus, and learn *patience*—lots of patience—and respect for others and their dogs.” — Michelle Erickson-Grove, Ellusion’s Sealyham Terriers

The Erickson-Grove family mentoring began with their daughter, Erica, who passed along her advice showing Sealyhams to her children David, Kalyn, and now Elena Dunlavey, who is 5 years old. Elena has shown Sealyhams at the Amana dog show and Fort Dodge Kennel Club. She is currently showing Sealyham Jags, owned by Theresa Smith. Elena learns from watching her grandmother, mother, big brother, David, and big sister, Kalyn. Kalyn is in the Top 20 Juniors. Elena gets continuous ring advice and pointers

from her big sister, Kalyn: “Remember to keep your head up and follow.”

“Best of Breed at the Fort Dodge Dog Show put a big smile on her face,” remembered judge Pamela Peat. Elena is putting points on Jags—impressive for a 5-year-old. She is following in her mother’s and sister’s footsteps. She loves besting them and now goes to group after winning breed.

Love at first sight

Meghan Trostle got her first Sealy two years ago, when a friend bred her female Sealy to GCh. Goodspice Efbe Money-Stache. Meghan helped whelp and raise an only pup from the litter, Winnie. They’ve been in love and together ever since!

“Having Margery Good as my mentor has been incredible,” says Meghan. “Without her help, I would not have come this far showing or grooming.” Winnie, Thornbury’s Goodspice Winifred of Tegeing, finished her championship by

age 9 months, and her GCh. and Bronze GCh. before turning 2.

Mentoring is key for anyone getting into a breed for the first time. “We need to know what we are doing—you can’t go solo, or you won’t be doing the best for the breed,” Trostle insists. “You need a seasoned mentor to guide you.” (www.goodspicekennel.com/terrier-breeding)

Down Under

Amy Jonas (<http://www.cairnandsealyhamterrier-saustralia.com.au/>) waited eight years and got her first Sealyham, Sybil, in 2018. “After exhibiting and breeding Cairn Terriers since 2001, Sealyhams were of interest for some time,” says Jonas, “but Sealyhams are very few and far between in Australia. Back then, [there were] only about four breeders.”

Jonas’s first mentor was Sybil’s breeder in Queensland, then Helen MacPherson. Helen and her mother before her bred



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and exhibited Sealyhams in Australia for many years. “At my first Sydney Royal with a Sealyham, Helen kindly gave me grooming tips and much more—a generous person, part of the old guard. She recently passed away. When someone so knowledgeable is no longer here, it creates a real gap.”

Jonas reached out to Adrian Walmsley, then others from the U.K. and U.S. “David Winsley (Ireland) was incredibly helpful offering insight into different bloodlines,” reflects Jonas. “My two trips to the MCKC shows in 2022 and 2024 were fabulous. I met the breeder of the dog I imported from Germany, Irene Schotel, and am so grateful she was part of what I’m building here.”

With few people able to mentor the breed in Australia, Facebook chats were a lifesaver. “I’m like a sponge,” Jonas says. “Various mentors have seen or put hands on dogs four to six generations back.”

Mentoring is super important

“When mentoring a new breed, you’re essentially starting blind,” elaborates Jonas. “Mentees have zero knowledge of the pedigrees that shape the future.” When something unexpected shows up, Jonas asks questions: “Where did that come from, and why? Anyone can put two dogs together and breed a litter, but without understanding what came before, or how dogs mature over time,” infers Jonas. “You’re just hoping for the best.”

Jonas is mentoring Jazz Fitzgerald and her bitch, Gigi, Ch Aimfor Border Booty Call, Wynston’s dam. Wynston is Ch. Aimfor D’Opium N Absinth. She is getting inquiries for her next litter from others who have fallen in love with the Sealyham. (Jonas is the sweepstakes judge for the ASTC national specialty during MCKC, on October 5.)

Be that person who roots for others!

—Bev Thompson,

Thompscom@aol.com

American Sealyham
Terrier Club

Skye Terriers

DROP-EARED SKYE TERRIERS

When I recently showed my 10-month-old drop-eared Skye Terrier puppy, the puppy class judge said that she was happy to see “a natural ear.” She wished Skye owners “would stop putting their dogs’ ears up.”

Just a reminder: Skye Terriers come with two types of ears. The breed standard clearly describes the different ear-sets:

“Ears symmetrical and gracefully feathered. They may be carried prick or drop. If prick, they are medium in size, placed high on the skull, erect at their outer edges, and slightly wider apart at the peak than at the skull. Drop ears, somewhat larger in size and set lower, hang flat against the skull.”

Karen J’Anthony once had a judge say that she