



MEMBER PROFILE ~

by Gale Cummings

Gale Cummings
Galeway Irish Terriers
Norton, Mass.

Gale has been known for her work with Irish Terriers, for over three decades.

****Early Life and Passion for Dogs****

Her passion for the hunting dogs started at a young age. Her father was President of the Fish and Game where they lived in Massachusetts. They always had dogs at their home that actively worked flushing game. They learned the importance of working as a team with your dog. Her dad was a great caretaker of the animals which cemented her love for the dogs and a desire for learning. She later turned her love for nature into a bachelors' degree focused on the sciences.

In 1985 She met Bruce Cummings at a mutual place of work in the Bio-medical field. Bruce's involvement with terriers spans his entire life, and at that time he owned a female Irish named "Shane" from Sue Young. Gale met his mother, Edla Cummings, a successful terrier handler and breeder, she and her family ran a successful terrier boarding and showing kennel "Edwyre Kennels".

****Establishment of Galeway Kennel****

In 1987 Bruce and Gale married and in 1994 Bruce and she established a small breeding and showing kennel - "Galeway Irish Terriers." Their goal is to preserve and enhance the qualities that make Irish terriers unique while ensuring their health and temperament as the highest standard.

Bruce's mom taught the old school breeder way of line-breeding, whelping practices and simple home remedies. Gale's commitment to preserving the Irish Terrier was solidified when she joined the Irish Terrier Club of America, (1997), fully engaging with the community learning from seasoned breeders. Her own interest researched genetics, nutrition and breeding.

Her involvement in the breed spans over 35 years. She always focuses on producing dogs that excel in the show ring and adherence to our breed standard. She believes – "You must have goals"; She was taught to "Study, Study, Study" and too "Ask yourself- where am I in my breeding program? How do you get to where you want to be?"

Her mentors - Cory Rivera (Trackways) and Robert Clyde (Cocksure), were a great source of knowledge during this time. She was not only involved in showing and breeding but competing with her dogs in various performance events under the Galeway prefix. Cory was a great source of encouragement. Bruce and Gale quickly got involved with their local New England Terrier Club, where all of their best terrier friends were, and Gale immediately participated on the Board. Gale's dedication to the breed was highlighted by achievements such as winning Best in Match, from a long-time terrier judge. They continued to travel across the US, and frequently abroad, showing towards their Breed Championships and achieving many accolades such as - Terrier Group wins, Best of Winners at our National Specialty, Breeder Group 2 at the AKC National Championship, and achieving the "GrCh Ch." Title, as a breeder-owner handler. The Galeway gang also excelled with Canine Therapy, where the dogs enjoy their work after years of conformation shows. They completed extensive year-long credentialing and subsequent AKC titles with the Irish.

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One of their Irish, “Wags” reached Therapy Excellent after over 200 sessions. Wags continues to enjoy working with autistic children and adults with disabilities. This is where several of their dogs have their greatest enjoyment and never cease to amaze staff.

Breeding Philosophy

Galeway’s philosophy centers around health, temperament, and breed standards. Selection of breeding pairs are based on phenotype and genotype characteristics, embodying the spirit and physical characteristics outlined in the breed standard. Gale enjoys studying pedigrees, all terriers, and other breeds to gain more knowledge about her own breed.

Her puppies are raised in a home environment, receiving socialization and training from an early age. Our methods of training ensure a nice transition to any new owner. The biggest challenge for the future of the breed is finding homes that are interested in showing and breeding Irish.

Recognition and Legacy

Gale has contributed to the dog community by serving in various roles within several breed and all-breed clubs. She is involved as a AKC Breeder of Merit and learning through AKC Canine College.

Irish Terrier Club of America-

Member since 1997 – Serving as Corresponding Secretary, Breeder Referral, and Judges Education Committee and Chairperson. A member of ITCC and enjoyed travelling to several successful specialty shows.



Currently, Past-President for the all-breed Ladies Dog Club, having also served as Vice President, Corresponding Secretary (2009) and their AKC Delegate, prior to this honor. Past Vice President of Providence County Kennel Club and show chair. She served many, many years on the Board of the local New England Terrier Club and achieved a notable Best in Match with a younger Irish Terrier, Shane, GrCh. Ch Galeway’s Racing the Tide, as a pup, under a long-time terrier Judge. She has been judging and giving Judge’s Education seminars for many years, showcasing her deep understanding of breed type and canine anatomy across Irish Terriers and all terrier breeds.

Gale’s commitment to the betterment of the dog community for Irish Terriers and all breeds has earned the Outstanding Sportsmanship Award by Ladies’ Dog Club, Inc., as well as, a Legislative Action Team Star Award, from the Irish Terrier Club of America - LAT, for her work in regional and local Massachusetts canine legislation.

Gale’s commitment to the Dog World continued as a Delegate to the AKC, through her all-breed Ladies’ Dog Club where her contributions include various articles to the Delegate’s newsletter highlighting her Ladies’ Dog Club work with the veterinarian students in Massachusetts, as well as her Canine Legislative work within the active Massachusetts Federation, having spoken in front of the State Assembly several times.

“Galeway legacy is not just in the dogs we breed but, in the community, we have helped build, emphasizing the importance of ethical breeding for the welfare of the dogs and the Irish breed’s future. The Canine Therapy support for our community has also emphasized the Canine–Human bond to a variety of critical populations in need.”

Current Involvement

As of January 2025, Gale and Bruce continue their active work at Galeway Kennel in Norton, MA where they showcase their passion for Irish Terriers. Gale and Bruce’s long-standing commitment to dog sports, breeding, and community service in the canine world cements their reputation as a respected and influential figure among her peers and dog enthusiasts.