

Mike & Debbie Constant

Our life with Irish Terriers began in 1999, not long after losing our Cocker Spaniel. We were in search of a dog that would not be a couch potato but would be a good travel companion and safe with kids. With the help of an ITCA puppy referral, we found a puppy from Rod Umlas and we named her Kylie. Having done some research on Irish Terriers, we knew we needed to do some training and we immediately enrolled Kylie in puppy classes. Since Kylie loved the training, we ended up in obedience and then agility classes. It wasn't often that we would see other IT's but Kylie excelled in obedience, rally, and agility. Through her, we traveled to many competitions across the US. Kylie was the first IT to earn a MACH, Master Agility Champion.

Early on we met several ITCC members who encouraged us to join both the ITCC and ITCA. We have been active members in both clubs, Mike has served as an officer in both clubs including Treasurer of the ITCC and President of the ITCA. In 2006 the ITCA approved our proposal to develop a Performance Committee. Debbie has been the Performance Chair since then, has been Membership Secretary, and has been on the Board of the ITCA for multiple terms. We also are members of the Agility Ability Club of Illinois.

Our focus with our dogs has been in the performance world. We have owned a total of 4 Irish Terriers. Kylie, Brooke, and Harper competed in agility, obedience, rally and had tricks titles. In 2019 we added Callan and were blessed to have 3 IT's at once. What fun it was to have that house full of active red dogs. Callan is now our only Irish, Anneliese also trains in obedience, rally, and agility. All four of our Irish have earned ITCA Versatility awards, something we are very proud of. We love watching our dogs learn and love the comradery with the dogs and people that we spend so much time with at trials. And the training has helped our dogs to be good representatives of this great breed.

Because of the intelligence, drive, and love of the performance activities of this breed, our focus within the IT community has been to promote owners to be active with their dogs. It isn't necessary to go deep into the competition world, but the immensely positive reward is the bond created by spending time with your dog and learning how your dog thinks. Because of our Irish, we have been very fortunate to have traveled across the country for competitions and meetings where we have made many lifelong friends.



Kylie jumping through a tire in 2006



Mike and Debbie with Harper, Brooke and Callan