

MEMBER PROFILE ~ SHARON & BOB LINDGREN

by Sharon Lindgren

At barely a year old I was diagnosed with terrible allergies which unfortunately included an allergy to dogs. Except for goldfish, my Mother declared “no pets!” I was also born with a love for animals, especially dogs. After fighting with my Mother for years and regularly bringing home stray dogs that heartless people had “taken for a ride” and dumped them in what was, in the mid-fifties rural Oak Brook, Illinois, my Mother relented. Fortunately, my Mother, while delivering envelopes for the Catholic Church, met an AKC terrier judge and breeder and, first one, then two Kerry Blue Terriers became my special friends.

In 1975 I married Bob who grew up with Beagles. When I ended up with being able to have my freelance commercial design business run out of our home, we purchased a wonderful Airedale puppy named Tallas. Tallas was plagued with allergies and other health issues. When he passed we were wary of purchasing another Airedale because of health issues and, since we loved the terrier energy and spunk, we researched other terrier breeds. I read about Irish Terriers which were noted for good health, but had no idea where we could meet one or find a breeder. We decided to attend the International Kennel Club dog show in Chicago. As luck had it, we walked in, and right in front of us coming out of the ring was Carlos Puig with Irish Terrier BOB winner Airlies Coole Mean Mikalean. Mick had just sired a litter and, after meeting Pat Kostal and the litter’s mom, we purchased our first Irish Terrier, Airlies Echo of Erin’s Yeats.

Bob was now doing more and more business travel mostly abroad. Pat and Carlos convinced us to have Yeats shown in conformation. This was an ideal situation. I could travel with Bob when needed and Yeats could go to dog shows with Carlos while we were away.

Pat Kostal and I became good friends. She introduced us to the dog show world and the Irish Terrier Club of Chicago. Everyone was so friendly and helpful educating us about the breed standard, showing dogs, and the Irish Terrier Clubs. Encouraged and mentored by Pat, Marge Andre, Peggy Gill, Nancy Petersen, Marilyn Shaw, Suzanne Griffiths, and Ross Knutson, we joined ITCC. In 1992 I was recruited to help with the ITCC June specialty and ITCA traveling specialty as trophy chair.

When Pat bred Yeats’ mom again and needed to go back to work, I took care of the new litter of eight pups during the weekdays. I fell in love with a cute female and soon Bob and I became owners of another Irish Airlies Fantastic Voyage (Fanny).

I became more involved with the Irish Terrier Clubs and have served as ITCC President, in other ITCC executive positions and on many ITCC show committees. I also served on the ITCA Board of Governors and other ITCA committees. I have enjoyed and highly recommend getting involved in regional and/or national club business positions or committees. Besides being a learning experience, you make new lifetime friends. If you decide to breed, it is work, but I found breeding a labor of love. Studying pedigrees is fascinating and each pup is a very silly and loving character. There is always a need to have members willing to help with rescue. I have rescued a few. It is very rewarding to place an Irish just looking for someone to love and be loved by in just the right home.

Presently we are still living in our Oak Brook home now with just two Irish Terriers, our Chief and his daughter Dee Dee. We had no idea in 1991 when we brought our first Irish home what was in store for us. All I can say is we have been blessed to have had 33 years of living with Irish Terriers.



First Irish Yeats 1992



Christmas 2008, Bob, Kid, Sharon & 15 1/2 yr. old Fanny



Bob with Foxy, Chief & Dee Dee 2017