

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP



Early gathering of the Irish Terrier Club of Chicago, established in May 1926; montage from ITCC hospitality night, June 2000



Mary Best, to give the below account of the rich history of this storied club.

The Irish Terrier Club of Chicago, established in May of 1926, is the oldest of any regional breed club now in existence in the U.S. Its first

specialty show was held in Chicago with the Western Specialty Club Association show in November 1926, with 30 dogs. That was a good number for a fledgling group, and it started a great tradition for the Midwest.

At that time, eight dogs were required for three points, 10 for four points, and 20 dogs for five points. Today, 100 years later, numbers are four for three points, five for four points and six for five points. Specialty shows have been held through wars and even through COVID, (including two concurrent shows, with entries of 18 dogs each), and the tradition continues today.

After the first few years our bedrock members were Rudolph Jensen (Nutbrown) and Edward O'Keefe (Shannon View), who held the presidency alternately over the first 40 years; with William Butler as secretary. The names of John Best (Blackacre), Suzanne Griffiths (Greenbrier), and Patricia Kostal (Airlies) were frequently seen.

In 1976, the annual

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specialty joined with the newly organized Great Lakes Terrier Association (now the Great Lakes All Terrier Association), which held their shows at Lake County Fairgrounds in Grayslake, Illinois. Our highest entry was 44, in 1992. Membership in the ITCC then was about 70.

From the 1990s forward, the Midwest gained several active kennels to add to those mentioned earlier. The names of Huntermoon (Bruce and Nancy Petersen), Diamond (Bob and Gloria Geddes), Breezy's (Terri and Barry VandeZande), and Sugarbush (Tom and Diana Miller) were to be found at most shows.

In addition, our roster of heroes includes Sharon Lindgren, Steve Rybacki, Bill Webber, Lori McGuire, and too many more to mention. Our membership spans the country with members from the East, South, West, and Canada. Many of them make the trek to participate and show off their dogs, too.

Currently, members of our club and their Irish are successfully competing at the championship level in the performance disciplines, following the pioneering examples of Deb and Mike Constant. Activity in obedience, rally, agility, Barn Hunt, dock diving, Fast CAT, and tracking proves what we all have known: Irish Terriers can do it all!

The Irish Terrier Club of Chicago continues without a hitch. Irish Terriers have a lot to do with that. Their traits of loyalty, steadfastness, strength, and determination are mirrored in the owners who participate. Much like a family, Irish Terrier owners are “related by dog” and have been tirelessly keeping the club functioning. There is a true camaraderie among us. As in the beginning, we are dedicated to maintaining the integrity of our breed and showcasing the Irish Terrier’s versatility through the club’s various events.

The celebration will continue through 2026, cul-

minating on the weekend of June 13 and 14, when we will be hosting the Irish Terrier Club of America traveling specialty, as well as holding our 100th Irish Terrier Club of Chicago specialty. For information, please see <https://www.irishterrierclubchicago.org>.

—Submitted by Michael A. Kowalczyk, kowalczykm@charter.net

[Irish Terrier Club of America](#)

Kerry Blue Terriers

Guest author David Poynter has been involved with Kerry Blue Terriers for over 25 years as a student, historian, and advocate for the breed. He is a dedicated student of the Kerry Blue Terrier breed standard, an AKC Breeder of Merit, and a member of the United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club (USKBTC).

THE MAKING OF AN IRISH FARM DOG

The Kerry Blue Terrier