

Paula Dwyer

My start with Irish Terriers began in 1993 when I was asked to travel across country with my aunt who was planning a breeding with her Welsh Terrier. While enroute from Illinois to Vermont we stopped to attend the Blue Bell cluster of dog shows in Pennsylvania.

At that first show when I saw an Irish Terrier, I was completely taken by what characters they were inside the ring and out. Not to mention the attitude of a big dog in a medium size package. I spent the next year and a half going to dog shows with her and talking to breeders to learn out more about the breed.

At the June 1994 GLTA Grayslake show I watched Harmony (Kilkerrys Harmony of Kalaney) in the ring. After the show I spent time with Judy & Dick LaBash and Harmony. The more I got to know them I thought I finally found the temperament I wanted in a dog and a breeder I could work with. Judy was planning a litter that would be ready to go home in the autumn so I put my name on the waiting list for a puppy.

In October I drove up to Lexington MI to the Kalaney Kennel where I met the dog that would change my life. It didn't take long to decide on a name for the puppy boy I picked out, Banter pretty much named himself because he was such a talker. So Kalaney's Bard of Bantry Bay came home with me to Illinois and he taught me what it was to be owned by an Irish Terrier. That same year I joined the Irish Terrier Club of Chicago and have been a member ever since.

My next two Irish Terriers also came from the Kalaney kennel; Kilkerry Kalaney's Rhapsody from Judy LaBash and Peggy Phillips. Then came my boy Breo who was from a litter of five males which signaled the end of an era because he was from the last litter Judy ever bred.

What I was able to learn over the next decade led me full circle back to a breeder that had the Kalaney bloodline to reestablish my breeding program. In 2012 I took home Sugarbush's Rira of Beantraí from Tom & Diana Miller. With Rira I rejoined ITCA and restarted along-awaited breeding program.

I'm happy to say than I now have Rira's granddaughter thanks to Patrick Beyrow and Stuart Cartwright. owners of Stirling's Celebrating Sabre with Guinness and I am looking forward to planning the next generation of Irish Terriers. Health and temperament are always foremost in my mind.

What started out as a hobby and having my ideal dog has led to a life long passion for the breed and friendships that are like extended family. I can only hope that the future provides the opportunity to continue a successful breeding program with my fellow breeders. We need to preserve the character of the Irish Terrier but at the same time we all know the dogs aren't the only characters in the Irish Terrier World.



Paula with the 2014 IKC—Reserve Winners



2018 Beantraí's