

Connie Swenson and David Kiefer

We have owned our Irish Terrier, Quinn, since early 2014. However, we began in 1985 searching for our first dog, focusing on the terrier group, and ultimately narrowing our search to the Border, and the Irish. At the time, Lorraine Meyer, a Boxer breeder, and AKC obedience judge guided us to Borders, for a "couple of inexperienced kids."

From that mission, we embarked on a wonderful adventure filled with obedience, earthdog, and traveling with our Border Terriers. Along the way, a Mini Bull terrier joined us, named Fuggles, who was also a delight.

In January 2013, we attended the Chicago IKC benched show. We met several ITCC members, all of whom were generous with their time and knowledge. We also had an opportunity to meet an Irish during "Meet the Breeds," which is a great resource. From there, we began our search, landing with Tom and Diana Miller. Everyone we contacted was extremely helpful and equally inquisitive about our experience.

Later that year, in October, we traveled to Ohio to meet with Tom and Diana at their home, the Sugarbush Kennel. In January of 2014, we returned and made our precious pickup, Quinn, who has been a delight ever since. A champion with Meyer's support, a certified therapy dog, an obedience title holder, and a sweetheart, she was worth the 29-year wait! Joining her is Grace, the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon, a character in her own right as well.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our adventure. I appreciate the friends that we have made in the ITCC club, and beyond. The help from grooming, advice, and lifelong friendships is invaluable!

When we are not taking care of pups, Dave is an IT project manager, and Connie is a sales representative for Peterbilt commercial trucks. We enjoy cars and traveling.