

die coats and soft and hard wheaten coats. You can breed black to black, brindle to brindle, wheaten to wheaten; or black to brindle, black to wheaten, or brindle to wheaten, and the color of the resulting puppies in no way affects the texture of the coat. Only the genes for texture passed on by the parents, and the way they pair off in the offspring, determine the degree of hardness of coat hair.

"I have visited numerous Scottie breeders, both here and abroad, and find it is the same everywhere: there are soft black, brindle, and wheaten coats; and there are hard black, brindle, and wheaten coats. In defense of the blacks, I feel compelled to say that some of the hardest coats I have felt anywhere have been black coats, so I have to smile a bit when, fairly often, someone remarks when feeling one of my blacks: "My, what a hard coat—especially for a black!"

"In effect, what I've been saying is that proper coat texture is essentially a matter of proper breeding (although a lot depends on how the puppy coat is handled at eight to ten weeks and for at least six to nine months thereafter), and the way to improve on poor coat texture (any color) is to breed to dogs of proper coat (any color) from a line or strain known to produce good coats consistently.

"In a similar vein, some breeders and judges feel that a lighter-colored Scottish Terrier need not have a dark eye. The Standard doesn't hedge on the matter of eye color: "Dark brown or nearly black." A light brindle or wheaten Scottish Terrier should have the same dark eye as a black or dark brindle, and a lighter eye should not be condoned because "It goes with a lighter-colored coat." It is no more difficult to breed light brindles and wheatens with proper eye color than it is to breed blacks and black brindles with proper eye color. Proof of this is that there are so many light brindles and wheatens that have the proper dark eye.

"Imagine what would happen if we, as breeders (and guardians of the breed), were to lift (either tacitly or otherwise) the Standard's requirement for a dark eye in a light dog. In no time at all in two, maybe three generations, the effect of light-colored, light-eyed studs would be quite evident in their progeny. Not only the lighter coats but also the darker ones would be showing up increasingly with lighter eyes.

Why do these ideas persist? I can only guess. For one thing, it's true that old, widely-held fallacies die lingering deaths. It takes time for "the word" to get around. It's also true that the application of Mendel's Laws and the study of genetics, though originating in the 1800's, is relatively new to dogs. I would further guess that, taking all breeders as a whole, only a small fraction of that whole has a general knowledge and understanding of how dominant and recessive genes work, and an even smaller fraction can apply the basic principles of genetics to their own breeds. Perhaps when more is known by more people many of the popular fallacies of dog breeding can be laid to rest."—(Mrs. H.R. Inez H. Hartley, 1701 Presidential Way, Apt. 102, West Palm Beach, FL 33401.

NORWICH TERRIERS

NORWICH TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA

Two Norwich Terriers were on the covers of two national publications last December. How happy Ch. Wendover Torrent's breeders, the late Bill and Priscilla Mallory would have been to see their handsome young drop ear sitting underneath the Christmas tree on the cover of *Pure-Bred Dogs*. After their death he went to live with the well-known artist Sally Martyn Lacy who specializes in animal portraits and who took this beguiling photograph. Wendover Torrent is also the sire of the best puppy in the 1977 Norwich Terrier Club Match.

Canine Chronicle, a weekly news, chose an attractive prick ear puppy framed in a holly wreath for their front page on Christmas Eve. This young Norwich bred at the Amity Kennel belonging to Ric and Melinda Routledge who edit the *Canine Chronicle* and who have finished all their homebred Champions themselves.

HEADS or TAILS: Too many Norwich lost their tails in 1977. Alas, I saw three good-looking litters spoiled by incorrect docking. One litter had nothing left to wag. Fortunately their breeder was able to place them as happy

tailless pets. Another litter had tails of uneven length; one had escaped with a short tail, one had a stump and two had pom-poms. Eventually about one inch of hair grows on the end of each tail. However camouflage is no substitute for correct length.

The Norwich Standard calls for: "Medium docked." And remembering the origin of the breed the tail should be long enough to pull the Norwich out of a hole if he goes to ground. A Norwich Terrier should present a well balanced appearance. The tail set (where the tail joins the body) has a great deal to do with the angle at which the tail is carried. A fault is an excessively "gay" tail, curling over the back. To correct this for the show ring the owner usually cuts such a tail as short as possible. Each has their own opinion on the length of a Norwich tail. The only length, however, is the correct length. For those who know even less than I do, I can only offer my own homebred experience.

For ten years I could not bring myself to cut a puppy's tail. Then when the price went from 50 cents to two dollars per tail I decided the time had come. It costs even more than that today. How much tail do you leave on and how much do you cut off? Remembering that you can never put it back on again, it is wiser to leave too much rather than too little on. If at three months the tail is not in harmony with the silhouette of your Norwich it is simple for a vet to cut a little more off.

If your litter is strong and healthy cut their tails at three days of age. If there is a weak puppy do not cut its tail. It is added shock and stress to a new born little animal. I have saved two weak puppies, over the years, who were doing very well until we cut their tails. First of all decide on the length. My advice to leave half of slightly less ON. I hear many Veterinarians have a book that tells them how short to dock a Norwich tail. That book says leave one quarter of an inch on. I wish they didn't have that book. A quarter of an inch is too short. It is my opinion that you cannot cut every puppy's tail the same length. Some have short fat tails; some have long thin tails; some tails are set differently on the bodies.

When I cut a puppy's tail I first go over the whole litter. I never take what appears to be the pick at that age as my first patient. One gathers confidence as one goes along and if you make a mistake on the first one you'll probably do a calm and perfect job on the last tail. I take each puppy and hold it erect with its head and tail up judging the overall picture. Judging the tail length in relation to the head I choose the spot where I think that tail should be cut. With my thumb nail I mark a spot in the connective tissue between two of the coccygeal vertebrae. I cut a complete ring of hair away from this spot. This is also a good thing to do as an aid to your Vet if he is docking the tails. A vet who has never bred a Norwich litter welcomes a guideline. After circling the tail I check all four feet for dew claws. Often only the front feet have dew claws. I take a small hemostat, stretch the claw out and clamp it. This crushes the blood vessels to prevent excessive bleeding. With the ball of my thumb I flick the dew claw off. You can cut it with a small pair of sharp scissors. Then preferably with someone holding the puppy I return to the hairless ring on the tail. This is clamped while holding the tail in a horizontal position. With about a 1½" scalpel blade cut the tail off. I use a small pair of sharp scissors. To cauterize the wounds use Q-Tips dipped in Monsell's solution or a stick of silver nitrate. The Hemostat left on for about thirty seconds crushes the blood vessels which prevents excessive bleeding. When the whole litter has been docked the tails should look in proportion and of fairly even length. The first time they wag them you will be well rewarded.

This year's Specialty will be held at Huntingdon Valley KC Show. The judge will be James Reynolds. The date is Saturday, June 3, 1978.—Mrs. Sterling Larrabee, King's Prevention, Chestertown, MD 21620

SOFT-COATED WHEATEN TERRIERS SOFT-COATED WHEATEN TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA

A Specialty Show functions primarily as a guide to breeders. The breeder who can look honestly at his stock