

From the United States of America-1967
From an old NTC News, Contributed by Frank Rogers

The Norwich terriers in America are beginning to show a sort of continuity. There are few serious breeders who are making an honest effort to develop type.

At a recent Westminster Kennel Club Show there were eleven Champions entered, seven of which were prick-eared. Three of the seven were on the large side and four looked to be the correct size. We are still not breeding correctly when there is such a discrepancy in size.

The eye color has improved but bears watching, so much of the true terrier expression depends upon the eye color, and of course is best shown in the dark, almond-shaped eye. It is disturbing to many of us that some Norwich are being shown and winning that have bad mouths. This should never be allowed and the more conscientious breeder never shows or breeds with this glaring fault. Unfortunately we have Judges who choose to ignore our Standard.

We are still struggling with the coat problem. Our climate here on the East Coast, in particular, is different to cope with as our weather is so changeable. Our winters are far too severe to house them outside and our summers are much too hot and humid to keep a coat in good condition.

Temperament at present is excellent and there is no terrier bred in America that has the even disposition of this gay little breed. At this time there is no reason for concern on this point.

As to the future, there are a few breeders who can truly evaluate their own dogs and these are the breeders who will eventually dominate the ring. Only when one can see the problems can a breeder or exhibitor improve the breed in general. We must learn what true Norwich type is and until we do, we cannot blame Judges for putting up "darling little dogs" but not good Norwich. While we are not making rapid progress we have improved over the past ten years.

When people care, they learn, and the Norwich will be worthy of Group placements in the not to distant future.

Wit Hanning

Mr. Hanning was either a terrier judge or a NTC Club Member who wrote this critique for the Norwich Terrier Club UK Newsletter in 1960.