

SCOTSBAIRN Scottish Terriers



In 1980 my mother Thelma Clark lost her beloved Suzy (a Heinz Terrier) to parvo, a then 'unknown disease' in dogs.... I had a relative in the 60's who had a scotty and I thought this would be an ideal replacement as mother was distraught at the loss of her four legged companion. What a mistake... the first acquisition was a Helmsdale bred in South Australia followed soon after with a Peglin from Canberra. Mother, then a retired teacher was coerced into the show ring as an interest having been told "the're not bad dogs'...!! Then the follow up...why don't you have a litter..??



Well...you can't breed dogs in a city residence where you can only keep two or three dogs so our Highbury home was sold and 12 acres purchased at Waterloo Corner, our current home.



It's been downhill ever since. We built kennels, grooming facilities and exercise runs and sometimes the dogs actually stayed in them but mostly the tribe lived in and took over the house.

Mother liked the dogs inside – in fact they were rarely banished to the kennels.

We knew nothing about breeding, sort help from breeders Australia wide and became a member of the Victorian Scottish Terrier Club. I learned to groom, and through failures and much heartache learned how to successfully (I think) breed Scotties. At our peak we probably had up to 20 dogs.

As mother got older our dog numbers decreased as she was unable to look after them and attend shows.



She and Flora Gillman had been friends for years. They had a common interest...scotties...Flora and Bob Gillman also started with scotties in the 1980's having imported two scotties from Scotland. They all had an interest in bettering the breed.

Bob Gillman and Thelma both died in 2006 and 2007, which left me without a kennel maid and Flora in Melbourne without any family. Flora moved to Adelaide and the breeding of Scotties was rekindled and the Scotsbairn prefix continued.



Technology has improved over time as has genetic testing. We now have some very useful tools to use to improve our breeding and the health and well being of our scottish bairns. It is worth noting that Flora and Bob supplied Werribee Research Centre with a donor dog (a NSW purchased puppy with positive vWD) which was the for runner to the developing the genetic test now available through companies such as Orivet for vWD. It was established that vWD was an inherited disease that could be bred out and eliminated by selective breeding. Sadly, today we still have breeders refusing to test their dogs pre breeding and still on occasions using carriers.

Thelma was obsessed with scotties both alive and as memorabilia. Hence the collection of scotty things. She followed the markets and antique shops and acquired anything scotty.





Needless to say, when Flora came to Adelaide, she too had a heap of scotty things which merged into the existing collection. We now have a collection of over 1500 pieces which is still on the increase. If we see it and it's different or we think someone else may like it, we buy it. The house as it exists is at near capacity with scotty things. There is a solution, build onto the house and create bigger and better facilities. This is in the process of happening and should be completed by Christmas.



The memorabilia will to be bequeathed as a complete collection with the provision of funding for the purchase of a property for housing and maintenance.

Best Wishes.....John Clatk...Scotsbairn.