

## TERRIER GROUP

### Australian Terriers

#### CELEBRATING LONGEVITY

It is always wonderful to see a post on Double Digit Australian Terriers, a special Facebook page honoring seniors of the breed. The beauty of the normally 10- to 12-year-old Aussies being celebrated is heartwarming. When we get to witness those reaching 14, it is a testament to the care and loving home these individuals have enjoyed, not to mention the genetics behind them.

So imagine my joy in hearing about a pair of almost 17-year-old Australian Terrier sisters! I needed to know more about them. The sisters, Carly and Ellie, have lived a very active



Senior Australian Terrier sisters Ellie and Carly have lived a very active life. Left, Carly (now passed); top center, Ellie at almost 17; top right, the sisters at the Gobble Jog, an annual event to support the homeless; center, the sisters at one of their favorite places, Kennesaw Mountain National Park in Georgia.



life. For many years they lived in Marietta, Georgia, where they participated in many community events, especially when they were therapy dogs. Later they retired to Venice, Florida, where they enjoyed napping in the Florida sunshine.

While Ellie is still going strong, Carly recently passed, just three months shy of her 17th birthday. Because a picture is worth a thousand words, for this issue I would like to celebrate their lives with the accompanying photos provided by their owners.

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### Bedlington Terriers

Earlier this year I was assigned a daunting task by *Our Dogs* in Great Britain: to summarize the history of the Bedlington Terrier in the United States in 600 words. The material is copyrighted to me, so here goes.

#### THE BEDLINGTON TERRIER IN THE UNITED STATES

The first Bedlingtons owned in the United States were imported early in 1880 by J. W. Blythe of Burlington, Iowa. The two bitches and a dog were obtained from Hugh Donziel, a noted British dog judge and author.

The first officially AKC Registered Bedlington was the bitch Tynesider II, entered in Vol. I of the registry in 1883. That same year, Bedlingtons were given a specific breed class. In 1886, the first champion was made up and an official standard was proposed.

The parent club in the United States was formed in May, 1932. Great Britain sent us some of our most prominent fanciers then. Anthony and Anna Neary were instrumental in founding the parent club, and Tony achieved wins at prominent all-breed shows that have not been bested to this day!

Terragona of Rowanoaks was imported by Col. P.V.C. Mitchell for his daughter Connie Willemsen, whose influence is still felt today. Edgar Duckett piloted the breed