

AKC Gazette Column - by Dr Grace Massey

About the AKC Breed Columns:

The Breed columns are a time-honored feature of the AKC Gazette. Each columnist is appointed by a breed's national parent club, which preserves the breed's standard and helps to educate breeders, judges, and the public about the breed's history, function, and possible health issues. A national parent club is comprised of dedicated breeders and fanciers, and it represents many years of collective experience in the breed. Columnists are asked to write about topics of interest to the fancy in general as well as those of specific interest to judges and devotees of the breed.

Australian Terrier Breed Column November 2017

That Special Something

Each Australian Terrier brings personality traits to our relationship with them that endear them to us. As I remember those I have lost and embrace those that are still with me, each one brings to mind something special that makes me smile. Momma Cena, a very happy fun loving bitch, used to do what we called the "bed time dance". Because she felt that she should sleep in the bed with us and not in a crate where the other dogs slept, she would dance in circles with her shoulder near the ground and her butt in the air. The whole time she would grin over her shoulder and wiggle her whole body. While I have seen her puppies and grandpuppies "dance", none have been able to achieve it quite to the same effect.



Flame, a regal stud dog, would sit very proper looking at the edge of the deck and watch over the other dogs. We called him the "deck king". He would go from regal to deadly when he saw a critter that needed hunting. He would streak out into the yard and usually bring back an offering to lay at my feet. He would be the one in a trench

with only his tail showing as he tracked moles across the yard. When he caught a mole, he would then throw it over his shoulder. One of the other dogs would catch it and make a game of "who has the mole" as they raced around the yard passing it off like a football. He also had several other endearing mannerisms. One was that he didn't kiss with his tongue. If he liked you, he would cover your nose and chin with his mouth and gently rake your face as he closed his mouth. He did this while looking deeply and directly into your eyes. Another trait was the way he would talk. He didn't bark or growl. Instead make a deep "Arrooo" sound. I have several dogs that do a high pitched "rooo-rooo" and others that do "Arr rar rar" with an inside talking voice, but none make that unique "Arrooo" that Flame would make.



Sugar, a young bitch, starts her day by running laps around the yard, up on the deck and back around the yard. She runs full out for at least 5 minutes and barely stops to do her morning business. She actually continues to move forward while she does it. She is a very loving girl who feels inclined to clean anyone's eyes and ears that let her – humans and dogs alike. I am sure she will be very attentive to her puppies when she has a litter! Dean, a 6 year old stud, will quietly climb onto my lap and lay down. He does it so gently that you almost don't notice that he is there. Of course when he wants to get your attention, he stands on his hind legs and waves his front legs together in a begging motion while grunting what sounds like "me me me". Aurora, a spunky young bitch, gets so excited about the possibility of getting to go for a ride in the truck that she is out the door and in the truck before you even know she is with you. If she does get to go, she is alert and excited to be there the whole trip.

While these are just a few of the Aussies that have touched my life or are still with me, each holds a special place in my heart. I am sure that each and every Aussie has that special something that their owner holds dear. Embrace them and enjoy every day that you have with your Aussie! While they may live long lives for a dog, the end comes too quickly, and then all you have are the memories.