

A Blast From The Past

by Nell Fox

The Talkabout

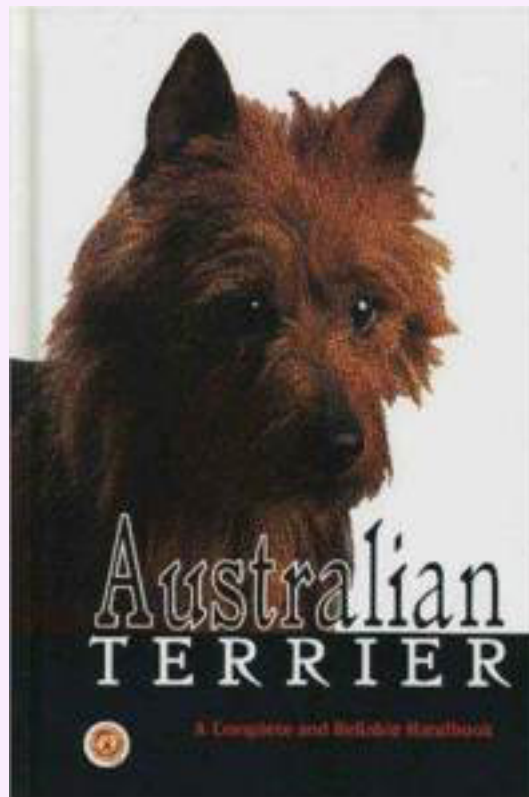
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If I were starting over again.....

Let me start by saying: There is little that we could have done differently. I say WE because I cannot think of these times without Milton being an integral part of the endeavor. The disappointments came, and still do, through a few people taking advantage of our trust and enthusiasm, and of an impatience more typical of youth than of middle age - characteristics without which our goal would have taken much longer to achieve.

It is still the people who bring the faith-shattering experience. We want so much for the Aussie people to be as good and as wholesome as our breed. In the beginning we bought Australian Terriers from many places and people. Much time would have been lost if screening of persons and dogs worthy to be the breeding and promotional program had been finer. The chances we took, however, were never with the welfare of the dogs; every means available was, and is taken to protect them, this is true of all conscientious Breeders.

The risk was whether the people would live up to their promises to cooperate in publicizing Australian Terriers and the breed judiciously. Considering it was desperately important to get the breed started in new areas I don't think we could have been more scrupulous than we were with these placings. Better geographic distribution - a most vital factor - might have been accomplished if perhaps we had been able to travel to States further from us. But it seemed at the time that we were doing all possible to fit into the busy schedule of showing, talking to people, seeking and obtaining every speck of publicity, writing, photographing, and most important of all, breeding the best Aussies we could. (As a result, dear Milton's health was taxed more than we were to realize.) If we had been able to visit every place we sent a dog, some of the dead-ends might have been prevented.



Frequently we excitedly sent an Aussie to what seemed a wonderful new spot, only to hear that the owners were delighted with their new "pet." Or we would learn of some personal happening which excluded the promised breed advancement. So it was that much of the monetary contributions and optimistic delight was all for much less than we had

hoped - but we could not have done other than to have followed every lead.

Though these let-downs were devastating, our belief in the breed and the few loyal Aussie people persisted. Wonderful friendships were born and still exist from these days, and are still coming about from the Aussies.

To have done differently and to have avoided the temporary defeats, the scarring disillusionments, yes, we could have been less eager and more prudent, but this would have meant the postponing for many a long day the official recognition of Australian Terriers. We gambled that these grand little dogs had so much to offer they would win, and that they would do so in spite of the human failures and frailties and that they would earn their justifiable place in the hearts of dog-loving Americans.

We (I still speak for Milton) would do it over again knowing now, even as we did then, that the "Down Under Darlings" had so much to offer - to give - that certainly in America there is always room for more of the best! In retrospect, these efforts now seem insurmountable staggering.

But with success for the breed also came warm human contacts, indeed an unforeseen bonus - but adding immeasurably to the precious satisfactions in this strange web of life spun with our despair and with our dreams.



D. Rosamond Hathaway
with Neechie - April 1977