
B R I A R D B R I E F S

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WANT A GOOD PUPPY ? Member Fred Leary, 436 East 58th Street, New York 22, still has three top-quality pups sired by Champion Chef available. The balance of his recent litter has been sold and we suspect that the prices on the remaining pups will be surprisingly low.

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WINTER SHOWS COMING UP: Not long before snow will be flying which means shows move indoors. No one not a show fanatic can look upon the prospect with great joy. As far as this writer knows the only important indoor event for Briards will be next April when Twin Brooks holds its annual affair at West Orange. Traditionally that show is considered as the annual point show for The Fellowship, so you may want to jot down the date of Sunday, April 13th, as the day when a great many Briards will emerge into the public eye after a winter spent more or less in hibernation. This, of course, does not pertain to sections of the country where Winter does not mean driving over icy roads or plowing out drifts to get to the kennel.

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CH. GOSSAMER PASSES AWAY: In the last issue we reported the death of Bob Kenyon's Westlawn Gleaming. Soon afterwards we got the sad news that Katherine Stryker-Sue Konn's Ch. Westlawn Gossamer was also dead. By a strange coincidence this news was followed by a phone call from Kay Hinze that Ch. Westlawn Glory Be ! was also sick and under the care of a vet. Fortunately, Glory recovered. All three of these Briards were well-known in the show ring and were all from the same litter; Ch. Bastile out of Ch. Westlawn Belfair. As far as we know only Ch. Genius and Ch. Glory Be ! are left out of the litter born April 21, 1946. It may be purely coincidence but Genius still acts like a puppy at over 11 years of age. The point is that he has never known what it is to be in the house. Winter and summer, for over eleven years he has been in the open except for having a snug, but not entirely enclosed, sleeping space. There may be nothing to the theory that this rather spartan life is responsible for his peppy old age.

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THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ARGUMENT: Above we suggest that Genius may defy old age while house dogs pass away when younger. Here at Westlawn we are still heartsick on the passing of Ch. Westlawn Excalibur, who was mercifully put to sleep at the age of about 13 years. From the time he was a bundle of fur he lived in the

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house and seldom was outdoors for more than an hour or so at a time. In winter his trips outdoors were limited to a very few minutes. Yet he lived to a ripe old age.

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HOW OLD ARE DOGS ?: We often hear that one year of a dog's age is equal to seven years in the human race. That would mean that Excalibur was the equal of 91. Inevitably people question this rule. Recently we read of a rule that sounds to have a bit more justification. It is that the comparative age of a dog is based on multiplying all of the years after he reaches two by seven. In the case of a 13-year old dog this would then work out at 79 years which sounds a lot more reasonable. Even at that Genius, Gossamer and Gleaming would rate at about 74 years.

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DON'T RAKE OUT ALL UNDERCOAT: Unless your Briard is to be kept in a warm place it is not advisable to comb too strenuously from now until about March. The undercoat is coming in and completely insulates him from the worst of winter's blasts. Keep the outer coat smooth and free from tangles but it is not advisable to drag out the undercoat that is the blanket he carries with him. Remove tangles but not the normal undercoat.

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ANY ONE FEEDING MEAL ?: Over the years dog food salesmen have tramped many miles and carried hundreds of pounds of sample dog meal. Each promises that once the Briard has become accustomed to meal instead of kibbles that we will feed nothing else. Never has the promise been fulfilled. No matter how gradually we try to shift to meal our Briards refuse to eat it. In fact they will paw their food all around in order to discard the meal to reach the kibbled biscuit. Thousands of kennels feed meal. Are Briards fussier or just what is the trouble? To date we have never known of a Briard fancier who has had success with any of the dozens of unquestionably well-prepared meal-type feeds.

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MORRIS & ESSEX CANCELLED: We regret to hear that the famous M&E show has been cancelled. This cuts out one of our favorite early summer events and we trust that it will be renewed in '59.

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NO DUES FOR 1958 FOR PRESENT MEMBERS: The financial condition of the organization is again in such a satisfactory condition that the Board of Governors has authorized, for the second year, no charges for dues for those who are now members. New members coming in will be charged the usual \$3.00.

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