

TFT Genetics
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Preface: Background & Qualifications

I am a Biochemist/Geneticist by training and currently serve as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and as Dean of University College at Kennesaw State University in Georgia. Prior to assuming my current position in October of 2002 I was Chair of the Department of Biology & Physics. I have over 30 years of experience in teaching & research in genetics and related areas. Some of my work has involved investigation of the genetic basis for therapy-induced multi-drug resistance in cancer chemotherapy patients. I also have my own company (RJRGenetics), specializing in consulting and education for attorneys and others that need to understand Forensic DNA Analysis (DNA Fingerprinting) as it is applied to criminal cases and paternity cases. I also have over 30 years experience in breeding show quality animals. When I first met my wife, Daryleen, in 1976, she was a professional trainer and breeder of Arabian horses with a growing national reputation. For many years after we were married, Daryleen and I were involved in the breeding and showing of champion Arabian horses. Daryleen was also a judge for horse shows as well as cattle and sheep. For a variety of reasons when we came to Georgia in 1985, we began to move away from the horses and eventually we "went to the dogs". We have been involved with TFTs for the last 17 years. We started in 1990 with an obedience dog and then added conformation dogs and agility dogs. Since that time we have shown and/or produced 6 Grand Champions (including 1 National Grand Champion) and 18 Champions. Of these 24 titled dogs we bred 15 ourselves. Of course, all of these titles are United Kennel Club (UKC) titles as it is only since January, 2003 that the TFT has been accepted into the Toy group for AKC. We have also now produced and shown 4 AKC Champions. Daryleen is also a Senior Judge (TFTs) for UKC, a judge for the American Rare Breed Association, and has judged several AKC B Matches. She has also been a breed consultant for several AKC Judges groups giving seminars to them on the TFT. I have given several presentations on basic genetics as it applies to the breeding of show horses and show dogs. All this is by way of saying that in addition to my formal training in genetics, I also have, with the help of Daryleen's knowledge of form and function, practical experience in applying that knowledge to both equine and canine breeding programs.

I currently serve on the Board of Directors of the American Toy Fox Terrier Club (ATFTC) as the Health Chair for that organization. I recently conducted an online health survey of TFT breeders and enthusiasts. The results of that survey were presented at the May 2007 ATFTC National TFT Specialty Show.