

Preface

THE BECKY BOOK

I am a lifetime Scottish Terrier aficionado, having acquired my first Scottie for Christmas at age nine. At the time, Scottish Terriers ruled the dog world, thanks to Fala, President Franklin Roosevelt's White House companion. Fala went everywhere with his master during World War II, and often got his picture taken with the most important people in the world, such as Stalin and Churchill, who met with President Roosevelt on shipboard to discuss important matters.

Since Lassie, my first Scot, I have had Maggie, Piper, Scottie-Robbie, Mandy, Abby, and Becky. During this succession of Scottie dogs, I became a writer, skipping around in various genres. In my culture warrior days, I contributed many Letters to the Editor and Op-Ed pieces to newspapers and magazines, wrote and self-published several books on various topics, until the opportunity arose to write the biography of a Holocaust survivor, entitled, *Out of the Fury*. This book established me as a professional writer, and it is still in print after twenty-five years.

Meanwhile, the family had enjoyed the companionship of Maggie and Piper who both went over Rainbow Bridge at age eight. I wrote and published *The Adventures of Donnachad's Piper*, a first reader for children, ages 5-8, which was a great success. In 1996, I was having Scottie deprivation symptoms again. We had recently learned of the Rocky Mountain Scottish Terrier Rescue organization which offered an alternative to starting over with a Scottish "Terror" puppy one more time. This was how four-year-old Scottie Robbie joined our household. Unfortunately, a spinal cancer took him after only two years with us. He had surgery for it twice, and endured long rehabilitation periods before succumbing to the disease. Meanwhile, I asked the Rescue people