

IWCC / CCLI eBulletin | Volume 1 | Number 1 | Summer 2024

THE eBULLETIN

Inaugural *e*dition

IRISH WOLFHOUND
CLUB OF CANADA



CLUB CANADIEN DU
LÉVRIER IRLANDAIS

*A not-for-profit organization to do all in its power to protect
and advance the interests of the breed.*



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Cdn and US Ch Heathview Winner Takes it All (Fernando)

Inside Front Cover:

*Cdn and US Ch Heathview Winner Takes it All (Fernando)
& Cdn & US Ch Heathview I Had a Dream (Talia)*

Right Column:

Heathview Bridgerton Litter (Ben)

Back Cover:

Heathview Celtic Litter



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Disclaimer

The Bulletin is available to all paid members. The editors reserve the right to withhold any item or article, which in their opinion would reflect badly on the breed or unfairly upon any individual or group. The opinions expressed within these pages are not necessarily those of the editors or the Board of Directors of the Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada.

President's Report

Summer 2024

Dear Members of the IWCC.

Winter is over and warm weather is here. Your board is working hard to achieve the goals they have set forth before the end of term.

- 1) We are revamping the Rescue committee
- 2) Making necessary changes on the website to make it more "user friendly"
- 3) Bylaws and P n P are being adjusted as necessary to allow a more fluid change of BOD
- 4) Deciding on the future of our club trailer and the club trophies
- 5) Arranging our electronic storage to avoid the use of boxes of papers being handed off from one secretary to the next.
- 6) Updating the website to educate with archiving, health and wellness, and other guidance.

Most of our documents need updating. If you would like to share your breed knowledge and offer articles, please do.

We would like to share your stories and photos about your hound, about your lives together and the joy and the heartache that is felt.

Recently we lost a member because they felt "the club did nothing for them".

In response to this I would like to point out that we all love this breed and want the very best for them. A great portion of that love must be given to education about our breed to the general public as well as to each other. This national club gives us that opportunity to work together to achieve this.

Whether you are a pet owner or a breeder we all understand what a wonder this breed is. We need to preserve the Irish Wolfhound so we can continue to share our lives with them and with future generations. Therefore, it is not what you can get from this club it is what this club can do for this breed. A club is only as strong as the members and we need your help to build this website to educate and this club is the key.

I invite you all to step away from your electronics and grab your leash. Consider hosting a wolfhound picnic fun day in your area, or a general wolfhound walk. Grooming or training fun days. Get creative, the opportunities to bring us together are endless.

Like our hounds, lets "live in the moment".

Donna Tomson

Enhancing Communication: Insights from Our Member Survey

The Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada (IWCC) is dedicated to serving the needs of our members and the Irish Wolfhound community. Recently, we surveyed you to understand better your preferences and feedback regarding our bulletin and communication channels. Your responses have provided valuable insights that will guide us in enhancing our communication strategies to better meet your needs.

Survey Overview

The survey covered a wide range of topics, including the types of content you would like to see in the bulletin, your engagement with social media, preferences for receiving the bulletin, satisfaction with previous bulletins, willingness to pay for a high-quality bulletin, favourite parts of the bulletin, primary national language, and your interest in Irish Wolfhounds. Here's a summary of the key findings:

Types of Content in the Bulletin: Most respondents expressed interest in health-related content, breed news, owner stories, training tips, upcoming events, and puppy news.

Social Media Engagement: Facebook was the most widely used platform, followed by Instagram and the club website. Some respondents also mentioned other platforms like Twitter and TikTok.

Frequency of Bulletin: The majority preferred a quarterly bulletin, followed semi-annually and annually.

Bulletin Format: Respondents favoured a mix of digital and physical copies, with a quarterly bulletin with digital copies being the most preferred format.

Satisfaction with Previous Bulletins: Overall, respondents were satisfied with previous bulletins, with many expressing either somewhat or extremely satisfied.

Conclusion

It's important to acknowledge the limitations of our survey to ensure transparency and a balanced understanding of the results. One area for improvement was the relatively small sample size, which may not fully represent the views of all IWCC members. Additionally, the survey focused primarily on the bulletin and communication channels, which means that other member engagement aspects may need to be noticed. Furthermore, the survey's language was limited to English, potentially excluding members who were more comfortable speaking different languages. Despite these limitations, the survey still provides valuable insights that will guide our efforts in enhancing communication and meeting the needs of our members. Your feedback is invaluable as we strive to improve our communication channels and tailor our content to meet your preferences. We appreciate the active participation of our members and look forward to continuing to serve the Irish Wolfhound community.

Please visit our official website for more information about the IWCC and to stay updated. If you have any further questions or suggestions, please contact us. We appreciate your dedication to the Irish Wolfhound breed!

Calling All Members: Contribute to Our Irish Wolfhound Club Bulletin!

Your Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada – Communications and Outreach Committee is excited to bring you a member publication that celebrates, informs and engages. Our vision and commitment to the membership is to create a consistent, quarterly publication that celebrates achievements, captures a shared passion for our breed, ignites important conversations, while representing our vast and varied membership.

We will need help from our valued club members to achieve this goal. Luckily, the knowledge, experience and camera rolls in the Irish Wolfhound community are abundant.

As the Committee builds out our editorial plan for future issues of the Bulletin, we are urgently seeking content submissions from our members.

If you are looking for a way to get more involved in the club, we'd love to have you aboard as a content contributor. Currently, the Communications and Outreach Committee is building a content library of media (photos) and written content.

Written submissions will be edited for content and style. Photo (JPEG, HEIC, TIFF, CRW, CR2, NEF, PEF) submissions should be a minimum of 1MB for a quarter page (if you are viewing the photos on a laptop or computer monitor they should not appear pixelated at full screen). A full page image is typically 3-5MB. Please include the name of the submitter and full name (call name/kennel name) of the dogs are required for photo credits, location of the photos and any comments are encouraged but not required.

We kindly request that content submissions are sent via email to irishwc.editor@gmail.com.



How to Join

By joining the IWCC, applicants agree to abide by the Constitution, the Bylaws, the Code of Ethics, and the Canadian Kennel Club rules, and assert their commitment to protecting and promoting the Irish Wolfhound breed, for as long as they are IWCC members.

OPTION 1 • Join By Mail:

New applicants must complete and return the [IWCC Application and Renewal Form](#) (PDF 2.85 MB). Be sure to sign the Code of Ethics Form on page 2. If a hard copy of The Bulletin is desired, payment methods include Paypal or Credit Card (use the New Membership Fee Schedule below), e-Transfer to irishwc.treasurer@gmail.com (available to Canadians only), or by cheque payable to the "IWCC." Fill in the digital form, print it, and mail it, together with your signed Code of Ethics Form and cheque (if applicable), to the following address:

Guylaine Gagnon
IWCC Secretary
347 Backbush Rd
Hemmingford QC J0L 1H0

OPTION 2 • Join By Email:

Fill in page 1 of the digital IWCC Application and Renewal Form (PDF 7 MB). Save your completed fillable form and email it to the address below. You still need to print a copy of the Code of Ethics Form on page 2, sign it, scan it and email it to the secretary, as well:

irishwc.secretary@gmail.com

Rescue Report

May 12, 2024

Following the Special Meeting on March 24, 2024, the Club Secretary compiled a list identifying suggestions for the “Future of Rescue for the IWCC”. This list was compiled from the feedback of the Membership and the Board Members and was the structure we use to guide next steps in the following rescue situation.

On April 16, 2024, Rescue was made aware of a litter of 8 unregistered Irish Wolfhounds that had been surrendered to the City of Edmonton ACCC (Animal Care & Control Centre). Jill and Laurie visited the Centre and through consultation with the coordinator, determined that the pups likely were pure-bred Irish wolfhounds based on pictures of the Sire and Dam. The 8 were accepted in transfer to the care of IWCC Rescue. The ACCC did not request any reimbursement for their financial outlay to date.

Laurie stepped up as Interim Rescue Coordinator and set forth reviewing the Member and Board recommendations for Rescue so that we could try to incorporate what we could, using this as a “test” case. The following is a description of our process:

The Irish Wolfhound Club Secretary was first point of contact for any requests to Adopt these puppies.

- *Guylaine sent out a message to the “Membership” asking for assistance to find good homes for the 8 puppies with a very good response.*
- *Adoption Forms that were submitted were sent to Laurie who forwarded to both Jill and Emma for review. Vetting homes was distributed as appropriate. We used Members to visit homes and make phone calls.*
- *Guylaine reported to the Membership through a Club Newsletter sent out May 2, 2024*

Members asked for transparency, papers, and traceability.

- *A Rescue Contract (attached) was drafted by Laurie and distributed to the Board for feedback. The final draft requests only basic information and provides direction for payment. It outlines the rescue relationship including a privacy statement. It also suggests signing up for a free membership for one year so the owner can benefit from the Club resources.*
- *Once signed, payment received, and dog transferred to its new owner(s), the owners received a signed copy, and the form was emailed to our secretary for storage in a Rescue Folder on iCloud.*
- *Any records available for each puppy were scanned and sent to be stored as well.*
- *Waivers (for travel) were forwarded to be stored.*

The Treasurer accounted for dollars spent (to date) in the Month end report (April).

- *Expenses (to date): 2,256.06*
- *Donation to ACCC: \$1000.00*
- *Income: 7 x \$700 = \$4,900.00*
- *Mileage: TBD for Jill and Laurie*

There was good response from the call out by Guylaine for people to step up and join the Rescue Committee or as “Friends of Rescue”.

New Rescue Committee

Laurie Rutherford – Interim Coordinator
Emma Ross - BC
Jill Benoit - AB
Guylaine Gagnon - Que
Lani Hopf – Ont
Cindy Kremer - AB

Friends of Rescue

There were only 3 individuals who let their names stand for this list.

In this case, we informed the Membership through a group email, and we were able to get help with Fostering, transport, acquiring supplies etc. from willing members. What we thought, is that every Rescue situation will be very different.

The secretary will continue to keep “The Friends of Rescue” list updated in her files.

Discussion at the BOD Meeting May 12, 2024, provided guidelines for a few questions related to funding Rescue from the Restricted Rescue Fund.

- *Medical expenses funded within reason. No heroics*
- *Dog Food and misc. items required that are related to dog care and safety.*
- *The new owner is responsible for the travel expenses required to bring the dog home from the foster location.*
- *Mileage should be offered to all rescue volunteers for transport of the Rescue(s) while in foster care. As a Non-Profit, we will follow CRA auto allowance rates listed as .70/km for the first 5,000km and .64 after that.*

Next Steps

- to send this document to the Membership for their feedback and ask them to bring forward any further suggestions or questions.
- **Revise the P&P:** Once feedback has been received, the Committee can meet to make the appropriate Revisions to Rescue Policy & Procedures.
- **Fund Raising:** The Committee needs to explore Fund Raising ideas to keep the Rescue Reserve Fund topped up.

The Story of Eight Orphaned Irish Wolfhound Puppies: A Community's Effort to Find Them Homes



On April 16, 2024, the Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada (IWCC) Rescue was alerted to a heart-wrenching situation: a litter of eight unregistered Irish Wolfhound puppies was surrendered after being seized by the City of Edmonton's Animal Care & Control Centre (ACCC). With no known papers and an uncertain future, these puppies needed a lifeline.



However, the journey was challenging. The puppies, having been surrendered, were understandably anxious and needed care. Jill and Laurie, both committed to the cause, immediately visited the ACCC. After consulting with the centre's coordinator and reviewing photos of the sire and dam, they concluded that the puppies were likely purebred Irish

Wolfhounds. With no financial reimbursement requested by the ACCC, the eight little ones were transferred to the care of IWCC Rescue, beginning their journey toward new, loving homes.



Laurie stepped into the role of Interim Rescue Coordinator, initiating a review of the Member and Board recommendations for rescue operations. Using this case as a test for the rescue protocols, Laurie hoped to refine IWCC's rescue process for future needs.

The IWCC set the process into motion, with the IWCC Secretary acting as the first point of contact for adoption requests. Guylaine, ever diligent, sent a message to the IWCC membership asking for assistance in finding the puppies good homes. The response was overwhelming and heartening. The active participation of IWCC members and volunteers at all stages of this rescue was instrumental in successfully rehoming these puppies. Including transportation to and from vet visits and foster/forever homes, evaluating placements by visiting prospective homes, and making follow-up phone calls were instrumental in successfully rehoming these puppies.



Transparency was key throughout this process, with the membership kept updated through a Club newsletter released on May 2, 2024. Members had voiced a desire for clear communication, traceability, and accountability. Laurie drafted a rescue contract, incorporating the feedback from the Board. The final version outlined the rescue relationship, requested only basic information, and provided directions for payment. In addition, it suggested that adopters sign up for a free one-year IWCC membership to benefit from the club's resources.

Once each new family signed the adoption contract, the IWCC processed the payments. This rescue was well underway, with excellent cooperation, communication, and transport planning by Heathview Irish Wolfhounds, Dreamacres Irish Wolfhounds, and O'Malley Irish Wolfhounds. Copies of the completed documents were sent to the IWCC Secretary for storage in an iCloud Rescue folder. We scanned any available records for each puppy and stored them, ensuring a comprehensive record-keeping process. The Treasurer accounted for all expenses to date, guaranteeing full financial transparency.



Each day, O'Malley Irish Wolfhounds—who had graciously taken on quarantine fostering duties—received the call, "How are the orphans?" Over a month, these puppies overcame the challenges of mild kennel cough and began to thrive.

Pink Collar, once the shy and quiet one, found herself reluctant to leave Jill's cozy home. She quickly became bolder, while Orange Collar developed a reputation as the zen pup, sleeping peacefully through the chaos around him. Teal Collar was a rowdy boy, and Red Collar was a "handful." Each puppy began developing its personality, with Black Collar initially sensitive and often crying, constantly seeking warmth and comfort from his caregivers. Thanks to the patient efforts of the O'Malley family pack, Black Collar gained confidence, finally running and playing with his littermates, no longer clinging to his human caretakers.



Purple Collar proved himself to be an acrobat, squeezing through a small hole in the fence to visit with the humans. Blue Collar developed a taste for sleeping in human beds. Even Brown Collar, a timid girl at the start, started to get braver and solicit attention from her caretakers within days of settling in. The puppies' days were filled with wilderness runs, chasing poles, and learning to trust again. By the second week of May, the transformation was undeniable. These once frightened and hungry pups were now playful, confident, and curious, even meeting horses for the first time with a mix of curiosity and excitement.

The success of this rescue effort is a testament to the power of community. IWCC Rescue ensured that all eight puppies found

loving homes through collaboration, dedication, and transparency. Today, these once-orphaned pups are thriving, thanks to the support of IWCC members, volunteers, and foster families.



A special thanks to Jill Benoit, Jeslene Quinn, and Steven Chong, whose tireless efforts ensured these puppies had the best possible start to their new lives, and to the O'Malley family pack, who worked miracles to build their trust and confidence. Now, in their forever homes, it's clear that the story of these eight Irish Wolfhound puppies is one of hope, resilience, and the unbreakable bond between humans and animals.



We know this is just the beginning as we look to the future. With continued dedication, IWCC Rescue will continue to be a beacon of hope for Irish Wolfhounds in need.



Wayne, Ruth and Misneach,
living with **Fíoc**, Edmonton, AB.



Cindy and Brian, living with
Conor, Langdon, AB.



Kate, living with **Rosie**,
Parksville, BC.



Kimberley and Daniel, living with
Luna, Victoria BC.



Lenore, living with **Thomas**,
Coombs, BC.



Tanya, living with **Ailis**,
Westbourne, Manitoba.



Suzanne and Richard,
living with **Auggie**,
Williams Lake, BC.



Carolyn and Alan, living with
Henry, Sherwood Park AB.

IN MEMORIAM

Pauline Dunn



Pauline was always welcoming and could put anyone at ease. She always had a smile and a good word for everyone and everything. Always ready to help with anything.

For 30 years, Pauline along with Brenda, have defined our Branch. Because of their dedication, generosity and love, the Branch is what we are today. We have a code of conduct that we try to follow because of them. Losing Brenda was difficult but in some way losing Pauline has been more so. I don't think we were prepared.

In the early days of this iteration of the Branch, Pauline and Brenda took over the food portion of the Specialties. They worked tirelessly to make sure we had the best food for ourselves and all the Specialty participants. Often they would be up all the night before a show roasting turkeys and hams, putting together salads and making sure everything was perfect. This is just one example of their dedication to the Branch.

For me personally, her loss is immense. She was a friend and a supporter and I miss her.

Fran Briscoe

Our Dearest Pauline, left this earth on the 31st of March of this year. Life is precious and so was Pauline to so many of our beautiful IW friends, we were always family. I had always admired and loved Pauline from the first time I ever met her with Brenda and cherished all the years since. She was one strong lady, who knew what she wanted and needed. Devoted to the BC branch of the IWCC, she worked hard and long to make sure every event was a success. Her kindness went above and beyond. You will always be in our hearts and deeply missed.

Emma Ross

Pauline was a beautiful woman, both in and out. Kind and patient, but also had amazing inner strength. She brought balance to those around

Katy Albrecht

Glynn Humphreys



On May 19/2023, Glynn Humphreys, a long time wonderful supporter of the IWCC, sadly passed away in Alberta. He and his wife Sue bred together under the Hawkhaven prefix and were owners and handlers with the help of their daughters Rachel and Lizzy. They frequently supported the BC Specialties and the Mid Western Branch of the IWCC throughout the years and they were active in the Rescue initiative in Alberta. Glynn was actively involved in the Red Deer and District Kennel Club and acted as Show Superintendent, twice a year for 15 years.

He was always lending a hand in some way with a smile on his face. Glynn had a sense of adventure about him and a twinkle in his eyes, which left us thinking about what was being planned.

His kindness to his own lovely hounds, to Rescues and all the other hounds he met along the way was a joy to see and watch. He will be greatly missed.

IN MEMORIAM

Lloyd Simmons of Lonnkyle Irish Wolfhounds
(April 16, 1950 – January 21, 2023)



History of the Lonnkyle Hounds

Lloyd bought his first wolfhound from Debra Saunders in March of 1974 while still in University— that’s now 50 years ago! He had wolfhounds for 10 years before he bred his first litter and during that 10 years he spent his time learning. He visited the established kennels in North America and UK looking at dogs and soaking up the knowledge of the older breeders. Ultimately, the foundation stock for his Lonnkyle kennel were Sulhamstead, Witchesbroom, Brabyns and Sedeki and Lloyd had no problem telling you that he was grateful for their generosity in sharing their knowledge, experience and, ultimately, for sharing their lines with him.

Lloyd with pups - one of whom is Traveller Lloyd with a very young Jester “40 MacBell” in Winnipeg was Lloyd’s home and the home of Lonnkyle Irish Wolfhounds. Visiting was an incredible experience – as you drove down the tree lined driveway to the house you were given a proper wolfhound greeting as they ran the fence on the right side of the drive. Lloyd was always amazingly hospitable and welcomed all visitors to stay at his home and would generously spend hours or days in the kennels with you – taking each and every hound out for a “hands on” if you were up for it!

He started judging in the late 1980’s. His hounds have won BOB and BOS at both the US and Canadian National Specialties – most recently Traveller in 2019. Over the years, his interest was primarily in breed and specialty shows but he did enjoy all breed shows on occasion as well and was an active supporter of his local all-breed club.

When talking about Lonnkyle Irish Wolfhounds it is impossible to ignore the special friendship and kennel partnership that he had with Anne Webb of Foinaven Irish Wolfhounds because that partnership, which lasted over 25 years, had a significant influence on his kennel and on his life in general. Anne lived at 40 MacBell on and off over all of those years but even when she wasn’t living there they talked every day about, among many other things, the hounds.

Lloyd outside of the hounds

The person outside of dogs had a passion for sports, politics, business and family. He left an amazing son, Dustin, and his partner Adrienne and he adored his two grandchildren, Bowen and Kaia, whose pictures could be found from one end of his house to the other.

You cannot talk about Lloyd without also mentioning his two best friends – Joel Mattson and Lynn Simon. I’ve heard them referred to as the 3 musketeers. They both dropped everything when I called and drove straight to Winnipeg to spend a last evening with Lloyd sharing stories and laughter.

To me he was a generous mentor and a dear friend and there is not enough space here to do justice to the hole he has left.

The legacy

In Lloyd’s words, his aim was to breed hounds of breed type, soundness, longevity and fitness to function. Nobody would question that he accomplished that and that he left the breed better than he found it (which I know he would find to be the greatest compliment). His hounds are now in the hands of people that he believed would aspire to the same. His lines will live on to influence the breed for many generations to come.

*Written by Ann Brockett and Mike Wrubleski
of Windseeker Irish Wolfhounds*

Upcoming Specialty Shows 2024

Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club Bel Air, MD

March 31-April 1, 2024

Premiums and Details can be found [HERE](#)

Irish Wolfhound Association of the Carolinas Specialty

April 21, 2024

Fayetteville Kennel Club Grounds, Fayetteville, NC

Conformation: Dr Lynn M Simon (Rockhart)

Sweepstakes: Maura High (Coleraine)

Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada

BC Regional Specialty

Fraser Valley Heritage Park

April 26th to April 28th, 2024

Show date: April 27th, 2024

Judges: Andrea Herrmann, Lean do Chroi Irish Wolfhounds

Sweeps: Beate Taschner from Germany

Contact: Show chair. Fran Briscoe (fcb@uniserve.com)

Irish Wolfhound Club of America 94rd National Specialty

May 20-22, 2024

Purina Farms Gray Summit Missouri

Premiums and Details can be found [HERE](#)

Conformation Judge: Sue L Cole – Culkeeran

Sweepstakes Judge: Andrea Dormady – O'Lugh

Obedience/Rally Judge: Fred Buroff

Junior Showmanship Judge: Karen Martin- Denmark

Show Chair: Angela Knight

Show Co-Chair: Helen Philpott

Irish Wolfhound Association of New England Specialty

June 09, 2024

Showcase for Dogs, East Windsor, CT

Conformation: Michael Canalizo

Sweepstakes: Tina Berry (Berrybriar)

Irish Wolfhound Club of Puget Sound Specialty

June 14, 2024

Washington County Fairgrounds, Hillsboro, OR

Conformation: Dr. Judi Roller (Rivendell)

Sweepstakes: TBA

Northstar Irish Wolfhound Club Specialty

Back to Back

June 15 - 16, 2024

Isanti County Fairgrounds, Cambridge, MN

June 15

Conformation: Per Lundström (Greirish)

Sweepstakes: Tammy Aube (Elkhorn)

June 16

Conformation: Chris Amoo (Sade)

Irish Wolfhound Association of the West Coast Specialty

Back to Back

July 26 - 27, 2024

Elks Lodge, Santa Maria, CA

July 26

Conformation: Per Lundström (Greirish)

Jr Showmanship: TBA

Rally and Obedience: TBA

July 27

Conformation: John Lewington (Greycroft)

Sweepstakes: TBA

Rocky Mountain Irish Wolfhound Association Specialty

Back to Back

August 28 - 30, 2024

Island Grove Regional Park, Greeley, CO

August 28

ASFA Lure Coursing

August 29

Conformation: Eileen B Flanagan (Carrickaneena)

Junior Showmanship: TBD

Obedience/Rally: TBD

August 30

Conformation: Aldebarán Contreras Rivera (Ravenwood McKinley)

Sweepstakes: Magie Wolfe (Prairie Creek)

Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada

Ontario Regional Specialty

In conjunction with the Essex KC
held at Colisanti Gardens Kingsville, Ontario.

August 31, 2024

Judge: Jean Tremblay

Show Chair: Donita Osborne

Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada

Mid Western Branch
TBD

Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada National (Combined with Regional)

Upper Canada Club Regional Specialty
Saturday September 21, 2024

At same venue

Judge: Jamie Souza Bartlett (Limerick IW)
Sweepstakes Judge: Dann Wilson (Alchemy Cesky Terriers)

Both Specialties will include a Puppy Sweepstakes
and Parade of Veterans.

Show Chair: Monique Seguin. moniqueseguin007@outlook.com

Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada National

Sunday September 22, 2024
1100 Niagara Street North, Welland, Ontario (Niagara Region)

Judge: Dr. Frederic Maison, France (Du Grand Chien du Culan)
Sweepstakes Judge: Carole Guilfoyle (Hearthside IW)

Irish Wolfhound Association of the Delaware Valley Specialty

10/06/2024 - 10/07/2024

Church of St. Benedict Picnic Grove, Mohnton, PA

Conformation: Markku Mähönen (Powder Horn)

Sweepstakes: TBD

Rally: TBD

Northern California Irish Wolfhound Club Specialty

Back to Back

October 11 - 13, 2024

Yolo County Fairgrounds - Woodland, CA

October 11

Conformation: Christiana Hartenstein

Obedience/Rally: Geri Lopez

AKC Lure Trial: Michael Hussey

October 12

Conformation: Sam Houston McDonald

Puppy Sweepstakes/Veteran Sweepstakes: Michael Hussey

October 13

ASFA Lure Trial: Michael Hussey

Irish Wolfhound Association of the Garden State Specialty

October 27- 28, 2024

SureStay Plus Hotel by Best Western, Bethlehem, PA

Conformation: TBA

Sweepstakes: TBA

Show Chair: TBA

Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada Mid West Branch Regional Specialty

November 8 - 10, 2024

Red Deer District and Kennel Club

Exact date and judge TBD



Irish Wolfhound Lifespan Could See Significant Increase Thanks to New Drug Development

by Jeslene Quinn

The painfully short lifespan of Irish Wolfhounds has long been a burden for those who love our breed and continues to be a major area of focus in breeding programs, breed clubs and breed health groups worldwide.

So, it's no wonder that a November 2023 media release highlighting a US Food and Drug Administration decision that brings a life extending drug for large and giant breed dogs one step closer to reality, has piqued the interest of the Irish Wolfhound and other giant breed communities.

Loyal, a San Francisco based biotech company that is pioneering longevity drugs for dogs, is responsible for the drug; LOY-001. They are currently working on three separate drugs; LOY-001 and LOY-003 are both intended to extend lifespan and healthspan for large and giant breed dogs, while LOY-002 is intended to extend lifespan and healthspan for older dogs of all but the smallest breeds.

The US Food and Drug Administration determined that LOY-001 has a "reasonable expectation of effectiveness" or "RXE", which means Loyal has the green light to test the drug in larger trials. As a result, Loyal is planning a study with about 1,000 large and giant breed companion dogs to start in 2024 or 2025, with an aim to obtain full approval from the FDA and have the drug on the market in the USA by 2026.

I recently had a chance to sit down with Dr. Brennan Mackenzie, Director of Veterinary Medicine with Loyal, to discuss LOY-001, upcoming clinical trials, and gain a better understanding of the science behind Loyal's products and potential impacts to our breed.

Dr. Mackenzie has been a practicing veterinarian for about 25 years. In his current role at Loyal, Dr. Mackenzie brings a practice perspective to inform Loyal's research and clinical trials.



Omalley's Purple Rain of Heathview and Omalley Heathview Black to the Future.

Can you start off by describing how the drug (LOY-001) works and its expected impact on extending dogs' lifespans?

The thing about dogs is that there is a direct relationship between their size and their life expectancy and it's a negative relationship: the bigger they are, the shorter their lifespan and that's not normal for mammals. Rather, it is the exact opposite of what we typically see in most mammals.

We believe this is largely a consequence of intensive artificial breeding for particular characteristics, such as size, which creates a number of metabolic issues. One of those issues is an increase in the hormones that are involved in generating large body size, such as Insulin Growth Factor one or IGF-1. These are hormones that contribute to

making dogs grow larger but that don't just magically go away when they reach their full growth. They persist throughout life and they have potentially negative health effects.

We think one of the reasons that large dogs age faster is due to the excessive activity of these hormones relative to smaller dogs. The focus of LOY-001 is to normalize some of these hormone levels in a way that makes them similar to those levels in smaller dogs, thereby reducing some of the negative impacts on health over time and on the rate at which these dogs age.

Cancer is a common disease in aging pets, and also in our breed. Is there link between the hormones you refer to and incidences of cancers? Is that part of Loyal's research?

Cancer is linked in a couple of ways. The main one is that aging is the underlying risk factor for almost every disease that older people and older animals are at risk for. Cancer is certainly an aging associated disease so we become more vulnerable to cancer as we get older and if we age faster that vulnerability increases faster so in that sense targeting aging in general is not so much about preventing each individual disease separately but about preventing the abnormal unhealthy metabolic environment that encourages all of these age-related diseases to develop.

However, we do think that these hormones (IGF-1) are specific risk factors for certain cancers. We've seen that in humans and in mice and we have a little bit of evidence that's the case in dogs as well. It is this hormonal context that we're trying to manipulate with LOY-001.

Is there anything in the background of the drug's development specifically related to Irish Wolfhounds?

There are a number of studies looking at IGF-1 levels in different breeds and sizes of dogs. Those studies that include wolfhounds show that they almost always demonstrate the highest numbers (related to IGF-1), so I think wolfhounds are a good example of

the kind of dog that we're targeting. However, we're not developing drugs for specific breeds.

This relationship between body size and short lifespan applies all across the size range of dogs and wolfhounds being on the extreme end of that size to lifespan relationship do stand to benefit particularly from this approach.

What kind of age groups and breeds will you be targeting in upcoming clinical trials?

Dogs sized 40 lbs and up and aged 7 years or older is the target testing subject for this particular drug trial.

For our clinical study we have to show a meaningful extension of life span over a reasonable period of time and in order to see a difference in life expectancy in the shorter trial period, we have to start with older dogs.

While we do have reason to think the drug will be more effective the earlier in life it is started, we must start our study in an older population in order to see the benefits in a reasonable amount of time. If it is approved for dogs in the categories of the initial study, then, ideally, we can continue the research to show benefits for starting the drug in younger dogs. We wouldn't want to start it before a dog is fully grown because we're not in the business of altering growth, breed standards

or sizes, but once they are fully grown, we think it would benefit them to start earlier.

Considering the shorter lifespan in Irish Wolfhounds, has there been consideration towards scaled age limits, taking this into account?

One of the challenges for us is that individuals age differently and with dogs, breeds clearly age differently. It would be great if we could identify the biological age, not just the chronological age.

If we were able to measure biological age in a reliable way, it would be possible to make the kind of adjustment you're talking about, and we would absolutely look at a five year wolfhound in the same sort of way we might look at an 11 year old Labrador. However, at the moment, we don't have a tool for doing that and the FDA wants us to be very precise in the population that we study so we can't really make an accommodation for the fact that different breeds age differently but that's great insight to help us inform future trials and research.

What were the main notable findings in initial testing data, beyond that the drug biologically did what you expected it to?

We don't have all of that pre-clinical data publicly available yet but we've looked at the hormone levels to make sure that they



decline as we expect, looked at the levels of the drug to make sure that they are achievable and we certainly have a whole bunch of measures of health and function and quality of life that we're looking at and so far those are encouraging and we're hoping we'll be able to talk more about the details when we get those published

Are there any unique challenges that you're facing in designing and conducting the clinical trials that are upcoming?

I have alluded to the fact that that lifespan studies take a long time and so that's something that we must build in.

Broadly speaking, we also have a tradition of thinking of aging not as a disease and not something that you treat. Rather, it's just an inevitable fact of the universe and we all wait for to happen. The regulatory structures are set up around finding treatments for diseases and so we've had to work very creatively with the FDA to say aging is something that is not a disease, but it is a risk factor for a lot of diseases, and it should be an appropriate target for drug therapy. This is why we're so excited about this RXE announcement. It is that the first time the regulatory structure has ever acknowledged that a drug could potentially be treating something like lifespan extension or healthspan extension.

Lastly, we don't have perfect tools for measuring what aging does to the individual. There are some of those tools in the early stages of development in veterinary medicine and so we've had to contribute some energy and resources to further validating and developing tools like that. So that's been one of the challenges from a scientific point of view.

Can you share any significant achievements during the drugs development that could be relevant to wolfhounds or our breed community?

The RXE approval is a big one because it's opened up this whole new area of preventative medicine where we look at aging as a problem to be addressed, I think it is a big milestone and a big step forward for the community in general.

I think some of the others will be coming out soon in our publications.

Another big part of this has been developing tools to understand how aging impacts individual dogs. The healthspan studies we've done showed us very interesting things about how quality of life changes with age and we know that quality of life is the number one reason why people end up having to euthanize their pets.

I think some of these tools that we've developed, like the frailty index, have been really important because even though they're not as exciting as having the drug itself come to market they are necessary parts for veterinarians to be able to look at aging in their

“There are still too many folks out there who think that aging is just inevitable and immutable and there's nothing we can do about it.”

individual patients and start thinking about strategies to do something more aggressive or different.

Do you see an application of these measurements or some of this information that's going to be coming out within breeding practice and breeding decisions?

I do, in couple of ways. One is that individuals age differently even within a specific breed. Looking at those individuals who have exceptional longevity and understanding what's different about them and why they get more time and why they stay healthy longer is going to help inform how we breed dogs as well as how we treat them and how we manage them.

I think just as we run an OFA to look at their hips and then we breed the ones with the best hips we may be able to look at those that have the longest healthiest lives and say OK those are the best candidates to carry the breed forward.

Understanding that this drug is not going to be available in Canada for some time, How

can individuals (including interested individuals in the USA) pursue engagement or participation in a clinical trial or provide feedback as the drug becomes available?

The first step is to stay connected with what we're doing. Once we are recruiting patients for clinical trials we're going to try to match people with participating practices that are close to them.

Another way to get involved is educating people. There are still too many folks out there who think that aging is just inevitable and immutable and there's nothing we can do about it. The more people who understand that that's not true, the more enthusiasm and support there will be for this kind of research.

Finally, as a practising vet, having clients who are engaged with the science and aware of and interested in what's coming is motivating to work things into my practice that serve that community. So, talk to your veterinarians and let them know you're interested.

How do you plan to make sure veterinarians are educated on the drug?

For several years now I've been giving educational talks to veterinarians about our particular drugs and how we can think of aging in a preventative medicine framework.

We are also very committed to publishing everything that we can as quickly as we can out of our research programs, even if it doesn't necessarily directly relate to the drug.

We are also focusing on students as much as we can, talking at several veterinary schools. Students are the future and they're the ones who are going to be most receptive to new ideas and new ways of doing things.

What are the plans to ensure responsible drug use and make sure we are balancing lifespan versus quality of life?

I think the key there is that nobody is interested in extending lifespan without dogs being healthy and happy and enjoying their life. There is nothing about the biology of the products that we think could do that. This is not about keeping dogs alive who are unhealthy, this is about preserving health as long as we can, so I don't think there is a misuse opportunity for the drug.

Additionally, the FDA is very specific about how you demonstrate that your drug is safe and effective and then making sure that it's used in a way that's consistent with that data so we and veterinarians will have to adhere to the age and size groups in the clinical studies from with the drug is initially approved.

In terms of use on breeding animals, do you see any impact or ethical concerns to using this drug on a breeding dog?

As is usually the case in veterinary medicine, the vast majority of our dogs are neutered and that's going to be true in a lot of upcoming trial candidates. However, we're getting more purebred dogs than you normally see in general practice and we're also seeing more intact dogs. So, there may be a potential to look at that as a group in the future to determine if there are any potential concerns from a basic biology point of view.

From all the safety studies and all the pre-clinical studies we've done we don't have any reason to think this is going to affect dogs who are breeding or have any effects on offspring but that's probably something that we're going to have punt forward until we have the data to be really confident.

As for the ethical considerations regarding treating diseases in breeding dogs which then allow them to breed and pass on those diseases to the next generation, that's something that is not really going to be an issue because we're not treating specific diseases. We are simply addressing one factor that makes dogs age faster and have age-related disease sooner.

How do you see this drug fit into the broader scope of veterinary care and animal longevity studies going forward?

Part of what I'm excited about is if these drugs we're developing do what we want them to do and what we think they will do, that's going to have a really huge impact on individual animal welfare and I care a lot about that as a practicing veterinarian.

But, even if the worst possible case scenario came out and we weren't successful in trials, we are still generating information that's going to be really useful and important to veterinarians and future researchers about how



Cdn Ch Heathview Melorose (Rosie)

dogs age and the biology of aging in dogs.

I also think that opening the regulatory pathway with the FDA is huge because no one has yet been able to do that and if we can get regulatory agencies to start thinking about approving products to prevent the negative effects of aging on health, that's going to open up a whole new field not only for us but for lots of other companies to do useful things.

What I always like to emphasize is our goal at Loyal is that dogs be healthy and happy as long as possible and while that inevitably leads to them living longer and that's probably what gets the most attention when we talk about our programs either we're all concerned about health and happiness and

that's what we're trying to achieve and so I always just ask people to try to emphasize that so that we don't get too fixated on how many extra years do you get and it's more about how do we keep you happy and healthy and enjoying your life as long as we can.

For more information on Loyal, drugs in development or to get involved in upcoming clinical trials, please visit the company at www.loyalfordogs.com.

Food For Thought

My first foray into feeding an Irish Wolf Hound

By: Thomas Salvati

Co-owner of Trident Wholesale Pet Supply Ltd.

Let me preface this article by saying I am in no way an expert on Irish Wolf Hounds (IWH), nor feeding or developing the perfect diet for them. This is an account of my ongoing experiences trying to find and deliver the best possible diet for my IWH. I want to share my personal findings and experiences so that other IWH owners can benefit from what I have learned.

As an owner and operator of a pet supply company that offers a wide range of high-end food products for animals, I have learned that the dog food industry can be complex and the research into best practices for feeding and nutrition is constantly evolving. There are hundreds of articles to read on the internet about the benefits and deficiencies of feeding either raw or dry food diets to your pets let alone the online posts on what ingredients are considered best to include.

“It goes without saying, that you should always consult your veterinarian if you are considering making any changes to your animal’s feeding regimen and not basing your decision on information that is scientifically unsupported or potentially harmful if taken out of context.”

Unfortunately, this is something that I often experience and navigate with customers. This is something that I truly cannot stress enough.

When we (my wife and I) made the decision to bring home an IWH, we consulted with our breeder on who they would recommend as being a reputable veterinarian with experience with large breed dogs – specifically IWHs. This made the process of consultation on feeding practices easier and ultimately supported us in making a well-informed decision with a breed we had no previous experience with. Simply put, always do your due diligence.

Upon meeting our Breeder and their beautiful IWHs, I knew I needed to have a plan in place for our pup as far as food was concerned. It is one thing to read about this “Giant Breed”, but quite another thing to be standing next to a full-grown champion male. The topic of food was about to become a hot topic in our household. Now, I have had many dogs in the past from American Staffordshire Terriers, to

Italian Spinones and Rottweilers, but I had never had what was considered a “Giant Breed”. This obviously left me with some questions on food and nutrition. Our Breeder was very helpful and informative right off the hop. I delved into the type of food they fed, the protein and fat percentages, and the amount of exercise compared to food intake. Armed with that information I came up with a plan for food to make sure I gave our puppy the best chance for success.



Gaelen waits patiently for dinner.

One of the biggest lessons and takeaways from the Breeder was the notion of “slow and steady”. This breed grows big quickly and it was impressed upon me that we needed to take our time and not rush the growth process. Food would play an ultimate factor in this – regardless of a raw food or dry kibble diet. However, I always knew somewhere down the line that I wanted to make the switch to RAW dog food.

For me, I see hundreds of dogs weekly, many of which are on raw food diets. So not only was I armed with the knowledge I’ve gained through my own research and speaking with my vet, but also the per-

sonal accounts and firsthand experiences of my customers. While every dog is different, there has been an underlying theme. The dogs that were on a raw based diet seemed to be healthier and happier as evidenced by better gut and oral health, teeth, coat quality and



Thomas (Tom) and Gaelen

shine, and consistent, well-formed bowel movements. In my experience, this is probably one of the biggest selling features for most customers as they absolutely love the fact that poop cleanup duty is so easy. Dogs that are on a good raw diet have smaller, easy to clean poops. Consequently, with this information I set out to create a raw-based feeding plan for my IWH, starting with a diet of kibble and transitioning to raw.

To begin this journey, when we first brought our puppy home, we needed to get him started on a good quality kibble (one from my own store at Trident Wholesale Pet Supplies Ltd in Edmonton). We

chose one that closely matched the guaranteed analysis (GA) on the back of food bag the Breeders were using. My first thought was, if the Breeder was getting great results with their dogs from the food they were using (chicken based), something similar in GA would be great for my pup as well. So, I chose a lamb and rice formula that matched the food specifications, but with a different protein source. I like lamb as a protein source because it can be easier to digest for dogs and can make food transitions smoother.

While the transition from dry kibble to raw food may be quicker for other dog breeds, because of the development pace of the IWH you must be diligent with ensuring your pup is meeting their caloric intake needs. As a result, slow and steady truly wins the race here. At our first check-up with the vet, we went over his nutritional requirements and caloric intake numbers based on the dry kibble I had already chosen for our puppy Gaelen. We noted this on his file and established his recommended food intake based on breed, size, and the kCal/cup of the food I'd chosen. From there, it was only a matter of feeding Gaelen daily and observing any changes to growth, and "output".

It's funny, I looked at it just like having human babies. I found myself constantly using my babies' poop as a guide for things like gut health and allergies, and for Gaelen, it was no different. As the main poop-picker-upper in the house, I got a first-hand look at almost every Gaelen poop. I used the stool to help as a guide for under feeding or over feeding. Poops that came out too loose, or perhaps a little too soft in consistency meant food intake may be a little high. A similar thing can be said for stools that come out a little more compact, or if you see your dog straining to pass smaller harder stools can sometimes be the result of under feeding. While this is not an exacting guide to follow, as you can never rule out the presence of an underlying medical issue that could be causing bowel changes, it is a good general rule to follow. Consider it like a game of finding the sweet spot for food intake, making life easier for both you and your pup.

I kept Gaelen on kibble for the first 8 months of his life before I started the transition to raw dog food. The transition period from kibble to strictly raw lasted about a month. Now most raw companies will recommend at least a 1-to-2-week transition period going from kibble to raw, but for my own sake, and that of my dog, I extended the period to make sure the change was more gradual and easier on his digestive track. It also gave me the opportunity to try different protein types and assess the results. After the transition was complete my boy was on a full raw diet and loving it. The evidence was clearly shown as a near spotless food bowl that was licked clean to an almost "sparkling shine" at the end of every meal.



Castlekeep's Prudence

Currently, I am feeding Gaelen a mixed diet of prepared raw food from a couple of different manufactures here in Central Alberta. The Complete K9 and Cornerstone Meat & Bone out of Ponoka, Alberta both manufacture raw diets using the 80-10-10 method. They also source many of their ingredients locally within the Alberta province, with most from central Alberta in and around or areas. Along with the many protein options available from the two companies they also provide a wide assortment of raw bones and other frozen chews which make for great treats for your pup and help to support a healthy raw diet. They provide multiple protein types in an 80-10-10 formulation (80% meats and fats, 10% bone, and 10% organs). I further supplement his diet with raw fermented goats' milk for additional probiotics and digestive health, and pumpkin puree for soluble fiber. These were small additions to his evening meals at home. I will occasionally add raw fruits and steamed veggies to his meals. An important thing to note here is to be careful with fruits as they can be high in sugars. Additionally, steaming/boiling starchy veggies helps your pup to digest them easier. I personally recommend using butternut squash. As a summer treat, ice balls/cubes of yogurt (full fat, sugar free) mixed with things like cucumbers, blueberries, strawberries and watermelon are a great way to cool your large IWH down. There is another thing to note here in terms of Raw feeding and that is the amount of "water intake" will decrease. Raw food has a high moisture content and thus helps to satisfy the water cravings that you see more with kibble diets. That being said, please make sure that your four legged friend always has a fresh supply of water

available always. They say "variety is the spice of life" so why not the same for our dogs. And like children, dogs will come with their own personal preferences for flavours.

In the raw food industry, you may hear the notion of "mixing" or "rotating" the proteins you use. This is something that I would suggest as keeps up the variety of food you are offering your pup as this will help to reduce the potential for your pup to become ambivalent with their feeding. There is an inherent biological need to do this as well. I feed Gaelen no less than 6 major protein types (Chicken, Beef, Turkey, Duck, Pork/Boar and Kangaroo) in some combination for his meals. I will, on occasion with availability, add in some fish, venison or bison in his meals to add a little extra variety to his meals. The variation in proteins will help to decrease the chances of building allergies in your pup.

Approximately 70% of a dog's immune system lies within their stomach. Rotating protein sources can be necessary, so your pup does not build up allergens within the blood stream (crossing the stomach lining into the blood stream causing immune responses, that give rise to the physical allergy symptoms we see on our dogs) and cause issues.

While rotating protein sources is important to consider, some dogs may never develop an intolerance or have any issues while on the same food source. I have seen dogs of all shapes, sizes and breeds be on the same food, whether it was kibble or raw, and never have any issues at all. It did not matter if the protein source was chicken, duck, beef or pork, they were healthy with no issues. With that, it is something that you will want to discuss with your vet and observe as you feed your pup moving forward.

There are many raw calculators out there for how much food to feed your dog. I used one that was recommended by a local raw producer here in Alberta. The first raw food manufacturer we started carrying was Complete K9. With the help of their on-staff Canine Nutritionist, they showed us the raw feed calculator that they recommend, how to read it and how to calculate a daily food intake for many of our canine companions. This calculator can still be found today on their website (<http://www.thecompletek9.ca/resources/raw-feeding-calculator/>). This resource tool has been a huge service to myself and my staff in helping new and old raw feeders figure out the daily food amounts for their canine companions.

As a result of using this calculator, the ratio I was given was approximately 1-3% of my dog's ideal adult weight in pounds per day. While Gaelen was the runt of the litter, and given the sizing of both his father and mother, I expected him to be north of 150 pounds, likely closer to 160-165 lbs. That puts his daily food weight at around 4 lbs, per day. Each dog's caloric intake for raw will vary and will need to be monitored as they grow and develop. Puppies are typically closer to the 3% mark, maybe even a little higher for raw food, but it also means that you'll have to spread their food consumption over more feeding times during the day. I would not recommend trying to give a 14-week-old puppy 1 pound of food at a sitting. Figuring out a feeding schedule will take time for both you and your pup, as it did

for me and mine. As the dog ages, the food intake will slightly reduce, and will change the percentage of food required.

Now as Gaelen is on a full raw diet now, the results are incredible. His weight and shape are amazing. His vet is so impressed with his look and feel each time he goes in. His growth rate was perfect and was never in trouble of putting any strain on his hips, shoulders, or spine. We followed the recommendations of my Breeder, to not rush his development and take it slow. With that, he has certainly done that and grown into a fine-looking dog. His coat is amazing, its look and feel is fantastic. As of now, he's just under 2 years of age and weighing in around 155 pounds. I think the food has been a huge component of his current health and physique. The vet is very happy with his shape and structure. Gaelen is everything I could have asked for in my first IWH. Moving forward, I will continue to monitor his food to make sure he's getting what he needs, mixing up his proteins and supplements (e.g. probiotics, fruits, veggies) and all the exercise he could ever want. I know they won't be around for ever so I want to enjoy and have him for as long as I can.

In closing, I'd like to summarize my three main points when considering a raw food diet for your pup. The first is to always do your due diligence, review the research and ask questions from reputable sources such as your vet, an experienced pet store owner (like myself) or a dog food manufacture (raw or kibble). Just start asking questions. If something seems unsure or you don't understand, ask. It is the least you can do to make sure you are educated and making the right decision for your canine companion. The more knowledge you arm yourself with the better equipped you will be to give your pup the best chance at a full, healthy, and happy life.

The second point is to always follow the golden rule – slow and steady – when it comes to raising your IWH. Be patient and observant. Your puppy's growth and development will not happen overnight. Observing and monitoring changes to your pup's eating and bowel habits will give you key insights into what, if any, adjustments need to be made.

The third and final point is very simple. Enjoy every second you have with your canine companion. They are only here for a limited time so enjoy the moments you share.

While ensuring your IWH receives a balanced and proportional diet is important, exercise and proper socialization are also key to maintaining your dog's overall health. These factors can influence eating habits and digestive health. With that, I wish every new and old IWH owner good luck. The genuine love they share for us is truly incredible. I hope that you have found my experiences valuable and that they may shed some light on your own questions regarding feeding these "gentle giants" a raw food diet.

From Gaelen and me, we thank everyone who took the time to read and enjoy this article. If you have further questions and would like to chat more about raw food, I would be more than happy to speak to you. I can be found at Trident Wholesale Pet Supplies Ltd (www.ilovemypet.com - Trident Wholesale) or call 780-451-3432.

You can also catch us on Instagram (@tridentwholesalepetsupply_ltd).

Cheers, Thomas Salvati
Owner/Operator: Trident Wholesale Pet Supplies Ltd.



Breeder Profile: *Donna Tomson*

Nurturing the Spirit of the Irish Wolfhound

Breeding Irish Wolfhounds is a nuanced art and science primarily centred on meticulously selecting compatible pairs. For the inaugural Breeder Profile 2024, Donna Tomson of Castlekeep Irish Wolfhounds graciously shared her experiences, insights, and breeding philosophy. Donna is a dedicated and hard-working individual whose journey into the world of Irish Wolfhounds is as unique as the breed itself.

Donna reminisces about her earliest encounter with Irish Wolfhounds, a journey sparked by a dear friend, Cindy Dimitry (now Snapp). Reconnecting in their mid-20s, Cindy's organic lifestyle, complete with a stone house, homemade cheese, and goats in need of hay. The hay was at the Billbernie Kennel, with 12 wolfhound puppies on the ground; one of these pups became the catalyst for Donna's abiding connection to the breed. "I was smitten with the breed and did not even have a [new] home then."

Navigating through life's twists and turns, Donna brought her first Irish Wolfhound into her world. Donna was a single mom recently divorced, and Meaghen became an ever-present companion. The humorous notion of "replacing a big and hairy ex with a big and hairy dog" still lingers in Donna's reflections. While contemplating breeding Meaghen, Donna sought advice from seasoned breeders and wisely deferred the decision until she gained more breed experience. Meaghen lived a long life, and Donna thought she was "finished" with Irish wolfhounds when she was gone.

Although Donna explored other breeds, fate had other plans. Babysitting an Irish Wolfhound rekindled her passion, leading to a renewed commitment to the breed. "I encountered breeders who shared their knowledge with me and inspired me." Donna's journey eventually resumed with better quality dogs, improved health standards, and the invaluable companionship of fellow enthusiasts, including Donita Osborne and Susan Andrews of Wolfhaven Kennel.



Donna with her pack



© Mindy Levin

Castlekeep's Prodigous

Transitioning to her breeding practices for maintaining health, temperament, and conformation, Donna prioritizes conformation in building pain-free Irish Wolfhounds. Focusing on ensuring a solid foundation and robust joints, she shares her meticulous approach to selecting breeding pairs based on conformation through pedigree. Her screening process prioritizes the health of each Irish Wolfhound, considering everything from allergies to heart issues.

“Because if you want to protect this breed and be a preservation breeder, you have to keep learning, and you have to keep teaching.”

To stay current and informed about developments and best practices in Irish Wolfhound breeding, Donna immerses herself in her passion. She actively engages with the community, regularly checking databases, participating in discussions with breeders, and sharing knowledge on platforms like Facebook. This continuous learning and sharing process keeps her informed and allows her to educate others, contributing to the betterment of the breed.

Socialization is often seen as a cornerstone of responsible breeding. Donna balances the need for experiences with the importance of protecting puppies from unwarranted interactions; she advises new owners to establish trust first. The caution against overwhelming puppies with attention is a testament to Donna's commitment to shaping well-mannered, mature Irish Wolfhounds.



Castlekeep's Integrity with puppy

Building on her early experiences, Donna's commitment to the well-being of her puppies extends to matching puppies with potential homes. Putting the needs and personalities of the puppies at the forefront, she carefully matches them with potential owners based on lifestyle and preferences. Her approach ensures a harmonious bond between the puppies and their new families, setting the stage for a lifetime of companionship.

“Never throw the baby out with the bath water,” Donna cautions, encapsulating her pragmatic approach to navigating the landscape of genetic health. Donna acknowledges the limited genetic testing available for Irish Wolfhounds. She underlines the importance of comprehensive health discussions with other knowledgeable breeders, recognizing the unpredictable nature of genetic outcomes. With candour, she shares her reservations about specific genetic testing results and the ongoing challenge of addressing potential health issues within the breed.

Donna provides a glimpse into her life, where she achieves harmony through close living quarters with her Irish Wolfhounds. Managing a pack of 13, she acknowledges the sacrifices of a pristine home for the joy of living with her beloved companions. “I work very, very, very hard. You must.” From the beginning, camaraderie filled Donna's journey with Irish Wolfhounds. “I have the facilities because of Casey Nesbitt, of Wolfkin Kennels, and I thoroughly enjoy my daily runs in the forest and fields and swimming the dogs; they are not couch potatoes. They need to run.”

Reflecting on her journey, Donna articulates her perspective on Irish Wolfhounds, the breed's distinctive nature, and the unique qualities that captivate her heart. She often refers to the phrase “neither horse nor dog” (which she quickly says is not her own) to capture the essence of these magnificent creatures. “[Irish] Wolfhounds are not like other breeds. They are highly communicative and enrich daily life in many ways, and the bond with them is very special.”

Donna weaves a tapestry of passion, experience, and profound respect for the breed. Her journey reflects the essence of responsible breeding, where a commitment to the well-being and preservation of these magnificent creatures guides each decision. As Donna continues contributing to the Irish Wolfhound community, her story inspires breed enthusiasts and is a testament to the enduring bond between breeders and the Irish Wolfhound community.



Castlekeep Dark N Stormynights, Castlekeep Who Made Who, Castlekeep's Javelina Leap, and Castlekeep's Steel Magnolia

Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada National Specialty Results

2023 – 09 - 16

By Per Lundström, Sweden

MALES

SENIOR PUPPY DOG

FIRST:

23. TALIESIN ´S BEUL-AITHRIS OF SCEOLAN



A tall young male with fine proportions. Very good head and expression, large powerful teeth, strong jaws. Slightly large and loose ears. Balanced angulation between front and rear. Long well-developed brisket, with clear forechest. Long powerful neck. Top line with a marked dip and clear arch over the loin. Long wide croup. On the day a bit straight in upperarm and pasterns, slightly flat paws in front. Not in the best coat today, but hard coat is on its way. Happy and confident character.

12-15 MONTH DOG

FIRST:

11. CASTLEKEEP ´S A STUDY IN SCARLET



Excellent type and proportions. Wonderful head and expression, lovely pigment, dark eyes. Beautiful neck, topline and underline. Very well angulated shoulder and hindquarters. Could have a little bit more angulated upperarm and elasticity in the pasterns. Excellent

body for his age, somewhat long in loin. Long croup with very good width. Lovely height of legs. Very good width in first and second thigh. Powerful bone and large paws. Hard coat of excellent quality. Moves easy and active.

CANADIAN BRED DOG

FIRST:

41. CASTLEKEEP'S MR MARVELOUS AT WOLFHAVEN



*Impressive male that maintains his profile from standing in movement. Balanced angulated in front and rear, with very good width in first and second thigh. Strong well arched neck. Head with good proportions, slightly floppy ears, but well placed. Strong jaws, very good pigment. Well bodied, beautiful topline and underline. A little loose coming and going, fantastic side gait with lovely attitude. Wonderful temperament. **Winners dog and Best of Winners***

SECOND:

27. LONNKYLE PINNING FOR THE FJORDS

Very good type, gives an impression of being a little low on the legs. Very good angulation in front and a nice forechest, but weak in pasterns. Very visible dip and a nice arch over loin. Well bodied. Excellent length of croup, but is a little steep and the tail is a little high. Very good knee and has angulation. Excellent length of head, great expression and pigment. Becomes a little low over shoulders in movement, but has a balanced stride.

THIRD:

7. LONNKYLE PACIFIC YETI

Excellent type and proportions. Very good long head and a mild expression. Long strong neck and very good top- and underline. Very good body. Has good width in croup but a bit short, which give him a very happy tail. Very good first thigh but short in second thigh, which prevents him from moving out properly. Very good brisket. He is a little straight in the wrist, which gives him a little flat feet. Has a balanced but a bit short side gait. Not in best coat condition on the day but very good quality



line up for Winners Dog

FOURTH:

29. SIR RUPERT LIL LORD OF WOLFHOLM

Very good type, good size. Very good proportions in head, could have tighter lips. Slightly light eyes, but a mild expression. Shoulders slightly upright, becoming low in front when moving. The lower part of the chest is a bit flat and doesn't give support to the elbows, so he is a little loose in front movement. Sufficient angulation in hindquarters. Light but short gait. Well presented.

Handled by the best dressed handler of the day.

BRED BY EXHIBITOR DOG

FIRST:

45. PRINCE TITAN OF WOLFHOLM



*This male was **place** as number two since I couldn't go over him properly. I have written this critique from what I could see in combination of the parts I could touch and go over.*

Very strong good neck and topline. Stands nicely with his legs with good width between them, when he stands on his own. Straight pasterns and flat feet. Head with good shape and length, slightly bright eyes and worried expression. Well placed rose ears. Very good width on cross and lower legs. Looks like he is in excellent muscle condition. Coat is not in best condition, some really soft hairs. A little bit scarring movements.

OPEN DOG

FIRST:

17. COLERAINE'S ZENITH OF TALIESIN



*Lovely type and conformation with wonderful head and expression. Excellent pigment. High set ears which he carries well. Very good front and forechest. Very deep and well ribbed back ribcage. Has very good leg height and in proportion to his length. Very well angulated hindquarters with lovely width in first and second thigh. Has a long and powerful cross. Could be a little stronger in the hocks, making him more stable coming and going and giving him more power behind. Very light, long and balanced movements. **Reserve Winners dog***

SECOND:

25. HOP-N-HOUNDS OLIVER N COMPANY

Young male of lovely proportions, excellent length to height ratio. Very good head, but could have tighter lips. Slightly sloping and flat topline due to straight upper arm and straight pasterns. This also gives him flat feet. Very narrow behind and stands and moves cow hocked. The chest is a little flat in the lower part. Shown today in a slightly thin condition. The coat consists of hard straws, but they are thin and he lacks undercoat. Because of his rear he is a little unbalanced when moving. Nice temperament.

BITCHES

SENIOR PUPPY BITCHES

FIRST:

48. KALDAUN'S RHIANNON



*Excellent proportions. Very good head and expression. Eye color to match coat color. Very good frame to grow into. Balanced angles front and rear, very good width of first and second thigh. Very well bodied for her age. Moves very easy and balanced, a little loose coming and going. Not in the best coat today. She is full of herself and wants to do other things than show. Love it! **Best Puppy***

SECOND:

62. WOLFHOLM UNFORGETTABLE UMBRA

Very houndy young bitch. Very good length and proportions, well built and well bodied. Excellent topline and tail. Very good underline. Head of excellent proportions, high set ears, which she is a little sloppy with. Has good eyes for such a pale coat color, calm and confident expression. Slightly wide in front and close behind, a little rushed in movement from the side.

THIRD:

54. HOPS-N-HOUNDS AOIFE OF THE UNFORDIDDEN FOREST

A tall and airy day bitch with beautiful lines. She is a young lady who has a very nice frame to grow into. Balanced angulation, adequate body. She has a long head. Dark eyes, very dark pigment. Carried herself very well from all sides.

FOURTH:

36. HOPS-N-HOUND THE TIMELESS CHILD KERRY

Beautiful when standing and holds together well with a nice neck and topline. Very good hindquarters with low hocks, unfortunately a little sickle hocked. Front that goes well with her hindquarters. Well built for her age, very good topline and underline. Loses her nice profile when standing, as she has high movements and crosses herself behind in the curves. Coming and going are on two tracks. Her type is good and hopefully she can grow in her body and angles.

12-15 MONTH BITCH

FIRST:

14. CASTLEKEEP'S SCARLET LETTER



*Very beautiful young powerful bitch of excellent type and size. Head with correct proportions and expression. All the details are in place. Strong oval bones, nice width in all her bone parts giving plenty of room for muscles. Excellent paws. Long well ribbed chest. Very good angulation in front and rear. Moves long, elastic, easy with plenty of power. Slightly loose coming and going. Correct coat quality. Like her very much, very promising. **Reserve Winners bitch***

SECOND:

24. DRACONECROME AGATHA

Gives an impression of being somewhat low on legs, adequate size. Very good head and expression, could have better pigmentation. Good rose ears. Beautiful neck but unfortunately a little soft topline due to a long loin. Otherwise she is incredibly well muscled. Balanced angles, slightly flat lower part of the brisket. Has a little soft coat and is a little out of coat for the day, correct straws on its way out. Loose coming and going. Side movements was balanced and she carried herself with attitude.

CANADIAN BRED BITCH

FIRST:

42. SCARLET SOLSTICE OF WOLFHOLM



Nice bitch with very good proportions Very good head with good length, high set well carried rose ears. Slightly uncertain and worried

look. Good front angulation. Sufficiently deep brisket with good curvature. Very good width of croup, first- and second thigh. Strong paws. Very good neck and nice arch over the loin. Has very good coat quality but it seems to be clipped, especially in the underline. Moves smoothly and in balance when she gets to it.

BRED BY EXHIBITOR BITCH

FIRST:

18. TALIESIN'S BE'RIN



Excellent bitch, 6 years old. Lovely soft lines and holds together well. Excellent head, high set ears which she carries well. Excellent dark pigment, soft and intelligent expression. Excellent body and forechest. Excellent width in thighs and very good angles of hindlegs. Very good shoulder and an upper arm which is well under. Excellent topline with correct arch over loin. Beautiful luster in coat. She is full of herself and has a mind of her own. I like her very much.

OPEN BITCH

FIRST:

20. TALIESIN'S BRICE



Fantastic shape of top- and underline. Excellent head, with very soft and gentle expression although she has a slightly light eye. Very good front end and well bodied. Very good and balanced angulation front and rear. Strong oval leg and excellent feet. Correct double coat, slightly soft bristles and not in the best condition on the day. Moving well from all sides. Lovely personality. **Winners bitch**

SECOND:

60. GLENAMADDA VALENCIA IS THE NEW BLACK

Beautifully balanced bitch, well placed ears on a very good head. She has a great and gentle expression, very good pigmentation. Beautiful neck which falls into a well laid back shoulder, but straight in the upper arm. Very little forechest and the elbows are not really supported and she becomes loose in front when moving. Nice broad good cross, excellent bone. Very good hindquarters. Very good side movement. Very good double coat.

THIRD:

32. FEMKE'S FOOTSTEPS LADY STARLIGHT

Black bitch with very good head and expression. Well placed but slightly floppy ears, typical pigmentation for the black coat color. Beautiful neck and neck set, but unfortunately a little soft in the topline. Very good body but could have more forechest. Strong, long and broad cross, very good angulation of knees and hocks. Excellent hard rough double coat. Excellent paws and proper oval bone structure. Moves well from the side but loses her topline, tends to move on two tracks when coming and going.

FOURTH:

28. RIVERVIEW CARROY CALLIOPE

A bitch who has excellent leg height, but could have a bit more angulation both front and rear. Good neck, topline and underline. Very good length of ribcage with an adequate forechest. Very strong good musculature throughout the whole dog. Very good head and expression, good pigmentation. Hard very good double coat. The left rear does not move out and creates an unbalanced side gait.

VETERAN BITCH

FIRST:

44. KALDAUN'S ARWEN



Lovely head and soft expression. Excellent small rose ears, excellent pigmentation. Very good arch on neck, still strong topline and a correct underline. Well bodied. Very balanced angulated. Strong oval bone and good feet. Very good coat structure. Moves very easy and active and it is hard to understand that she is nine+.

A tribute to breeder and owner presenting an old lady in this condition. Truly a honor to judge her. **Best Veteran, Award Of Merit**

SECOND:

64. WOLFHOLM GLENAMADDA GOLDENEYE

Well made head with parallel planes, high set but flat ears. Strong neck and topline.

Very good forechest and ribcage. Well laid back shoulder and upper-arm, straight pasterns and bit flat feet. Nice width in first and second thigh. Croup long but a bit step, very good angulation in knee, but a bit weak and outgoing, which also effects the movements. Very nice coat.

THIRD:

26. BRIBIBA'S BUMBLEBEE

Long lean head with excellent details and a gentle expression. She gives a long impression since her loin is long compared to length of brisket, that also gives her soft topline, both standing and when she moves. A bit low on leg, distance from ground to elbow is less the from whither to elbow. Very balanced in her angulation.

Suitable oval bone and good feet. A bit irregular on the move.



line up for Best of Breed

SPECIALS ONLY

BEST OF BREED AND BEST CANADIAN BRED

13. CH CASTLEKEEP'S PRODIGIOUS

He is the essence of the breed standard, built on smooth curves, not exaggerated in any way. Lovely head & expression. Strong jaws. Excellent angulation with an excellent width of all his bone parts. Strong and powerful oval bone with big strong paws. Exc. Well ribbed back ribcage, strong loin. Very good coat structure. Moves excellent with power and drive without exaggeration using his anatomy fully and carries himself style.

Just love him!





BEST OPPOSITE SEX

16. CH CASTLEKEEP'S
PRUDENCE

Excellent type and size. Head with correct planes, soft expression and correct details with high set rose ears. Very strong oval bones and nice width in all her bone parts with excellent paws. Long well ribbed back ribcage. Very good angulation in front and rear. Moves with a long, elastic, easy and powerful gait, especially the way she uses her upper arm. Very good coming and going. Correct coat. Like her A LOT!



SELECT DOG

31. GCH KALDAUN'S
SAMHAIN OF GLENAMADDA

A strong powerful male. Masculine head and expression could carry his ears better.

Very good angulation in front and rear but could have a bit more high of legs. Long croup which is a falling off a bit. Strong bone and feet. Excellent body and very good fore chest. Strong neck and very good topline and underline. Very good coat structure. Moves very well from all sides



SELECT BITCH

10. GCH CASTLEKEEP'S
PROMISE AT DREAMACRES

Excellent size, proportions and type. Excellent head with a soft expression. Very good balanced angulation. Lovely arch in neck and over loin, very good underline. Well-developed ribcage which is filled out between her front legs. Strong bone and feet. Moves very well from sides.



AWARD OF MERIT and BEST VETERAN

44. CH KALDAUN'S
ARWEN

Veteran bitch

BEST OF WINNERS

41. CASTLEKEEP'S
MR MARVELOUS AT WOLFHAVEN
First Canadian male



BEST PUPPY

48. KALDAUN'S RHIANNON



First Senior puppy bitch: see critique above

BEST BRED BY EXHIBITOR

18. TALIESIN'S BE'RIN



First Bred by exhibitor Bitch: see critique above

SEXUALLY ALTERED MALE

39. BAILEYSONG BLACK GRANIT



Strong powerful male which is well muscled. Very good head and expression, high set ears. Long neck into well laid shoulder, but a bit upright in upperarm and pasterns. A bit soft in topline and could have a bit more tuck up in underline. Very well angulated hindquarters with nice width. Very good coat. Moves a bit wide in front but very well from side. Best Sexually Altered

BRACE CLASS

43 & 56. TAYLEEFARM CARLOS SANTANA
& TAYLEEFARM DANCING IN THE MOONLIGHT



Two wheaten with very similar outline both standing and moving. Very good heads, with some differences in details, like ears. Both of them could have a bit more width in lower part of brisket. Similar angulation which creates a similar type of movement.

Both could have a bit stronger temperament.

TEAM CLASS

11, 13, 14, 16 CASTLEKEEP'S A STUDY IN SCARLET, CASTLEKEEP'S PRODIGIOUS, CASTLEKEEP'S SCARLET LETTER, CASTLEKEEP'S PRUDENCE.



An absolutely outstanding Team Class which contains BOB & BOS and two class winners. Very similar in type and proportions and all of them with strong oval bone and excellent width of their bone parts. Balanced angulation between front and rear which gives the easy, active and powerful movement. Very good coat structure throughout the whole team. Very similar and of top quality, I am impressed.

STUD DOG CLASS Also Best of Breed

13. CASTLEKEEP'S PRODIGIOUS



BEST 4-6 Month

009. DREAMACRES REDEMPTION



BEST GAIT

32. FEMKE'S FOOTSTES P LADY STARLIGHT



BEST HEAD

22 KALKINNY GLAMOUR OF LAISLINN



BEST HINDQUARTER

22 KALKINNY GLAMOUR OF LAISLINN



Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada Sweepstakes

2023-09-16

by Eva Lundström Giertz, Sweden

Senior Puppy Males

23. TALIESIN'S BEUL-AITHRIS OF SCEOLAN



Lovely type, nice temperament. Lovely long head with correct bite. Very well angulated. Very good body. Nice correct movements but carries his tail to high today. Nice harsh coat.

12-15 Month Dog

II. CASTLEKEEP'S A STUDY IN SCARLET



Lovely strong and elastic movement, lovely type with high on legs. Lovely strong head with correct bite. Very good bodied. Very good shoulder and upperarm, bit straight in front pasterns but uses his front fantastic when he moves. Very well angulated in rear. Strong bone structure. Correct harsh coat. Best in Sweepstakes

Senior Puppy Bitch

FIRST:

36. HOPS-N-HOUNDS THE TIMELESS CHILD



Long nice neck, lovely rose ears, really strong and nice bite. Nice arch over loin. A bit straight in front and a bit narrow in hindquarters. Would prefer elbows more well under. Harsh coat but not in best coat today.

SECOND:

12. HOPS-N-HOUNDS RUNE SINGER ALTHEA

Nice hight on legs, a bit long in body. Nice ears and beautiful head. Little straight in front. Nice, angulated rear. Lovely type. Is a bit unbalanced in movements.

THIRD:

54. HOPS-N-HOUNDS AOIFE OF THE FORBIDDEN FOREST

Nice female with correct hight on legs. A bit to much bodyweight to-day. Lovely movements, lovely long neck, nice ears, nice head with long nose. Needs to be a bit more confident.

12-15 Month Bitch

FIRST:

14. CASTLEKEEP 'S SCARLET LETTER



Fantastic movements from all sides, long, easy and elastic steps. Nice type, strong well-developed body, perhaps a bit long loin. Lovely head and ears, correct bite. Very well angulated in front and rear. Well-developed brisket. Lovely temperament, nice and sweet. Correct coat structure, strong bone, and feet. Best of Opposite Sex in Sweepstakes

SECOND:

24. DRACONECROME AGATHA



Lovely head, nice ears. A bit straight in her front and rear. A little short in movements and would like a bit hight on legs. Lovely low hocks. A bit soft in body condition today.

MY overall impression was: A lot of nice heads with correct bites!! A bit straight fronts/pasterns but good bone structure and movements.

Ontario Branch Specialty 2023

2023-09-17

Judge comments and critics
Lynn Simon, Minnesota, USA.

Judge comments

Thank you for inviting me for the honor of judging your hounds. I wish to thank my steward, Ken Clark, who kept me on the straight and narrow I also wish to thank all of the official committee members and all who helped organize these two shows. I know as a showchair it is a lot of hours of work. I enjoy judging and my first was in England in 1989. I don't know if most of you know, but I had to take a long drive to make it to the show as I lost my password and could not board the plane, I thank the weather gods for a lovely day.

Like mini shows, now the numbers are diminishing as the old breeders are bringing fewer dogs or go out of breeding all together. We left good young breeders, coming in at the same rate, as we are losing our older knowledgeable breeders.

The front of improved, head and necks are lovely, coats were on even throughout the entry. Tails were down for the most part. I had more dogs be difficult to examine, which surprised me. Mouths were good except for three dogs in the show. Top lines on the hole were also exceptional. Dark eyes were not the exception.

What surprised me was the number of good fronts, but then associated with narrowing this in the rear end so many. Mrs. Nagel wants told me she "picked toads." meaning that the rears are broader than the fronts, which is what I am assessing when I look at your dog from the rear. We need to get a broader engine ladies and gentlemen otherwise in a few years, we will have more deer hound look in this breed than Wolfhound.

In the end, I picked my winners for their breath, strength, soundness, outline, fronts, and desire. Those who sustained reach and drive throughout the competition were rewarded. Thank you again for inviting me.

Judge Critics

4 to 6 month dog class

1. DREAMACRES REDEMPTION

This is a red brindle puppy with a lovely outline. Ears are well rosed with a beautiful head and expression. His front is better than the puppy placed second. However, I would like more breadth with the pelvis and hind quarters. He could also use more bone, but they are still young and this may come. Gaiting he was sound down and back with a flowing shape on his side gate. Best baby puppy in breed

2. KALKINNY MUSIC OF THE NIGHT BY SHREK

This youngster had a nice outline and more substance down the first place. His ears, however, spoiled his appearance. He had a good upper arm in Forgeus, but his scapula was not his fortune. He had good strength in his loin and breadth. Good ribbing. His movement was hockey at this time and he did not keep his shape on the side gate.

Sexually altered male

1. BAILEYSONG BLACK GRANITE



This is a dark brindle male with a lovely head, ears, and good bite. His neck laid onto his shoulder, exceptionally well. However, I would like more thickness of the neck and arch. He could use more for chest as well. He's a very solid dog, however I would like more second thigh. He had good bone. He was sound coming and going, but could use more reach and drive. Best of Breed altered

Senior puppy dog

1. TALIESIN'S BEUL-AITHRIS OF SCEOLAN



This is a red brindle male with powerful neck, which is well arched. He has somewhat of a plain head with ears, not as roses as I'd like. His top line was correct, except on the move when his tail creeps up. I would like more bone in his hocks. He sound coming and going, but loses his shape on the move.

12-15 month dog

1. CASTLEKEEPS A STUDY IN SCARLETT



This is a lovely shapely gray brindle standing well-balanced. Lovely head and ears were well Rose. He had a correct top line and lovely feet. His front was correct however at times his pasterns could look straight. I also would like maybe slightly more forechest, but he is young. His rear was not narrow, but it wasn't as broad as I'd like at this time but he is still quite young and is extremely hard muscled. He has good bone and well ribbed back.

He has good second thighs as well. He was sound and kept his shape on the move. Though he was young, he won winners dog based on his length of leg, keeping his shape on the move, and being so balanced as compared to the reserve winners dog. He had lovely side gait! Winners dog

Canadian bred dog

1. CASTLEKEEPS MR. MARVELOUS AT WOLFHAVEN



A dark, brindle, mature male, who appeared unbalanced in outline with more in the front, then in the rear. Had exceptionally handsome head strong arch neck, but it could be longer. He's very strong and well muscled hind quarters. He has a good tail and top line with good bone. Coming and going he twist his right rear, but on the sidegate, he kept his shape well deserved, Reserve winners, dog

2. LONNKYLE PACIFIC YETI

This is a dark brindle with a lovely shape. Had a very handsome head and his top line was correct. His front showed a good forechest and length of upper arm but his scapulas were upright and not laid on properly. He had a nice low hocks and his tail was correct. He was a balanced dog, sound, but does not keep his shape on the move as well as number one. He could also use more bone.

3. SIR RUPERT LIL LORD OF WOLFHOLM

This is an immature wheaten whose top line shows his arch over his loin too far forward, spoiling his top line. He has perfect ears and lovely expression, but he's eyes are a bit light for me! He had good pasterns an adequate bone. I would like a longer neck, however. He did not hold his shape on the sidegait.

Open dog

1. HOPS-N-HOUNDS OLIVER N COMPANY



A lovely gray brindle with a balanced outline. His ears are not rosed perfectly, but adequately. His front shows good forechest and upper arm length but he could use a better laid on scapula. He has strong and powerful, hind quarters with good bone throughout. On sidegait he kept his shape, but was non-convergent in the front and close behind

Senior puppy bitch

1. HOPS-N-HOUNDS THE TIMELESS CHILD KERRY



This is a pale gray brindle very substantial with a lovely outline. She has a lovely head but her ears are not her fortune. She has a very strong neck that's adequate in length. She has a good upper arm and her scapula is well laid on. Her hind quarters are strong, well muscled, and has good breadth.

She was a little close behind going away, and I would've liked a little more drive and reach on her side gait!

She has everything and I hope that she grows up and fulfills her potential. She won this class and best puppy on the basis of her quality. Best puppy

2. HOPS-N-HOUNDS RUNE SINGER ALTHEA

This is a dirt brindle girl with a lovely outline. She had a beautiful head and lovely, rosed ears.

Her front had proper forechest, good pasterns, and her scapula was laid on well. However, she could use a longer upper arm, but I am being picky. She had a good top line and under line. She's a good sound mover. She lost to the first puppy, due to lack of substance compared to the first puppy. For me, I would like more substance in her, but she was a very lovely puppy.

She pressed number one for first in this class and best puppy

3. HOPS-N-HOUNDS AOIFE OF THE FORBIDDEN FOREST

Another puppy, with a lovely outline and pleasing head. However, she was difficult to assess. She had the hardest muscling in the class with good bone and ribbing. However, I could not assess her movement properly or she might have gone much higher in this class.

4. KALDAUN'S RHIANNON

This is a tall, rangy, red brindle with good top line and underline. She had a pleasing head and ears. She did not have the sweep of stifle, nor the second thighs of the dogs ahead of her. She had strong muscling in the upper thigh and a very long tail. She had adequate bone and muscling except for her second thighs. Side gate she kept her shape but the down and back was not able to assess at this time.

12-15 month bitch

1. CASTLEKEEPS SCARLETT LETTER



This is a dark brindle bitch oozing quality. She initially was difficult to assess but because of the quality I couldn't not evaluate her. After several times, we gained her confidence and just in time!

She had a beautiful outline, and she remained in my eye, the remainder of the competition, as a means to measure the dogs that I was further assessing!

Her head, and expression was gorgeous and she had lovely, rosed ears. She had a good harsh coat. Her front was the best on the day for forechest, upper arm, and scapula lay back. She had perfect pasterns!

Top line and under line was correct. She was balanced, young, but mature looking. Her hind quarters were exactly what I was looking for being broad, strong and correct. She had great bone and well ribbed back. She was true coming and going. Her sidegait was the best of the competition all day. She won winners bitch and best of winners.

She got stronger and stronger and showed that she wanted it.

For me she just flowed together and fulfilled my initial evaluation and went on to best in show.

Winners bitch, Best of winners, Best Canadian, Best of Breed

2. DRACONECROME AGATHA

This is a gray brindle with lovely expression, and well rosed ears. I might add she was very well handled. She could use a longer neck. I would like more forechest and upper arm length. She was flat on her top line. She had good muzzling in her upper thighs and second thighs. She had good pasterns. She could use more bone particularly her hocks. She was very sound and had a lovely sidegait.

3. SASSWAY CHILI PEPPER AT HOPS-N-HOUNDS

This is a Red brindle who is very leggy. Her top line has exaggerated rise over her loin, tilting her pelvis, giving an unbalanced appearance. She has a good head expression, but flat ears. She has nice low hocks. She has good bone and substance. She did not have the sidegait of the first two.

Canadian bred bitch

1. BAILEYSONG BLACK ONYX



This is a dark black bitch with a lovely shape standing. She has dark pigment and lovely head and ears. she had good upper arm length and scapular placement. She had a correct wide pelvis and was strong. Although I felt she could use more second thigh. She had good bone and ribbing.

She had a good side gate and held her shape. On the down and back she was crabbing and moved slightly wide in front not converging.

Open bitch

1. GLENMADDA VALENCIA IS THE NEW BLACK



This is a strong gray brindle with lovely outline, and well balanced. She has a strong neck with adequate length. She has a strong, perfect top line with lovely ears and expression. She had a good scapula lay back and upper arm length. She had strong and well muscled hind quarters with a lovely sweep. She kept the shape on the move. She had good bone and well ribbed back.

This is a very quality bitch, and was close to winning this show. She lost to the eventual winners bitch and best of breed as she lacked the reach and drive of the eventual winner.

She didn't show me that she wanted it. Reserve winners bitch

2. FEMKE'S FOOTSTEPS LADY STARLIGHT

This is a black with correct top line and long neck. Beautiful expression but she could use a better ear. She needs another inch of leg to be better balanced. Her front had correct fore chest, and length of upper arm. She had good width of upper thigh, but could use more second thigh.

She has low hocks, but is somewhat narrow in the loin. She moved wide in front and close behind, but she had a lovely sidegait!

3. HIPPLEY'S UNFORGETTABLE AT HOPS-N-HOUNDS

This is a tall rangy bitch, but has more in the front then she has in the rear, giving an unbalanced appearance on the outline.

She has a pleasing head, but her ears are big and flat. Standing she appears lightly running uphill and I'd like more width through her loin and pelvis. She has a great coat and good layback of her scapula!

On gaiting her rear was not her fortune and she lacked reach and drive on side gait hence her placement!

Veteran bitches

1. BRIBIBA'S BUMBLEBEE



A lovely, dark brindle with beautiful head and ears. Lovely, strong neck and top line. She lacks for chest, but her scapular lay back is great. She likes in the inch in the leg and needs more muscle in and bone. Stunning side gait but non-converging in her front gait. Best Veteran

2. GCH BAILEY'S COCOA LIQUOR

A lovely light gray brindle still holding a lovely outline. Lovely expression, and perfect rosed ears.

With her front she had more for chest than one but her scapula was not as good as the Laon of number one. She had a stronger neck than number one and had hindquarters. It was strong with good with throughout. I would've liked a little more second thigh. Good bone in substance. She lost to one due to no reach and drive on side gait !

Also, she was not clean, coming and going probably because of her age. She must've been a beauty younger.

WINNERS

Best of Breed, also Winners bitch, Best of winners, Best Canadian

CASTLEKEEPS SCARLETT LETTER



This is a dark brindle bitch oozing quality. she initially was difficult to assess but because of the quality I couldn't not evaluate her. After several times, we gained her confidence and just in time!

She had a beautiful outline, and she remained in my eye, the remainder of the competition, as a means to measure the dogs that I was further assessing!

Her head, and expression was gorgeous and she had lovely, rosed ears. She had a good harsh coat. Her front was the best on the day for forechest, upper arm, and scapula lay back. She had perfect pasterns!

Top line and under line was correct. She was balanced, young, but mature looking. Her hind quarters were exactly what I was looking for being broad, strong and correct. She had great bone and well ribbed back. She was true coming and going. Her side gait was the best of the competition all day. She won winners bitch and best of winners.

She got stronger and stronger and showed that she wanted it.

For me she just flowed together and fulfilled my initial evaluation and went on to best in show.

Best opposite Sex

CH CASTLEKEEP'S PRODIGIOUS



This is a tall Reggie, gray brindle male with a lovely outline. He has a kind expression and well roses ears! A strong neck and arch. He has a lovely front with plenty of lay back, forechest, and length of upper arm. He could use more arch over his loin to improve his top line. he has great substance and bone. He is sound and has a lovely side gate. He lost his the winner due to his top line, appeared flat on the move, and he did not have the reach and drive of the winner at the end on the side gait. However, he was given strong consideration.

Best Puppy

HOPS-N-HOUNDS THE TIMELESS CHILD KERRY



This is a pale gray brindle very substantial with a lovely outline. She has a lovely head but her ears are not her fortune. She has a very strong neck that's adequate in length. She has a good upper arm and her scapula is well laid on. Her hind quarters are strong, well muscled, and has good breadth.

She was a little close behind going away, and I would've liked a little more drive and reach on her side gait!

She has everything and I hope that she grows up and fulfills her potential. She won this class and best puppy on the basis of her quality.

Select Dog

GCH KALDAUN'S SAMHAIN OF GLENMADDA



He had a lovely outline was an excellent had an expression. Tremendously strong throughout. He was wonderfully gated both down and back and on the side but after his first time around, he seems to fade compared to the eventual best of opposite sex.

My criticism of him would be that he needs an inch longer leg. I don't know why dogs appear so beautiful the first time around and then when they're asked to continue or to re-gait around, it's like he did not give me the "look at me I am the winner."

Select Bitch and Best bred by Exhibitors

CH CASTLEKEEPS PRUDENCE



A lovely gray brindle bitch with gorgeous outline, head, an expression and strongly built front. She had powerful hindquarters good with and breadth. She had a lovely cop line and under line with good bone and muscling!

She was very sound. Her side gait was not the reach and drive of the winner but she still kept her shape magnificently!

Award of Merit

GCH CASTLEKEEPS PROMISE AT DREAMACRES



A lovely gray brindle who is very well balanced. She has a lovely top line and has legs. She has well rosed ear. Her scapular could be laid on better. But she has adequate upper arm and forechest.

She has very powerful hind quarters with good breadth and strong second thighs. She has good bone she's very sound she got her award of merit at the end on her lovely side gait!

Best Veteran

BRIBIBA'S BUMBLEBEE



A lovely, dark brindle with beautiful head and ears. Lovely, strong neck and top line. She lacks for chest, but her scapular lay back is great. She likes in the inch in the leg and needs more muscle in and bone. Stunning side gait but non-converging in her front gait.

Sweepstakes Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada Ontario Branch

Sunday, September 17, 2023

Judge: Christopher Shields

I would like to thank the Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada -- Ontario Branch for inviting me to judge the Sweepstakes at this year's regional specialty. I may be a greyhound person, but Irish wolfhounds have been near and dear to my heart ever since the mid-80s. I enjoyed judging this quality entry, packed with some very promising youngsters.

Senior Puppy Dog

1. TALIESIN'S BEUL-AITHRIS OF SCEOLAN



Alone in his class but worthy of his place. Nice type, big and shapely. He has a nice head, but his ears are a bit flat. He has nice reach of neck leading into good shoulders; overall, he has good forequarters. He has a good topline, and though his rear is a little straight (I'd like more bend of stifle), he moves well off it. He is especially good on the move, showing off a free and easy gait. He lost out to the more mature 12-15 Month Dog for BOSS.

12-15 Months Dog

1. CASTLEKEEP'S A STUDY IN SCARLET



Also alone in his class and also a worthy winner. This boy is just the type I like. He is big with plenty of shape and scope. He has a good head with fairly good ears. He has nice reach of neck leading into very good shoulders; overall, he has really good forequarters. I appreciate his length of body, ideal topline and croup, and the sweep in his rear from hip to hock, which allows him to stand over a lot of ground. He is so balanced, and it really shows in his sound, clean movement. Initially, he was a bit unruly, not showing himself to best advantage, but his handler is so good with him and was able to get his head in the game. He really is a powerhouse on the move, being true coming and going and with wonderful reach and drive from the side. Even as I judged him in his class, I thought it would take something special to beat him, and it turns out that the 'something special' was his litter sister. But he ended up BOS in Sweeps, which he entirely deserved. He is one to watch.

Senior Puppy Bitch

An interesting class with three litter sisters, all with a lot to like about them.

1. HOPS-N-HOUNDS THE TIMELESS CHILD KERRY



Very mature for a puppy, this girl has size and substance. She has a good head, though her ears are not the best. She has good reach of neck leading into good shoulders; overall, her forequarters are good. She also has a good topline and croup. She wasn't always as free moving as I could want, but she was moving with a runner, and she didn't always look like she wanted to leave her handler standing on the sidelines. However, it was her type, balance, and soundness in the end that won her this class.

2. HOPS-N-HOUNDS AOIFE OF THE FORBIDDEN FOREST



A bit finer than her sister, but still presenting a nice shape and scope. She has a good head with OK ears. She has good reach of neck leading into good shoulders, but she is a little straight in the upper arm. She also has a good topline and croup with a nice sweep to her rear. She is a nice, easy mover.

3. HOPS-N-HOUNDS RUNE SINGER ALTHEA

Also a nice girl; I was nit-picking when placing these sisters. She has a lot of the same virtues as the other two, showing a nice shape with a good topline. She seemed a little distracted, though, and wasn't always as steady on the move.

12-15 Months Bitch

1. CASTLEKEEP'S SCARLET LETTER



Litter sister to the BOSS winner (what a litter!) and has all the same virtues and then some. She draws the eye from the moment she enters the ring—she is just the type I like. It is hard to believe that she is just 12 months old, as she is so put together! She has substance, shape, and scope. She has a lovely head with good ears (these seem particularly hard to come by these days), with good reach of neck leading into excellent shoulders; overall, her forequarters are bang on. Like her brother, she also has correct length of body with ideal topline and croup, and that powerful sweeping rear, which allows her to stand over a lot of ground. On the move she is something else, being so steady and true—she cannot put a foot wrong. She was an easy winner of this class, and in the run-off for Best in Sweepstakes, it was between her and her brother. To be honest, her brother probably has the edge for showmanship—he looks like he really enjoys himself out there—but this girl was in season, so I was willing to cut her some slack. She is the total package. In the end, with a slight edge on structure and movement, she took the BISS award. She is a certain star of the future.

2. DRACONCROME AGATHA

A girl of a slightly smaller build, she presents a nice type. She has a nice head and ears, with a good reach of neck leading into good shoulders. Overall, her forequarters are good. She has a nice topline, and while her rear is good, her handler has a tendency to over-extend it on the stack. She was sometimes unsettled on the move, and she comes at you a little wide. But—and here is a lesson for those who feel

that a judge's mind can't be changed by the time it gets to the final go around—the handler had this girl really collected for that final move, and she looked really good, showing that she is capable of beautiful reach and drive while holding her shape. She fully deserved her place here.

3. SASSWAY CHILI PEPPER AT HOPS-N-HOUNDS

Bigger than 2, with good substance. She has a nice head; her ears are a little big but OK. She has good forequarters, and she moves better in front than 2. However, she shows too much rise over the loin and has a steep croup, which means that she doesn't drive off her rear like she should. Still, she is a typey girl.

Best in Sweepstakes

CASTLEKEEP'S SCARLET LETTER



Best of Opposite Sex in Sweepstakes

CASTLEKEEP'S A STUDY IN SCARLET



The Wild Stare



Welcome to The Wild Stare.

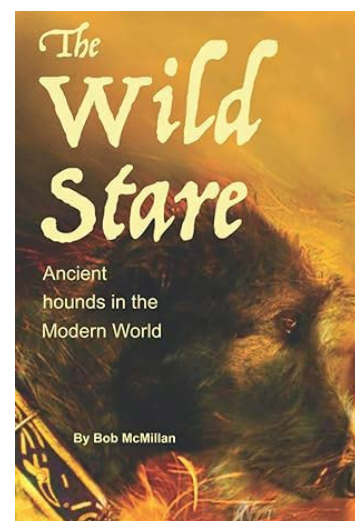
With great pleasure, we announce that we have been granted access and permission to publish from the Wild Stare archives. The Wild Stare, a beloved blog and website dedicated to the magnificent Irish Wolfhound. The Wild Stare captivated readers with its heartfelt stories, informative articles, and vibrant community centred around our noble breed for six wonderful years.

Created by award-winning newspaper columnist Bob McMillan, The Wild Stare has become a cornerstone for Irish Wolfhound enthusiasts. McMillan uniquely captures the essence of these ancient hounds, validating so much of what we are experiencing as owners and admirers of the breed. The Wild Stare was a haven for Irish Wolfhound lovers, a place to celebrate these giants' unique charm, strength, and grace. The blog became a trusted source of knowledge, a place to share experiences, and a platform to showcase the deep bond between humans and their loyal companions.

Each tale is a testament to these hounds' enduring spirit and remarkable character, capturing moments of joy, challenge, and the profound connections they forge with their families.

As we explore these narratives, you will journey through the lives of Irish Wolfhounds and their owners, discovering tales of companionship, adventure, and love. Bob McMillan's words resonate deeply, reflecting the experiences and emotions many in our community share.

You can find Bob McMillan's book, *The Wild Stare: Ancient Hounds in the Modern World*, at: www.amazon.ca



Let the Adventure Begin.

by Bob McMillian (Originally published May 24, 2017)

Twenty years of living with giant Celtic hounds and it's come to this:

Our house is partitioned like Berlin in the Cold War to keep bananas from disappearing off the top of the refrigerator.

All my coat pockets have been ripped off by long, furry snouts idly poking around for anything interesting or gulpable.

I'm an old man with the reflexes of a feral cat from dodging 160-pounders as they wheel and slam into the couch. The one I was just sitting on.

In my pants pockets at this very moment are 20 plastic poop bags and... gobs of melted cheese. And, wait, that may be a bit of Vienna sausage. Or a fingertip I just won't be needing anymore.

My hair and beard look like rats nests from Oona intently "grooming" me and Oisin stopping by to say hi after every trip to the water bowl. His beard holds more water than Hoover Dam. Until he sticks his head under my shirt to see if I'm hiding bacon there. He's a friendly boy. And I am never completely dry.

So, it's pretty clear even to me now. Before Irish wolfhounds, I was a casual pet owner. I'm becoming one of them now, such is the pull these quirky, hilarious, confounding giants have once you invite one into your home. They do not merely take over your life. Like the Borg, they will assimilate you. I've become a classic Southern eccentric, that crazy old man lurching into town in a swarm of crazy-big hounds.

This is a good reason to start a blog? Time will surely tell....

I think so because there's this : Every time I step out with an Irish wolfhound, people come flocking. They cross the street or the park or the field to touch them and toss questions. Yes, wolfhounds are arrestingly, impossibly big. They had to be way back when in Ireland when they snatched warriors out of chariots and snipped off their heads. The man on the street knows so little about these elegant, shaggy giants.

But "big" isn't why wolfhounds are woven all through Irish myth. There's primal magic in their veins. I know. It sounds naive. Only...I've never had another dog salute a dying peer with a round of baying that shook the walls at the moment of his death. None of my previous dogs ever visibly got a joke, told me more with a look in her eyes or made me proud to be considered an equal. Wolfhounds are the only dogs I've had that stopped dead with a look in their eyes that convinced me they were looking with awe into some other place.

And that's the wild stare.

So, let me tell you about my life with living legends...

Clubs and Organizations

The Canadian Kennel Club, CKC

Incorporated under the [Animal Pedigree Act](#), [The Canadian Kennel Club](#) (CKC) is the primary registry body for purebred dogs in Canada and currently recognizes 187 breeds.

As a national, member-based, non-profit organization, CKC is dedicated to encouraging, guiding, and advancing the interests of purebred dogs and their responsible owners and breeders in Canada and promoting knowledge and understanding of the benefits that dogs can bring to Canadian society.

The CKC maintains a system whereby clubs and associations wishing to do so may hold dog shows, obedience trials, field trials, and other trials, tests, and activities for dogs under the auspices of and in accordance with the rules, regulations, standards, policies, and procedures established by the Club.

The CKC's policy underscores its recognition of a single National Breed Club dedicated to each of the 187 breeds.

More than 50 years ago, the CKC recognized the IWCC as the National Breed Club for our breed.

<https://www.ckc.ca/en/Choosing-a-Dog/Choosing-a-Breed/Hounds/Irish-Wolfhound>

The Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada, IWCC

To be recognized by the CKC, the specific breed club shall meet all requirements listed in the CKC Policies and Procedure. All clubs recognized or seeking recognition from The Canadian Kennel Club must be governed by a constitution and by-laws providing for the orderly and democratic conduct of the club's business.

To act in conformation with the CKC rules, the Club must conduct an election by nominations and voting for a Board consisting in one president, one vice president, one treasurer and secretary or one secretary/treasurer, and a minimum of 4 directors from 3 different regions of Canada.

The Club may hold one National Specialty event per year.

The Club is responsible for making the breed's Standard understood and respected by the breeders and its members. His mandate is also educate members by holding workshops and seminars on various subjects such as health, movement, conformation, grooming, etc

For more details on Club recognition by the CKC, visit their site and read their Bylaws and chapter 5 of Policies and Procedures. <https://www.ckc.ca/en/Legal/Policy-Procedures>

Under the umbrella of the National Club, the CKC also allows local wolfhound clubs called "Area Branches" to organise one Specialty Show a year.

IWCC Area Branches

The Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada supports local Clubs, called Irish Wolfhound Branches.

Branches are involved in many types of events as annual specialty, some boosters' shows, field trials or lure coursing, parades, Celtics events, fun match and more.

To learn more, reach the Branch contact for more information on upcoming events.

British Columbia Area Branch

Admin: Fran Brisco & Emma Ross

Katy Albrecht (Treasurer)
jerkat2001@yahoo.ca

Patti O'Malley (Secretary)
pomalley61@gmail.com

Patti O'Malley
Emma Ross
Fran Briscoe
Kelly Railton

Mid-Western Branch

Admin: Cindy Kremer & Stephanie Bugbee

Shawn Williams
Cindy Kremer
Sue Humphries

Robyn Wheat (Treasurer)
iwccmwbtreasurer@gmail.com

Stephanie Bugbee (Secretary)
iwccmwbsecretary@gmail.com

Upper Canada Regional Branch

Admin: Monique Seguin & Jocelyn Gagne

Jocelyne Gagne (President)
starkeeperiw@gmail.com

Harald Odenwald (Vice-President)
hodenwald777@gmail.com

Monique Seguin (Secretary)
moniqueseguin@outlook.com

Judith Callender (Treasurer)
judith@judithcallenderlaw.com

Ontario Regional Branch

Admin: Donna Tomson
Iwcc.ontariobranch@gmail.com

Donita Osborne (President)
Susan Andrews (Secretary)

Donna Tomson (Treasurer)
castlekeepiws@gmail.com

Federation of Irish Wolfhound Club

Founded in 1994, the Federation of European IW organisation' intention was to foster cooperation between clubs that utilised the common standard of the FCI, (Federation Canine International).

Almost 30 years later, the purposes of the new FIWC, Federation Irish Wolfhound Clubs, a deliberately not only European organisation, are to involve in the project as many clubs and nations as possible so that they can share experiences and those of their breeders, and -where possible -to coordinate certain activities in order better to promote and preserve this magnificent breed while remaining loyal to the standard of Captain Graham. The federation now has a legal status, having been registered as a non-profit organization in 2020 in the Netherlands

The Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada was the first associate member accepted by the FIWC in 2018. In 2022, the Irish Wolfhound Club of America was voted in as an associate member.

For more information on the FIWC, visit their website. <https://www.fiwc.club/>

The Irish Wolfhound Database

The Irish Wolfhound Database is a free and open resource created for and by the Irish Community.

The database compiled pedigrees of all wolfhounds that had lived in the world since registration exists.

The IWDB give us access to full pedigree of most Wolfhounds up to the breed founders, for at least 40 generations and in some lines, back to 60 generations if ancestors were breed young.

The amount of searches you can make has no limits. The standard pedigree research (from 3 to 10 generations) shows siblings, half sibling, progeny, influence on the breed, inbreeding, common ancestors but you can also see reverse pedigrees and see the influence of a sire or dam in the wolfhound

community. You can make trial mating and see the inbreeding coefficient related to the average.

It might be very beneficial for all wolfhound enthusiasts in choosing the next puppy and his breeder.

If you are interested in the breed in your country, you can do an advanced search and look at the breed's evolution over decades. The IWDB provides tutorials to make the most of the site and its data.

The last additions were pictures of the dogs, longevity and causes of death, leading to average lifespan in the pedigree related to average. This part of the collect is still going on and data can be added.

The data base is open for researchers' worldwide.

Groundbreaking studies have been made on heritability of osteosarcoma and atrial fibrillation. Heritability of longevity itself has been calculated. These studies are all based on the data collected by IWDB

<https://info.iwdb.org/>

<https://info.iwdb.org/the-makeup-of-an-irish-wolfhound/#more-301>

<https://info.iwdb.org/pedigrees-puppy-buyers/#more-178>

The IWDB exist because of a volunteers group. The organisation relies on cooperation with and support by Breed Clubs internationally and is financed by user contributions and clubs.

Here is the link to their PayPal: [PayPal.Me/iwdb](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https%3A%2F%2Finfo.iwdb.org%2F)

The Irish Wolfhound Foundation

Founded in 2002, the Irish Wolfhound Foundation is an all-volunteer charitable organization dedicated to the welfare of the Irish Wolfhound. The IWF conduct health studies, run health screening clinics at IW specialty shows and gatherings, disburse grants to IW-related research, sponsor educational

seminars, and coordinate and fund rescue efforts.

The Goal of the Health Research Committee is to identify the types and prevalence of health problems affecting the Irish Wolfhound, and to initiate, support and provide funding for study and research projects which address them.

The IW Foundation want to produce, publish, and distribute to IW owners and veterinary health care providers educational materials relating to diseases, genetic anomalies, and injuries which occur in the Irish Wolfhound and to further the understanding of Irish Wolfhound health issues, thereby improving the quality of life for Irish Wolfhounds and their owners.

The Irish Wolfhound Foundation maintains a library of articles and links relevant to the health of the Irish Wolfhound. Some of these are specific to Irish Wolfhounds or other sighthounds, and some are applicable to any canine.

The IWF relies on donation from wolfhounds lovers. If you are one of them visit their site and become a regular donator. www.iwfoundation.org/home

The Irish Wolfhound Health Group

Established in 2004, the Irish Wolfhound Health Group is a UK organisation that originally comprised representatives from each of the four IW breed Clubs in the United Kingdom.

The purpose of the group is to monitor and promote the health and welfare of the breed, to educate and inform, and to be a united breed voice in all matters relating to health issues.

The IWHG have a library accessible on their website and many articles are linked in our own website section related to Health.

www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/home.html

Membership Benefits IWCC

“Ask not what the IWCC can do for you, but what you can do for the IWCC and our beloved breed”

All members of the IWCC, like our forefathers, pledge to follow the Club Code of Ethics for the purpose of protecting and preserving our beloved breed. With membership, participation demonstrates an investment and an association with individuals committed to leaving this breed better than when they started.

As a member you will be connected to a community of Mentors and like-minded individuals who will share their experiences.

They will help answer your questions and provide suggestions, tools, and tips in many areas of interest including conformation and other events such as lure coursing, rally, agility, and obedience to name a few.

They will provide education opportunities to help you make sound decisions in Health Matters and Breeding practices as you move forward.

Through Branch activities, they will become a social networking group for meeting at performance events, Fun Days and Celtic Festivals in your area and nationally.

The Club could benefit from your expertise and professional experience as there is a wealth of volunteer opportunities in which you could become involved.

The Launch of the "e" Bulletin publication on the Club Website is intended to be the tool of communication for you, the Membership. We look forward to receiving your input, feedback, and articles of interest to contribute to the quarterly publication.

Thank you from The IWCC Communication and Outreach Committee:

Jeslene Quinn – jmquinn@ualberta.ca

Laurie Rutherford – laurierutherford@gmail.com

Ruth Hassett – hassett790@gmail.com

Wayne Williams – waynew@ualberta.net

Contact the Club

The Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada secretary handles general inquiries, including questions about club membership or this website:

Guylaine Gagnon • irishwc.secretary@gmail.com

To inquire about the IWCC Rescue:

Guylaine Gagnon • irishwc.secretary@gmail.com

For inquiries related to the Bulletin or Website:

Communications and Outreach Committee • irishwc.editor@gmail.com

If you are looking for an Irish Wolfhound breeder, please consult our preferred Breeder List on the IWCC Website - iwcc.ca

THE OFFICIAL CODE OF ETHICS OF THE IRISH WOLFHOUND CLUB OF CANADA

Revised September 2017

The Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada (IWCC/CCLI) Code of Ethics applies to all members. A section specifying breeder ethics was added in 2017, and approved at the IWCC 2017 AGM. Its purpose is to provide a set of standards and requirements relating to the proper maintenance, breeding, selling, and overall protection of our beloved Irish Wolfhounds. This understanding reflects our general priorities of hound welfare and responsible, researched, breeding practices. As appropriate, breach of these provisions may result in suspension or expulsion from the Club or reporting to relevant authorities for legal action.



**IRISH WOLFHOUND
CLUB OF CANADA**

**CLUB CANADIEN DU
LÉVRIER IRLANDAIS**

*A not-for-profit organization to do all
in its power to protect and advance
the interests of the breed.*

CODE OF ETHICS FOR MEMBERS

1. IWCC members will strive to always protect the Irish Wolfhound from abuse, neglect, suffering & cruelty and be prepared to report any such actions.
2. IWCC members will refrain from making false, malicious, defamatory, or unfair statements about fellow members or breeders of the IWCC.
3. IWCC members will provide their hounds with housing, the best food suited to their needs, fresh, clean water, proper daily exercise fitting to this hunting breed, and proper veterinary care. A well-fenced yard is strongly recommended.
4. IWCC members are strongly encouraged to keep an open relationship and stay in communication with their breeder during the life of their hound.
5. IWCC members will do their best to help and mentor new or other members of the IWCC with any queries or questions.
6. IWCC members will demonstrate good sportsmanship-like behaviour, both inside and outside the ring.
7. IWCC members will be in control of their hounds at all times, in public, on or off-leash, and at home. Provide safe and secure fencing, a good size yard, or access to off-leash areas.
8. IWCC members will behave in a manner that does not bring unnecessary discredit to the breed or the IWCC.
7. IWCC Breeders will undertake all the recommended health testing for our breed as prescribed by OFA and the IWCC, which includes heart, hips, elbows, and eye certifications. Copies of all test results should be provided to the purchaser(s) if requested.
8. IWCC Breeders must liver shunt test all their puppies at the recommended age of 9 weeks or older before going to their new homes.
9. Puppies should not leave the IWCC Breeders until at least 10 weeks of age. It is an established fact that bitches really begin to “teach” their puppies from 6-10 weeks and beyond the valuable skills of life that puppies will need as they grow and mature. The interaction between siblings during this time will help them develop social skills that they may never learn if taken away too early from their dam and siblings.
10. Puppies must be sold with the requisite registration papers (which often includes the CKC non-breeding agreement or co-ownership forms), a copy of the pedigree, plus written selling agreement (selling agreement should include the conditions for breeding of the dog, return to the breeder, or re-homing/sale of said dog in future). The IWCC Breeders will provide written dietary & exercise recommendations, and a pre-determined health attestation/checklist/certificate and vaccination papers in provinces where it is law. Puppies should be free from parasites, including but not restricted to worms, fleas & ticks.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR BREEDERS

1. All IWCC Breeders will/must heed and abide by the regulations set forth by the CKC and IWCC.
2. IWCC Breeders (which include the owners of both the sire and dam) should be very familiar with the standard prior to breeding, with the aim being improvement of the breed. They should know the sire and dam pedigrees, always keeping in mind the importance of type, temperament, soundness, health issues, and longevity.
3. All bitches/dogs and litters will/must be registered with the CKC if born in Canada. Foreign dog owners should comply with the regulations of the National Breed and Kennel Club of their country regarding litter and puppy registrations.
4. IWCC Breeders should advise prospective puppy owners of all characteristics of the breed, encouraging the owner to be in communication especially with regard to any potential health issue that may occur.
5. IWCC Breeders should be very discriminating in their choice of homes, taking into consideration: location, accommodation, sanitation, exercise, fencing, veterinary care, diet, and most of all, the emotional and physical well being of the puppy/dog they are placing.
6. No puppies/dogs of any age should be sold/raffled/donated to pet shops, labs, brokers, security firms. No puppies/dogs of any age should be sold to areas overseas that do not have similar standards of animal protection to Canada.
11. IWCC Breeders are strongly encouraged to educate new owners about the pros & cons of neutering or spaying & be able to discuss alternative methods. This would also include advising not to spay or neuter before the recommended age of 2 years.
12. No bitches will be bred before 2 yrs, or after 6 yrs, nor bred on consecutive seasons, except in extraordinary circumstances.
13. IWCC Breeders will be familiar with the positives and negatives of line breeding, inbreeding, and outcrossing within the breed and in their particular lines. Inbreeding is not a common practice & is used judiciously by some breeders on occasion. Inbreeding refers to close relations being bred, i.e., Father to Daughter, Mother to Son, Brother to Sister; this should not be common practice.
14. IWCC Breeders will not breed a hound with a known health defect or knowingly sell an Irish Wolfhound who is not in a healthy condition or has any known contagious disease without full written disclosure within the sales contract.
15. IWCC Breeders will not sell bitches in whelp, nor sell to “nonresponsible” breeders. (A responsible breeder adheres to the COE of IWCC Breeders).
16. IWCC Breeders must be ready, willing, and able to take back any puppy or adult dog of their breeding. No dog of their breeding can be bred, sold, or given away without the written permission of the breeder and duly noted in the written agreement of purchase/sale.

Breeders List (www.iwcc.ca)

IRISH WOLFHOUND
CLUB OF CANADA



CLUB CANADIEN DU
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*A not-for-profit organization to do all in its power to protect
and advance the interests of the breed.*

