

IWCC Rescue Policy Paper

- Reviewed and processes updated, March 27, 2025
- Reviewed June 2024 following Special Meeting regarding Rescue held March 24, 2024.

The Rescue Committee operates under the following premises:

- The IWCC Members are a ready and available pool of IW fanciers, who are members in good standing and could be available at the time of need to facilitate foster care and provide resources in the event of a rescue in Canada.
- The first point of contact for Rescue is the IWCC Secretary who is the National Coordinator. The National Coordinator works directly with the Committee to notify the Membership and seek assistance in the area in which the potential surrender is located.
- Members of the Rescue Committee will ideally consist of the National Coordinator and six (6) volunteer representatives from across the Country who are IWCC members in good standing, either regular or associate members.
- Rescue is restricted to purebred Irish Wolfhounds (as best as can be determined) and the Committee will monitor social media posts and will offer education and assistance but will not purchase an IW Cross or IWs found on public media sale platforms such as Kijiji, Marketplace, or Auction houses.
- Canadian citizens should be considered priority for adoption.

Policy Paper (revised March 27, 2025)

The following edits to the policy and operating framework for Rescue, resulted from the outcome of the Special Meeting held March 24, 2024. Draft minutes of the meeting were sent to participants on April 15, 2024, and Membership feedback requested by email on May 02, 2024.

The purpose of IWCC Rescue is to operate within the club's jurisdiction to help Irish Wolfhounds in need. Further, IWCC Rescue will network with other Irish Wolfhound rescue operations to secure help for Irish wolfhounds outside of our jurisdiction.

IWCC Rescue is actively working to create a national directory of volunteers known as the “Friends of Rescue”. We recognize that all Members (in good standing) potentially could help, depending on the circumstances and will be the eyes and ears of IWCC Rescue in their respective communities. They will also be a volunteer pool to turn to for foster care, transport, home checks and awareness/fundraising campaigns. This initiative also gives IW fanciers who may not show or course their hounds a way to be active in the club and support the club’s mandate to protect and preserve the breed.

IWCC Rescue has downloadable PDF Forms and an online fillable form on the IWCC Website to be used to either apply as a home to adopt, foster or surrender an IW. Anyone interested in adopting an IW through IWCC Rescue must complete the Application Form and permit a home visit. We only consider applicants if they have a securely fenced yard.

We place IWCC rescue hounds in the home that best suits their individual needs, and a minimum \$700 adoption fee applies. This fee goes directly back into the rescue account to cover expenses for volunteer’s expenses, vet fees, food etc. This fee can be waived if exceptional circumstances apply which is at the committee’s discretion.

Should an IWCC Rescue placement of a hound fail, the adoptive home is under contract to return the hound to IWCC Rescue for re-homing. If the IWCC Rescue committee agrees, the surrendering, adoptive home may work with the committee to achieve a re-home that meets the committee approval.

The Rescue Contract is signed and witnessed and contains the new owners basic contact information and provides direction for payment. It outlines the rescue relationship including a privacy statement. It offers the Adoptive home a free IWCC membership for one year, if they currently are not a member, so they can benefit from the Club resources.

Upon completion of the Rescue Process, the National Rescue Coordinator is responsible for ensuring the Rescue Contract is signed, witnessed and stored in the Rescue folder on the Club Secretary iCloud folder. The Adoption Form with the potential home’s personal information will be destroyed.

The Club Treasurer is responsible for reporting Rescue income and expenditure along with the Club’s Financial Monthly reporting.

Role and Responsibilities of the Rescue Committee

During a Rescue Situation

The National Coordinator (Club Secretary)

- Receives and reviews Adoption Forms that are submitted for consideration.
- Maintains an ongoing list of individuals that would like to be considered “Friends of Rescue”
- First point of contact for news of a rescue or rehoming situation.

Vetting Completed Adoption Forms

- All completed adoption forms received are to be vetted by a designated committee member.
 - The committee member contacts the prospective home and reviews the form with the individual.
 - The committee member checks the references listed
 - The committee member completes a home visit either in person or virtually through online video platform.
 - The committee member determines the readiness of the receiving home
 - The committee member shares recommendation and/or concerns with the Committee.
 - If recommended as a suitable home, it is added to our vetted wait list held by the National Coordinator.
 - From time to time, the coordinator will review the list, follow up with the applicants and determine readiness.

Assessment of IW to be Surrendered

- The coordinator communicates with the Committee to inform them of the new rescue situation.
 - Requests of the owner, to complete the surrender form in as much detail as possible including origin (if known), past health history, behavior etc.
 - Forwards the surrender form to the Committee to review
 - Requests past veterinary records (pending fillable form-Steven)
 - Following the review, the committee makes their recommendation to accept the IW to be rehomed, or not.

- Coordinator assigns a committee member to take lead on the case. He/she will arrange a health check if considered necessary, spay/neuter if over 2 yr and still intact, and explore doing a behavior assessment if required.
- Committee member determines if foster care is required until a suitable forever home is located.
- Coordinator determines in discussion with the Committee, when an email should be sent to the Membership to solicit help fostering, transportation etc.
- Beyond that, if further assistance is determined as necessary, a notice will be posted on the IWCC Facebook page by the Administrator. The information shared would be minimal i.e. sex, age, Province. The ability to comment or share will be turned off. An adoption form will be linked and directions stated to forward to the National Coordinator for consideration.

Matching an IW in need to their Forever Home

- Vetted home list is reviewed and potential match(es) identified.
- Follow up made with potential homes to determine readiness
- The committee member taking the lead, presents their recommendation to the Committee for consideration.
- May need to fan out to the Membership or post on the IWCC Facebook page and vet adoption applicants that are received.
- Decision requires a quorum of 4 members and simple majority.

In Follow up, The National Coordinator will:

- reviews and approve expenditures incurred by the foster home while in foster care
- sign and witness the Adoption Contract or delegate to a Committee Member
- ensures the Adoption fee is received by the irishwc.treasurer@gmail.com and provides receipt of payment to the forever home
- ensures transport from foster care to the new owner is paid by the new owner
- offers mileage (.70 / km) to volunteers who assist while in foster care.
- ensures volunteer waiver form is completed prior to transport.
- ensures all records available are transferred to the new owner
- uploads the signed contract to the Rescue Folder on the iCloud at the time the adoption is complete.
- Updates the “Google Sheets” tracking sheet (started April 2024)

- provides all financial transactions with receipts to the Club Treasurer for monthly reporting.

Rescue Committee, 2024 - 2026

Volunteer positions of Members in good standing who have put their names forward to be a part of this work.

Prefer representation from all provinces if possible.

Suggested Term: 2 years. Review membership around the AGM in the Fall of election year.

This Committee was re established in May 2024. Committee member update March 27, 2025:

IWCC Club Secretary and National Coordinator – Guylaine Gagnon QUE

Committee Members:

- Jill Benoit – AB
- Cindy Kremer – AB
- Stephanie Bugbee - AB
- Vacant – BC
- Donna Tomson - ONT
- Lani Hopf – ONT

Chapter 14: Rescue

14.1

The IWCC Rescue Committee, with members in areas throughout Canada, will assist owners who no longer are able to care for their Irish Wolfhound. It will apply an adoption policy that ensures any rescued Irish Wolfhound will find a loving, permanent and safe home (June 2024)

14.2

IWCC Rescue is restricted to purebred Irish Wolfhounds. The IWCC Rescue Committee will monitor social media posts and will reach out and offer education and assistance. The IWCC Rescue Committee will not purchase an IW Cross or IWs found on public media sale platforms such as Kijiji, Marketplace, or Auction houses.

14.3

The IWCC Rescue Committee will use standardized forms for Adoption, Fostering and Surrendering and will carry out premises and reference checks for adoptive homes.

14.4

The IWCC Rescue Committee will ensure that a health assessment is done for surrendered hounds which may include, but is not restricted to, a spay/neuter if the hound is age and health appropriate.

14.5

The IWCC Rescue Committee will request any and all health records, along with a signed surrender form in the case of an owner-surrendered hound.

14.6

The IWCC Rescue Committee through the Club Secretary, will maintain a list of pre-approved homes waiting to adopt.

14.7

The IWCC Rescue Committee will fund its own activities via fundraisers, private donations, sales booth and any other appropriate method that the Committee deems necessary.

14.8

The IWCC Rescue funds will be held by the Club, but such funds will be restricted from the IWCC day to day expenses and will be noted separately on the Financial Statements.

14.9

All IWCC Rescue expenses will be paid via the restricted Rescue funds held by the Club. The IWCC will forward any payment for Rescue expenses directly to the vendor(s) or upon receipt of all invoices, will reimburse the IWCC Rescue Committee for any approved disbursements. Includes transport costs (.70/km) offered to all volunteers, while in foster care. Transport costs from foster care to the new owner's home is the new owner's responsibility.