



Sept 7, 2017

We wolfhound people can be a neurotic bunch. We're madly in love with our hounds. We want them to be just as wild about us. Fear not, they're Irish wolfhounds. Of *course* they love you. Here's five ways they say it:

They help you eat your veggies.

From time to time we all slip up and leave the refrigerator door ajar. Or, we leave our wolfhound in the kitchen unwatched for whole seconds and *they* leave the fridge door open once they've ransacked it. But have you paid attention to what they left? Besides ice and the hot mustard? They gobbled down all the meat, of course —the pot roast, the whole chicken, the hot dogs, the week-old pizza...these are bad for you. Your dog knows this. You're welcome.

And they left you the vegetables. Well, not the peas, the green beans or any of the creamed corn, of course. But they didn't touch the beets. The brussel sprouts? All yours. Along with the artichokes, radishes and all but a big bite of the tofu. They want you to eat right. See how much they love you?

They come back and check on you.

It's going to happen eventually and you know it. Your hound will distractedly pull or bump you off the porch. Most of us tuck and roll. It's reflex by now. But while we're seeing stars, notice how your hound always comes back and checks on you. True, if there are two of them, one of them may be snickering because the other one almost broke the human. And yes, while they're

checking for broken bones, they may accidentally loot your pockets, too. But surely you see the flicker of genuine concern, too. Cynics might say they're worried you won't fix their dinner on time. I say it's true love.

They share their couch.

Two, maybe three inches of it. Try for more and you're just being greedy. Besides, it's like trying to scoot a stack of structural steel. But those three inches? Pure adoration....

They pull their punches.

Once they slapped down wolves with those front paws. Now they just use them to help you refocus on what's important. *Them*. It's called it the Thunderpaw, and if you have a wolfhound, you've felt it's power. You probably still have the scars. But look at those bright eyes. They weren't trying to cripple you. It's just the wolfhound's love tap. Aren't you glad you didn't get a *big* dog?

It's like heaven to be near you.

Surely this one will help you rest assured. Wolfhounds crave your touch. When they stand beside you, they lean. One hundred and sixty pounds of pure affection. You may need a wall to steady you. You may need help getting off the wall after being ground into it. But you can feel the love. Once your circulation returns.

If you get to the couch first, you'll suddenly have a whopping lap dog on your hands. And your chest. Across both knees. You may feel your heart in your throat, racing. Love's funny that way. And when they roll over on their back and wave their legs

in the air? They're just besotted with you. Don't spoil the moment. Try not to squeak.