



Oct. 23, 2017

If you live with an Irish wolfhound you've probably walked him or

her in public from time to time. And — because they're startlingly big and remarkable dogs — people flock and ask questions. And that's okay. We love our hounds. Most of us are ready to whip out photos of them at the drop of a hat. We love talking about Irish wolfhounds. We're fascinated by them. Why shouldn't the public be, too.

But now and then you get those questions out of left field. Either someone wasn't listening to your first answers, they're overthinking things or they just have peculiar ideas about...well, *many* things. You've probably got your own list of weird questions and I'd love to hear them. Here's the weirdest things I've been asked about my Irish wolfhounds by apparently sane, functioning people...

Which Part of It's a Wolf?

What I *wanted* to answer: The left foreleg. My dog wouldn't hold still after that so the graft didn't completely take....

The correct answer: NONE of my [Irish wolfhound](#) is a wolf. She's a dog. The breed was once used to *hunt* wolves. The name describes what the breed did.

Is That One Of Those Aerial Dogs?

I *wanted* to say: No, he's too heavy. He needs a lot bigger ears for that kind of lift. You're thinking of whippets...

What I said: You mean an airedale? No, this is an entirely different — and may I say — much, much bigger breed.

Is This One Of Those Dogs Who Hunted Wolves In Russia?

I *wish* I'd answered: That's right. After they ran all the wolves out of Ireland, the Irish wolfhound went east and finally found some in Russia. Always working, that's these guys.

The correct answer: No, you're thinking of the *Russian* wolfhound. It's a sighthound just like this dog. It's also called the Borzoi. There *were* some Irish wolfhounds sold to Russian royalty back in the day but the Russians had their own big, fast, galloping hound for hunting wolves.

You Don't Let Them Stay Inside Do You?

I wanted to answer: No, *they* let **me** stay inside. They're big-hearted that way. You they might not be so generous with, though.

I actually answered: Yes. Irish wolfhounds form a keen bond with their humans. It's not healthy for them to be kept apart from their family. Besides, *I want* to have them near me as often as I can.

Who's Walking Who?

I wanted to say: We've come to a mutual agreement. She does the leading. I do the driving and untangle the leash from bushes and stop signs.

What I really said: Isn't it obvious? *She's* walking me....

Do You Use A Western Saddle On That Thing?

What *I wanted* to say: Heck yeah! That horn gives me something to cling to when he makes those turns.

I actually replied: No, never. They're built differently from horses. Riding one would injure his back. And no, your child may **not** pose "riding" him....

Well If It's Irish, Why Isn't Its Hair Red?

I really wanted to say: Because they're Black Irish, you know, descended from sailors who washed up on shore from the Spanish Armada?

What I did say: Huh? No, see, they're *dogs*. They *came* from Ireland. And not everyone in [Ireland](#) has red hair and blue eyes. Irish setters have red coats but....no, that has nothing to do with anything. Dogs. Different species entirely...

So, It's Got Wolf In It?

I wanted to say: That's right. He had two for breakfast. Notice the little bulge in his belly?

Instead, I answered: Ummmm...no. No wolf. Dogs and wolves parted ways about 40,000 years ago. The wolf they're both related to is now extinct. It's true they have similar DNA but they're two separate species. Plus a wolf will eat you. This dog will just go through all your pockets. Oops, you see what I mean...