



**June 11, 2018**

**Dear Oona:**

**Why is my cousin so much bigger than I am? We're both Irish Wolfhounds, I weigh 150 pounds and my cousin Aidan is 175 and he's four inches taller than me. I feel like a midget.**

**Brigit**

**Dear Brigit**

I have the same problem, Brigit. My nephew Oisín is four inches taller than I am. He thinks he's big stuff. He used to swing from my beard. Now he just shoulders me out of the way. We're family, so I put up with it. Usually. He knows when he's gone too far. The boy can jump like a jackrabbit when I give him The Look. So, you see, size isn't everything.

Who knows why wolfhounds — even ones in the same family — can vary so much. It's something in the blood, or as humans call it, our *geenz*. We usually stick close to the size of our parents but occasionally we just do our own thing with our size and personality. We don't just have our parents' blood, we have the blood of generations of wolfhounds running through us. A lot of variables can pop up from litter to litter.

But here's the thing. Whether you're a smallish wolfhound or a bigger whopper, you're still an Irish Wolfhound. People are drawn to you. You have the blood of saints and heroes running all through you. Listen: you can still hear the whispers of mighty hunters and hounds who snatched knights from saddles speaking to you. Brigit, you're still a living legend no matter how tall you are, what you weigh or who's bigger. Be proud.

Love Oona

***Got a question? Send it to [bob@thewildstare.com](mailto:bob@thewildstare.com) and Oona will get back to you as soon as she gets her nails done or she can prod the old guy to take dictation.***