



June 25, 2018

Dear Oona,

Why does my friend Blaster like to actually swim in water? Why do some dogs have webbed feet? I HATE water deeper than my ankles!

—Mollie

Dear Mollie,

You friend Blaster sounds like one of those breeds of dogs like retrievers or spaniels that are maniacs around water. It's in their blood. They can't help

themselves.

Irish Wolfhounds, on the other hand, are much more sensible about water. We love to drink it. We don't mind getting out feet wet. Going all the way in, no thank you. It reminds me too much of a baf. I despise bafs. They have to chase me down and corner me good if they're going to subject me to a baf. So why would I willingly toss myself in water?

Sure, some wolfhounds swim, but those were the ones who went in the drink as empty-headed puppies with their humans right there to keep them safe so they never learned to fear being dunked. There was water nearby as they grew up so they never kicked the habit.

But wolfhounds, because we're so whopping big, have to work

harder at dog paddling to keep our snouts above water. It's just not natural, Mollie. Even on a hot day, I just won't go in.

Well, not unless my lunkheaded nephew Oisín *pushes* me in. When we're at the lake dad lets us wade and get a drink. A couple of times, Oisín has whammed into me like he does and shoved me out into deeper water. Belly deep! It was a long ride home for him, let me tell you....

As to webbed feet, I think they must have ducks somewhere in their line, Mollie. Its freakish. I've never personally seen a dog with webbed toes and hope I never will. It's freaky. I'd tread carefully around one if you meet them. They might start quacking, our hunt drive would kick in and...no, I wouldn't go near one, Mollie.

Love, Oona