



FAOL CU

Late 08 and early 09
EDITION



Visit us on the web at: www.pviwc.org

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The PVIWC values all contributions and would like to express sincere gratitude to all that donated in 2008. Your support and continued generosity in 2009 will maintain the degree of success that we have seen in the past. Don't miss the opportunity to sponsor a trophy and/or memento for the PVIWC 2009 Specialty! Contact Carole Silverthorne for more information. Carole can be reached via e-mail at wolfeez@comcast.net or by phone 540-338-8916; if you wish to donate anonymously, please mail donations to: Carole Silverthorne, 19267 Greggsville Rd, Purcellville, VA 20132-4337

SHHHHH! IT'S A SILENT AUCTION

The Irish Wolfhound Club of America (IWCA) will hold a Silent Auction during the National Specialty (May 20-23, 2009) in Warwick, Rhode Island. On behalf of the IWCA, I want to say "Thank You" to those who donated in years past. It is through generous donors that a silent auction unfolds to capture fun while maintaining the goal to raise funds for a priceless cause.

Take a look around, do you have unique or unusual items displayed? Perhaps some paintings, crystal, framed prints, stoneware, accessories, books, almost anything can be donated. The more items that are donated, the more fun we'll have and I am your Auctioneer. So, I challenge you, of great size and commanding form, rise to the occasion in contributing to the IWCA 2009 Silent Auction! If you take a look around and conclude that you do have items to donate contact Tammy Aube at elkhorniw@hughes.net or call 540-841-2241. Donations may be tax deductible; read more about the Silent Auction in the next edition of Faol Cu.

The 2009 Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Specialty Premium is on the website, www.pviwc.org. Simply go to the "Specialty" button and click. When the Specialty window is open you will navigate to the 2009 Premium link where you will find your very own premium. We are looking forward to you and the entry of your hounds in obedience, sweepstakes (puppies), rally, and conformation. This is a two day show and I hope to see many of you there. If you have any questions, there is a list of contacts in the premium as well. What is new in 2009? Go to page 5 to find out about the new class, effective January 1, 2009, the Amateur-Owner-Handler Class.

PVIWC List of Meeting & Events 2009

Feb 8 Hosts: The Van Nests

OF INTEREST to EXHIBITORS and FANCIERS

March

- 12 - Lancaster KC, York, PA
- 13 - York KC - York, PA
- 14 - Delaware County KC, York, PA
- 18 - Salisbury North Carolina KC, Raleigh, NC
- 19 - Alamance KC, Raleigh, NC
- 20 - Durham KC, Raleigh, NC
- 21 - Raleigh KC, Raleigh, NC
- 22 - Fayetteville KC, Raleigh, NC

29-30 - Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club Specialty

I hope that you find the above helpful in your planning of entries.

March is full of the St. Patrick's Day Parades:

March 7: Alexandria, VA, Saturday, www.ballyshaners.org:

Fun Dog Show @ Market Square, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00am.

Parade Division 1 steps off to begin the parade - 12:30 p.m.

March 14: Gaithersburg, MD, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

www.hssg.org

March 14: Manassas, VA, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

www.stpatparade.org

March 15: Washington, D.C., 11:00 a.m. - 3 p.m.

www.dcstpatparade.com

March 15: Baltimore, MD, 1pm. www.irishparade.net

March 21: Harrisburg, PA, 1:30pm.

www.harrisburgirishparade.com

If you are interested in making a monetary donation to the trophy fund in general or if you are interested in sponsoring a trophy for the 2010 PVIWC Specialty, please contact Carole Silverthorne.

The Irish Wolfhound Foundation is working with leading geneticists to help identify the gene(s) involved with bone cancer. We know that cancer, whether hereditary or not, is a disease of genes. But we don't know which set of genes malfunction when an Irish Wolfhound gets **osteosarcoma**.

If you have a wolfhound diagnosed with bone cancer, we need a blood sample from your dog. We also need more blood samples from wolfhounds eight years of age or older who have never had any type of cancer.

This blood will go into our own Irish Wolfhound DNA blood bank, which the IWF established in 2004 in order to support research specifically designed to help our breed. Blood is stored at the Ostrander Canine Genomics laboratory at the National Institutes of Health and at the Sutter Dog Genetics Lab at the Cornell University Veterinary School. This is NOT the same as CHIC, so if your dog's blood is in CHIC and you would like to help, you will need to give another blood sample.

We will supply you with blood collection tubes, mailing canisters, and simple instructions for your vet. All you need to do is complete the included release form, attach the mailing label to the canister, and send it back. If you have further questions, call Kathy Wilson at 252-257-2525.

Thank you for supporting the critical research which is our best hope in fighting osteosarcoma in our beloved hounds.

PVIWC Education Committee

Chair: Jodie Jeweler

NEWS FLASH!!! We're going to try a new idea! "Ask the Experts." Send your IW-oriented question to me at Jodie@jewelerfamily.com. I will find appropriate people to answer it & we will publish the questions and answers in the newsletter. Questions can be on any topic relating to Irish Wolfhounds.

We'll also be including a few minutes of these at monthly meetings, time permitting! So send me your questions, and watch this space!

To Breed or Not to Breed? A Cautionary Tale

By Mary O'Malley

By now many of you have met my lovely Holly. I've had her at parades, meetings, all breed shows and specialties, and our Fun Match. She is a perfectly delightful hound with stellar temperament, nice conformation (note I did *not* say perfect), nice movement and good lines behind her. In short, a bitch who has breeding potential.

Finding a compatible dog for her was not difficult. She has a great rear and that fabulous temperament, neither of which I was willing to lose, but I think she could use a bit more substance, a stronger front and a stronger topline. So her breeder and I identified a wonderfully laidback boy whom I have met and whose background I know a fair amount about. He is conformationally strong where Holly is strong but brings in the characteristics I think she needs. He is an American and Canadian champion and has made the cut in the Best of Breed class at multiple specialties. He has sired Best Puppies but hasn't been overused. He's healthy, which has been verified with various tests, and almost 6.

So we submitted the proposed breeding to the IW Studies folks for a Risk Analysis. It came back, her breeder and I discussed the risks and decided this looked like a solid breeding which should produce some nice hounds.

Or so we thought, until I looked more closely into the other piece of the breeding equation, which is soundness. Holly appears sound, as judged by her movement and musculature. She easily walks 4 miles a day with me at a good pace. She can play with Gracie at full speed, running, twisting and turning without injury. Strong neck, good teeth. I can't know for sure, but I have every reason to believe she is physically capable of chasing and killing a wolf. (Whether she'd want to is another issue altogether.)

But soundness has to be evaluated by more than just what one can see and feel. And with our wonderful Wolfhounds, we know there are inherited diseases which any breeding hound might be carrying or be affected by without our knowing. They're stoic and they compensate well for little abnormalities, especially when they are still young enough to be bred. We have more time to evaluate how a potential stud will turn out since we can store his semen, but that's a story for another time.

The IWCA has identified four tests which should be done on a breedable hound though their participation in CHIC (Canine Health Information Center, an open health database which is jointly sponsored by the AKC and OFA, the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals). If all 4 tests are performed **and** the owner agrees to have the results released then the hound is assigned a CHIC number and anyone can look up the test results online. Note that a CHIC number means the dog has been tested and the test results verified; *it doesn't mean the dog passed all the tests.*

The tests are: elbow xrays (results can be registered with OFA), hips (either with OFA or using a different xray technique the University of Pennsylvania's PennHip certification), CERF (Canine Eye Registration Foundation, which certifies via an exam by an ophthalmologist that a hound is free of heritable eye disease), and heart (EKG and echocardiogram, preferably by a cardiologist, to look for abnormalities; OFA also handles registering these results). Once the tests are done and everything is reviewed by OFA the CHIC number is assigned automatically. You do have to pay a fee to OFA to register each result but you don't pay again for the CHIC number.

Since I have long been a proponent of health testing for breeding Wolfhounds I decided to perform all the tests the IWCA requires for CHIC, and that I would go ahead and release the results, good or bad. There are many breeds in which breeders are very open about health issues and it has enabled them to decrease the incidence of some inheritable diseases (see The Portuguese Water Dog Club of America's website for an example; they list current litters, contact information and health test results for the whole world to see.) The

Continued from page 3...

fact that a dog is carrying a disease does not preclude it from being bred, but it does make breeding it to another carrier unethical. I am envious of the openness these breeds have achieved.

As it turned out, Holly did not pass all her tests. I was concerned about the heart test because I knew of some relatives who had had heart disease (it's unfortunately somewhat common in our breed), but her heart was great. No, it was her hips, of all things! That lovely, curvy rear and smooth movement is hiding more laxity than can be found in 80% of the IWs tested by the University of Pennsylvania. Which I only know because I had a second hip xray done using the PennHip method after OFA evaluated her films and pronounced her Mildly Dysplastic. I had to be sure before I made my final decision. They agreed with each other, which I had expected but needed to know.

Ironically, I can find 5 generations of acceptable hips behind Holly in OFA's database. Her breeder has been testing for years and sure enough, Holly is the first abnormal result she's had. How could that happen? It's theorized that dysplasia is recessive and polygenetic in heritability, meaning Holly had to inherit exactly the wrong combination of several genes for this to show up (her tested siblings are fine, by the way). We don't have a genetic test for it, maybe we will someday (and perhaps Holly's DNA can contribute to that effort). In the meantime, even people who test religiously are going to get an unpleasant surprise like this once in awhile.

So why bother spending all that time and money on testing? **Because if you don't test you don't know what you could be passing on to the next generation.** Yes, I'm saying that loudly. I believed it before and I believe it even more strongly now. I've seen dysplastic dogs at the animal shelter and it's not pretty. There is no way anyone would have know Holly was dysplastic without xrays. All of her puppies would have been carriers; if the sire also carried the right (or wrong) genes some of them would have been affected, and unlike their mother they could actually suffer from it. Hip dysplasia means only that the joint is too loose and that looseness is heritable. It may or may not result in pain and lameness depending on a host of other factors, including environmental ones (i.e., how a dog is raised). Holly is not expected to actually suffer from this, happily for her.

Testing is important because of dogs like Holly who would otherwise be bred and spread more disease into our limited gene pool. Breeding without testing is akin to placing all your bets on a poker hand when you don't know what that last card is. You may get lucky. You may even get lucky for a long time. But sooner or later, you're going to lose, and the Irish Wolfhound breed will be the worse off for it.

PLACEMENT AND RESCUE NEWS CHAIRS: TOM AND DIANE HARTNEY

Happy Birthday Gracie!

Here is Gracie at 10 years old. We rescued her at age 7 and she is still going strong. Gracie lived in her back yard most of her life. When she got to big to handle the family put her outside and bought a smaller dog. The day we picked her up she smiled and licked Tom and I to death. We took her through the gate and into our van and she never looked back as we drove away. God Bless Carole and Bob McCann for giving her love and an extended life with them.



Dangers that Abound in Practically Every Home

by Tammy McNeely Aube

I take pride in knowing that my mother has the greenest thumb around. I also shudder in fear of knowing she has the greenest thumb around. Like certain foods we crave and styles of shoes we buy, my mother raves on plants, and there are plants for all seasons. I remember a day in 1996 when I visited a breeder who had a litter on the ground. After a couple hours when I was preparing to leave, my curiosity got the best of me, so I had to ask “Why is there fencing around that sapling? Is it dangerous to the Wolfhounds?” The breeder smiled and graciously informed me that the fencing was to protect the sapling from the hounds. Sharing a laugh, I pulled away embarrassed that I had asked a stupid question. As the years passed and my house began filling up with four-legged sweeties, revelation occurred. It was not a stupid question; there are dangers among our house season after season and we must be diligent to know them. This is a quick list of items that pose dangers to our animals.

Plastic bags, panty hose, ribbon, tinsel, twine, string, canvas (or tarp), fleece toys, thread toys, and fishing rods with hook and line. These items, if ingested, can cause serious damage to the intestines of your animal. Around the holiday season, many people decorate an evergreen. If they choose to decorate a live evergreen, they usually will cut the tree and place it in a receptacle where they will water it over the next four or five weeks to keep it alive. The water in the receptacle can make your animal ill, please use a tree skirt and keep Fifi’s nose away from the tree. So, a tree may be too much work for you. You acquiesce and decide on plants rather than cutting a tree from the planet. You fill your home with amaryllis, poinsettias, hemlock, ivy, holly, mistletoe, diffenbachia, cyclamen, elephant ears, foxglove, tomato plants, yew, oleander, onion, and tiger lillies. These plants are toxic and can cause a wide range of reactions even death. It is this area that I dwell on. As you read in the opening paragraph, my mother is an avid flower and plant person. And I didn’t list the above plants without knowing them. Fencing saplings to protect them from the hounds is a great idea, but please fence your garden areas and keep the indoor plants guarded from the sweet animals we love so.

As I close this article, it is time for my mother to take her medication. Yet another topic that needs addressing prior to close. Keep medication up and away from your animals.

Read more at: www.asPCA.org or www.library.uiuc.edu/vex/toxic/comlist.htm

What is New at AKC?

Chapter 3, Section 7 of AKC’s Rules Applying to Dog Shows effective Jan 1, 2009 has opened a class just for the Amateur-Owner-Handler. The Amateur-Owner-Handler class shall be for dogs that are at least six months of age that are not champions. Dogs must be handled in the class by the registered owner of the dog. This class is restricted to exhibitors who have not, at any point in time, been a professional dog handler, AKC approved conformation judge, or employed as an assistant to a professional handler. Additionally, members of the immediate family or household of a current professional handler are ineligible for this class (as defined in Chapter 11, Section 13). Professional handlers are defined as any person who belongs or has belonged to a professional handlers’ organization, distributed rate cards, or otherwise advertised or represented themselves as handling dogs for pay.

What a great way to get to know the conformation ring, socialize (you and the hound), and learn more about dog shows.

RAINBOW BRIDGE

News from many hound owners have arrived to inform me that there are new enrollees at the Bridge since the last edition.

Dino, age 13, was having more and more trouble walking, sitting, getting up...he had degenerative joint disease in both hips. He'd been talking 3 different meds., which helped for about a year. Then we had to add a strong painkiller, which made it hard for him to go down the 9 stairs out of the house, and back up. We felt he was suffering. He would pace around the house at night, and I'd stay with him hoping it was a comfort.

On Feb. 13 we had a wonderful day with Dino. It was uncharacteristically warm here in Washington state, and I took his padded dog bed out to his favorite spot in the 'dog pasture'. I took a lawn chair and my watercolors also. Dino limped out, and laid down on his bed. We gave him about 5 big bones to choose from, and I set up my paints nearby. He smelled the breeze, alertly watched all around his 'dogdom' then set to work on the bones.

I explained a vet would be coming today, and that he wouldn't have to take anymore pills, and that Greg and I would be with him as he journeyed on ahead of us. He was calm and happy. I sketched him through tears...all the drawings are awful, by the way...for 3 hours or so.

Greg came out and cuddled him and I took a few photos. Dino didn't want to get up and walk. Even when the UPS truck came, he just woofed from his bed. He shared a sandwich with me and continued with his bones.

When the nice Vet lady came. He didn't get up or protest anything she did. He noticed, then resumed his gnawing. She told us it would be very quick and let us spend another few minutes saying good-bye and petting him. [Gosh! I hate this part of dog ownership.]

He went very peacefully and is buried in some tall trees on the edge of our yard. He is keeping company with two of our other pets; cats Song, and Bill. I see his spot everyday and often talk to him. He was my devoted buddy. We spent uncounted hours together, me painting or writing and, Dino on guard, observing everything.

I miss him awfully. I have contacted the IW rescue here in Washington State, but was told they seldom get dogs. I'd prefer not to get a puppy, but would consider it. I don't know where to start looking for breeders, etc. and I'm hoping you have some suggestions.

Thank you to the IW Potomac Club for 8 wonderful years with Dino. He came to us with some problems, some of which we helped him fix, some we learned to live with. All in all, I couldn't imagine a better friend and I'm very grateful to you and to the club. I'd love to know how you and your dogs are doing.

Sincerely Yours,
Dino's parents
Connie Simpson and Greg Williamson
E-mail address: cgreyhorse@gmail.com

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge.

There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together.

There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by.

The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together....

Author Unknown

A FAREWELL

To CARRICKANEENA'S BRO' TIM



In our last edition of Faol Cu, you read about a 10-year old Irish Wolfhound that placed first in Veteran Dog class at the 2008 PVIWC specialty. The hound and true ambassador was Anne's Timmy (pictured left). Timmy, we miss you!

A FAREWELL To DYLAN O'ROS

One of the sweetest hounds passed over the Rainbow Bridge last month. Dylan Jeweler passed over after a series of illnesses. He was attended by friends and family. He will be greatly missed in the Jeweler house (Al, Judie, Jodie, & Limerick) as well as by people all around D.C. Dylan was a regular at any event, Irish or not. He was an ambassador all by himself and he particularly was good with small children. Dylan O'Ros, January 25, 2001- October 9, 2008



The Book of Nails. Not to be confused with the Book of Kells. Over the summer a few friends gathered with their hounds to have some fun. That is what the visitors were told, this is the rest of the story:

The Grind

by Carole Silverthorne

I gave up trying to take care of my dogs' nails with my beloved Millers Forge clippers when my hands started to lose their strength. (Another gift of aging!) I could do a bit at a time, but it took a long time to get as much off as I wanted to. It also seemed that I would position the clipper in place on the nail where I wanted it, then I'd have to let go of her paw so that I could grip the clipper with both hands at which point she'd twist her foot away just enough that it would be uncomfortable for her and she'd whimper or whine. Not that any Irish Wolfhound I've ever met is a PhD level drama student, don't ya know?

The results from clipping the nails can include a lovely jagged edge, which really helps with the Wolfhound talent for getting your attention. You know, the one where they run their paw down your leg, hoping to catch your stockings, or your new pair of lovely Dockers? Don't you just love that?

The clippers just weren't cutting it anymore, pun intended. So I started thinking that I needed to start grinding nails.

I tried to get psyched up to grab my husband's Dremel and give it a go. Thankfully, Paul had bought a 'kit' that included sandpaper covers (sanding mandrels, sanding bands, whatever you call them) for the bit, so I didn't have to go searching too far for what I needed.

The first thing I did was try to get the dogs used to the noise. Hah! Well, Ivy was having none of that! She'd been staying with my friend Dana down in South Carolina. Dana is the person who first inspired me to grind; she's a professional handler on the weekends, and Dremels the dogs she shows all the time. Ivy got used to the Dremel when Dana used it, but when she heard me turn it on, she was OUT THE DOG DOOR. Since then I've learned to sneak up on the little darling and employ the assistance of my resident doggie tummy scratcher/former football player/treat dispenser. If you can get them accustomed to the noise before you actually try to grind tootsies, so much the better. Our other hounds don't have quite the 'noise aversion' that Ivy does.

I saw a presentation by a handler that included tips on nails – he uses a Dremel. That was the second thing that inspired me.

One of the tips he mentioned was to put an old stocking over the dog's paw and force the claws through it. This keeps the hair far away from the bit, preventing it from getting wrapped around the bit and yanked out of the poor dog's skin, which would NOT be conducive to a good experience for said poor dog. Having indicated that I think it's a good idea, personally, I don't do it. The hair on my Wolfhounds' paws is short and wiry enough that it doesn't wrap around the spinning bit. BUT I'M CAREFUL.

One of the great things about using a grinding tool instead of clippers is that you don't have to be quite so concerned about clipping the quick. The grinder spins so fast that it's self-cauterizing, at least to some extent. You still have to keep an eye on what you're doing, of course. The darker nails are still more of a problem in that way than are the lighter nails. I'm certainly less concerned about hurting the dogs when I use the Dremel, since I can stop grinding before things get bloody.

One thing many folks are concerned about is the heat produced by the Dremel, and, let me tell you, that sucker gets hot. Because I don't try to do all four dogs at once, it's not such an issue for me, but please be aware of it. Physics being what it is, the higher the rpm, the hotter the tool gets, no matter what bit or bit cover you use, and I use a high rpm. Some groomers won't use any bit cover other than the sandpaper type because of the heat. I eventually spent \$25 and bought a metal grinding bit (I think it's aluminum). I find it's much more

effective on a nail the size of a Wolfhound's. Again, because I don't do all four dogs at one time, the bit doesn't become so hot I'm that worried about hurting a dog - or myself, for that matter.

There are other grinding tools out there in addition to Dremel, as any hobbyist (or manicurist) could tell you. Oster and Master Grooming Tools are two other makers. I use a Dremel because that's what I've got at home. Grinders also come in different power sources.

I bought a battery-powered grinder that takes four AA batteries - big \$30 mistake. It doesn't have enough power to do the job on a Wolfhound unless you're doing it daily.

Then I saw the grinder that my friend Ann has, which has a re-chargeable battery. Much better in the power department! (Husband tried to explain why, but I just keep on grinding - I'm not much into theory!)

I still prefer the electric grinder. It has a much wider range of speeds, which gives you more control over the tool. The battery powered grinders are nice, in that they're cordless, but I'm no longer a Girl Scout, and 'Be Prepared' isn't so much in my vocabulary any more. What's my point? Usually, if I decide I want to use a battery powered grinder, the darn thing's deader than a door nail. It doesn't take but a couple of hours to recharge, but by then I've gone on to do something else and forgotten about the nails. Two days later, I'll find the thing still plugged in, and I'll unplug it, because it's an 'energy vampire'. And, although they do seem to hold a charge better than in the old days, by the time I want to use it again, it's dead or dying. Again. Vicious circle. So I stick with the electric grinder and a twelve foot extension cord. (If I EVER get a litter of puppies, by golly those babies are gonna be accustomed to the Dremel by day ten! And, the little battery powered grinder will work just fine on them.)

Now, about 'position.' The first thing to do is get comfortable. Not you, the dog. Some dogs just won't stay still for grinding, or any kind of foot work and you know what I'm talking about. Just touch their feet and they panic. If you've managed to spend time getting them accustomed to foot work, you'll have an easier go of it. Just the fact that you touch their feet casually and on a frequent basis will go far in getting them to cooperate.

If your loved ones (the four-legged ones) will lie quietly while you grind (or clip, for that matter), you're in luck. If they won't, well, you'll need a bit of help. Perhaps more than a bit. Perhaps a LOT of help. But Wolfhound wrestling is not conducive to good grinding experiences, for anyone! So, if you can find someone to sit on a bench and get their knees under your hound to keep him still, that'll help. Treats are a MUST to help keep the dog distracted and a bit more amenable. The trick to treats (as it were) is that YOU probably shouldn't be the one treating! You don't want your hands to get all slimy (I know YOUR dog's spit isn't slimy, but SOME PEOPLE that you may be helping have dogs that do have slimy spit). If your hands get slimy, you're going to have either a) a slime-covered grinder, or b) slime-covered clothing. Slippery slime on a grinder can be dangerous. Wipe the spit on your clothes, or an old towel, if you're more organized than I. And it's very awkward to do treats and trimming unless you've got three arms. Better to have the holder do the treats.

Find a comfortable foot position when standing: for the dog's comfort, not yours. Some people stand parallel to the dog, head facing the same direction as the dog's. (This is easier when your dominant hand is NOT next to the dog.) You pick up the foot, hold one nail at a time and grind a little. If the dog is not cooperative, try flipping yourself (not in a somersault, just turn around so you're facing the opposite direction) and turn the dog's paw so that it's pointing upward with the wrist bent slightly. This is more comfortable for the dog, especially if you're tall (you won't be forcing the shoulder up and into an unnatural angle). I use both positions because of the dominant hand thing. Crossing my right arm over my left arm to do the dog's left feet is VERY awkward for me. I'm not that coordinated at the best of times anyway.

Our older girls, Cam and Kaede, are easy to do. Cam is ten, she doesn't move without a real motivation. So I just plug the Dremel in and go to town on her when she's lying down. She usually gives a martyred sigh and a dirty look. Kaede's not fond of it, but I just wait until she's relaxed on a couch and she normally tolerates it well.

Now, Bud's the one that worried me the most when I was starting on him because (sexist remark alert) he's a boy and a wimp. (Don't tell him I said that.) It turns out, though, that if I wait until he's on the couch, lying on his back, feet in the air, I can do a quick pass on each of his nails before he gets conscious. Love those boys!

Grinding your dog's nails is something you have to be careful with if you show him. As Linda King points out, "Irish Wolfhounds are not a working breed! Their nails should not be short like a Rottweiler's". The standard says "very strong and curved." If they're too short, they won't show the curve, eh?

Most of the safety tips you'll find if you do an on-line search for 'grind dog nails,' or whatever, related to dogs. This is admirable, but let's consider the human factor for a second.

You can, if you're not careful, and/or the dog yanks the paw away because it tickles, manage to put a slice on the side of your index finger on the hand that's holding the dog's paw. This is uncomfortable, shall we say.

What hurts most is the damage you can do to your own nails. I've managed to buff the tar out of all the nails on my left hand at one time or another. You end up with unbecoming gouges, scratches, and plain old gullies if you're not careful. Now, Lisa McKinney assures me that she has NEVER done damage to her nails, and she even has, mmmm, 'augmented' nails. However, she has great technique and we all know she's special.

Hope this has helped and not overwhelmed you. It's not really THAT hard

Now that you read Carole's contribution to dremeling, Van submitted this website for the Newsletter. We hope you find it of use. How to Dremel your dog's nails - homepages.udayton.edu/~merensjp/doberdawn/index.html

Van (compliments of the IWCA listserve)



These nails are too long. **Note:** the above picture is not of any IW or from any member of the PVIWC.



Ann's puppy, Gus, after he has been dremeled. Look at that smile!



And here we are pictured above, having a "dremel party" - fun? Let's say we enjoyed it and everyone commented how we should do it more often!

BRAG BLOCK

According to "Front and Finish" the National Obedience publication, Jodie Jeweler & Limerick share the spotlight of the top-ranked IW's titling in Novice B Obedience for 2007 with a 4th ranked placement! Jodie is thrilled at this further proof of Limerick's talents. Limerick graciously accepted the news with a resounding, "Woof!" Congratulations to Jodie and Limerick! Look at the expression!



Above is one of my favorite photos of the year. I couldn't think of a better place to put it than in this brag block. This yellow lab has a story and it is a true BRAG! Maddie shares her lovely cottage with Meredith and Dave Van de Kamp.

Photo by Meredith Van de Kamp

MOR DERRY WAR EAGLE OF ELKHORN (aka Cygnus or as her handler calls her Cyggy) - Irish Wolfhound Association of Delaware Valley Reserve Winner's Bitch from the Open Class. Handled by Jay Kistler (trained by Marie Somershoe) Cyggy rested Saturday evening in the wonderful and hospitable Holiday Inn and on Sunday she relaxed in her expen with her sister, Myst. Cygnus' class was but 20 minutes away on October 6th, when her show chain and lead was placed on her and she was led out of the expen for a few quick strokes of a brush and comb. Cygnus resembled the emotions of her handler and thank goodness for that; fun, calm, at ease, both of them were ready, Tammy just wished she was.

Photos by Mary O'Malley



Judge's Comments: " A really lovely hound, has many of the qualities anyone could ask for. Super overall type, beautiful head and expression, very typical, long neck into correct set of shoulders, flowing balanced correct outline, over and underline, forechest and depth, well ribbed back, good rear quarters and movement sound as a bell with ease scope. Looks the part standing and moving." By Jean Malley

The AKC Standard of the Irish Wolfhound

General Appearance

Of great size and commanding appearance, the Irish Wolfhound is remarkable in combining power and swiftness with keen sight. The largest and tallest of the galloping hounds, in general type he is a rough-coated, Greyhound-like breed; very muscular, strong though gracefully built; movements easy and active; head and neck carried high, the tail carried with an upward sweep with a slight curve towards the extremity. The minimum height and weight of dogs should be 32 inches and 120 pounds; of bitches, 30 inches and 105 pounds; these to apply only to hounds over 18 months of age. Anything below this should be debarred from competition. Great size, including height at shoulder and proportionate length of body, is the desideratum to be aimed at, and it is desired to firmly establish a race that shall average from 32 to 34 inches in dogs, showing the requisite power, activity, courage and symmetry.

Head - Long, the frontal bones of the forehead very slightly raised and very little indentation between the eyes. Skull, not too broad. Muzzle, long and moderately pointed. Ears, small and Greyhound-like in carriage.

Neck - Rather long, very strong and muscular, well arched, without dewlap or loose skin about the throat.

Chest - Very deep. Breast, wide.

Back - Rather long than short. Loins arched.

Tail - Long and slightly curved, of moderate thickness, and well covered with hair.

Belly - Well drawn up.

Forequarters - Shoulders, muscular, giving breadth of chest, set sloping. Elbows well under, neither turned inwards nor outwards.

Leg - Forearm muscular, and the whole leg strong and quite straight.

Hindquarters - Muscular thighs and second thigh long and strong as in the Greyhound, and hocks well let down and turning neither in nor out.

Feet - Moderately large and round, neither turned inwards nor outwards. Toes, well arched and closed. Nails, very strong and curved.

Hair - Rough and hard on body, legs and head; especially wiry and long over eyes and underjaw.

Color and Markings - The recognized colors are gray, brindle, red, black, pure white, fawn or any other color that appears in the Deerhound.

Faults - *Too light or heavy a head, too highly arched frontal bone; large ears and hanging flat to the face; short neck; full dewlap; too narrow or too broad a chest; sunken or hollow or quite straight back; bent forelegs; overbent fetlocks; twisted feet; spreading toes; too curly a tail; weak hindquarters and a general want of muscle; too short in body. Lips or nose liver-colored or lacking pigmentation.*

List of Points in Order of Merit

1. *Typical.* The Irish Wolfhound is a rough-coated Greyhound-like breed, the tallest of the coursing hounds and remarkable in combining power and swiftness.
2. *Great size* and commanding appearance.
3. Movements easy and active.
4. Head, long and level, carried high.
5. Forelegs, heavily boned, quite straight; elbows well set under.
6. Thighs long and muscular; second thighs, well muscled, stifles nicely bent.
7. Coat, rough and hard, especially wiry and long over eyes and under jaw.
8. Body, long, well-ribbed up, with ribs well sprung, and great breadth across hips.
9. Loins arched, belly well drawn up.
10. Ears, small, with Greyhound like carriage.
11. Feet, moderately large and round; toes, close, well arched.
12. Neck, long, well arched and very strong.
13. Chest, very deep, moderately broad.
14. Shoulders, muscular, set sloping.
15. Tail, long and slightly curved.
16. Eyes, dark.

Note--The above in no way alters the "Standard of Excellence," which must in all cases be rigidly adhered to; they simply give the various points in order of merit. If in any case they appear at variance with Standard of Excellence, it is the latter which is correct.

Approved September 12, 1950

Faol Cu Editor comment: I wanted to print the standard in this edition of Faol Cu as a handy reference article. Enjoy reading it, it is the standard after all.

Did you ever think about freshening your dog's breath? There are numerous items on the market. However, please know what you can and can't give to your four-legged friends. Xylitol is a sugar substitute found in a variety of sugar-free and dietetic cookies, mints and chewing gum; and is proving highly toxic, even fatal, to snack-snatching dogs. Xylitol, popular in Europe for decades but a relative newcomer to the U.S. alternative-sweeteners market, can be "very, very serious" to dogs when ingested, says Dana Farbman, spokeswoman for the Animal Poison Control Center of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Courtesy of Denise Harris

Article submitted by Diane Hartney

Excerpts from a dog's diary:

8:00 a.m. - Dog food! My favorite thing
9:30 a.m. - A car ride! My favorite thing!
9:40 a.m. - A walk in the park! My favorite thing!
10:30 a.m. - Got rubbed and petted! My favorite thing!
12:00 p.m. - Lunch! My favorite thing!
1:00 p.m. - Played in the yard! My favorite thing!
3:00 p.m. - Wagged my tail! My favorite thing!
5:00 p.m. - Milk bones! My favorite thing!
7:00 p.m. - Got to play ball! My favorite thing!
8:00 p.m. - Wow! Watched TV with the people! My favorite thing!
11:00 p.m. - Sleeping on the bed! My favorite thing!

Excerpts from a cat's diary:

Day 983 of my captivity. My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. They dine lavishly on fresh meat while the other inmates and I are fed hash or some sort of dry nuggets. Although I make my contempt for the rations perfectly clear, I nevertheless must eat something in order to keep up my strength. The only thing that keeps me going is my dream of escape. In an attempt to disgust them, I once again vomit on the carpet.

Today I decapitated a mouse and dropped its headless body at their feet. I had hoped this would strike fear into their hearts, since it clearly demonstrates what I am capable of. However, they merely made condescending comments about what a "good little hunter" I am.

There was some sort of assembly of their accomplices tonight. I was placed in solitary confinement for the duration of the event. However, I could hear the noises and smell the food. I overheard that my confinement was due to the power of "allergies." I must learn what this means and how to use it to my advantage.

Today I was almost successful in an attempt to assassinate one of my tormentors by weaving around his feet as he was walking. I must try this again tomorrow-but at the top of the stairs.

I am convinced that the other prisoners here are flunkies and snitches. The dog receives special privileges. He is regularly released-and seems to be more than willing to return. He is obviously retarded. The bird has got to be an informant. I observe him communicating with the guards regularly. I am certain that he reports my every move. My captors have arranged protective custody for him in an elevated cell, so he is safe. For now...

Timberwolf Organics New Mill Announcement

Orlando, FL (August 7, 2008) As a leader in the all-natural pet food industry, Timberwolf Organics continually seeks ways to improve the quality of their products. Lately, we have implemented a policy of “Back to the Basics.” When Timberwolf Organics, Inc. was founded and for the first several years, the owner and founder would source the majority of ingredients personally and would actually go into the mills to ensure his formulas were being adhered to. Mark Heyward, CEO and founder admits that, “Over the last 3 - 4 years we have gotten away from our earlier policies and need to get back to what made us great and what made us unique.”

Effective July 18th, Timberwolf Organics is introducing Triple-T Foods, Inc., a Kansas based mill with a reputation for high standards in Quality Control and capacity to meet our growing consumer demand.

“We are excited to be partnering with Triple-T Foods, as they have an outstanding reputation for producing high quality products and will be the first step towards our mission of providing the most nutritious pet food on the market” says Mark Heyward, CEO.

Consumers can be assured that Triple-T Foods, Inc. holds itself to the highest standards. The facility is routinely inspected by the FDA, AIB, USDA and the Kansas Department of Agriculture for quality assurance.

Because Timberwolf cares about the well being of your pet, we suggest you slowly transition your pet’s food from the current product to the product that will be shipping after August 12th, 2008. The formulas of our foods have not changed. However, because the food is being manufactured at a new facility, there may be a slight variation based solely on production methods.

Timberwolf Organics, Inc. is a leader in the all-natural pet food industry. The company currently offers seven dry-food and four wet-food formulas for dogs and one dry-food formula for cats, as well as pet omega oils. Their products are sold globally through a variety of specialty pet food distributors. For more information, please visit the company website at <http://www.timberwolforganics.com>.

Contact: Customer Service Telephone: 407-877-8779

Fax: 866-796-8814 Email: info@timberwolforganics.com

Another edition of Faol Cu is always in draft; anxiously awaiting for you to submit an article or news to share. Feel free to submit your article to Judie Jeweler at judie@jewelerfamily.com or to me (Tammy) at elkhorniw@hughes.net. Submit any article or news that you have to share. Thank you.

GENOMICS

European Union project LUPA uses dogs to piece together human genetic disorders puzzle.

Scientists have been relentless in the pursuit to unlock the mystery behind genetic disorders but the complexity of their underlying causes has made it difficult to get answers. For a group of researchers, dogs may hold the key to the solution. While dogs are less genetically complex, they suffer from the same diseases as humans. The LUPA project, named after the female-wolf that fed the twin founders of Rome, is backed by the EU with EUR 12 million and will end in 2012.

The project partners from 12 European countries will collect 10 000 DNA samples and genome wide association (GWA) data from purebred dogs that are either healthy or suffering from diseases that also affect humans.

Breeds participating in the project include the Golden Retriever and German Shepherd for cancer, the English Cocker Spaniel for aggressive behaviour, and the Doberman and Boxer for hypothyroid diseases. Dogs included in the cardio-vascular disorders group include Great Danes and the Irish Wolfhound, while the Greyhound and Collie are part of the monogenic disorders package.

Also participating in LUPA are Denmark, France, Germany Norway, Switzerland and the UK. Read more about the GENOMICS article at http://ec.europa.eu/research/headlines/news/article_08_12_15_en.html

RECIPES for the HUNGRY HOUNDS!

Peanut Butter K9 Cookie by Nancy Ridella

2 cups wheat flour	1 cup wheat germ
1 cup peanut butter	1 egg
1/4 cup cooking oil	1/2 cup water

Mix all ingredients together; roll out dough and cut with cookie cutters. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 15-20 minutes. Cool on racks.

Dog birthday cake by Nancy Ridella

4 pounds ground turkey	3 cups of cooked brown rice
1 cup diced carrot	1 cup diced celery
1 cup minced parsley	2 eggs beaten
3 teaspoons chopped garlic	2 tablespoons olive oil
1/2 cup whole wheat flour	Optional: mashed potatoes for frosting

Mix ingredients. Place in 9- by 13-inch pan or larger. Bake in 350-degree oven for an hour. Cool. If desired, frost with mashed potatoes. Nancy says the recipe can be cut in half to make it more manageable. She often makes the full amount explaining "I always have extra on hand in case someone's dog comes over."

Chicken birthday cake from dogskitchen.com

1-2 cups all-purpose flour	1-2 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 cup margarine, softened	1/4 cup corn oil
1 jar strained chicken (baby food)	1 cup shredded carrots
3 eggs	2 strips of bacon, fried and crumbled

Yogurt for icing

Sift flour and baking powder together; set aside. In large bowl, cream margarine until smooth. Add corn oil, baby food and eggs and carrots; mix until smooth, gradually add flour and baking powder to the mixture and blend until smooth. Pour batter into well-greased and floured 8-inch round pan. Bake in a preheated 325 degree oven, 60-70 minutes. Cool on wire rack before removing from pan. Ice cake with yogurt or cottage cheese. Crumble bacon on top.

Barley, turkey and pumpkin An altered version of a recipe that originally appeared in Rachael Ray's magazine

3/4 quart of vegetable or chicken broth	1 cup pearl barley
1/2 pound ground turkey	1 cup pumpkin puree
Pinch nutmeg and cinnamon	3/4 cup of shredded carrots

Warm 1/2 quart of broth and add barley. Cook until it begins to bubble, about five minutes. Add turkey to broth, crumbling it in smaller chunks. Cook until the liquid is absorbed by the grains and then add the remaining 1/4 of the quart of broth. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the barley is tender. That's about 20 minutes. At the 15-minute mark, add the shredded carrots. Remove from heat and immediately add the pumpkin, stirring it in and making sure it's just heated through.

For more ideas, check out three favorite books:

- "The Healthy Dog Cookbook" by Joanna Anne with Mary Straus. Contains 50 "nutritious and delicious" recipes.
- "The Dog Ate It" by Linda West Eckhardt and Barbara Bradley. Each recipe includes a canine version and spiced-up version for people.
- "The Natural Pet Food Cookbook" by Wendy Nan Rees, includes recipes for both dogs and cats.

For the entire article, go to: <http://www.hometownlife.com/article/20081221/LIFE/812210448>