

Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club
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My sincerest appreciation to the club members for inviting me to judge your specialty show and to the exhibitors as it is always an honor to be asked to evaluate your dogs. I found this particular entry to be of very high quality, the bitches particularly so. I was also encouraged by the fact that I did not make note of any major concerns that need to be addressed.

It is my opinion that correct movement is an integral part of breed type. Rear movement and side movement was observed to be good in the majority of the entrants on the day. I did, however, see quite a bit of sloppy front pastern action. I like to see a straight column of support, converging towards the midline, both coming and going. Overall, temperaments were solid with a few exceptions.

I was well pleased with my final lineup and feel the breed is in very capable hands.

6-9 month Dogs

1. **#29 Eirian Padraic Danny Boy**-Balanced front and rear, suspect he will settle into some curves with maturity . Nicely muscled and in good condition for his age. Adequate bone. Sound movement.
2. **#15 Eirian Huan of Valinor**-Nice bone and substance. Good depth of chest. Left rear leg seemed a bit stiff moving on the day throwing his outline off on the move, bite not correct yet functional.

15-18 month Dogs

1. **#5 Monty Lismore of Aerie**-Outstanding young male. Masculine head, good eye, scissor bite, nicely set rosed ear, long strong muzzle, long, strong, well arched neck. Correct coat. Well muscled for his age and exhibited in hard condition. Topline correct both standing and on the move with requisite rise over the loin. Good deep chest with good breadth, smoothly flowing to a correct tuckup. Correct and expected spring of rib for his age. To be ever so slightly critical, he could have been ribbed back just a tiny shade more in my opinion. Shoulder assembly one of the best on the day. Long upper arm, well laid scapula. His length of solidly built leg was in correct balance with his length of body. Nice broad rear with well muscled thigh and long well muscled second thighs. Moved cleanly coming and going with correct foot placement. No paddling or flipping of the pasterns. Side movement was effortless, efficient and smooth with no wasted motion, feet stayed close to the ground. His overall balance, condition and movement won him **Winners Dog, Best of Opposite Sex and Best Gait** on the day. Looking forward to watching this young male continue on his journey.

Novice Dogs

1. **#9 Redtops Brynleigh**-What a jolly and happy boy!! Great bone, lovely bend of stifle. Correct, balanced head. Super dark eye lined with dark pigment. Long arched neck. Would have liked a little better return of upper arm though it was proper length, not short. Strong loin and muscled throughout. His exuberance made it difficult to properly assess movement. He appeared to have a very strong rear with plenty of drive on the side and moved cleaning going away. He paddled coming towards you and on the side had reach but a lot of lift. I think he will settle with maturity. Harsh red wheaten coat.

American Bred Dogs

1. **#17 Coleraine's Zenith of Taliesin**- Strong dog, not overdone, typical, very well balanced presented in hard condition. Masculine head, correct planes of the skull, good dark eye and lovely rosed ears. I like the way his strong arched neck blended into his shoulder assembly. Correct topline with a strong loin. Powerful rear, proper croup and tail set. Side movement easy and effortless, feet close to the ground. Moved cleanly coming towards you, a tad close going away. Effortless movement on the side gait. His maturity, strength and balance won him **Reserve Winners Dog** on the day.
2. **#21 O'Lugh Blackwater Barkeep**- Shapely masculine male. Well muscled in great condition. Correct head Would have liked a little more angulation in the shoulder assembly to match the shapely and strong rear assembly. Presented on a loose lead, he moved cleanly coming and going, single tracked, effortless side movement. Topline correct on the move and while standing.
3. **#23 Dreamcatcher's Wolfhouse Blue Note at Aerie**- Masculine boy with good bone and well conditioned muscle. Very good layback of scapulae. Balanced front assembly to rear. Topline a bit weak on the day. Side movement easy and efficient with good reach and drive.
4. **#19 Shanachie's Hunter Bad Moon Rising Over Vermont**-Moved away cleanly, front movement not clean coming towards you, pasterns allowed the feet to flip out away from the leg, side movement balanced with little reach and drive. Good bone, would have liked a tad bit more length overall. Masculine head and good ear.

Open Dogs

1. **#37 Lonnkyle Pinning For The Fjords** -Curvy, strong boy. Masculine head, good bite. Strong, well arched neck that blends into a beautiful return of upper arm and well laid scapulae. Well ribbed back with good spring of rib. Broad strong rear covered in muscle. Would like to see a shade more length of leg. Clean coming and going, no wasted action. Excellent strong balanced reach and drive. Loved his attitude, very alert dog on the move.
2. **#33 Lonnkyle Pacific Yeti**-Nice curvy outline. Correct head. Upper arm could have set under a bit better. Great depth of chest and well ribbed back. Correct topline. Nice long second thigh. Converged on the down and back moving a bit close in the rear. Carried his tail high on the move. Balanced side movement but would like to see a little more reach and drive.
3. **#39 Gladstone's Kiss Me Kieran**-Beatifully balanced male with everything going for him except his movement, there were only short instances where he would move out and not pace. He is not short coupled so no explanation as to why he is doing this. This hound could easily earn points if the movement issue is resolved.

6-9 month Bitches

1. **#64 Eirian Padraic Cassidy**-What a happy little girl. Beautifully balanced in good condition and good weight. Feminine head, proper planes of the skull, good bite rosed ear. Nice long legs and correct amount of bone. Moved cleanly on the down and back with strength. Powerful side movement with balanced reach and drive. She earned Best Puppy on the day.
2. **#8 Stormborn's Head Over Heels**-Was a little hesitant about the exam but we worked though this. She was checking my pockets for treats before the class was finished. She had good bone and muscle. Moved cleanly on the down and back. Properly balanced

side movement with good reach and drive. Little bit of a roll over the loin when moving but she was a bit overweight.

3. **#6 Eirian Padraic iris K O'Tailstorm**-Singles tracks cleanly coming and going. Nicely balanced side gait, presented on loose lead, balanced reach and drive. Presuming she is going through a growth stage that has her looking a bit more tubular in body. Would have liked a bit more length of leg. She was balanced, had a beautiful feminine head and coarse coat.

12-15 month Bitches

1. **#14 O'Lugh's Truly**- Stong head without being coarse. Long, well muscled neck blend into a correct front assembly, great depth of chest with good spring of rib. Broad correctly built rear. Movement clean coming and going. Side movement, Good reach and drive with no wasted effort. Holds her topline on the move with correct head carriage. Well muscled throughout and presented in hard condition.
2. **#10 Femke's Footsteps Lady Starlight**-Beautiful shapely girl. Would have liked just tad more of her but feel she is going to be a slow maturer. She was not lacking by any means. Beautiful feminine head carried correctly on the move. Nice curvy outline. Good return of long upper arm. She had a very harsh coat. Moves true in the rear going away, moves wide in the front coming towards you. Side movement easy and effortless, excellent balanced reach and drive.
3. **#80 Castlekeeper's Peace In the Valley**- Handler had a broken hand which hindered this girls performance on the day. Balanced, slow maturing bitch. Toes in just a tad, rear movement clean but close. Balanced movement on the side.

15-18 month Bitches

1. **#18 Muse Lismore Of Aerie**-Lovely quality bitch of good substance and bone without losing her femininity. Curvy, sighthound outline. Loved the way her neck fit into her shoulder assembly. Correct topline with strong loin. Broad, strong rear, well bent stifle. Clean coming and going. Tremendous balanced reach and drive. Held her topline on the move. Solid on her feet.
2. **#20 Myrna Loy Lismore of Aerie**-Similar in style to first place girl, just less of her on the day. Sound coming and going. Balanced reach and drive.
3. **#90 Antrim's Starkeeper Raya**-Beautiful strong bitch who was a little unsure of herself while being examined. Her mood is easily assessed by her ear carriage, but it did rise. Strong topline with correct croup. Excellent bone and substance. Moved cleanly going away, toes in a bit coming towards you but does converge. Side movement easy and effortless, covered a lot of ground. Was a bit overweight.
4. **#16 Lonnkyle Pinnacle At Gemini**-This girl had bone but lacked substance. The muscle she did have was hard. Moving away she converged, coming back she was wide. She was not settled in the ring and was looking for something (or someone). Side movement was nice with good reach and drive, balanced. Correct tail carriage. She has the framework, just needs to grow into it.

Novice Bitches

1. **#30 Riversong Lit My Soul On Fire**-Lovely bitch, curvy with lots of strength. Powerful head without being coarse, tiny rosed ear, well placed. Good eye and bite. Balanced front to rear, well sprung rib with depth and width of chest. Powerful loin flowing into a well angled croup. Well muscled rear with good bend of stifle. Moved cleanly on the down and back, covered ground easy and effortlessly when moving around the ring. Lovely bitch.

2. **#38 Mami's Beardie Zuzu of Maccaura**-Presented in hard condition. Another lovely, curvy bitch showing great strength without losing her femininity. Long muzzle, correct planes of the skull, good eye and bite, nice rosed, well set ear. Neck flowed into a good shoulder assembly. To be critical I would have like a little more fill to the chest. Correct topline with rise over the loin. Harsh coat. Moves cleanly on the down and back. Her side gait was effortless and fluid, covering ground with balanced reach and drive.
3. **#26 Lonnkyle Purple Sage**-Another strong bitch. She was a bit out of balance in that she had more rear angulation than front shoulder angulation. Presented in hard condition. Moves cleanly, single tracking coming and going. Tremendous reach and drive. When she settled you could see the elasticity in her effortless movement.
4. **#22 Lonnkyle Calorien Prophecy At Starkeeper**-A well balanced, honest bitch, not overdone in any way. Strong loin, good topline and underline. Moving away her feet converge and fall midline, extra hip action going on, moves close in the front coming towards you on the day. Side gait strong with good reach and drive.

Bred By Exhibitor Bitches

This was overall the highest quality class of the day, as it should be. I had to split hairs with my placements, shoulder assemblies being the deciding factor.

1. **#46 O'Lugh's Black Label**- Flowing curves from head to toe. Beautiful feminine head, lovely rosed ear. To be critical I'd like a shade darker eye but the shape and placement was correct. Long arched neck flowing correctly into a well constructed shoulder assembly. Elbows were set well under. Correct width and depth of chest with proper spring of rib. Strong topline with rise over the loin, flowing into a properly angled croup. Well muscled broad rear with hard muscled thighs and lovely bend of stifle. Sufficient bone throughout and proper flex in the pasterns. Harsh coat. Moved cleanly on the down and back, side gait was effortless. Her side movement was strong with balanced reach. Her ground covering movement, spicy attitude, strength and sighthound shape won her **WB, BOW and BOB** on the day. Excited to see what the future holds for this young girl.
2. **#48 Ballyhara Aideen**-Strong, nicely balanced mature bitch. Long upper arm, well set under. Good layback of scapulae. Good topline with strong loin. Correct underline. Broad rear, well bent stifle with low hocks joints. Moved cleaning going away, toed in slightly coming towards you. Balanced reach and drive side movement.
3. **#42 Carrickaneena Siobhan**-Powerful bitch. Beautiful head. Good layback of scapula but would have like the upper arm to have had a bit more length and return. Correct depth of chest with good spring of rib. Good topline on the move. Moved cleanly coming and going. Balanced reach and drive on the side, no wasted effort.
4. **#44 Gin Fizz O'Lugh of Aerie** -Muscular, well balanced bitch. Strong head with no coarseness. She had a longer upper arm with a decent return but would like to have seen her elbows set under her a bit better. Correct topline with a strong loin. Nice low hocks. Clean coming and going. Beautiful reach and drive on the side gait. Correct head carriage. on the move.

American Bred Bitches

1. **#66 Gemini's Big Girls Need Big Diamonds**-Nicely put together girl. Well muscled, I would have liked her to have been in harder condition. Beautiful feminine head, good ear. Long neck blending into well laid scapulae. Long upper arm that could have set under a bit

better. Nice breadth and depth of chest. Good topline and underline. Lovely bend of stifle. Good croup angulation. Single tracked on the down and back, moved cleanly. Effortless reach and drive with correct head carriage.

2. **#124 Cualainn Wild Ambition**-Well put together, honest bitch, nothing overdone. Strong feminine head, long neck. She had breadth overall and was in hard condition. Great strength of loin flowing into a properly angled croup. Harsh coat. Moved cleanly going away, a bit too much pastern action coming towards you but did converge to midline. Powerfully balanced reach and drive on the side gait.
3. **#56 Hipsley's Dream A Little Dream Of Me**-Quality bitch with flowing curves. Good length of leg underneath. Good bone and substance. Single tracked cleanly on the down and back. Balanced reach and drive, covering sufficient ground. I felt the elbow hygroma might have been impeding her gait on the day.
4. **#60 Ballyhara Annique**-This girl was not in her happy place and was giving her handler a bit of a hard time on the day. Her handler did a wonderful job with her and I hope she will continue to work with this girl. Very nice, powerful mature bitch. Feminine head with good bite, strong under jaw, lovely eye and rosed ear. Strong neck blending into a well angulated shoulder assembly. Correct topline with strong, arched loin, flowing into a properly angulated croup. Balanced front to rear. Would have liked a tad more length of leg. Moved a little close going away and toed in coming towards you. Her side gait was powerful with good reach and drive.

Open Bitches

1. **#86 O'Lugh's Martini**-Beautifully balanced well boned girl. Strong feminine head without being coarse. Strong under jaw, lovey expression, good eye and properly placed rose ear. Long neck blending into a good shoulder assembly. Correct underline, Correct topline with requisite powerful arched loin. Exceptional rear assembly, broad, well covered in muscle with good bend of stifle and low hocks. Converged on the down and back, clean-with no wasted foot action. Elastic and fluid movement on the side gait with balanced reach and drive. Her excellent width and breadth combined with powerful movement earned her **RWB** on the day.
2. **#82 Starkeeper's Lorna Lovely**- Bitch was presented in hard condition and good weight. Lovely feminine head, good strong jaw, long muzzle, rosed ear. Well muscled neck blending into a well laid scapulae. Good return of upper arm. Good underline and topline, well muscled loin. Broad rear, well muscled, would have like a little more length of lower thigh and upper arm. Good bone throughout. Moved cleanly on the down and back, side gait powerful with good reach and drive.
3. **#72 Carrickaneena Meadbh II**-Well made bitch. Moved cleanly going away, toed in a tad on the return, side gait was powerful, effortless with good reach and drive.
4. **#88 Zendaye Della Bassa Pavese**-Strong bitch. Moved cleanly going away, moved a tad wide and toed in coming towards you.

Veteran Dog

1. **#43 CH Coleraine's Cathbhadh Incubator Jones**-7 year old presented in fit condition. Moved with enthusiasm. Good reach and drive.

Veteran Bitch

1. **#98 Maccaura Riversong Tuula**-8½ year old presented in prime condition. Solid topline with strong loin and still has her underline. Extremely strong bitch, clean coming and going with powerful reach and drive. Strong head without being coarse. Her tremendous

bone and hard muscle, condition and great depth of quality earned her **Best Veteran** on the day.

2. **#94 Taliesin's Druid Quinn Eostar JC**-7 year old in hard condition. Clean coming and going.
3. **#96 Gemini's Irish Queen of Hearthound**-Sound on the side gait.

Best of Breed #46 O'Lugh's Black Label Critique above

Best of Winners #46 O'Lugh's Black Label Critique above

Best of Opposite Sex #5 Monty Lismore of Aerie Critique above

Select Dog #53 GCH Gladstone's Can't Wait to Be King-Powerful stallion of a hound. Masculine head, good rosed ear, long neck. Balanced with strong topline, correct croup and tail set. Clean moving coming and going. Excellent, ground covering side gait with no wasted effort.

Select Bitch #112 GCH Lismore Marion Kerby Beautifully built strong bitch. Movement easy and effortless.

Awards of Merit

#110 CH Dash Shancarrick at Aerie-Converges towards midline on the down and back. Side gait was easy and effortless. Correct topline on the move. Presented in hard condition.

#31 CH Temair Kailne's Dauntless Big powerful male. Moved soundly coming and going and converged to the midline. Good reach and drive covering a lot of ground with ease.

Best Puppy #64 #64 Eirian Padraic Cassidy

Best Bred by Exhibitor #46 O'Lugh's Black Label

Best Veteran #98 Maccaura Riverson Tuula

Best Head #102 CH Starkeeper Aoibheann Ailis RN Lovely strong feminine head. Long muzzle, dark pigment, correct bite, dark eye, correctly placed rosed ear. Correct planes of the skull, strong under jaw. Nice furnishings.