



# Faol Cu

The Newsletter of the Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club

Visit us on the web: [www.pviwc.org](http://www.pviwc.org)

## 2011 PVIWC Officers

President: Christina Kallay

410-519-5744

Vice President: Diane Hartney

703-759-6316

Secretary: Susan Morfit

301-330-0008

Treasurer: Gary Van Nest

410-263-6876

## Board Members

Anne Flanigan, 410-442-1852

Rob Maloy 410-984-7470

Carole Silverthorne, 540-338-8916

Jodie Jeweler, 410-266-8062

Lisa McKinney, 717-766-3125

## Fall 2012

### Nominating Committee Named

The Nominating Committee for the 2013 slate of officers has been named:

Chair: Lisa McKinney;

[lisa.mckinney2@hp.com](mailto:lisa.mckinney2@hp.com)

Members: Tom Hartney; [thardhar@aol.com](mailto:thardhar@aol.com)

Van Morfit; [vmorfit@yahoo.com](mailto:vmorfit@yahoo.com)

Alternates are Al Jeweler & Bill McKinney.

Please contact the committee to volunteer for a board position or to nominate someone whose approval you have already garnered, by September 1st.

Elections will be held in November.

**A host is needed for the November 18th club meeting– this is a very important meeting because of elections! If you can host, please contact Susan Morfit!**

Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club Fun Day!

September 23, 2012, 80 E. Lake Dr

Bay Ridge MD

Judge: Joe Pitt, Calyddon IWs

Registration 11:00, Judging 12:00, Lunch to follow

Puppy 3 mo+, adult (breed) & fun classes!

Something for everyone!

Parade of Veterans!

GAMES!! Education!

Pot Luck Lunch (Diane Hartney thardhar@aol.com)

LOTS of Fantastic Raffle prizes!

Entry fee: \$5/class

Contact Jodie Jeweler FMI

jodie@jewelerfamily.com or 410-266-8062



## PASSAGES:

### Falkor

From a sickly puppy, originally named Charlie after Charlie's Brown's Christmas Tree, to a handsome and silly youngster, to a sickly but happy adult, Falkor was a Dane that touched the lives of many people. Most



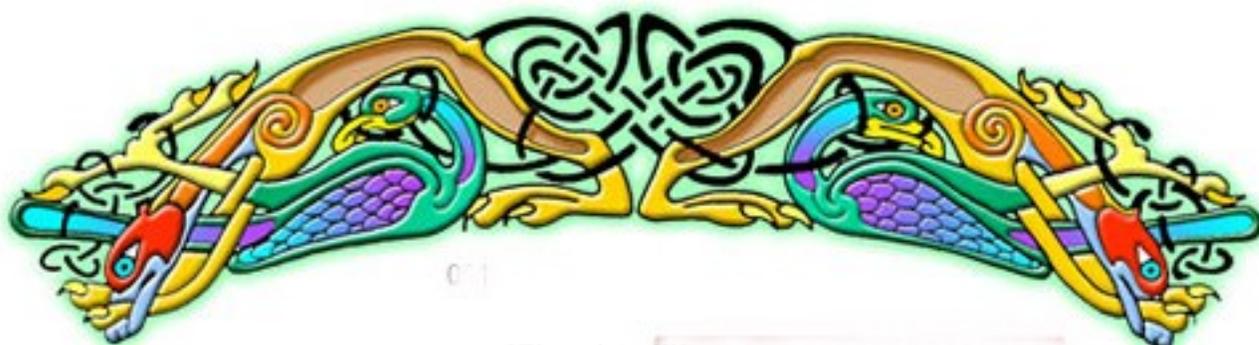
people that knew Falkor knew him for a couple of things... his happy, bouncy attitude when he was out in public, his insistence on sitting on your lap, no matter where you were sitting (including the bathroom!), or his foot stomping when he didn't get what he wanted. Falkor was a mystery to many, including his vets, but everyone was always amazed at

his happy attitude. Falkor will be greatly missed by his family and friends.



## WELCOME!

When asked what I was breeding for, my response was: Hounds with powerful movement, covering ground with ease, plenty of day-light underneath, hard and rough coat, and a tail that starts to curve at the hock. And bitches would be nice. We are pleased to introduce you to the Three Maxateers: Mira, Citation and Drill. CH Maximilian Fionnmae x Ch. Mor Derry War Eagle of Elkhorn . (Sire: Ch. Dun Myrica Speaker of Eagle) ~Tammy A.





Mor Regal War Admiral of Elkhorn (AKA Mira)



Mor Legal War Emblem of Elkhorn (AKA Citation)



Mor Cadence War Dance of Elkhorn (AKA Drill)

Lido (Hearthound's One for the Road) and Millie (Hearthound's One in a Million) are now in permanent residence at the O'Malley household, joining their mom, Sage, and Aunt Holly as the Irish Wolfhound representatives in the menagerie. They have already attended their first Irish festival and are looking forward to lots of adventures and good times at upcoming IW events. Especially if treats are involved!" Mary O.



Lido



Millie

## BLOOD DONORS NEEDED!

The Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank /The Blue Ridge Veterinary Blood Bank need canine donors! Your dog can save lives!

BLUE RIDGE VETERINARY BLOOD BANK Canine Blood Donor Program

Could your DOG become a life saver?? A small donation of blood means giving the gift of life to an animal that is sick or injured. The demand for blood products continues to increase and we need the help of willing canine volunteers!

Give your dog a chance to be someone's hero.

Your dog can become a life saver!!!!

What's in it for me?

We have two classes of donors at Blue Ridge Veterinary Blood Bank - Home or Away !

AWAY Donors are those seen by our road crew staff at remote facilities in the DC /Baltimore/ Virginia metropolitan areas.

AWAY Donor Profile: All Donation and screening records are held on file at our 24 hour facility at Blue Ridge Veterinary Associates. Qualified\* donors receive: Brief Physical examination/ Blood program temperament evaluation. Blood Typing, annual CBC, Chemistry testing, Brucella testing, a battery of Tick Borne Disease tests). Annual Heartworm Lyme testing, 50% discounted blood\*\* products for the donor dog Personal need (\*\*facilities typically charge for administration of products). (\*Qualified means donating for at least one year every 5-7 weeks).

Future programs are in development for additional discounts and benefits. Dogs in the program at least 3 years donating every 5-7 weeks will receive \*\*free\*\* blood product for the "donor" dog (\*\*facilities typically charge for administration of products).

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HOME Donors are those seen ONLY at Blue Ridge Veterinary Associates 24/7 facility in Purcellville, Virginia

HOME Donor Profile: Special Discounted Drop off or Day Care and / or Spa baths discounts the day of donation, and other specific "Home Donor Only" benefits to be confirmed at your qualifying visits. Testing as listed above in the AWAY section, special products, services, and seasonal freebies from our vendors.

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Please email our donor coordinator for information and appointments or see the reception staff at your local veterinary hospital for additional contact information.

DONORS@BRVBB.COM or call 540-338-7387

Blue Ridge Veterinary Blood Bank

120 East Cornwell Lane  
Purcellville, Virginia 20132

540 338-7387 Fax 540 338-6641

WWW.BRVBB.COM

( 540 ) 338 - 7387

### MARYLAND

Airpark Animal Hospital

Bayside Animal Hospital

Chesapeake Animal Clinic

Crofton Veterinary Center

Animal Health Clinic of Funkstown

Jefferson Veterinary Hospital

Kingsbrook Animal Hospital

Lewis Veterinary Hospital

Mt. Airy Animal Hospital

Mt. Carmel Animal Hospital

Muddy Creek Animal Hospital

Olney Sandy Springs Veterinary Hospital

4 Paws Spa Maryland

Rosedale Animal Hospital

Severn River Animal Hospital

West Virginia

Briggs Animal Adoption Center

Virginia

Webers Pet Supermarket

Great Falls Animal Hospital

Gunston Animal Hospital

Olde Towne Pet Resort

How do I start?

During your initial visit with us we will take a small blood sample to determine your dog's blood type and assess your dog's personality. If your dog has the right blood type for the program they will be screened for blood-borne diseases and will go through a training program to become accustomed to the process of the blood collection, so that it will be a positive experience. It is not uncommon for us to do a trial run of collection, or to actually draw a unit of blood from your dog at the first visit!

We will send a copy of all of our lab work to your regular veterinarian for your pet's file.

CAN YOUR DOG BE A LIFE SAVER?

We are the largest ALL volunteer donor veterinary blood bank !

Our high standards are providing the leading edge for quality & excellence in the industry.

Our Donor base consists of ALL volunteer canine donors no cages or compounds of caged dogs

Just real dogs living in private homes

that make periodic visits from your loving homes... into the hands of our specially trained and caring staff.

Donor dogs must be:

- . Healthy and Happy
  - . Greater than 35 lbs.
  - . Between 9 months and 8 yrs. of age
- (healthy active dogs can donate until they are 9)
- . Able to lay still for about 10 minutes ... With help~
  - . Willing to accept food and treats after donation. We ask our donors to commit to the program for donations every 5-7 weeks (dogs can safely give every 3 weeks).

Since we have made a large investment in your pet to screen and qualify them as a donor, we would like your commitment to our flexible donation schedule.

What is a blood donation like?

Our donors come in once every 5-7 weeks for donations. We use the same equipment that is used in human medicine. Blood is collected after an aseptic site preparation from the jugular vein. You will see a tiny

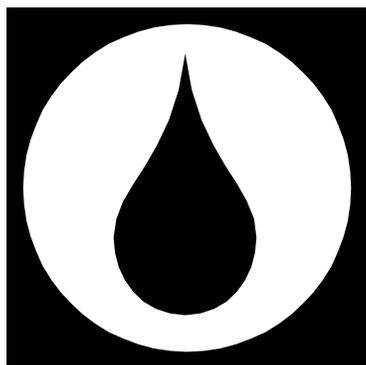
shaved spot of fur. Average Donations take about 12 minutes.

We collect 225—450 mls of blood (which is equivalent to about 1 to 2 measuring cups).

After the collection the dogs get lots of treats and praise as well as a high energy meal.

The total time your dog spends with us is about 30 minutes.

BRVBB will be at our fun day to explain more!



## Braggs!

A brag on Glenamadda Starkeeper Connery (Sean). He earned his AKC Ch. at the Harrisburg show on 8/10/12, and his United Kennel Club (UKC) on 8/11/12, with a Best in Show. Audrey Wright Owns & Loves Sean.



Have you heard of “Take the Lead”? I want to share with you another phrase that has grown kindly in my heart the last five years and that is “Hold the Lead.” You should be familiar with the very first sentence in the AKC Irish Wolfhound Standard: “Of great size and commanding appearance, the Irish Wolfhound is remarkable in combining power and swiftness with keen sight.” Descriptors being: great size, commanding appearance, power, and swiftness

Those descriptors are befitting as the introduction to AKC’s new Champion Ard Rhi’s Calamity Jane of Eagle (aka Jane). Jane was recognized by Judge Edna Martin, on July 5, 2012, who awarded Jane Winner’s Bitch, Best of Winners and Best of Breed. Jane is owned and bred by Art & Linda King, and has many followers of family and friends. We are very pleased with this new achievement and know that Jane is smiling about it, too!

## **Bragg, continued!**

On August 24, Kelly earned his Rally Novice title! His scores were 72/100 (due to my terrible handling— he did a fantastic job!), 86/100 and 94/100! Kelly plans to continue his Rally career before he begins earning his obedience titles.



Dear Schmoo,

My name is Ula (I'm an Irish wolfhound).

My pet parents are bickering over table etiquette. They're driving me "woofers." He thinks a place should be set for me at the dinner table. She says, "He's a dog. Get serious!"

Actually, I'm no bother; I don't need a chair, as my head is in perfect placement for the chow-down. My sister Muffin (that measly little Shih Tzu) needs all kinds of help, though. She hides under the table and waits for under-the-table handouts. This little beggar has no manners or class.

My question: Why shouldn't I have a place at the table? Am I a member of this family or not?

Dear Ula,

I personally would love to have you at my dinner table, but it is a dog-eat-dog world! Therefore, like the camel with its head in the tent, you might need to take this to the next level.

The fact that you probably weigh 120 pounds has some drawbacks. I'm not clear if you want your own place setting or you want some gigantic dog bowl sitting on a place mat. No offense, Ula, but just your giant head at the table conjures up an unappetizing picture. Your slobbering sounds might curb the dinner conversation. And how are you going to use the napkin?

I say take charge of dinnertime. Ask for a designer dog bowl placed on a plastic mat (preferably a design with dog bones).

And demand your own dining area. (Hey, how about the kitchen?) Perhaps some soft music and great lighting will help you think, "Yes, I am a special member of the family."

When it's time for dessert, do that sit-up, paw-up, big-eyes routine that you've mastered. After you have made your pet parents feel guilty, be assured you will get a scrumptious treat.

P.S. Forget about Muffin; she's on her own!

Sandie Lampe is Schmoo's "personal assistant." Lampe also writes about pets for San Diego Home/Garden magazine and is pets correspondent for KUSI TV. Email questions for Schmoo to [askschmoo@gmail.com](mailto:askschmoo@gmail.com)

## Holiday Cards

Check out [www.sweenyholidaydogart.com](http://www.sweenyholidaydogart.com) for Irish Wolfhound cards, notes & stickers! Also check out [www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com) and [www.cafepress.com](http://www.cafepress.com) for Irish Wolfhound holiday cards and other art items.

### MEDICAL ALERT!

#### *Pythiosis (excerpted from [www.petmed.com](http://www.petmed.com))*

Pythiosis is typically thought of as occurring in swampy areas in the southeastern U.S., and has thus been nicknamed “swamp cancer.” Signs of Pythiosis usually appear in the fall or early winter months, and while this organism does typically thrive in tropical and subtropical waters, such as ponds, wetlands, and swamps, it has been found to occur as far west as the central valley of California.

#### **Symptoms and Types**

Pythiosis of the lungs, brain, or sinus will manifest in the dog as stuffiness, head pain, fever, coughing, and swelling of the sinuses. Infection of the dog's digestive tract leads to a chronic disease, which causes the tissue of the stomach and/or intestines to become severely thick. Other symptoms of gastrointestinal (GI) Pythiosis include:

Fever, Vomiting, Diarrhea, Regurgitation, Long-term weight loss, Abdominal mass, Abdominal pain, Enlarged lymph nodes.

Pythiosis of the skin (or cutaneous Pythiosis) results in the development of swollen, non-healing wounds, and invasive masses of ulcerated pus-filled nodules and draining tracts. Tissue death (necrosis) follows, with the affected skin eventually turning black and wasting.

#### **Causes**

This infection is caused by direct contact with water that accommodates *Pythium insidiosum*, a water borne fungal parasite. It is usually swallowed or inhaled by the dog, and from there makes its way to the animal's intestinal tract.

**Diagnosis** is via an ELISA test, usually performed by the Pythiosis lab at Louisiana State university. Abdominal radiographs in dogs with GI Pythiosis may show an intestinal blockage, intestinal wall thickening, or an abdominal mass. An ultrasound image of the dog's abdomen will tend to show thickening of the wall of the stomach or intestine. Enlarged lymph nodes may also be evident, as it is an indication of an infection.

#### **Treatment**

All dogs will need to undergo surgical removal of as much affected tissue as possible. The tissue remaining after surgery will then be treated with a laser (photoablation) to kill any fungal filaments in the surrounding tissue. Enlarged lymph nodes in the abdominal cavity should be biopsied (tissue will be surgically removed for examination). Medical therapy should be continued for a minimum of six months.

Affected dogs should be treated with itraconazole and monitored for liver toxicity. Dogs should be vaccinated for Pythiosis as soon as diagnosed. Regular monthly checkups including abdominal x-rays and further ELISA seriological tests should be performed.

Pythiosis, also called swamp fever, affects horses also. If diagnosis & treatment are not begin within a few days, odds of survival (especially in horses) are extremely low. This year is being reported as a high risk year, due to the prolonged drought. Be cautious about letting your dog (or horse) swim in natural water bodies.

Novartis announced recently that production of Sentinel Heartworm prevention should resume in late 2012, with shipments beginning at the end of the year. Meanwhile, due to the shortage of Sentinel, Interceptor is also in short supply. Check with your vet for appropriate replacement products. Mine recommends Heartgard. **In this area, most vets strongly recommend year-round treatment for the prevention of heartworms.**

## **The HUNT** **An Educational Presentation**

Dixie Howell-Hirsch  
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This document is an adjunct to Judging the Standard.

This presentation may prove more interesting to the non-exhibition family.

**New: 1 December 2007**

**Revised: 23 March 2008**

**New: 1 December 2007**

**Revised: 23 March 2008**

There is a lot to be said about “know thine enemy”, but I will restrict myself to the dog world. Most people realize that a breed of dog was developed for a specific purpose. The bird dogs were engineered by centuries of breeding to hunt birds in several modes, to point and flush, to retrieve. The hounds had different jobs; some were enhanced as scent hounds to track; some enhanced for artic game; some for getting into narrow, winding places; and other to hunt by sight. One of the driving reasons for an enhancement was a purpose where the form was prescribed by the function.

In the case of the Irish Wolfhound, to better understand its purpose, you should know the reason for enhancing the natural instincts for the hunt of a specific prey, the history behind that developing enhancement and how the hunt would progress. Centuries ago, during one of the prolonged droughts in Ireland, the great Irish wolf began attacking and preying upon the peasants in the fields near the forests or on distant farms. This greatly distressed the manor holders and Lords as it diminished the ability for their subjects to tithe to their sovereign. Many of the farms were remote and the terrain rugged causing the huntsmen to develop an all-purpose hunting dog which could hunt in packs without a horseback rider as accompaniment. The

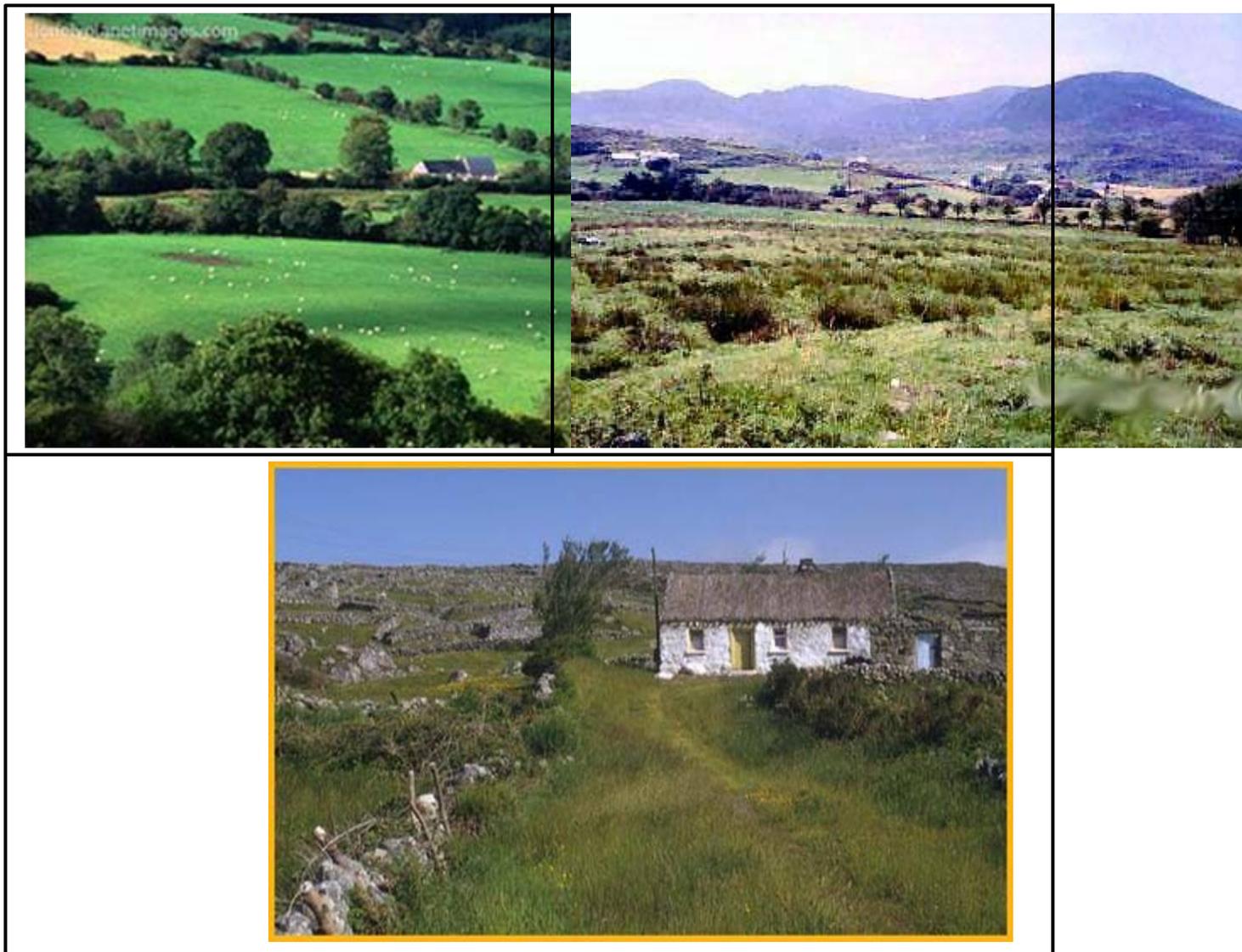
wolves became more and more bold as the lack of game continued. This created a need for a specialized hunter. To develop such a specialized hunter, the farmers, chieftains and lords, recognized that the distance the wolf could travel was quite far (about 30 miles). They would need a dog of great endurance to keep up with, then dispatch after that long a chase. They had to consider the countryside of hills, crags, rocks, meadows and forest.

SLIDE  
THE

ENVIRONS

OF

ONE.  
IRELAND



They would need a dog with strong athletic abilities. They would need a dog strong in jaw, shoulder and rear musculature who could sustain a hunt over many miles yet have the stamina to kill its prey—the Great Irish Wolf. This wolf was highly predatory and has been determined to have been well over 31 inches at the shoulder (some say larger, but I feel that is part myth and they may be comparing to a Modern day assumption) and weigh from 125 to 150 pounds. [Columbia Encyclopaedia-1963 states: "the wolves of the Pleistocene period were larger than those of the present day".] They were more solitary than the grey or timber wolf we know today.. They could cover over 30 miles in a day during their foraging for food. Sometimes they would encounter small farms and enjoy a sheep or calf. So, where did the huntsmen start.

SLIDE

TWO

## THE WOLF HABITAT



FROM LAKE SIDE . . .

. . . TO MOUNTAIN TOP



Where did the Irish Wolfhound come from? Some of the tales tell of a valiant warrior, Milesius of Spain (Gaul) who invaded Ireland around 1699 BC to avenge the death of his uncle, Ithe, killed by the Tuatha de Danans, and fulfill a prophesy. Spanish history tells of Milesius ruling during a 26-year famine. He superstitiously believed the famine to have fallen upon him and his people as a judgment and punishment from their gods, for their negligence in seeking out the country destined for their final abode as was long before fore told by Cachear, their Druid or magician. Thus he sent his Uncle, Ithe, to the land west as emissary. The teachings of Ithe were of peace, mutual love and forbearance. However, jealousies arose among the villagers and Ithe was pursued and killed before reaching his ship to return to Spain. Milesius sought to avenge that senseless death and remained in Ireland, fulfilling the age old prophecy. It was Milesius who brought with him a great mastiff dog, the Molosser.

SLIDE  
ORIGINS

THREE



He brought his eight sons as well. Five of his sons were killed on the treacherous Irish coast. The eldest, Heber, and another brother, Heremon, jointly ruled Ireland as Kings or Sole Monarchs, and their descendants continued to rule successively for 2,885 years!! As an interesting aside, Heremon's wife chose Tara in Ireland as her dowry; Tara remained the capital and home of the Irish High Kings for 2500 years. All things change; along about 100 AD the Gaels began to emerge as the dominant tribe and this was the beginning of the Gaelic culture of today.

What of the dog they brought with them? As all things change, it had evolved through weather, environment and breeding into a dog of rough coat, great stature, and athleticism. It was often used on local game—though the Irish Elk had long been extinct, and was not one of the Anno Domini Wolfhound prey. But the Great Irish Wolf was; and it was a menace that needed to be eradicated. The Wolf Dog began its evolution around 1600BC, and was approximately 26 to 30 inches tall, weighing around 100-130 pounds. Brig.General Alfred DeQuoy, *Irish Wolfhound Saga, Volume 1*, stated that "From osteological evidence, they ranged in height from 23.4 to 30.1 inches, with a 95% confidence interval of 25.2 to 27.8.", for the ancient wolf-dog.

We need to fill in some information about that wolf and the terrain of Ireland. Discussions about the range for the Wolf and its size brought me to this presentation. I was informed by an Irish Wolfhound Breeder that

the wolf would race straight back to its den and fight only when cornered. Research has convinced me otherwise. They would do everything possible to prevent the hounds from locating his den. This is evidenced by modern day observations of wolf habits.

SLIDE  
**THE ENCOUNTER**

FOUR



The hounds discover the wolf with its kill and they begin their stalk to eliminate this menace from their Lord's realm. The young males, generally around age 2, along with several mature females do the stalking and tracking, while the Senior Male (lower left) commits to the encounter. Their methodology is to get the wolf turned and running, to tire and harass him until he is an easy prey.

SLIDE  
**THE DRIVE**

FIVE

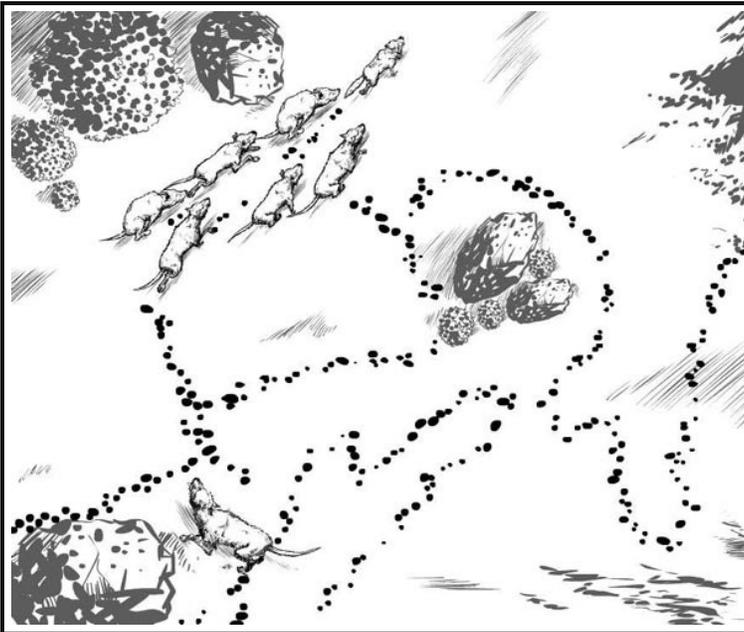


They have him on the move. More hounds join the chase. The most effective number being six or seven; mostly females.

SLIDE

SIX

**THE WOLF TRIES TO EVADE**

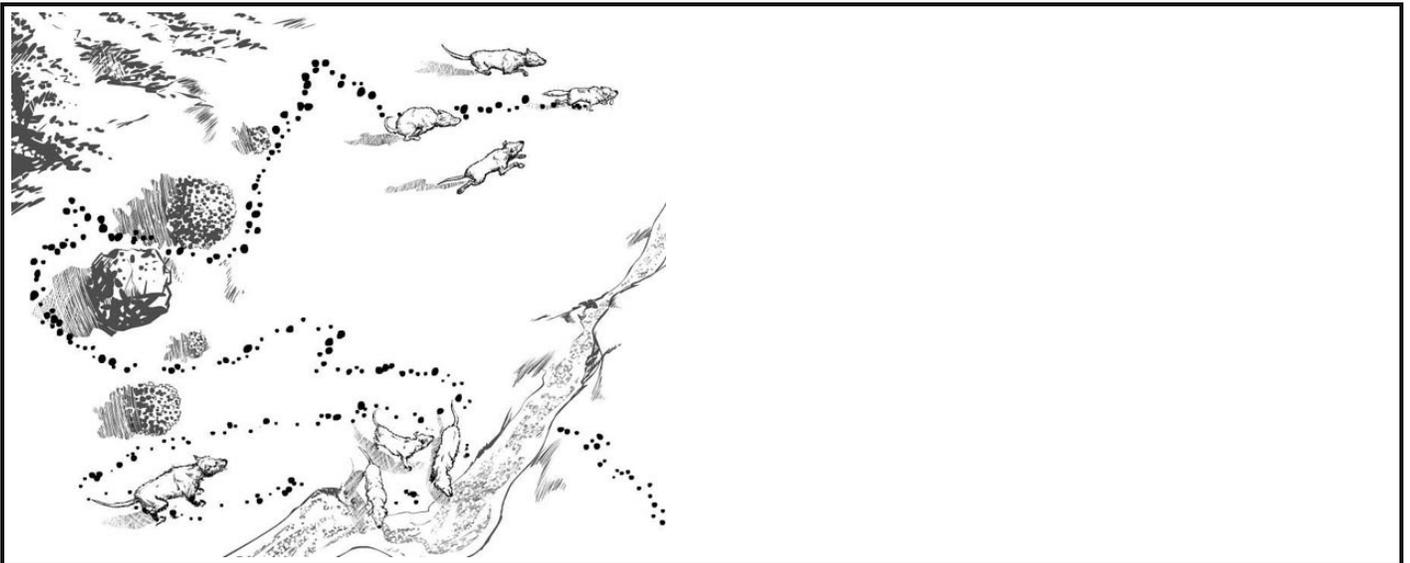


The wolf circles, backtracks and does everything possible to lose or confuse the threatening hounds. He knows he will be killed if he cannot get away. His den could be 30 miles away; yet that's where he's heading in the most circuitous manner possible. Naturally, he would not lead them back to his den on a direct line! He wants to be rid of these challenging hounds.

SLIDE

SEVEN

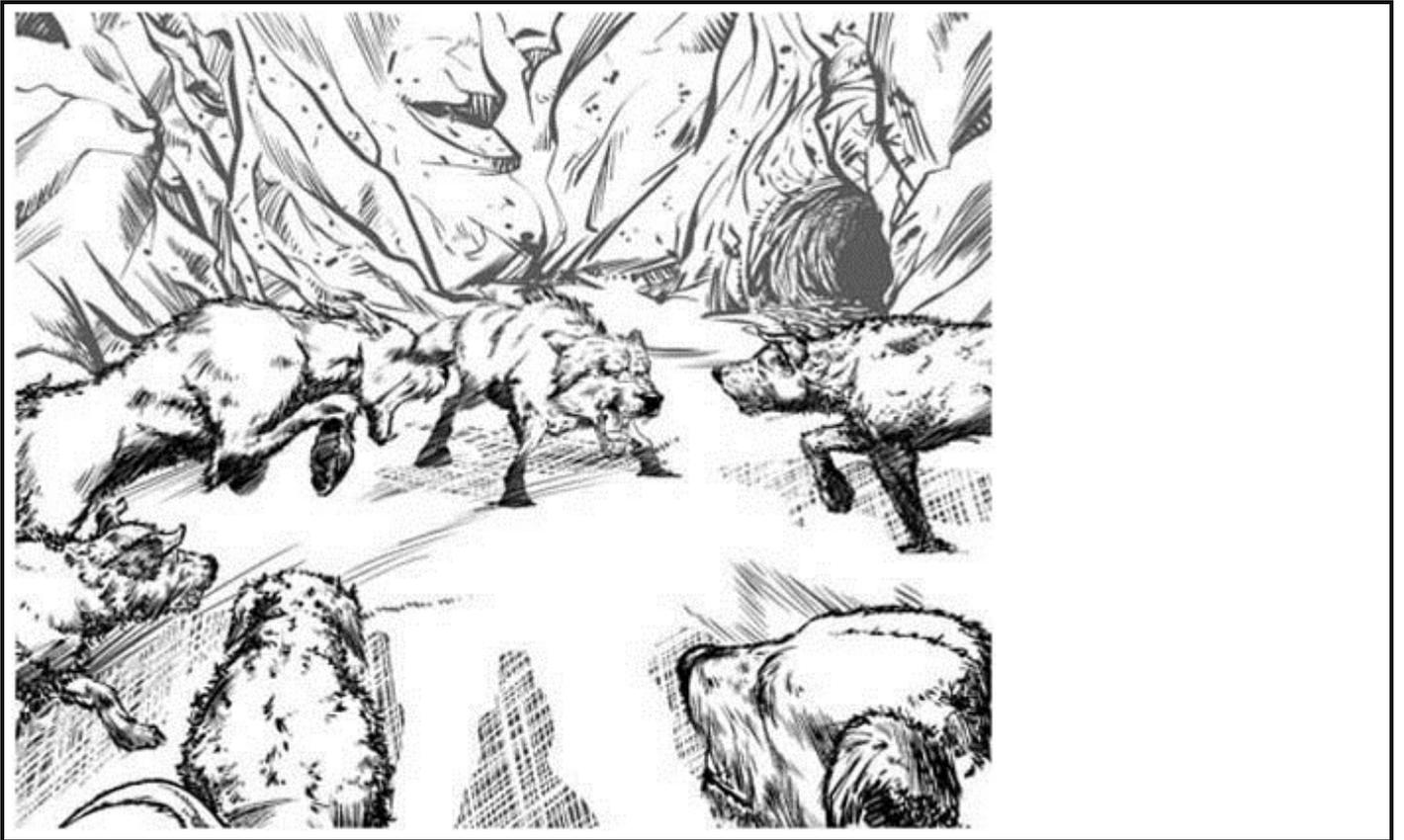
**THE RELAY**



Could the Irish Wolfhound sustain the distance or is it possible they were smarter than the average wolf? Working in relays, the young males and adult females would split off in small groups, for water and rest, always listening to the baying of the chase. The Senior Male had no need to keep up with the pack as he was certain to be in at the final confrontation. He loped up from behind, stopping for water or rest as needed, too. But he kept his ears open for the turns and twists of the pack. At any moment, a burst of speed could take him forward into the fray.

SLIDE  
**THE KILL**

EIGHT



THE HOUNDS HAVE THE WOLF CORNERED...The male is more rested than his pack and is ready to do his job—kill the wolf!! While the others distract and harry the cornered wolf, the big male launches forward to grab the neck or middle back of the wolf and snap the spine. Is it any wonder the hound needed a strong jaw, shoulder and rear musculature with the stamina to sustain a hunt over many miles and still kill its prey. It is inaccurate to think that the pack would hold a wolf for longer than a minute or two...believe me, being mostly female, they would rather do the kill themselves, but it is the Senior Male's prerogative, and woe unto that bitch who forgot!!

I would bet you don't think your Irish Wolfhound could or even should be marathon runners these days. And why not? A well-conditioned hound, kept interested in life and living WILL LIVE LONGER!! You

might consider some of the other activities the hound is STILL capable of given his structure.

SLIDE  
NAPPING

NINE



SLIDE  
COURSING

TEN





***Other things they  
do now. . .***

## **Obedience**

- . . . Therapy*
- . . . Companions*
- . . . Exhibition of Type*
- . . . Agility*
- . . . Junior Showmanship*



## **Utility**



## **CONCLUSION**

Actually, I'm not sure there is a "conclusion" to this presentation. It could be the start of a volume of short educational presentations. Who knows? So rather than say "conclusion", shall we say, "Here's to the Beginning".

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

PA Renaissance Faire– Manheim, PA. COSTUMES required! Weekends through October. Contact Rob Maloy FMI.

VA Scottish games– Alexandria, VA– 1st Saturday in September (9/1)

October 14th meeting– location changed to Christina Kallay's!

Maryland Irish Festival-Timonium fairgrounds– November 9-11.

November 18th meeting. Location TBA! (Please contact Susan Morfit to volunteer!)

October– Quiet Waters Bark-n-Bash (Annapolis) Around Halloween. More info asap!