

I want to thank the Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club (PVIWC) for inviting me to judge the 2022 PVIWC Sweepstakes during their second year of back-to-back specialties. I would like to thank the very efficient photographer, Mark Berry, for his readiness and professionalism; to the judge, Dr Klaus Anselm, my sincere appreciation for your patience; and to each breeder, owner, and the exhibitor, Thank You.

When judging Irish Wolfhounds, I keep in mind the breed's function while using the Standard of Excellence we uphold, specifically: "Of great size and commanding appearance", "remarkable in combining power and swiftness with keen sight." "largest and tallest of the galloping hounds", "a rough-coated, Greyhound-like", and "very muscular, strong though gracefully built; movement easy and active; head and neck carried high, the tail carried with an upward sweep with a slight curve towards the extremity."

Also, evaluating puppies that are still growing does not factor due to the day; meaning, judge what is before you on the day. I'm very pleased to say that the sweepstakes entries looked like Irish Wolfhounds! Certainly, there were individual differences within a class, having good angulation that matched with well-grown legs, good bone for their respective size, and a harsh coat. I did notice a few flat toplines, and one bite irregularity.

My Best in Sweepstakes (BIS) was awarded to a junior bitch that I felt on this day represented the breed in type, structure, and temperament – she was well balanced and feminine, having plenty of leg with a lovely outline. When she moved, she came together nicely and was overall very balanced. She was in good condition from muzzle to tail, hard of muscle.

My Best of Opposite to BIS also represented the breed very well on this day. This 14-month-old dark brindle boy wanted it today! He is a powerful young hound sporting the soft curves required in a large galloping breed. This is a promising hound with matching angulation in front and rear, a classic head with a soft gentle expression. On any other day the BIS and BoS to BIS could go either way.

Puppy dog 6-9 months

1st #131 – O'Lugh Blackwater Barkeep - A quality young male with good bone and plenty of daylight under him which he used on the move. A strong masculine head with good planes, carried proudly by a strong, well-arched neck. A correct front assembly of scapula and humerus with a matching rear assembly - balanced in both length and angle. Plenty of bone and muscle as I ran my hand down his front leg. The depth in the brisket, correct croup and tailset. A very sound mover that held on the go. A nice

hound outline. Confident boy who set the bar high for those that followed in the day. A strong contender for my BIS!

2nd #135 – Hipsley’s Midnight Flyer - Striking dark brindle puppy dog with dark eyes. His head planes were not to my liking as there was too much stop, and a lot of ear leather. I would prefer a longer leg, however at this time I see he is the youngest of this class. His tail was long, which I hope will be a good sign of his growing years to come. While his upper arm slants well underneath, his scapula sets a bit forward.

3rd #133 – Shancarrick’s Awesome Tullaghan – A pleasing head adorned with small, rosed ears; dark eyes. He is lighter boned than #1 and 2; angulation of the humerus could be better. I would prefer him to be better ribbed back, and I found his croup to be steep. The width of the thighs was not as good as #1 and 2. A bit hocky at this time, which he may grow out of. He was having fun and enjoyed teasing his handler.

Puppy dog 9-12 months

1st – #145 – Pinehurst Carnasserie Gatlin – A young, rangy male on lots of leg! Masculine head with good planes, with a lot of muzzle in front of dark eyes, ears are small and rosed. Good angulation of the humerus with a good fore chest. He has a well-muscled arched neck that caused me to go over it again! (you know it when you feel it moment). He was presented in fabulous condition– easy and active movement, with plenty of reach and drive, moving extremely well. Sound on the down and back, and he held his greyhound shape on the move. A truly impressive puppy!

Junior dog 12-15 months

1st - #139 – Lindenhall Carnasserie Concerto Grosso -
An attractive dark brindle male with a masculine head having good planes, with plenty of muzzle. His dark eyes had a gentle expression, and I found nicely tucked ears. Excellent under jaw to perform the job should he need to! Well angulated humerus, strong arched neck that flowed nicely into well laid-back shoulders. Very well-muscled thigh and second thigh - easy and active movement, moved out well. Sound on the down and back. To be critical, I wanted more leg length. Awarded BEST OF OPPOSITE TO BEST IN SWEEPSTAKES

2nd - #141 – Ard Rhi’s Liopracan Maghee – [did not stay for critique, so this is from my memory] A typical masculine head with a gentle expression. Standing over plenty of ground and presents a good outline. To be critical, I would have preferred a bit more fore chest. I found him to move too close in the rear on the down and back.

3rd - #137 – Starkeeper Annie’s Oakley – [did not stay for critique] no notes.

6-9 months puppy bitch

1st - #142 - O'Lugh's Dizzy Izzy Duncormick's - A well-conditioned puppy bitch! You look at her and know you are looking at a female! A head with pleasing planes, and a long muzzle, was adorned with small and rosed ears. Possesses a gentle, yet curious expression. I forgave her curiosities on this day as she was overwhelmed without her owner. The handler had a workout as this very athletic puppy girl settled in. I found her overall conditioning to be superb. Her neck was strong and well arched flowing nicely into a set of shoulders that lay back well with the correct slope inward. She had good angulation front and rear which allowed her to cover ground effortlessly. This bitch is very promising, and I hope to see her in the future.

9-12 months puppy bitch

1st - #146 – Zendaye Della Bassa Pavese – This 11 and one-half months old feminine brindle bitch moved into the ring and caught my eye immediately. A powerful, strong body, with the soft curves and length of leg of a true sighthound! Her overall balance is very good due to matching angulation in front and rear. A classic head with a most gentle expression. Presented in excellent condition, she moved well and carried herself with purpose. Easy and active movement with plenty of reach and drive. She was also sound on the down and back holding her shape on the move.

2nd - #144 – Howlin's Magnolia Blossom – A dark, strong, and powerful young bitch having a kind expression. Moderately angulated in front and rear, she has a strong and powerful body. Sound on the down and back. Unfortunately, I found her ears to be set too low, and today she has an overbite. She did not have the outline I like to see. I found her to have a flat topline, lacking the gentle curves of a true hound.

12-15 Months Junior Bitches

1st - #148 – Jello Shot O'Lugh with Aerie – A well balanced bitch with a feminine head and nicely rosed ears. This bitch is superbly muscled fore and aft; as my hands flowed from her head, I found a strong, well arched neck that flowed into a good shoulder. Good return of upper arm. Lovely topline with correct arched loin. Depth of chest and spring of rib, the more I moved over her the better she felt! She is representative of breed in type. Her lovely outline is icing on the cake, as she presented power with grace! A tall, powerful, feminine hound that could perform the job! Awarded BEST IN SWEEPSTAKES

2nd place #152 - Ard Rhi's La Vie - Another quality young bitch. Not as tall as the first place, this young bitch is promising as she is balanced, with a lovely shape and a

strong body. Her angulation was enough in front and rear to move sufficiently, holding her shape on the move, and was sound on the down and back. I found her to be well conditioned.

3rd place #150 - O'Lugh's Black Label - This bitch moved around the ring, covering plenty of ground. Confident and a pleasing temperament. She sported a soulful expression with dark eyes. I found her topline lacking the arch over the loin, which I found her to be too long in. I would have preferred a more typical outline.