



# FAOL CU

December 2007



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

## PVIWC OFFICERS

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## 2008 PVIWC OFFICERS

President: Robert Brehl  
Vice President: Tammy Aube  
Treasurer: Joe O'Leary  
Secretary: Susan Morfit

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2008

**April 8-11** - IWCA National Specialty in Parker, Texas. Conformation Judge: Kathleen Kelly (Nutstown); Obed/Rally Judge: Nancy Simmons; Sweepstakes: Steven LeVan; Lure Coursing: TBD

**Of interest** to many is that a familiar name from the Potomac Valley Region has been nominated for the AKC Lifetime Achievement Award for Conformation. Ms. Damara Bolte is one of the nine finalists to be recognized for their exemplary participation in animal husbandry. Damara spent a winter in Paris studying Animal Sculpture and recently sculpted the Best Bred-By Exhibitor Challenge Trophy for PVIWC. Ms. Bolte is the current president of Old Dominion Kennel Club of Northern Virginia.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE POLL

Every year, PVIWC is invited to march in the Silver Spring, MD Thanksgiving Parade. The parade is 1 mile through downtown Silver Spring, the Saturday before Thanksgiving. We meet at 8:30 am and the parade kicks off at 9:30. Attendance in past years has been hit or miss - lots of people some years, very few in others. Therefore, I would like to know if you **\*THINK\*** you would be interested in continuing this event.

- I would be interested for next year
- I might be interested for next year
- I would not be interested for next year.

I know no one can guarantee where they will be next year; I just need to know whether we should even register to be in the parade. It is not worth it, if there will be only 2 people walking! Please email ([jodie@jewelerfamily.com](mailto:jodie@jewelerfamily.com)) or fax (410-266-3874) or bring your results to the January 13, 2008 meeting hosted by Bob Brehl.

## **PVIWC EVENTS**

### **MARCH**

TBD - Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade  
TBD - Gaithersburg St. Patrick's Day Parade  
TBD - Baltimore St. Patrick's Day Parade  
TBD - Washington, D.C. St. Patrick's Day Parade  
**30-31** - PVIWC Specialty; Judges are:  
Sweepstakes - Glynis Littlewood; Rally and Obedience  
- Patricia Hess; Conformation - Sue Cole (Cullkeeran  
Kennels)

### **SUNSHINE REPORT**

The O'Malley's lost Shane Mochroi this summer. Shane joined many of our faithful companions at the Rainbow Bridge. Not long after Shane's passing, The O'Malley's mix breed, Murphy, passed. As if that wasn't enough, early in the fall, Mary's cat passed.

Christina Kallay lost her Great Dane, Fenway.

Tammy Aube lost the Master of the Hounds, Kinseagh Cu on December 8.

The Jeweler's Limerick recently spent 24 hours at the ER with a complete gut stoppage & "food bloat" AND prostate issues, but is feeling better now.

Limerick and Dylan have been under observation. Limerick was in for a neutering procedure and is recovering fine. Dylan went in for some tests to determine Cushing's Disease with inconclusive results. However, Dylan is feeling pretty good.

### **JUDGE SELECTION COMMITTEE**

Chair: Linda King

The Judge's Selection Committee will recommend to the Board the Conformation judge for 2010 and the Sweepstakes judge for 2009.

If **any** exhibiting member or active member of the PVIWC would like to submit judges for consideration, please submit your recommendations to Linda at: ardrhis@aol.com or by phone: 434-978-2873 soonest. Many Thanks!

### **SHOW COMMITTEE**

Chair: Dee Van Nest

As the Show Committee gets prepared to focus on the 2008 PVIWC Specialty, please keep these questions in mind: "Can I help in any way?" "How can I help?" "Who do I contact if I want to assist?"

I offer you these answers: Yes you can help by volunteering any one of the following: time, food, monetary donations, and more. You will need to contact Dee Van Nest (her phone number is on the cover of this newsletter). There is much work to do to put on the show, and any help you can give will be greatly appreciated.

### **WOLF IT DOWN COOKBOOK**

#### **RECIPE CORRECTION**

submitted by: Dani Duniho

Oh no, quelle horreur!

I made a batch of crab imperial a few nights ago, using the recipe out of the "Wolf It Down" cookbook (the recipe I submitted to that wonderful publication) - it tasted good but was the wrong texture.

My investigative self went looking, and I discovered that I, me, myself, I, left the egg out of the recipe. I am so sorry. It is about the same taste, but holds together much nicer with the egg. Each one-pound of crab needs two eggs mixed in - otherwise everything is correct. The originator of that great recipe, Gladys Beall, should have corrected me from the beyond!! I feel like a traitor to her wonderful cooking. The recipe is on Page 68. Boof!!

Love

Dani Duniho

### **EDUCATION POLL: YOUR OPINION COUNTS**

We have an opportunity to attend a 3 hour canine first aid/CPR seminar. This seminar could be at a club member's home, or at the presenting company's offices in Gaithersburg. The fee would be NO MORE than \$45/person, and possibly less. Attendees get trained in basic first aid- eye and paw injuries, heat stroke, burns, trauma, and CPR.

We could have the seminar in place of a regular meeting, or on another day. Another idea is to do this as a fund raiser - charge a bit more (\$50?) and have the difference go to the club.

o I would definitely be interested, no matter where or how much

o I am only interested if it is at a member's home

o I am only interested if it is at Rescue-One in Gaithersburg

o I am interested no matter the fee

o I am only interested if the fee is below \$25.00

o I am only interested if there is no fee

o I am not interested at all.

o I am interested if it is NOT on a regular meeting date

o I am interested if it IS on a regular meeting date

o I would support doing it as a fundraiser

Please respond to this polls by January 11<sup>th</sup> email  
([jodie@jewelerfamily.com](mailto:jodie@jewelerfamily.com))

## BRAG

On February 20, 2007, a litter was whelped by Tammy's Maggie; three boys and three girls (of which 3 are black and 3 are brindle). Below they celebrate St Patrick's Day. And below right is the Constellation Litter at about 8 weeks going for their stroll.



*Photos by: Jay Kistler*

On July 14, 2007, under judge Margery West, Jodie's Limerick got his first CD "Leg," at SSCGB's all breed obedience & rally trial. On the following day, despite being exhausted from the day before, Limerick rallied & got his 2nd leg under judge Richard Strong. His halts were a big hit with the crowd! Then, on August 25th, at Oriole Dog Training Club's obedience & rally trial, he got his 3rd leg & earned his CD under judge Richard Doan. Now this is something to BRAG about! Getting a title in 3 straight shows!



Tammy Aube has another brag about that Constellation Litter...at the IWADV Specialty, Tammy entered four puppies from the litter and is pleased to say that three of the four pups placed both Sweeps and Conformation.



On July 30, 2007, at the 2007 Specialty of Irish Wolfhound Association of New England, Moirne O'Ros (aka Maude) took 3rd place in Novice bitch. Maude (pictured left) is owned by Bob and Dee Brehl.

Bob Brehl has a new Champion, Sadhbh O'Ros! Congratulations Bob and Sophie!

*Photo by: Jay Kistler*

## **THERAPY DOG INTERNATIONAL**

Article submitted by Thomas Hertz.

*From the Editor: Tom submitted this article to me as a Brag Report. After reading the Article, I felt compelled to keep it separate in hopes of bringing recognition on TDI opportunities near you. For more information on TDI in the western Maryland areas, feel free to drop Tom an e-mail.*

Susan Hertz and Seamus (Blair's Prophet) received the TDI Active Volunteer award from Therapy Dogs International for completing 50 or more therapy dog visits. Susan, Tom, Seamus, and Teagan (Blair's Mysterious) now make weekly visits to the hospital and an elementary school in Garrett County, and regular visits to two libraries for the Children Reading to Dogs program. (Photo of Seamus below)

Thomas W. Hertz  
thertz@gmail.com



**REMINDER: MEMBERSHIP DUES NOTICES** have been mailed out. If you have not received your notice, please contact Joe O'Leary (contact info can be found on the front cover).

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Chair: Jodie Jeweler

The Education & Programs Committee is investigating several programs for the upcoming year, on topics as varied as canine CPR and how to train an IW. We'd like MORE ideas! If there is a program you would like to see presented to the club, please let me know. Any idea is welcome! Ideas for topics include health issues, breeding, puppy rearing, senior dog care, training, lure coursing, Rally, Obedience, show grooming, or general grooming. Please contact me with suggestions at [Jodie@jewelerfamily.com](mailto:Jodie@jewelerfamily.com)

If you have or know of a group (scouts, Hibernians, 4-H, etc) that might be interested in having us come & do a presentation on the IW to them, please let me know! We are always happy to talk about our dogs, as you probably know!

More regarding the Education Committee can be found on the last page!

## **LURE COURSING COMMITTEE**

Chair: Carole Silverthorne

On October 6-7, 2007, The Carolina Lure Coursing Society hosted 2007 AKC National Lure Coursing Championship. This event is held annually and was held at the Flintrock Farm, near Reidsville, North Carolina.

Total entry each day was 102. Imagine 102 of the very best lure coursing hounds in the America! Some of the breeds at the event were: Afghans, Borzois, Greyhounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Salukis, and Scottish Deer-hounds. The hounds were judged on speed, enthusiasm for the plastic lure, agility, endurance and their overall ability.

For more on this event and to see which hound walked away as the National Lure Coursing Champion, please visit:

[http://www.akc.org/events/lure\\_coursing/national/2007/](http://www.akc.org/events/lure_coursing/national/2007/)

## THE BOOK SHELF

The following books are recommended by PVIWC member Janet Quiesser.

*The Culture Clash* by Jean Donaldson

This is a very important book in the positive training world and won a "Best Dog Training Book" award in '96 when it came out. The first chapter says the Walt Disney myth about dogs (they are very, very intelligent; have a moral code; are capable of planning actions; have an innate desire to please humans, etc.) has been very damaging to dogs because countless of them have been mistreated or euthanized because they don't measure up to Disney's definition. In reality, dogs are really remarkable creatures, very social, predacious (predatory) and basically look at the world to see what's in it for them. We love 'em, but they are just dogs! The book has a series of lessons for training, based on operant conditioning (the use of consequences to modify the occurrence of forms of behavior). From time to time, if I feel frustrated with a dog, I pick up this book and read it again; it's like having a good compass.

*The Other End of the Lease* by Patricia McConnell PhD

This is a remarkable book subtitled: Why We Do What We Do Around Dogs. As an animal behaviorist and co-host of "Calling All Pets" which airs on the NPR Stations, she looks at the differences between dog behavior (canids) and human behavior (primates) and provides some guidance into making the relationship work better for both parties. This is a very readable book and not so much a training book. It is very engaging and is an inspiration to understanding the human/canine relationship.

*Don't Shoot The Dog* by Karen Pryor

The author is a former dolphin trainer and student of B. F. Skinner. This book is now in a second edition and is not really a dog training book, but one on behavior with advice for dealing with kids, spouses, friends and yes, dogs. Basically it is on positive reinforcement (she does recommend clickers for dog training) and this book is the one book always on the top of my recommended reading list. She also wrote the wonderful *Lads Before The Wind* which is about her days as a dolphin trainer.



The PVIWC Fun Match Steward pictured above is Ms. Whitney Meeks.  
She isn't sleeping as you may think; or, maybe she is.

*Photo by: Jay Kistler*

The Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club mourns the loss of Mrs. Deirdre M. Brehl.



Dee working at the PVIWC Boutique



Dee handling a hound at the PVIWC Fun Match.



FEB 29 2004



Dee and Susan with a litter of pups



Dee and Bob with friends and hounds at a show.



SEP 11 2001

Last Call

'tis Gabriel's horn, by all tradition,  
That sounds for Heaven or perdition,  
But when my time has come to die,  
A wolfhound, with his nose on high,  
Will sound a call from Heaven's gate,  
"O-o-oh, master, come, it's growing late."

Though rough the path and dense the fog'  
I'll face the darkness with my dog  
And if turned back, I know full well  
My hound will follow me to Hell.

By: Katherine Hamilton  
1898 - 1997

Lover of Irish Wolfhounds and Poet  
Longtime member of the  
The Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club



MAR 5 2005

**Officiating** Father Michael Brehl, C.S.S.R.

**Entrance Music** Adgiao; Albinoni/G Minor

**Introit** Gregorian Requiem

**Readings**

First – Dorothy Murnane

Second – Mary Ellen Given

Gospel – Father Michael Brehl

**Offertory**

Ave Maria

Bach/Gounod/C Major

**Communion**

Pie Jesu

Dvorak's Requiem Mass

**The Concluding Rite** "For Emily" by Simon and Garfunkel

**Recession** "On my way home" by Enya

**Pall Bearers:** David Shea, Jonathan Shea, Bernard F. Brehl, Thomas R. Brehl, Stephen V. Brehl, Nicholas Brehl

**Bagpiper** Norm Weaver

**Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club**

Members and hounds

In Memory of Dee Brehl

Beyond the fields  
Beyond the hills,  
Beyond the icy moon...  
When I am gone  
Look there for me  
Where night winds  
Softly croon.

And I shall drift  
On Autumn mists  
And be the Summer rain,  
And I am snowflakes  
In the night  
And grasses in the lane.

I am the sunshine  
Through the trees,  
The wild sea on a shore,  
And when you see  
Spring's bursting leaves  
You'll know I'm here  
Once more.

By Sonya Dann

Dee As Remembered By Judie Jeweler

One of the Finest Examples of the Human Breed: Quality in her every move, head held high, eyes bright and inquisitive, ladylike in appearance, and a pleasure to be around.

Dee Brehl lived her life with enthusiasm, finesse, and love. She believed in finding your dreams and laughing at your nightmares. And as Eleanor Roosevelt said "Women are like teabags...you don't know how strong they are until they get into hot water." Dee proved that she was strong enough to help us get through the hot water she was in, along with her.

She had the ability to organize the most un-organized, to teach the impossible, to examine problems and get them down to their smallest details...then categorize them till they were no longer problems.

Her skills as a speaker were known in every step of her life...making our lives more fun, more meaningful and more understandable. I loved her ability to bring laughter to an otherwise staid/everyday situation. Like telling a huge table of people after a dog show "DID YOU SEE THE REAR END ON THAT BIG BLACK BITCH"? And having all the tables around us leave the restaurant!

Dee would call us before each trip to a dog show and remind us what to take, and organized all our tailgates down to the tiniest detail, and always remembered the things we would never have thought of.

She was always concerned that no one's toes got stepped on. She never said anything negative about anyone.. She was a lady in the old-fashioned sense of the word, and if white gloves and hats were still fashionable she would still be wearing them.

Dee left a huge hole in our hearts, in our club, and in our activities. We will remember every direction and instruction she ever gave us and will try to live our lives as she taught us...always thinking of others, being sincere, being careful, and will miss her more than she would ever have admitted.

Family Condolences may be sent to: Robert Brehl, P.O. Box 1792, Frederick, MD 21702-0792

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to:

The Irish Wolfhound Foundation, David C. Milne, Treasurer, 150 Creek Road, Phillipsburg, NJ 08854

or

Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive, Suite 100, Rockville, MD 20850

## PVIWC Fun Match

*Time it was and what a time it was, it was  
A time of innocence, a time of confidences  
Long ago it must be, I have a photograph  
Preserve your memories, they're all that's left you  
- Bookends, Simon & Garfunkel*

The PVIWC Annual Fun Match was held at Bay Ridge Marina in Annapolis, Maryland, on September 9th. Honoring the hounds on this day as Judge was Linda King (Ardrihi). Ms. Whitney Meeks provided excellent Stewarding to Linda. Whitney is a Junior Handler's judge and has recently been accepted as a member of the Professional Handlers Association. Whitney is the daughter of Darryl and Lynn Meeks.

The hounds were calm, the weather was great (ok, it was hot), and the food was very edible! The placements in each group have not been provided to the Editor or Co-Editor at the time of publishing. If received, Faol Cu will have the Fun Match placements available for you.

As usual, the first in the ring was the 6-9 month puppy dogs. What a wonderful bunch of puppies! I must say that my puppy dog dragged me around the ring, wanting to be rid of the collar and lead. It was surely a laughable site. As the puppy classes continued, Mor Derry War Eagle of Elkhorn, took Best Puppy in Match. The dogs and bitches had a whirl around the ring. It was very nice to see Jodie Jeweler in the ring as a handler. Bob Brehl exposed Lucie to the ring for the first time. It is so nice to see all of the hounds together for some fun.

The Brehl's bitch, Sophie, took Best Adult in Match. (If anyone took photos of the winners, please contact me) When it was time for Best in Match, the judge's words were, "Today is the day for the puppy" as she awarded Best in Match to Mor Derry War Eagle of Elkhorn (aka Cyggy).

Mor Derry War Eagle of Elkhorn



Linda King - The Fun Match Judge



Linda King - The Dog Whisperer

## **MESSAGE FROM A PVIWC MEMBER**

*By Janet Queisser*

### **TEAM WOLFHOUND**

Hey fellow companions of wolfies! Are you ready to discover something fun to do with your hounds? And maybe even earn some titles for the right side of your dog's name? Well, listen up, because I'm talking about Rally.

#### **What is Rally?**

Recently introduced by the AKC, Rally is a form of obedience where dog and handler complete courses officiated by a judge to earn three qualifying scores (AKA legs) toward the RN (Rally Novice), the RA (Rally Advanced) and RE (Rally Excellent) titles. The titles are successive and there is also a super-Rally title of RAE achieved by qualifying in both a RA and RE class at the same trial (a "double-Q") ten times.

The Rally course consists of between 12 and 18 stations with signs telling the team to move around the course to turn, sit, down, stand, go fast, go slow, weave around cones, and even go over low jumps in the advanced classes. These are all performed with the dog on the handler's left side ("heel position") but unlike traditional obedience, the handler is permitted to interact verbally and encourage the dog throughout the course.

Each dog and handler team enters the ring with 100 points and the goal is to leave the ring with at least a qualifying score of 70 points. Oh yes, the course is timed, but the time is used only to break ties for class placements. Like any other endeavor worth doing, there are standards of excellence and likewise ways to mess up. These and descriptions of the specific stations are described in the AKC Rally Rule Book.

#### **The Fun Part**

While traditional obedience is defined by its regimented exercises and precise performance criteria, Rally is more relaxed, stations can be re-tried and the rules are more forgiving. Rally is not boring. The basic stations learned for Rally Novice are carried through all levels and new stations with increasing complexity are added for Advanced and Excellent classes.

Because in Rally the dog is always close to the handler, reward based training is easy to do. This method emphasizes timing and positive reinforcement and fosters the dog-handler relationship. A good thing for everyone!

There are no "group exercises" in Rally. Except for the Honor station (dog and handler do a sit stay off to the side in the ring while another team does the course) in the Excellent class, the teams do the course one at a time. No worries about having to leave your dog next to some strange dog with an unknown disposition.

Perhaps because there is less performance pressure, the atmosphere at Rally trials tends to be more amiable than traditional obedience. People root for each other and share the wins as well as disappointments. While Agility unquestioningly places physical as well as mental demands on both the dog and handler, Rally puts much less wear and tear on the team. But like Agility, Rally has the benefit (and challenge) of different courses at each trial.

#### **The Challenges**

Although Rally rules allow you to "talk to your dog" while running a course, this will get you only so far unless specific skills are developed. Rally is ninety percent about moving around the course with the dog on your left side in Heel Position. Fortunately, heeling is a skill that can be taught using reward based training techniques. If the handler is committed and willing to devote a moderate amount of time to it, there is absolutely no reason why a sound wolfhound can't heel well.

Though Rally rules are more relaxed and aren't as prickly as those for traditional obedience there are plenty of ways to non-qualify (NQ) and blow an entry fee. (Have you seen those all breed trial fees? Yikes!) In addition to practicing your moves, it pays to know the rule book, if for no other reason than to preserve the checkbook!

#### **Why Wolfhounds?**

I have observed in nearly thirty years of training wolfhounds that because of their typical friendly, sociable nature, they like to be close to their handlers. Traditional obedience has many exercises where the dogs work away from you which can be stressful to even well trained dogs. All of the Rally stations are performed with the

dog and handler team right together. Most wolfhounds find working close to Mom (or Dad) to be self-reinforcing especially if non-aversive training techniques are used. A true team activity!

The Advanced and Excellent classes have jumps, but for dogs the size of wolfhounds, the jump heights are *only 16 inches*, significantly lower than either traditional obedience or Agility. Rally jumps shouldn't be any problem as long as the wolfhound is sound and healthy and the handler can "run by" the jump. Once they have the skills down, dogs enjoy the movement and look forward to the jumps. The trick is to get them back into position for the next station!

I personally think Rally is the ideal performance event for Irish Wolfhounds. As a competitive event, Rally has no inherent disadvantage for big dogs. The skills needed to compete are easily accessible, the physical risks of competition are minimal and working close together fosters the social bond between dog and handler. While Rally is envisioned by the AKC as a pathway to traditional obedience, it is a rewarding activity on its own.

### Here's The Deal

As mentioned earlier I have been training wolfhounds for nearly 30 years\*. During that time my philosophy and techniques have evolved. While there is always more to learn, and there are many folks who are more accomplished than me, I am now comfortable in making reward based, positive reinforcement training work and I believe that I have something useful to pass on to others. I would like to give something back to the wolfhound community by way of providing the opportunity to learn about a collegial activity and have fun with their hounds.

I am offering to meet with folks and their hounds for an initial session, show the basics of reward based training and present what I think is a good heeling skills program as the basis of Rally. If there is further interest, we could meet again to assess progress and continue on with developing additional Rally skills. My overall objective is to provide folks and their wolfhounds with some knowledge and skills to practice Rally on their own and to prepare for trials by making the most out of all-breed Rally matches or "run-

throughs." Also, if there is interest, I think it would be great fun for Team Wolfhound to meet periodically at different locations to practice, share accomplishments and critique each other's performances in preparation for upcoming trials.

I am willing to travel (I live just west of Richmond) and envision meeting somewhere in the Washington metro area at a suitable location like a park or other place. But I am flexible and other details would be worked out depending on the response and where people may be coming from.

If this appeals to you and you would like try out (or practice) Rally with your wolfhounds, please contact me at 804-556-6972 or at [queissjc@aol.com](mailto:queissjc@aol.com). Look forward to hearing from you!

Janet Queisser



Another PVIWC member, Diane Hartney sent me an e-mail that I thought had some pretty awesome stationary the Club members may be interested in. There are fantastic styles and Diane affirms to the quality of paper. Her exact words: "I got my first order and they are beautiful." Instructions on how to order: You have to email [xmasplus@nemont.net](mailto:xmasplus@nemont.net) to place an order.

The cards are \$1.50 ea; cheaper if you order over a dozen.

Judy Reinhardt is the Irish Wolfhound Rescue representative in Montana. Judy can be reached at 406 228 8039. Judy donated a selection of cards to PVIWC Placement and Rescue to use as Thank You notes.

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF BLOAT IN IRISH WOLFHOUNDS

By: Jodie Jeweler

We've all heard about bloat and how dangerous it is. We've probably all heard the symptoms to look for - but do we understand what, *exactly*, we are looking for? What does restless *really* mean? Could you recognize the signs in your dog? If you thought your dog was bloating, would you know what to do? The causes of Bloat are mysterious. Do you understand the various and often conflicting information regarding it?

Bloat (Gastric Dilation) is a potentially fatal occurrence, often linked with Torsion (volvulus). The stomach fills with gas or air, then often flips, twisting on itself. Bloat & torsion are often called GDV. (Gastric dilation and volvulus) Damage to the stomach can occur in moments. Torsion can involve the stomach only, the Spleen only, or both organs. A dog can have Torsion which causes Bloat, Torsion only, Bloat which leads to Torsion, or Bloat alone. Damage to the spleen, kidneys, liver, intestines, and heart are possible, as is death. The odds for an otherwise healthy dog with bloat and torsion can be as low as 30%.

The causes of bloat are not fully understood, but many factors play into its occurrence. Stress is a major factor. As an IW owner, you must be attuned to your dog for his or her personal stress indicators. For example, when Dylan is stressed, he draws his third eyelid over his eyes. The dog may pant excessively, (which also can lead to aerophagia, swallowing air, which could cause bloating.) or be excessively clingy. Frequent yawning is also a sign of stress. Knowing what causes stress in your dog, and as much as possible, preventing it, is also critical.

Many people believe feeding certain types of foods can lead to an increase risk of bloat (see the Purdue study) – it is generally recommended that you not feed food with citric acid as a preservative. Many people feel that feeding the dog in raised feeders leads to bloat. Many others feel the opposite. Discuss this with your breeder and vet. Many people feel that feeding dry kibble can lead to bloat; there is some evidence that dogs fed a raw diet are more likely to bloat- however, this may be due to the fact that more large breed dog owners feed raw diets, than small breed owners do. Dried beets, beet pulp or beet powder have been proven to cause foaming in the stomach, which can lead to excessive gas build up. A violent illness with vomiting can cause the stomach to begin swinging like a pendulum, leading to torsion, causing bloat. When my other wolfhound, Limerick, bloated, it was secondary to a stomach upset. He began vomiting, which apparently caused the stomach to swing like a pendulum, until it finally flipped all the way over. Eating too much or eating inappropriate things can also cause bloat or torsion. When Dylan bloated, it was because he had overeaten. And, extreme pain (which is stressful) can cause them, too. Older dogs may be more at risk than younger dogs, especially if they have a mass or other illness, but even very young puppies can bloat. (As young as a few weeks.)

It is important to remember that a dog can have either OR both... they don't always "come together". We are told to watch for panting, restlessness, a distended abdomen and "muddy" gums as danger signs. However, what exactly IS "restlessness"? Some dogs may lie calmly as long as 20 minutes at a time, before getting up to move to another position. Dylan lay for as long as ½ hour before rolling over; he never got up to pace. Many dogs won't lie down, but some find the pressure more comfortable. Some may feel (and display) pain when they move, and therefore be content to lie still. Dylan was happiest lying still, (which is why I waited so long to take him to the vets; because I mistakenly thought if he was comfortable lying down, he wasn't bloating) other than panting, the only sign of distress was when he rolled over; he would cry.

Many IWs have such large rib cages that their entire stomach is within the ribcage- unless he swallowed a basketball, you might not feel any distention. With Limerick, 3 vets examined him and none felt any evidence of bloat, although the X-Ray had already showed air in his stomach. The lower abdomen (the soft part we all like to scratch when they roll on their backs) may not show any signs of bloating, excessive firmness or distention. Only an X-Ray can accurately diagnose Bloat or Torsion. On an X-Ray, the torsed stomach looks like a "double bubble"- almost like a twisted infinity symbol.

Muddy gums are hard to describe, but once you've seen them, you never forget. Imagine mixing blue (lack of oxygen) with the pretty, healthy pink of your dog's gums- that's muddy. If you see muddy gums (when you press on healthy gums, they should go white for a second, then immediately turn pink again- muddy gums remain dark), get your dog to the vet IMMEDIATELY!!! Contrary to popular belief, bloat alone CAN kill your dog. And bloat alone is common. Your dog can also have torsion, without bloat. And, again, disproving popular theory, your dog may be bloated or even experiencing torsion, and still be burping. When Limerick bloated, he was constantly burping (in the vet's face, in fact)!

Your dog may display other unusual signs, such as repeated retching, but not vomiting, looking at his flanks, side or stomach, biting or chewing at them, or constant pacing. Excessive drooling, or standing in strange postures can also be signals. Some dogs will hold their heads very high, while others drop them as low as they can. Some dogs may lie in positions they never have, or in strange places. I know of one dog who felt best lying on cold concrete while he was

bloating. If you notice unusual behavior, it is probably better to go to the vets to check, than take a chance with your dog's life.

Normally, in a case of GDV, you have moments, not hours. If you THINK its bloat, it is always safer to get to the vets, and find out it isn't, than to wait and be wrong. I keep simethicone (Gas-x) tablets everywhere - in each car, in my purse, & in the "dog bag"... at the first sign of possible bloat, I give the dog 2 pills (275 mg each). I then IMMEDIATELY head for the nearest vet. Talk to your vet about the proper dose and use of simethicone for your dog. When Dylan was ill, I gave him 1 Gas-x and 1 tagamet, before taking him to the vet's. This may have delayed the more severe symptoms, saving his life. But remember, simethicone is not a cure, only a delaying tactic. It may give you enough time to get to help before your dog's situation is critical. DON'T think, however, that it allows you extra time- give it and GO!

**PART II** of this article will be continued in the next edition of Faol Cu, in which we will discuss the surgery, present photos, and more information.

## **PVIWC EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Chair: Jodie Jeweler**

On October 13, Sue, Walt and Bailey joined Judie, Dylan, Limerick & me at the Anne Arundel County Scottish Festival for a wonderful day of educational 'meet & greet'. We participated in the opening ceremonies, leading in the Scottish dogs and massed bands. We were given the lead position behind the clan representatives because of our large size. We had a marvelous time telling everyone the difference between Deerhounds & Wolfhounds- so much so that Judie lost her voice!

Club members Anne, Jayne, Diane & Tom, Sue & Walt, Lisa & Bill, and Jodie & Judie had a wonderful time at the Baltimore Irish festival this year! The festival is now held in the Cow Palace at the Timonium Fairgrounds, the 2nd weekend in November. Diane and Anne created a marvelous story board that helped explain IWs growth & sizes. I can't remember when I have had so much fun - or talked SO much! I'm already looking forward to next year!

The festival board enjoyed our presence so much, they gave Ann a donation check! Way to go, gang!!!! Over the summer, all of the Jewelers, and all of the Arnolds joined Caren Carney at the West Annapolis Irish festival. There was a huge crowd, all eager to meet IWs & learn all about them. We had planned to walk the festival, but it was too crowded! Due to lack of participation and illness, no one walked in the Silver Spring thanksgiving parade. I would like to know if you think we should give up this event in future? I am hoping to come up with a visually interesting "thing" for parade participants to DO in front of the reviewing stand... just walking past, waving, is BORING!!!... if you have ideas, please let me know! Maybe we could walk in a circle, to let everyone see each dog... and have those that do tricks, perform?

St Patrick's day Parade POCs- remember to send in your applications ASAP!!!

I am investigating having Rescue-One come & give us a CPR and first aid seminar . (See my POLL).

As soon as I have any information, I will let you know. If there are other educational topics you would like to explore, please let me know! You can reach me via e-mail at: [jodie@jewelerfamily.com](mailto:jodie@jewelerfamily.com)

### Coming up in the next edition:

2007 Specialty Show results  
Part II of the Signs and Symptoms of Bloat  
PVIWC contributions to Irish Festivals  
Updates from across the US  
Remembering Our Special Friends  
Bone Cancer