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The Newsletter of the Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club

Fall 2011

2011 PVIWC Officers

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Al Jeweler, 410-266-8062

Gary Van Nest, 410-263-6786

Robert Brehl, 240-446-6015

Carole Silverthorne, 540-338-8916

Jodie Jeweler, 410-266-8062

Lisa McKinney, 717-766-3125

Fun Match!

It's time, once again, to mark your calendar for the annual Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Fun Match!

When: September 25, 2011, 11:00am

Where: Bay Ridge Marina, E. Lake Dr., Annapolis, MD

Judge: Glenn (Herb) Myer

Education

"Dog Shows for Newbies" and "Obedience Tricks." Learn about showing an IW and helpful tricks to get your hound to behave!

Classes

Puppy - 3-18 months

Adult - novice & open

Veteran

Awards

Longest Tail, Longest Beard, Biggest Foot, Best Head, Best Sitter, Weirdest Talent, Best Gait, Best Puppy, Best Adult, Best Veteran, Best in Show. Entries \$5/class.

Other Good Stuff

We will have the Duffy School of Irish Dance perform for us! Also, we are hoping to have CGC testing, so come prepared!

Contact Jessica Fritz with any questions: jessfritz@gmail.com

Food! Fun! Scenery! Raffle! Boutique! Irish Dancers!

NOTE— CGC testing will not be offered!

As always, our Fun Match is Pot Luck. Please contact Al Jeweler (al@jewelerfamily.com) ASAP to sign up to bring your favorite dish for 30-40 people. We need salads, sides, desserts & drinks.

We are having a raffle again this year! Please contact Jodie (jodie@jewelerfamily.com) to donate an item to the raffle!

PA Renaissance Faire!

The club is attending (working, with our hounds!) the PA renaissance festival in Manheim, Pa weekends, from August through October. Anyone is welcome to attend for the club, as long as you dress in appropriate garb. (this is easier than it sounds- ask me for ideas!) We are attending on: August 27, October 9, 22 & 30. Please join us for an historically fun time! We want a BIG crowd of IUs 10/22!! But any date is fine! contact Jodie FMI.

CALL FOR DNA SAMPLES!

The Broad Institute at MIT/Cambridge needs Irish Wolfhound DNA Samples! Especially needed are older dogs, with or without cancers (especially osteo), but all Irish Wolfhound samples are helpful! All they need are two 15ml tubes full of blood, which they will send you if you ask. Check out www.dogdna.org for forms & information. Or write dog-info@broad.mit.edu. This is an EASY way to help not only our hounds, but children worldwide! One of the Institute's first findings was that IW osteosarcoma is the same form as human kid osteo!

Fall Festivals:

MD Irish Festival: November 11-13, at the Cow palace, Timonium Fairgrounds. LOTS of fun, great music & good food, and LOTs of shopping. Contact Jodie FMI or to sign up.

9/3-4- Virginia (Alexandria) Highland Games. <http://www.vascottishgames.org/Index.html>

Dog Show Terms: a Glossary

Winner's Dog/Bitch: The dog who beat all the other "class" dogs that day

Reserve- Kind of like "runner-up." If the winner's dog is deemed ineligible to earn the points (being in the wrong class, not being properly registered, etc.) the reserve dog gets the points. Often seen as RWD (Reserve Winner's Dog) (or RWB, reserve winner's Bitch).

Class/class dog- dog shows are divided into classes- dogs who win their class compete for best of breed against the "specials."

Special: the dogs who have already earned their CH ("Finished") they are only eligible to compete in best of breed/show class.

To "Take" a Group 1st, 2nd, etc: just another way of saying the dog won (placed 2nd, etc) in the group- all the dogs who won their breed in that group (hound, terrier, etc.)

Major: a dog must earn 15 points, including 2 "major" wins- earning more than 3 points at once- to "Finish" (Be a Champion). The more dogs at a show of your breed, the more points. There's a schedule for each geographic area.

Leg: In performance sports (obedience, rally, etc.) a dog must earn a minimum score 3 times, under 2 different judges. We call these "legs."

"Q" or "Q'd" means the dog qualified- earned the minimum points needed to get a "leg."

NQ- Not qualified. Means the dog "pointed out" or didn't earn enough points. NOT the same as

DQ- which means disqualified. In performance sports, this can be from eliminating in the ring, snarling or biting the judge, leaving the ring without the handler, or fighting.

PVIWC won "Best Animal Group" in the 2011 Alexandria St. Patrick's day parade! Here we see some of the reasons we won: Liam, Jess & Tony Fritz, Mary O'Malley, & Carla Dal Cais. Oh, and of course, our hounds!



Denise Harris reports: I don't think we can refer to Carrick as the runt of his litter anymore. Sumo wrestling at the Harris household will commence at...

...who am I kidding, it goes on all day long! I don't know how much longer my furniture will survive. It's like living with a large, barking, non-stop poltergeist. OK it stops occasionally when they're eating, which actually is quite often in Carrick's case.

IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT MEETINGS!

At the August Board meeting, the board voted to make major changes to our monthly meeting schedule!

As of the October meeting, there will no longer be separate board and general meetings. This should streamline meetings and leave more time for socializing.

Also, as of 2012, we will reduce the number of meetings from 8 per year, to 6, eliminating the June & July meetings. Meetings will now be held in January, February, April in conjunction with the specialty show, May, August, October & November. We will still have the fun match in September and the holiday party in December

I don't want a show dog; I just want a pet.

This is one of the most pervasive sentiments that puppy buyers, especially families, express when they're looking for a dog. What they really mean, of course, is that they don't want a show BREEDER – don't want to pay the high price they think show breeders charge, don't want to go through the often-invasive interview process, and think that they're getting a better deal or a real bargain because they can get a Lab for \$300 or a Shepherd for \$150.

I want you to change your mind. I want you to not only realize the benefits of buying a show-bred dog, I want you to INSIST on a show-bred dog. And I want you to realize that the cheap dog is really the one that's the rip-off. And then I want you to go be obnoxious and, when your workmate says she's getting a puppy because her neighbor, who raises them, will give her one for free, or when your brother-in-law announces that they're buying a goldendoodle for the kids, I want you to launch yourself into their solar plexus and steal their wallets and their car keys.

Here's why:

If I ask you why you want a Maltese, or a Lab, or a Leonberger, or a Cardigan, I would bet you're not going to talk about how much you like their color. You're going to tell me things about personality, ability (to perform a specific task), relationships with other animals or humans, size, coat, temperament, and so on. You'll describe playing ball, or how affectionate you've heard that they are, or how well they get along with kids. The things you will be looking for aren't the things that describe just "dog"; they'll be the things that make this particular breed unique and unlike other breeds.

That's where people have made the right initial decision – they've taken the time and made the effort to understand that there are differences between breeds and that they should get one that at least comes close to matching their picture of what they want a dog to be.

Their next step, tragically, is that they go out and find a dog of that breed for as little money and with as much ease as possible.

You need to realize that when you do this, you're going to the used car dealership, WATCHING them pry the "Audi" plate off a new car, observing them as they use Bondo to stick it on a '98 Corolla, and then writing them a check and feeling smug that you got an Audi for so little.

It is no bargain.

Those things that distinguish the breed you want from the generic world of "dog" are only there because somebody worked really hard to get them there. And as soon as that work ceases, the dog, no matter how purebred, begins to revert to the generic. That doesn't mean you won't get a good dog – the magic and the blessing of dogs is that they are so hard to mess up, in their good souls and minds, that even the most hideously bred one can still be a great dog – but it will not be a good Shepherd, or good Puli, or a good Cardigan. You will not get the specialized abilities, tendencies, or talents of the breed.

If you don't NEED those special abilities or the predictability of a particular breed, you should not be buying a dog at all. You should go rescue one. That way you're saving a life and not putting money in pockets where it does not belong.

If you want a purebred and you know that a rescue is not going to fit the bill, the absolute WORST thing you can do is assume that a name equals anything. They really are nothing more than name plates on cars. What matters is whether the engineering and design and service department back up the name plate, so you have some expectation that you're walking away with more than a label.

Keeping a group of dogs looking and acting like their breed is hard, HARD work. If you do not get the impression that the breeder you're considering is working that hard, is that dedicated to the breed, is struggling to produce dogs that are more than a breed name, you are getting no bargain; you are only getting ripped off.

From - Ruffly Speaking <http://blacksheepcardigans.com/ruff/> permission given to repost



NOTICE!!!

Lure Coursing News! There is a new club in the area: The Hanover (PA) Lure Coursing Club. See their monthly schedule at: <http://www.hanoverlurecoursingclubs.org/schedule.htm>. **ALSO- We need a Lure Coursing Committee Chair!** Duties include informing the club membership of lure coursing events in the area. Lure coursing experience helpful but not necessary.

From the Board: We are looking for a new Club Historian. This is a fun job! You get to store the club records, trophies from parades & festivals, photos, etc., and keep archives and histories. Please contact Christina or Susan Morfit if you'd like to volunteer.

Condolences



From Tom & Susan Hertz: We had to put down Seamus (Blair's Prophet, CDX) this morning. He was almost 9 1/2. When Ce handed him to us as a puppy, she said "He's boneless and goofy" and she was right. But he loved his obedience work and for two years running was highest scoring Irish wolfhound in the U.S. in AKC obedience competition, and for the second of those years, the 9th highest scoring dog of all hound breeds combined. Susan retired him from the ring after he earned one leg of his UD, when it became apparent that he had lost his enthusiasm for regimented obedience work. He was a good dog.

Rear End Awareness by Janet Queisser

When I was little I remember reading about a really huge dinosaur that was so big it was believed it actually had two brains, one in its little bitty head and one farther back to control its lumbering hind end. Now, I don't whether current paleontological research supports this theory, but the vision persists.

Do wolfhounds need brain transplants to help get their butts to actually move? Nope, but many of our dogs could use a bit of coaching to enhance their physical selves to live up to their potential as the Largest of the Galloping Hounds. To further this notion, I am offering to club members the opportunity to learn some techniques to teach dogs how to use their bodies more effectively as well as learn skills to help manage the older hound.

I am proposing a hands-on, half-day workshop in which owners learn coaching techniques to instruct their puppies, youngsters and adult hounds how to "get it in gear." Known as Rear End Awareness Training, handlers use games and exercises to teach the dog where to put his or her feet, how to efficiently use their hindquarters and to focus on the task at hand. The task may be performance events, conformation showing, lure coursing or confidence in using ramps. We will use positive reinforcement to reward the dogs' choices and to give confidence to do things with you. I am offering to hold the workshop at my place located about 20 miles west of Richmond (about two hours south of the DC area) which is out in the country, fenced and very dog friendly. I would also be willing to travel and bring the "circus" closer to where many of you live, if there is someone who has a large area where we can safely work dogs. I propose holding the workshop some time during the second or third weekend in November.

If you are interested in attending please let me know! I can be reached at queissjc@aol.com or at 804-556-6972. If it looks like a go, I will get back to those responding with more details on the workshop. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Let's have some FUN with our wolfhounds!

(from the education chair– This training is good for ANY dog, especially one you expect to get old! Please let Janet know if you are interested!!

Bragg!!!

Linda King's "Jane" won Reserve Winner's Bitch Saturday in Salem, and then won Winners Bitch AND BREED on Sunday! Go Jane!

Linda Young's Bedlington Terrier got two 5 point majors in Ohio!

Jodie Jeweler & Corky earned the 1st "leg" of his CD in Salisbury, in July, with a score of 183.

At the German Shepherd Club of Greater Washington, August 14th, Corky earned his 2nd leg with a score of 187!



Jodie is VERY proud of Corky!



Corky is VERY proud of himself!

Tammy McNeely-Aube's **Eradinus** (officially known by AKC as Moondancer of Elkhorn) received his AKC Championship title on 16 July 2011. Eradinus was handled by Tammy and cheered on by his sister, Cygnus, and family and friends. Many of you may remember Eradinus as the seven-month old bucking puppy dog at the IWADV 2007 Specialty. Tammy will never forget as she watched him humiliate her and his handler, Jay, that year. On-lookers commented on his bad behavior and lack of playfulness. Tammy decided to wait until he matured and try him out again. They say time changes things and it is true. Instead of being a seven month old bucking puppy, he matured into a 172 pound show-off. For those that commented in 2007, thank you for being wrong. Eradinus was and remains the sweetest dog and has matured to be a fine specimen. His sweet temperament is confirmed by his housemates: 2 terriers, 3 Chihuahuas and 1 miniature Schnauzer and a rowdy Great Dane friend. Elkhorn is very proud of him!



Disaster Preparation

As Hurricane season (followed by Autumn thunderstorms and Winter snow & ice) approaches, we should all take a moment to be sure we are specifically prepared to deal with a disaster and our hounds.

Besides keeping fresh batteries, lanterns & radios around, make sure you have specific items your hound will need.

Food— keep at least enough for a week; more if your dog needs a special diet or your brand of food is not available at generic stores. (bowls, too- stands if you use them).

Water: your dog needs approximately 2 gallons a day. Keep plastic jugs away from heat & light; replace often.

Keep paper copies of current Rabies certificates, local licenses, medical records, and anything else pertinent to your hound's health or welfare in a waterproof packet, ready to go with you if you need to evacuate, or if your hound is loose. (you should also keep copies of these items in any car your hound may travel in!) ***

Dog bed or throw. If the electricity is off in winter, you may want these for yourself; -p but having a familiar place to lie down can help relieve a stressed dog. Same with a favorite toy or chewy.

An ex-pen- if you need to evacuate, you may need a way to keep your dog confined.

Check with your local emergency management/preparedness department to see if you will be allowed to bring your dog to an emergency shelter. Many places now allow this. If not, make a plan as to where you will go. A dog-friendly hotel or a friend or family may be a better idea.

Keep the hound –mobile gassed up if bad weather is predicted!

*** Documents you should keep in your vehicles: copies of rabies certificates, health. Shot records, copies of local licenses (some states declare the right to stop you & check that you have these items when you travel into their jurisdiction!), a photo of your dog WITH YOU (proof of ownership)

And the following:

IN the event I am unable to care for my dogs, please contact the following people: (list names, home & cell #s. explain to these people exactly what you will & won't expect them to do, too!)

They are authorized to make any decisions regarding the care of my dogs. If needed, they will search for my dogs. Please DO NOT take my dogs to a shelter, SPCA, humane society, "pound" or anyplace except a veterinarian! I guarantee all costs associated with caring for my dogs will be covered by myself or the above mentioned people.

My dog is current on all vaccinations and does not present a health risk to anyone involved in his/her care. S/he may be scared or injured, please use caution!

Also: My dog may be home alone! Please call the following people to check on my pet!!

IMPORTANT NEWS!

Meeting date changes:

October 9th to 16th (to avoid conflict with IWADV's specialty)
Announcement of candidates for 2012 elections.

November 13th to 20th to avoid conflict with the MD Irish Festival. Election of Officers for 2012.

2012 SPECIALTY SHOW SITE CHANGE!

The 2012 PVIWC Specialty show, Obedience & Rally Trials will be held at the Harford County Equestrian Center, in Bel Air, MD.

The site features plenty of parking (RV, too!), covered pavilions, and is close to I-95. Hotels, shopping & restaurants are convenient, too!

It is Better to Give Than to Receive

My Art of Giving

By: Rocco A. Spanelli, PhD

(translated by Tammy McNeely-Aube)

A commonly known fact in almost every nationality is the joy between canine and human. We have

all experienced a sense of in need of a pick-me-up. It once or twice; what matters is challenge that most experience ings. I say digging is for the Norfolks, Jack Russell Par-



loneliness, anxiety, depression, or just matters not that the feeling happens how these feelings get tended to. The is the ability to dig out of such feel-Terriers. Let's leave the digging to the sons, Cairns, Borders, and Fox Terri-

ers. Instead of attempting to dig out of the emotional situation(s) life seems to present to us, we should set our scents and sights on the prey and chase away the doldrums with a little interactive work.

As previously mentioned, we [canines] have a special bond with man. My theory that a man's earliest memory of a dog stirs the emotions, causing man to pause and reflect inwardly, reminiscing when the spirit knew how to love unconditionally. For whatever reason, the fact is we offer moments of pure peace to the human heart. We do not see pure-bred or mutt and we do not think about our genetic makeup. So what is it about the canine species that causes man to have such passion? A simple understanding of basics: an opportunity to have companionship, trust, kindness, and faithfulness. These are the gifts we give unconditionally.

Read on and listen up man because the next six simple things will loosen your spirits.

Physical Therapy (aka Take a walk). It is simple and easy, remember the lead is hanging near the door and my collar has a ring to it. Please fasten the lead to my collar and open the door, I can show you new adventures on every walk. [Did you take note on the blooming dogwood tree I marked today?]

Time to eat. Before we go on the walk, wash the vegetables. In less than 45 minutes you can prepare a fare of vegetables, fish or chicken. Salads are good; we like the garlic seasoned croutons. [My favorite dish is a small sampling of sweet potato or butternut squash; in the Spring, you can plan on Brussels Sprouts]

Play time. Not all dogs can do tricks that fancy the human; however, if you watch us with a playful eye you will see that we goof off a lot. We each have our own way of acting up. We understand you are busy but we just need a small portion of your attention. [Remember this the next time I stand and bark for no reason, like this]

Quiet Time. You want to watch reruns of NCIS and I want to cuddle. Scoot over and let me join you. I will rest my head against you and when Ziva or Jethro appear to be in danger, reach over and stroke me. I prefer you start with my shoulders and belly, and then move to the neck. [I will not tell you what happens - although this is the fifth time you have seen this episode]

Massage. In need of some muscle rubbing? Me, too. All it takes is 15 minutes, if I stand still. Start by stroking my spine. Once you see that I'm getting comfortable, move to my head. Using both hands (from behind my shoulder) place each hand to my corresponding jaw (your left hand will be rubbing my left jaw). Work your way slowly to the ear (this is good time to check my ears) rubbing in front and behind the ear. Crawling your thumbs up to the top of my head and go down the top of the neck. Nice. Remember to massage my shoulders and front legs before moving to the loin and rear quarters. [If 15 minutes have passed I may opt to continue the rear portion on another day] How do you feel?

Schedules. At least every year I need to go see the, ahem, doctor. Yes, I know they poke, prod and prick. Take me no matter how much I embarrass you by trembling or pulling on the lead to exit. I know I should be braver than this but the cat they keep behind the counter is a bully. [Okay, I can deal with the cat; it is the gawd-awful designs those techs and doctors wear for uniforms that make me quiver] When you schedule your annual physical just schedule mine too, we both can play hooky for a day.

These are but are a testimony to most of my ninety-one years. I continue to run, whine, beg, and bark. I still find enough vigor to defend the grounds against hat-wearing humans (badge or no badge). Many years show on my earthly flesh, yet I am still able to bring the gift of peace to my human's soul. The unconditional love I give to my human is the gift she really gives to herself; for which I merely am the tool she uses to resolve her own emotional adversities.

New Arrivals!

Both Lisa & Bill McKinney and Susan & Bill Montgomery are expecting new arrivals! Both couples are getting Scottish Deerhound girls from the same breeder! Must be something about the name "Bill?" We are looking forward to having deerhounds around to say, "that's a Deerhound, this is a Wolfhound." Congratulations!