



DECEMBER 2022

Current Board Members

Jodie Jeweler

pvpresident@pviwc.org

Kathy Lewis

pvveep@pviwc.org

Christina Buckner

pvtreasurer@pviwc.org

Susan Wine

pvsecretary@pviwc.org

Carole Silverthorne

pvboard1@pviwc.org

Judy Chantelois

pvboard2@pviwc.org

Michael Quigley

pvboard3@pviwc.org

Linda King

pvboard4@pviwc.org

Virginia Thackston

pvboard5@pviwc.org

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Kathy Lewis.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER or in this newsletter, Editor's Corner

Thank you, Jodie for everything you do as president for the club. Your tireless work keeps us going. You are amazing!

Thank you, Christina for being our treasurer and getting us back in order when our previous treasurer was unable to continue due to illness. You are awesome!

Thank you, Susan W. for keeping us updated with all the news and our calendars organized. You are wonderful!

Thank you, Judy for always taking pictures at all of our events. Best photographer ever!

Thank you, Carole, Virginia and Michael for joining us on the board and taking on committee positions. You are very much appreciated!

Thank you, Linda for all of your work and staying calm and professional when others were not. You are great!

Thank you to all of the past and current committee chairs and members. Our club is nothing without YOU!!

Hi my name is ...



Eileen and Joseph

We are Joseph and Eileen- and we're very excited about joining the Irish Wolfhound community in our area and the PVIWC in particular! We are two attorneys in the Northern Virginia suburbs of DC who work in plaintiff's litigation and corporate law. Our journey to Irish wolfhounds has so far been one of learning, researching, and meeting the amazing hounds and people of the PVIWC. We hope we can join your ranks as puppy parents sometime as well. Joseph is an avid fisherman and Eileen picked up sourdough bread baking during the pandemic, and we both enjoy hiking, antiquing, and going to the orchestra. We look forward to meeting more PVIWC members in the future!

In case you missed it, I thought Susan Wine's Year in Review, was worth a second read!

Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club 2022 Year in Review

One of the best fringe benefits of owning an Irish Wolfhound is attending the festivals and parades we are invited to. I know the Specialty Show we hold each year is important and a big deal, but I like the public events we attend. This year post CoVID the festivities were in full swing.

It all starts in March with the St Patrick's Day Parades. We participated in Annapolis, Baltimore and Harrisburg this year.



We had a full schedule of Festivals. In April we attended the Dills Celtic Festival held at Historic Dills Tavern, Dillsburg, PA. This is a quaint little festival but one of the friendliest. The end of April was the Faerie Festival, at Marshy Point Nature Center, Baltimore. Unfortunately, we ended up getting rained out on Sunday.



In June was the Carroll County Celtic Festival. This was their first year. Had a few issues but hope to attend again next year. It was nice we could see some of the activities going on and hear the music without being close to the band stage. The Penn Mar Irish Festival, Shrewsbury, PA is a festival we have been invited to for a few years.

It is always popular and very well attended. There are a lot of pictures of our wolfhounds on their website. We also were invited to Celtic Fling, Mount Hope Winery, Manheim, PA. This is held on the grounds of the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire. It is both days of the weekend.



We set up by the jousting field under one of the only trees out there. We can see all the activities in the field as well as everyone tries to sit in our shade. So, we get lots of attention. This festival has great music and vendors set up on the grounds. It does get a bit hot. The event provides us with plenty of water and even bags of ice throughout the day for the wolfhounds.



July, we participated at the Annapolis Irish Festival. It started out great but toward the end of the day a huge storm blew in and we were drenched. We were set up on a slight hill between their vendors. It ended up being a stream. The wolfhounds did like that it cooled down all but the thunder.

September Labor Day weekend we attended the Virginia Scottish Games in Manassas, VA. We have been there the last two years. It

does get hot. With trees and canopies we were able to have shade. We are set up down the hill with the other dog groups. It is a festival where I feel we do not get to see very much that is going on away from our area. Do not try to stand in line for food. It is hot and will take you all day to get something. We are able to hear the Pipe competition and no matter where we are set up everyone finds the wolfhounds.

This year we were invited to the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire, Celtic Weekend. I have always said we should get into Renaissance Faire for free. With a wolfhound you never get to walk around without being stopped. We attract more attention than some of the vendors. We were set up along the path to the jousting field. We constantly had visitors. The temperature was more appealing to the wolfhounds than the summer festivals.

December, last year and all years we are invited to the Druid Hill Winter Solstice 5 Miler, Baltimore. It is early on a Saturday morning and usually cold. The Bagpiper and Wolfhounds start the race. We hang around till the end of the race. Everyone, especially the competitors, want a picture with the Wolfhounds. Tyr sat for 2 hours last year with a long queue waiting to take a picture with him. December also brings the Military Bowl Parade in Annapolis. It was cancelled in 2021 due to CoVid. One of the participating football teams did not have enough players testing negative to make a team.



We were also luckily enough to have the IWCA National Specialty held in our area in 2022. A number of our members and wolfhounds participated. Our Two Day Specialty was held the beginning of April. We sponsor a well-run show. Known around the world for its attendance of wonderful wolfhounds. Our Fun Day is in September. It is hosted by Richard and Diane Reba. It is a fun time to bring your wolfhounds out and learn about showing, talk with other owners and share information. It is meant to be just a Fun day. There is always tons of food.

I will always promote attending our events and festivals. It is one of the only times some of the public actually see a wolfhound in person. It is a time for you to share your knowledge and how wonderful this breed can be. We are ambassadors for the breed and our club when attending public events. The club has received almost \$500 dollars in donations from the public this year at the festivals we attended. In addition, the sponsors of the Druid Hill event usually provide the club with \$500 check donation.

The events take place on one or two days of a weekend. You do not need to be there the whole time. It is an opportunity to attend the festival. As a vendor we can enter without having to pay the entrance fee. You can walk around to all the shops and vendors there. Sit and listen to the bands and watch other activities. The events are also an opportunity to socialize your wolfhound.

Our calendar is already filling up for 2023. Starting with the Winter Celtic Festival in Haver de Grace, MD in January. Our applications for Annapolis and Baltimore St Patrick's Day Parades have been sent in. The events are always better when we have several wolfhounds.

I hope to see everyone at a festival in 2023.

Susan Wine, PVIWC Secretary

The following paper was written by and posted here with permission from Jack Higgins.

THINGS WE LEARNED ABOUT MEGAESOPHAGUS Jack Higgins

These are some things we learned from our personal experience of having a large breed dog with megaesophagus. Most was learned the hard way by trial and error and, as day to day life will be different for each dog, what worked for us may not work for you. First and foremost, please rely on your veterinarian

physician for diagnosis and all treatment advice. Our veterinarian physician was excellent in diagnosing, providing treatment options and in supporting us through the whole time. What follows here are just things we figured out as we went along in the day to day living with our dog and this disease. Glenna was a female Irish Wolfhound who was seven years old when first diagnosed with megaesophagus. There were no real warning signs and it just hit hard all of a sudden. She lost an incredible amount of weight in a matter of weeks (I don't have the exact numbers available but it was in the range of 30 – 40 pounds which even on a wolfhound is a lot) plus being considered a "senior" for this breed (average lifespan is six to seven years) the outlook did not look promising. Being elderly and in an extremely weakened state meant any invasive testing was out of the question. Megaesophagus is a disease/disorder where the esophagus gets larger and loses it's ability to move food into the stomach. The food and liquid accumulates and sloshes around in this enlarged pouch until regurgitation releases it back up. There is no known cure and long-term prognosis is not good. **1) TIME** Megaesophagus is a long-term disease so there will need to be compromises made along the way in both decisions and lifestyle. Dealing with a dog with megaesophagus is very time intensive. Initially every time we heard her vomit we would jump up to get her outside and clean it up. We very quickly came to realize that after many sleepless nights this was not sustainable. We decided that getting a nights sleep was important in being able to take care of her so we closed the bedroom door and would deal with whatever mess there was in the morning. Some mornings would be a pleasant surprise of nothing to cleanup while others would take an hour or more to deal with. Having the proper sleep gave us the energy and patience to care for her the next day. Make no mistake about it, there will be very stressful times in caring for a dog with megaesophagus so taking care of yourself mentally and physically is vital. The sooner a schedule can be developed the easier life becomes. Certain medicines were given multiple times in the day and some had to be given before food, some with food, some spread out equally throughout the day.....it can easily get overwhelming to remember whats been given and what still needs to be given. Same with feeding times which was a real trial and error process. Getting everything together and making a spreadsheet type list really simplified things. Once there's a schedule it becomes a routine and your day can be planned around it. We found that once medicine and feeding times were allocated there could be blocks of time where our own work and chores could be done so our own things were scheduled for those times. It definitely becomes less stressful if the schedule can be divided up between multiple people as it can quickly get out of hand if only one person is responsible for doing it all. **2) VOMITING/REGURGITATION** *Regurgitation* is effortless vomiting without the use of abdominal muscles and retching. When it occurred, it was usually not just once but multiple vomits in the same sequence before the esophagus pouch

was cleared. This is the type of vomit we had with megaesophagus. Instead of projectile vomit it's more like she would just lower her head and the contents would spill out. When we use the term *vomit*, it is meant to describe regurgitation. Without getting too gross, like everything else wolfhound related the size of the vomit was wolfhound sized. Think taking a cake sized mixing bowl and filling it up with soupy oatmeal and then dumping it on the floor.....this is what we were faced with. On a bad day this could happen ten times or more. She seemed to go through good and bad cycles. In a good cycle she could go a day or two without any vomiting.....a normal cycle would be she would vomit several times throughout the day.....and a bad cycle would be ten+ times a day for several days or more. We were never able to figure out any pattern or trigger for the good or bad cycles.....they just happened. As a side note she was never let outside without us being with her to keep an eye on her so she couldn't eat any grass or other foreign delicacies.....we figured she has enough problems without adding to the list of reasons to vomit. **3) FEEDING** Keeping food down was probably the most critical part of keeping her alive. If not enough nutrients stayed within the body she would die. This is the one area that took the most trial and error. Feeding her a regular meal of dog food was out of the question as it would just come right back up. The general philosophy is that their head needs to be above the body when eating so the food will slide down to the stomach and not get caught in the pouch that forms in the esophagus. This is much easier said than done. There is something called a Bailey Chair (plans available online) which you can build or purchase where the dog is placed inside it in a sitting position with the food placed on a tray in front. Think of a doggy version of a baby highchair the concept being that the chair places the dog in the proper position for the food to slide down to the stomach. It's a great idea.....except for a wolfhound. For starters the chair would need to be the size of King Henry VIII's throne and even then getting a wolfhound sized dog like Glenna into it was just not going to happen.....especially multiple times throughout the day. When dealing with large dogs there are limits as to what physically can be done. Even the largest raised feeder commercially available is nowhere near high enough for a wolfhound sized dog so that was not a solution either. We also tried having her eat while her front legs were going up steps so her whole body was angled the proper way but because of her weakened state she was not able to hold this position for more than a few seconds before her back legs would start to shake. I had built a ramp from the porch to the backyard but the same problem occurred when we tried to feed her while she stood on the ramp.....she just didn't have the strength in her hind quarters to hold the position. At this point we decided to use the wolfhounds height to our advantage and found that if I held her food bowl at my waist height (around 40 inches off the floor) I could tilt the bowl slightly and her head would be in the proper position while she was standing. Not perfect but it worked. What to feed

her was the next problem. The goal for a wolfhound was 1600 calories a day and there are several megaesophagus recipes available online. The ideal way was making a meatball shaped concoction that would slide past the esophagus pouch and go down into her stomach. Due to Glenna's size it required making a lot of "special meatballs" for each meal. We made them with an oatmeal binder to get the proper shape and Glenna loved them.....unfortunately they also came right back up like little cannon balls all over the floor. In fact anything with any form of consistency would not stay down. Since she was able to drink water and mostly keep it down this led us to blending her food into a gravy like consistency mixture. The negatives for using a liquid blended food is that you run the risk of pneumonia but our option was she was going to starve to death so we had to accept the risk. After some hit and misses this is the recipe we came up with that worked best. Using a 56 ounce blender add: 1 cup of cooked oatmeal (slightly soupy so easier to mix) 1/2 12oz can chicken 2 tablespoons peanut butter 4 tablespoons apple sauce 2 cups of 400 calorie per cup dry dog food (soaked in water overnight to make it mushy and easier on the blender) water to mix into gravy like consistency This gives about 1500 calories which we would feed to her in two meals. The idea is to feed small amounts in multiple meals and we originally fed her in three meals but found that the dinner time meal would inevitably come back up.....we never were able to figure out why. We fed her in the morning and early afternoon and gave her a container of baby food at dinner time when the other dog would be fed so she wouldn't feel left out. The baby food added another 100 calories so she would get her 1600 calories for the day. Some days it would all stay down and some days it wouldn't but she seemed to retain enough to stabilize.....she didn't add any weight but she stopped losing it which all things considered I guess was the best we could hope for. The blender we used was just a standard model and in fairness we did destroy one as this does put a lot of stress on the machine. **4) MEDICINE** Two of the medicines that she was on were smaller tablets so there were no problems administering them or her keeping them down. The sucralfate was a larger caplet and although she could easily swallow the pill it would get caught in the pouch of her esophagus and never reach the stomach to dissolve and would inevitably come back up. The standard alternative way of administering this pill was to crush the pill up, mix it in water and use a syringe to squirt the mixture down her throat. The first problem found was that powdered sucralfate turns to a chalk and does not mix well with water at all.....it just kind of floats on the surface. The second problem was that a wolfhound has a very large mouth and trying to get the syringe to the back of the mouth meant getting your fingers chomped on and the solution going all over the place. Since this medicine needed to be administered three times a day it was obvious that this was not going to work. What we found that worked well was crushing the pill into a powder using a mortar and pestle and then mixing the powder with a teaspoon of mashed potatoes (instant

mashed potatoes worked well and would last about a week) and just a little water to make a paste. The pill powder easily attached to the mashed potatoes and after mixing it into the paste we added enough chicken broth (carton of broth would last about two weeks) to turn the paste into a soup which she eagerly lapped up. This greatly simplified the process and turned a chore into a treat that she looked forward to throughout the day. And I got to keep all ten fingers. **5) CLEANUP** We discovered very quickly that cleanup was going to be a monumental chore. We could easily go through an entire roll of paper towels each day and since this all occurred during the pandemic our biggest fear was not being able to obtain paper towels or bleach spray from the supermarket. It got close sometimes but fortunately we never ran out. There was very little warning when a vomit would occur and, no matter how quickly we reacted, getting her outside in time was next to impossible. There was always going to be something to cleanup. We developed a routine for cleanup where step one was using a large size pooper scooper we had which is around ten inches wide. We would use the spade to push the vomit into the scoop and this worked perfectly to take away 90% of the mess. Since we initially put down inexpensive throw rugs throughout the areas of the house she was in we would then have to blot the liquid up and finally clean it all with bleach spray. We proceeded like this for a few months but it was intensive and never ending and not a great solution. Carpet is not the answer and neither are tiles as the grout would take as long to clean as the carpet. In fact, any flooring that has seams or joints quickly becomes a problem as the vomit has a lot of liquid that would seep into the joints making cleanup impossible and damaging the flooring. We had giant sized dog crates as well as an x-pen but all this would do is restrict her in the space she would have and with the volume of vomit we were dealing with she would get herself covered with it too which would add cleaning her throughout the day so this solution was rejected. **6) FLOORING** Accepting that there would always be piles to clean up what we found worked best was to restrict her to one area of the house. Our house is an "open floor plan" concept so we blocked off the kitchen using the couches she would lay on which still allowed her to be part of the family as we would either be in the kitchen with her or in the adjacent living space where she could see and hear us. This allowed her to feel she was with us and allowed us to keep an eye on her. We then bought an inexpensive roll of sheet vinyl flooring from Home Depot wide enough so that we could cover the entire kitchen floor with an easy to clean surface without any seams and not care if it got destroyed. We loose fit the sheet vinyl and used double stick adhesive tape along the wall edges to keep it in place. Not a professional job but it did what was needed. This protected the finish flooring underneath and cut our cleanup time dramatically as almost all the vomit could now be easily scooped into the pooper scooper and then the remaining wiped up and quickly cleaned with bleach spray. This also protected the flooring underneath. Our HVAC system

comes up through registers in the floor and as you can imagine vomit could seep underneath and get in the ductwork. This was a major pain to clean so after having to do this several times we came up with the solution of folding paper towels and placing them underneath all the edges of the floor register. Now the folded paper towels would soak up the vomit before it had a chance to drip down to the ducts making cleanup simple. Again, it didn't look pretty but was very effective. **7) COMFORT** We found that the way she lay down would contribute to an increase in vomiting. If she lay down on her side all sprawled out on the floor or on her dog bed like she was use to doing it would lead to vomiting. With her head/neck in the same plane as her stomach it made emptying her esophagus an easy path. Same problem when she lay on her stomach with her head out on front. Also, from her weakened state getting up took more effort and time. We set up two couches for her to lay on and covered them with sheets and blankets to protect them from the inevitable accidents. Both couches had rounded fully padded armrests that were the perfect height for her to lay her head on which raised it above her stomach level. This seemed to help reduce the vomiting and also allowed her to easily swing her legs over the side to stand up. One couch was standard sized and she would alternate from laying on the right side to the left side depending on how she was feeling. The other couch was love seat sized which she just fit on and gave her a cozy feeling. Granted giving up two couches might seem extreme but this wolfhound size solution did increase her level of comfort and decreased the amount of vomit cleanup so it was well worth it to us. **8) SORES** Because of her extreme loss of weight due to the disease her rear haunches no longer had any padding on them to protect the bones. The end result was that from laying down she would develop open wounds at her haunches much like bed sores that would not easily heal. Naturally she would want to lick these sores which made them worse and created an endless cycle. Just when they would start to heal she would lay a certain way and they'd open back up again. The way they were positioned on her hind end prevented bandaging them. Using a cone type collar was not an option as it would prevent her from being able to rest her head in the position she needed to in order not to vomit and I don't even want to think about the mess that would be created if she did vomit while wearing one so that option was quickly discarded. What we found that worked well was to get a woman's sleeveless dress that buttoned down the middle and needed to be wolfhound sized. We removed all the buttons except near the top and at the bottom. The top button was fastened so there was a hole to slip the dress over her head and then once the dress was positioned on her so it was open underneath the button at the bottom would be fastened to keep the dress on. We had to fuss around with it a bit to get it the button locations correct so the top was not tight and the bottom was strong enough to keep it closed. The dress chosen was long enough to drape over her rear end and cover the sores which prevented her from being

able to lick them. It didn't look very fashionable but worked well. And, of course the dress would have to be taken off before she went outside to go to the bathroom. We found it was best to have two dresses so one would be available while the other was being washed. **9) ENJOYMENT** This is a debilitating disease that is stressful and has many negatives but it's important to remember that your dog still wants to enjoy her time with you. We tried to continue the things she enjoyed doing before this started but just in a reduced way. I still took her over to my office in the morning where she would sleep on the couch next to me while I worked on the computer. After lunch we would go back to the house where she would sleep inside on her couches or if it was nice outside in the screened porch where she could see the animals in the woods and take in all the different smells. I like to read a little before going to bed and Glenna use to come up on the bed to lay next to me while I read but this wasn't possible now. Instead, I would go out to her each night and sit next to her on the couch and pet her while I read until she fell into a deep sleep. We use to go on walks but she had reduced strength now so instead we would go on short walks in the woods where she would walk around the trees and smell where all the different animals had been, occasionally spotting a deer. She really enjoyed doing this even though it was shorter distances now and most of the time she would just stand in the woods and look around. She use to go bounding after the squirrels and deer in the yard but couldn't do that anymore so instead when I spotted a chipmunk on the deck eating the bird food I would let her out where she would walk around after it going from hiding place to hiding place. It's something that really perked her up as she was still able to do her "job". I think it's important to be able to find things to share with them even at a reduced level.....it's the time spent together doing something not necessarily the activity. Glenna fought with this disease for over a year before losing the battle.....we never knew the underlying cause and it didn't really matter. We were surprised at her strong will to keep going and had decided that so long as she wanted to keep fighting, we would do what was necessary to continue. I hope some of this helps others going through the same thing.

Maryland Irish Festival November 2022



How to Inflation-Proof Your Dog's Care (AKC article)

By [Stephanie Gibeault, MSc, CPDT](#) Oct 31, 2022

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All it takes is a trip to the grocery store or gas pump to feel the sting of inflation. Inflation impacts every aspect of our lives, and dog care costs are no exception. Meeting your dog's physical, mental, and emotional needs are key elements

of [responsible dog ownership](#), and some elements become more costly as prices of dog toys, [dog food](#), vet visits, and [grooming](#) rise. There are smart (and downright creative) strategies dog owners can use to help inflation-proof their dog's care.

The Cost of Inflation

Generally, it's expensive to own a dog. There is far more involved than the initial output of purchasing a pet. There are regular expenses like food, [treats](#), and annual vet check-ups to budget for. Plus, you can expect periodic expenses like a new dog bed or [training classes](#). And finally, you need to have an emergency fund to be prepared for unexpected expenses like emergency vet care or a [pet sitter](#).

According to a 2020 [Lendedu survey](#) on how much Americans spend on their pets, the [annual cost of owning a dog](#) is around \$1,900 a year. Recently, though, that number has increased. A 2022 survey by the American Pet Product Association showed that 60 percent of respondents believe the current economy has significantly impacted their household financially.

"Although the joy of pet ownership is priceless, the cost of ownership has been rising along with inflation," says [David Rae](#), a certified financial planner. And the statistics say the same. As reported by the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), the cost of pet food increased by 13.1 percent between August 2021 and August 2022, but these numbers can also be impacted by pandemic stockpiling spending. The cost of pet supplies and accessories isn't far behind with a 7.3 percent increase. Pet services have gone up by 5.7 percent, and veterinary services are up by 10 percent.

On average, "petflation" increased to 11 percent in September, which is significantly higher than the national rate of 8.2 percent, according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

How to Cope With Rising Costs

Rising costs don't mean you have to sacrifice your dog's health or happiness as prices rise. There are plenty of creative solutions that can actually make your life easier outside of cost alone.

Dog Food

Dog food is one of the most basic ways to save money with inflation. It might be tempting to switch dog foods to benefit your budget, but right now the best dog food for your dog is the best one you can afford. To cut the cost per unit consider buying in bulk, so long as [you can keep it fresh](#). As a dog owner, Rae uses that strategy himself. "I have two senior [Chihuahuas](#), who eat food

specifically for their age and breed,” he says. “Buying the larger food bag and having it delivered to us on a regular basis gives us a big discount.”

Subscription services can be a sneaky way to save a little and save you the headache of running out the door before dinner when you realize you’re out of kibble. For example, Chewy offers [5% savings on auto-ship orders](#) and [Amazon’s Subscribe and Save program](#) offers 10% off on repeat deliveries. Both of these discounts can especially add up for large bags or pricer brands.

Medication

It’s important at this time to not skimp on medications or supplements and keep those included in your budget. Again, here subscription services will be your friend. Chewy’s 5% auto-ship discount also applies here, and you can get [20% off your first prescription order](#) with the code **RX20**.

For dog prescriptions that are also medications that humans can take, services [like GoodRx](#) can assist you in finding coupons at your local pharmacy.

Dog Toys and Bedding

You can always put a temporary hold on not purchasing the things your dog needs but doesn’t need right away, such as toys, novelty dog beds, and other incidental supplies. So take an audit of what you currently have. “It is easy to accumulate tons of dog toys or expensive pet beds,” he says.

If you do want to add more enrichment to your dog’s life, there are plenty of DIY options that cut costs. You can [make your own dog toys](#) from common household items or go to your local thrift store to purchase cheap T-shirts to create [a snuffle mat](#). You can also [bake your own dog treats](#) using low-cost ingredients you likely already have.

Boarding Your Dog

Other creative ways to cut back include relying on friends and family for pet sitting if possible. “For those of you who need to travel often, see if you can trade watching your friends’ dogs for them watching yours cut back on fees for [boarding](#),” Rae says.

However, having someone stay with or keep a dog at their home isn’t always feasible both financially and time-wise. Instead, you can hire [a trusted dog walker](#) once or twice a day to play and take your dog out, which can be less costly than boarding, or you can ask a nearby friend to do something similar.

Training

If training classes aren't currently in your budget, you still don't have to sacrifice improving your dog's behavior, learning new tricks, or participating in dog sports. There are [basic obedience skills](#) that you can work on with your dog at home—just set aside some time each day. You can also work to earn your [Virtual Home Manners titles](#), which offer general training videos you can follow and train for to get this achievement.

When it comes to participating in AKC sports, there are plenty of [virtual titles](#) you can train for and earn at home, including AKC Rally, Obedience, and Agility. While you can't earn *all* the titles, you can earn beginner ones, making it a more affordable way to get started compared to in-person training classes.

How to Prepare for the Unexpected

It's important to plan ahead for veterinary care during these trying times, as well. "There is a shortage of workers in many veterinary clinics, making routine care harder for your pet in high-cost-of-living areas," Rae says. "Many of my financial planning clients have told me they have to book appointments for routine care well in advance."

According to the American Pet Product Association survey, 75 percent of people are worried the economy is headed toward a recession. With that fear on the horizon, it's prudent to prepare for possible job loss. "First off, you need to ensure that you will be okay if you lose your job," Rae says. "Keeping your family [including your pets] fed and with a roof over their heads is job one. If a job loss is pending, look for things you can cut back on to save money."

In addition, Rae suggests everyone, particularly pet owners, have an emergency fund. The more pets you have, the more likely one of them will have some type of emergency, like illness or injury, that will cost you money. Plus, an emergency fund will help see you through job loss. Consider having enough money saved for at least three months of expenses, including pet costs, although six months is a safer goal as we look to uncertainty.

Should You Get a Dog Right Now?

Despite the economic climate, you might still want to add a dog to your family right now. After all, dogs add joy to our lives and can help ease our stress. Like anytime you [consider getting a dog](#), you need to make sure you can do so financially. Rae still urges people to consider when they can afford a dog based on their personal finances and lifestyle. He says to ask yourself if you can afford a pet and whether you have the time to care for them. And if so, now is still a great time to add a new pet to your home.

Be sure to do the research beforehand when deciding what kind of dog you want. Make sure you choose the right-sized dog or breed to [fit your living situation and family](#) makeup because you don't want a dog you can't properly care for.

Celtic Solstice December 2022



The 2023 calendar of meetings and events is on the next page. Any missing dates will be filled in as they become available. New information will be given out both during meetings and emailed.

While we do use ZOOM, we still need volunteers to either host meetings or find a location for us to meet and make the arrangements with the facility so we can also do Zoom for those who are not able to attend in person. Meeting in person is always better, if possible, it gives us a chance to get to know each other and maybe make friends, not just acquaintances.



PVIWC List of Meeting & Events 2023

January 8 **Regular Meeting**
January 12-15 **Winter Celtic Festival Havre de Grace, MD**

February 12 **Regular Meeting**

St. Patrick's Day Parades and Festivals

- March 4 Alexandria, VA
- March 5 Annapolis, MD
- March 11 Manassas, VA
- March ShamrockFest
- March Gaithersburg, MD
- March Washington, DC
- March 12 Baltimore, MD
- March Harrisburg, PA

March 19 **Show Meeting**

April 1, 2 & 3 Specialty Harford County Equestrian Center, Bel Air, MD

April 2 **Regular Meeting** - Following judging at Specialty

April 17-20 **Irish Wolfhound National Specialty Myers Park, McKinney, TX**

April 21&22 Dills Celtic Festival, Dills Tavern, 237 Baltimore St, Dillsburg, PA

April Faerie Festival, Marshy Point Nature Center, Baltimore

May 21 **Show Wrap Up Meeting**

June 10 Carroll County Celtic Festival, Agriculture Center

June 11 **Regular Meeting**

June Penn Mar Irish Festival, Shrewsbury, PA

June Celtic Fling (*with a concert on Friday night*) PA Renn Faire grounds

July Annapolis Irish Festival, Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds, 1450
Crownsville, MD

August 13 **Regular Meeting**

September	Virginia Scottish Games
September 17	Fun Day
October 15	Regular Meeting
November	Maryland Irish Festival, Timonium, MD
November 19	Regular Meeting
December 10	Holiday Party
December	Druid Hill Winter Solstice 5Miler , Baltimore, MD
December	Military Bowl Parade, Annapolis, MD

**Dates, Time, or location to be determined and subject to change on some events.
Need Volunteers to Host meetings.**