

POTOMAC VALLEY 41ST IRISH WOLFHOUND SPECIALTY

A quick thank you to the Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club Committee for inviting me to judge your wonderful show.

Thank you to Judy (Judith) Chantelois for finding us at the Washington Reagan Airport at 8 pm at night and then driving us, what seemed, a very long way, possibly nearly 3 hours to the Hotel on Friday evening. Then Judy took us out for dinner on the Saturday night. Thanks to Lori Walton my ring steward who was happy to apply sunblock to my battered features when it looked as though I was getting sunburnt.

Beautiful show grounds so that everyone had plenty of room with a good size show ring, although a bit bumpy in places, but it didn't seem to bother the Wolfhounds as overall the movement was very good.

Lovely quality in all my classes with some promising youngsters. My Specials class was outstanding with some superb dogs and bitches to select from.

I would like to thank the exhibitors for their sportsmanship and accepting my decisions. It is not easy when there are so many lovely Irish Wolfhounds to select from.

Size was not a problem, plenty of leg under the dogs and bitches, excellent temperaments with just a couple of shy youngsters. No problem with width on the underjaws and very few soft coats.

I decided not to make a cut with the dogs or bitches as they were all worthy of the final line up. Unfortunately, after I had selected my winners and Lori my ring steward was explaining who got what with the rosettes the rest of the exhibitors had left the ring. I was hoping to shake all their hands before they left. Sadly, the moment was lost so I would like to thank you all now for bringing such beautiful hounds. The handshakes will have to wait for another time.

It was great to catch up with friends who had come along for the ride and to be part of the show. Another memorable visit. It was an honour and a pleasure to judge your lovely specialty. Just a small apology for my rather brief critiques. I am not good on a computer keyboard so it is short and sweet as I saw it on the day.

p.s. Thank you all for the huge birthday cake which was much appreciated.

John Lewington

CRITIQUE

6-9 month dogs

#7 1st

A wheaten dog with a strong male head 8 months old and fairly immature at the moment. Could do with a bit more substance. Nice head, nice head planes and shoulder placement quite good. Enough bone but chest needs to drop still. Nice rise over the loin. Movement was still a bit loose but is normal for dogs at this age

#9 2nd

A heavier built, much stockier dog. Carrying too much weight. Ears a bit flat, strong neck. Deep chest. His rear was stacked underneath him. His extra weight gave him a rolling gait.

#11 3rd

Like a bit more bone, still immature, chest needs to drop. Going through the awkward stage. Topline looks good when he is set up properly. Good length of neck. Could do with a bit more substance. Movement like my first place a bit loose but will correct as he matures ‘

12-15 months

1st #15

14 months old black dog, nice style. Still immature with a strong neck and good male head. Good chest with sufficient angles on his hindquarters which matched his front. Good topline. Well balanced. Won this class on movement.

2nd #13

Wheaten boy with a strong head, nice deep chest and good bone. Nice lay of shoulder with good topline. Sufficient angles both ends. Out-moved and out handled today.

American Bred Dog

#21 1st

A substantial tall wheaten ,boy beautiful head ,dark eye nice deep chest, lovely front assembly strong bone, good topline. Good hindquarters. Not overdone anywhere. Moved well in profile. This was my Winners Dog.

2nd #2

Light grey, strong male head, needs a bit more substance. Strong neck. Front and rear end were balanced which made a nice outline. Good topline. This young dog will develop well as he grows.

3rd #23

Large Wheaten boy, gangly stage at the moment. Back end and front are not quite together yet due to the fact that the rise over the line starts halfway down his back and spoilt his topline. This may improve, stacked a bit high in the rear. Adequate turn of stifle but struggled a bit on the move.

Open Dog

1st #27

Light grey dog with good substance. Strong male head, powerful neck and front assembly. Strong bone, deep chest. Held his topline on the move with no displacement. (Also my Reserve Winners dog).

2nd #31

Another strong male in a strong class, good muzzle and dark eye. powerful neck. Not quite as much substance as my first place. . Nice lay of shoulder, good topline and bone. Moved easy and active.

3rd #37

Nice masculine head with a good expression. Good topline Powerful neck. good bone nice lay of shoulder. Front and rear angles matching. Moved well covering ground.

4th #29

Red wheaten with a nice outline. Good male head dark eye and powerful neck. Into nice front assembly Stacked up quite well and moved well in profile.

BITCHES

6-9 Months

1st #6

Grey girl developing with lots of promise, dark eye, feminine head. Strong muzzle and nice ear set. Good angulation on the front, strong bone, not quite as angulated as my 2nd dog but won today on movement and temperament.

2nd #8

Nice feminine head and expression good ear set. Nice lay of shoulder Chest needs to drop. Good topline. Moved okay in profile 2nd place as she was a bit shy. Hope her temperament improves.

9-12 months

1st #12

A tall very range bitch. Good front and rear angles, not overdone. Very feminine but a lot of developing still to do. Chest needs to drop. A bit longer coupled than my second place. Moved easy and active. **BEST PUPPY BITCH.**

2nd #10

Smaller but a younger bitch. Nice curves. Feminine head and expression. Nice lay of shoulder, topline when stacked properly was good. Enough rise over the loin. Moved well although she dropped her head a little. RESERVE PUPPY BITCH.

12-15 months

1st #22

Almost white girl with a feminine head and soft expression. Good lay of shoulder good topline used her hindquarters very well. Nicely balanced front and rear. Moved easy and active covering ground.

2nd #14

A tall grey girl with substance. Quite immature compared to some of the others. Nice head and powerful neck. Nice shoulder placement and adequate bone. Front and back angles matching with good topline. Moved easy and active.

3rd #16

Dark grey with a bit of red. Different style, tall and leggy. Nice feminine head with strong muzzle. Good ear carriage. Topline OK but stacked bum high at the moment. Harsh coat. Moved well in profile.

4th #18 me.

Houndy feminine girl soft expression with good front assembly. Good bone. Overall, a nice outline but didn't move as well as the first 3.

15-18 Month Bitches

1st #28

Tall, impressive looking girl. Beautiful outline overall. Feminine head, rose ears, good front assembly, deep chest, long loin. Not overdone anywhere with a 2-beat diagonal gait and no displacement of her topline.

2nd #20

A well put together wheaten girl. Correct length ratio to height, topline good, angles front and rear matching. Good lay of shoulder. Moved with strength and power.

3rd #30

A lighter weight girl. Grey in colour. A bit immature. Feminine head, strong neck, sufficient angles back and front good topline. Moved well in profile.

NOVICE BITCH

1st #32

A lovely wheaten with grey overtones. Strong muzzle, dark pigment, not overdone anywhere. Deep chest, good length of loin, powerful rear end and matching front. Lovely balanced bitch. Moved well in profile with no displacement of the top line.

WINNERS BITCH.

2nd #34

Lovely young wheaten girl. Correct outline, lovely head and expression, strong front assembly with correct lay of shoulder. Good bone and strong topline that she held on the move. Beautiful overall. Moved with reach and drive. Very close with the winner who was slightly more mature. **RESERVE WINNERS BITCH.**

BRED BY EXHIBITOR BITCHES

1st #44

Lovely substantial grey girl with a beautiful outline and strong topline. Feminine head with a soft expression. Powerful neck strong topline good lay of shoulder, front and rear angles balanced, good bone. Not overdone anywhere and moved well with a 2-beat diagonal gait.

2nd #48

Dark grey girl in a very strong class. Lovely outline, feminine head with a dark eye, strong neck, good front assembly, strong bone, sufficient angles front and rear. Held her topline together. Lovely balance and moved well in profile.

3rd #50

Light grey girl, again with a nice outline. Not quite the curves of the first two but still much to like about her. Lovely head with soft expression, strong topline, angles back and front were balanced. Moved well in profile.

4th #36

Black girl with substance. Feminine head, soft expression. Strong neck and front assembly. Topline let her down today, better stack may have helped. Balance overall sufficient angles front and rear and moved easy and active.

AMERICAN BRED BITCHES

1st #54

Another substantial grey girl showing strength and power. Lovely feminine head and expression. Lovely front assembly and strong bone. Good topline that she held on the move that was easy and active.

2bd #62

Tall grey girl. Well put together. Lovely head and expression, strong neck into powerful front assembly. Strong bone and topline. Angles back and front balanced, moves well covering ground.

3rd #56

Houndy girl, lighter build than my first 2 but still a very nice outline with curves in the right places. Feminine head with soft expression, good lay of shoulder with nice front assembly. Good topline with sufficient angulation front and rear. Moved well in profile.

OPEN BITCHES

1st #64

Strong powerful wheaten girl with soft expression. Strong neck into lovely lay of shoulder. Deep chest, good bone and strong topline that she held on the move. Lovely angles front and rear and moved well covering ground.

2nd #76

VETERAN DOGS

1st #39

A 7-year-old that is all male. Beautiful outline, strong masculine head, good bone, deep chest, lovely topline although he struggled a bit on the move (showing his age. Good hindquarters with matching front. A beautiful old boy. **BEST VETERAN.**

2nd #41

A bit shorter coupled than the first-place dog. Nice male head, good dark eye with a good front assembly. Topline not as good as the 1st place. Moved well for his age.

VETERAN BITCHES

1ST #94

A grey girl with lovely soft expression. Good lay of shoulder and powerful rear. Moved well, easy and active. A lovely old lady. **Select bitch 94**

2nd #86

Nice feminine head good ear set, good bone and topline. Strong powerful hindquarters and deep chest. Moved well.

3rd #98

Another grey girl. 8-year-old and taller but slightly finer bone. Sufficient substance, good topline. Moved OK.

4th #88

Feminine head, good ear set. Strong bone and deep chest. Never overdone anywhere and covered the ground with ease.

BEST OF WINNERS

#21 - See Winners Dog for critique

BEST OF BREED

#106

A superb grey girl who commanded the ring. Powerful in every way and not overdone anywhere. Beautiful head and expression with a strong punishing jaw. Excellent front and rear end that she used on the move with a 2-beat diagonal gait covering ground with no displacement of the topline. A worthy winner in a very strong lineup of Special dogs and bitches. Could have been stacked better for the photo this was not evident in final line up or on the move (sloping top line).

BEST OF OPPOSITE

#55

Tall, well put together male, with plenty of leg under him. Correct length of body to height ratio. Lovely front assembly, good bone, strong head and neck. Topline spoiled by the way he was stacked but held his topline together when moving with ground covering gait. A very worthy winner in tough competition.

SELECT DOG

#45

Beautiful balanced grey male with plenty of power and strength. Strong male head, neck and topline. Balanced front and rear with sufficient angles. Good topline. Moved with powerful ground covering gait and pushed the Best of Opposite very closely.

SELECT BITCH

#94 - See Veteran Bitch for Critique.