

GREAT LAKES IRISH WOLFHOUND ASSOCIATION

Midwest Wolfhound



A quarterly newsletter for Irish Wolfhounds & their people

*"By all these lovely tokens September days are here,
with summer's best of weather and autumn's best of cheer." -HH Jackson*

*Volume LXI
Autumn 2021*



Secretary's Report

- *Track progress of the club and view the official record of each board meeting*
- *August Meeting Minutes*

Calendar of Events

- *Find locations, dates, & details of events GLIWA is participating in. Please join us!*

GLIWA's Annual Picnic & Fun Run by Debbie Greene

- *Picnic Photos*

Spotlight on Health

- *The health & wellbeing of our hounds is our highest priority. Here you will find articles on health care, behavior, training and nutrition*
 - [2021 Pneumonia Protocol & Article](#)
 - [Chronic/Recurring Pneumonia Study](#)
 - [Comparative Genetics and Orthopaedics Laboratory at UW Veterinary Medicine](#)

Spooktacular Halloween Articles

- [6 Most Toxic Halloween Candies for Dogs](#)
- [Shut the Front Door! And Other Tips to Ensure a Safe Halloween for Your Pets](#)
- [Leave It To The Irish To Give Us THIS Hound](#)

Lure Coursing/Racing Overview

- [Straight Line Running Evnets for Wolfhounds](#) by David Berzins
- [Lure Coursing- Get Started](#)
- *GLIWA Lure Coursing Photos*

Quarterly Photos & Brags

- *GLIWA Members participate in Missouri River Irish Festival (Courtney Smith)*
- *Tipitina's win (David & Risha Berzins)*
- *Puppy Pics! (David & Risha Berzins)*
- *Bravo Brags (Courtney Smith)*

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Maria Lubera

VICE-PRESIDENT
Risha Cupit-Berzins

TREASURER
Joe Mahoney

SECRETARY
Michelle Whittenhall

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Mark Bettin
Scott Mortensen
Elissa Culp
Debbie Greene
Helen Philpott

GLIWA INFORMATION
For address or email changes,
please contact:
gliwaiw@gmail.com

MidWest Wolfhound™ Editors:

Debbie Greene
playinnature@gmail.com

Michelle Whittenhall
Michelle.Whittenhall@gmail.com

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Courtesy of Debbie Greene

Secretary's Report



GREAT LAKES IRISH WOLFHOUND ASSOCIATION Board Meeting Agenda of August 28, 2021

The meeting was called to order at: 11:20 a.m.

Board members present: Maria Lubera, Risha Berzins, Michelle Whittenhall, Debbie Greene, Scott Mortenson, Mark Bettin, Elissa Culp, Helen Philpott (via telephone)

Absent: Joe Mahoney

Guests: n/a

Reading of the Minutes: Risha Berzins moved that GLIWA approve the minutes as printed in the Midwest Wolfhound Newsletter. Scott Mortenson seconded. Motion passed.

Reports

President: Maria Lubera thanked Mike Cherry & his family for hosting the wonderful GLIWA picnic and fun run.

VP: No report

Secretary / Membership: Membership listing is updated and available on gliwa.org. Secretary asked the board to assist with reminding past due members about renewals.

Treasurer: Joe Mahoney sent out a copy of his report on 8/24/21.

Activities

- David Smith (in his President's message in Harp & Hound) noted that he could help clubs with programs.
- Michelle Whittenhall will put together a list of past parades GLIWA has attended for the new activities chairs. The board also discussed using a portion of our funds for new sashes to be worn at special events & parades.
 - Milwaukee St. Patrick's day parade is 9/25/21- Risha & Dave will confirm date.
- Mark & Scott noted that for future events & liability purposes, they will reach out to Joe Mahoney to get a copy of GLIWA's insurance policy.
- The IWCA is redoing their brochures and they are available for download on the IWCA member site for future events.
- GLIWA is declining attending the Northwest Celtic Fest in October at NOW arena due to COVID concerns this year. Secretary confirmed this with the festival event coordinator.

Fun Match:

- The premium is ready & posted on the GLIWA website & facebook.
- Dave & Risha still confirming guest speaker/veterinarian is available for seminar on day two of the Fun Match.
- The Fun Match will follow Federal & State masking policies during the match

Publications:

- Board discussed potentially updating the language on our website to include a reference to the IWCA.
- Midwest Wolfhound editors will include a note in the next edition about members sending in potential new club events to the gliwaiw@gmail.com inbox.

Rescue: No Report.

Face Book: Admins to discuss posting rules for GLIWA's Facebook group at a later date TBD.

Old Business: No Report

New Business:

- Maria Lubera discussed that we should provide an option for a Board Member calling into a meeting and asked for a motion. Scott Mortenson moved that Board Members could have an option to call into a meeting. Seconded by Risha Berzins. Motion passed.
- Courtney Smith, Mindy Ballinger, & Judi Roller will make up the nominating committee this year.
- Risha Berzins will work up the GLIWA logo in a larger, more printer friendly version.

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday Oct 16th at the Fun Match.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.



GLIWA Calendar 2021

Come join us and enjoy the day with your wolfhounds!
Fall Events:



GLIWA FUN MATCH



Fun Match Premium >>> [2021 GLIWA Premium List.pdf](#) <<<

SAVE the DATE October 16-17, 2021
great lakes irish wolfhound association

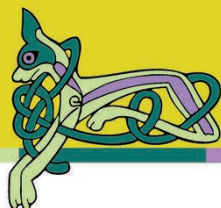


SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021

♦ Judge, Joe Roland ♦

♦ R Noble Irish Wolfhounds ♦

Fun Match, Auction, and Judge's Dinner



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2021

Seminars and EKG testing

CUDAHY KENNEL CLUB, ST. FRANCIS, WISCONSIN

for more information: www.gliwa.org

Hotel Options:

- LaQuinta - rooms held nights of Oct 15 and 16, - total is \$103.81 /night under "Great Lakes Irish Wolfhound Association". Hold good through Sept 15. There's a mix of King and Double beds w microwave & fridge. Call 414-762-2266.
<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/laquinta/oak-creek-wisconsin/la-quinta-inn-milwaukee-airport-oak-creek/overview>
- Home 2 Suites - no weight limit, but \$50 one time nonrefundable pet fee. Oct 15, 16, King is \$144, DBL queen is \$155. Call 414-481-2900.
<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/mkeaiht-home2-suites-milwaukee-airport/>

Similar to last year, Judge's Dinner is at the Packing House. Dessert will be extra special this year!

Please check back at <https://www.gliwa.org/events> for more events coming soon.

GLIWA Annual Picnic & Fun Run



Annual GLIWA Picnic 2021

After a year off from COVID we resumed our Annual Picnic's again this year in a new location. Mike Cherry and Kim Oliver offered the use of their home *Odd Duck Farm*. This beautifully decorated and peaceful farm is in a beautiful location in Burlington, WI. It has three separate fenced areas and one of them is perfect for lure coursing. Early in the day (before we hit temps in the high 90's) we did a little fun run. David Berzins started us off by providing an overview of coursing & explaining how to participate. Then we all set out to try the course & see if our hounds had any interest! There were shorter runs for the puppies and longer runs for the adult hounds. All of the dogs did very well. Really a great event!

We had a lunch of AMAZING brats (some, a secret Cherry family recipe) and grilled Portobello mushrooms cooked by Mike. Everyone brought a dish to share and as usual, we had many beautiful desserts and salads with plenty to take home. The farm has lots of shade so after lunch while the GLIWA board met, others sat in the shade and got to know each other better. It was a really enjoyable afternoon.

Everyone is invited- so feel free to join us next year. Plan your vacation to include the GLIWA picnic. The event will be up on the website as soon as we can decide on the 2022 date. We would love to see you!

See some of our photos below.

GLIWA Annual Picnic 2021

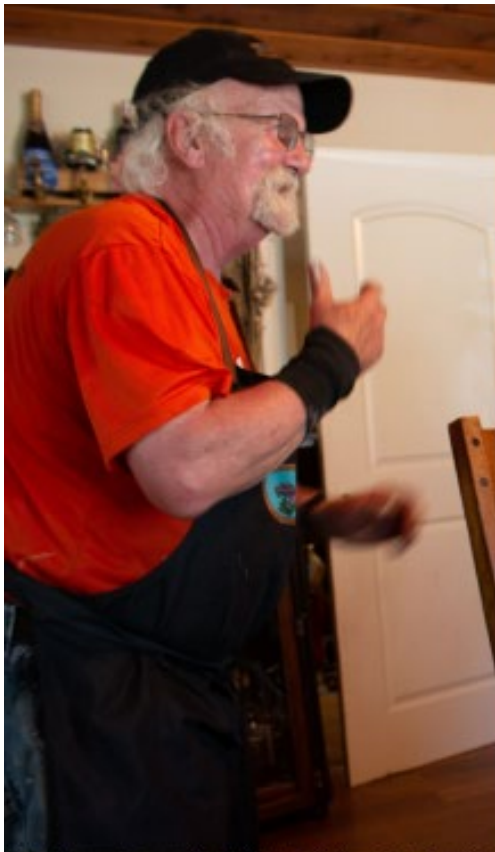


GREAT LAKES IRISH WOLFHOUND ASSOCIATION





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Thank YOU Mike and Kim
For a fabulous day!



2021 Pneumonia Protocol & Article



Pneumonia is a serious problem in deep-chested breeds such as Irish Wolfhounds. To complicate matters, pneumonia in IWs doesn't present the same signs and symptoms as it does in many other dogs. In the early stages, your dog may act lethargic, refuse food, and be panting but have a normal temperature. Although not all IWs do this, many will hold their heads almost level with their backs, as if they were trying to straighten their tracheas to get more air in. This is a classic sign of pneumonia in IWs and requires **immediate** veterinary treatment. Even if initial lung xrays are clear, the dog should be treated for pneumonia, as the disease progresses rapidly in most cases and is life-threatening.

Initial treatment consists of strong antibiotics and IV fluids. Typically the dog must be kept on the antibiotics for 6-8 weeks, as these infections must be completely eradicated or the dog will relapse.

Some IWs do have recurrent pneumonias. Those dogs may have to be maintained on a low dose of antibiotics for life.

Source: <https://www.iwclubofamerica.org/respiratory>

Please see below for the 2021 Pneumonia Protocol & 2018 Article from Harp & Hound

Irish Wolfhound Pneumonia Protocol



UPDATE WINTER 2021

BY MARIELLEN DENTINO, MD (PADRAIC) AND MELANIE MERCER, DVM (WYVERN GAZEHOOUNDS)

DIAGNOSIS

Irish Wolfhounds have a higher incidence of pneumonia than most breeds.

Symptoms

- ❑ Early symptoms may be subtle.
- ❑ Cough and fever may or may not be present.
- ❑ Lethargy and anorexia are usually present.
- ❑ The hound may be reluctant to lie down.
- ❑ Distinctive for the hound to hold the head forward and elevated and pant (see photo shown below).



Photo credit Edita Beresova

Exam

- ❑ Audible respiratory sounds are usually coming from the upper airways (nose and throat), while pneumonia requires listening with a stethoscope.
- ❑ Early in pneumonia the clinical exam may show normal breath sounds and need to be repeated.

Testing

- ❑ Early x-rays may be normal and need to be repeated.
- ❑ Tracheal wash is often recommended for diagnosis, however this requires sedation and results are often inconclusive. The results may not be available for a few days.

TREATMENT

Irish Wolfhounds with untreated pneumonia can become severely ill in hours.

- ❑ The usual organisms for bacterial (responds to antibiotics) canine pneumonia have been documented and beginning broad spectrum antibiotics to cover these organisms in a timely manner (even before x-rays) is required.
- ❑ A combination of two antibiotics to cover the usual bacteria causing canine pneumonia is recommended.

- ❑ Ceftiofur (Naxcel[®]) and clindamycin (Antirobe[®]) are recommended by the IW Health Group.
- ❑ Amoxicillin/clavulanic acid (Clavamox[®]) and enrofloxacin (Baytril[®]), a fluoroquinolone, is a well-tolerated and effective therapy recommended on the Veterinary Information Network. Ciprofloxacin (another fluoroquinolone) is NOT RECOMMENDED as it is not well absorbed by some dogs. Enrofloxacin (Baytril[®]) and clindamycin (Antirobe[®]) is recommended by the International Society for Companion Animal Infectious Diseases.
- ❑ A macrolide like azithromycin (Zithromax[®]); cephalosporins like ceftiofur (Naxcel[®]) or cephalexin (Keflex[®]); and tetracyclines, like doxycycline, can also be considered as part of the therapy combination as long as the combination collectively covers the gram-negative, gram-positive and anaerobic organisms known to cause canine pneumonia.

OTHER SUPPORTIVE CARE

- ❑ If oral antibiotics are tolerated your hound will hopefully avoid hospitalization.
- ❑ If your hound is not drinking, he will likely need subcutaneous or IV fluids.
- ❑ Coupage (patting chest with cupped hands) and sitting in a steamy bathroom with your hound may be helpful.
- ❑ Cough suppressants are not recommended but medications to thin mucus such as N-acetylcysteine (Mucomyst[®]) may be helpful.
- ❑ The hound should begin to clinically improve within a few days. It may be slow, but he should not be getting worse. If he is not improving, consider changing the antibiotic or undergoing bronchoscopy to provide a specific diagnosis. Also consider fungal pneumonia which will not respond to antibiotics.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- ❑ Treatment stopped too soon often leads to recurrent pneumonia. Usual duration of treatment is to treat another two weeks after all signs of infection gone but if it is recurrent pneumonia, 4-6 weeks of antibiotics may be helpful.
- ❑ If pneumonia is recurrent, further health evaluation is needed urgently.
- ❑ Please see "Causes and Risk Factors for Pneumonia" *Harp & Hound* Autumn 2018, Page 55-56.

Irish Wolfhound Pneumonia Protocol Update Winter 2021 by Harp & Hound, Irish Wolfhound Club of America (www.iwca.org) is copyrighted by the Irish Wolfhound Club of America 2021 and licensed under a Creative Commons BY-NC-ND (attribution/noncommercial/no derivatives) International 4.0 license. For more information, contact: harphound@iwclubofamerica.org

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Causes and Risk Factors for Pneumonia

BY MELANIE MERCER DVM

In a Swedish study published in 2017¹, the most common causes of death in Irish Wolfhounds were: 1- Cancers (24%), 2- Cardiac disease (18%), and 3- Respiratory Disease (16%). Thirty-seven percent of the dogs in this study had experienced at least one episode of pneumonia during their lifetime and fifty-three percent of those dogs had more than one episode of the disease. Most importantly, the occurrence of this disease had a statistically significant effect on lifespan in our breed, shortening it by an average of 175 days. Pneumonia is a significant problem in Irish Wolfhounds. However my impression from clinical veterinary practice is that it is NOT similarly a problem in mixed breed dogs or in most other breeds of dogs, and this underlies much of the reason that the average general practitioner is slow to diagnose the condition and may not treat it as aggressively as is recommended by the Irish Wolfhound Health Group or the Irish Wolfhound Foundation.

Respiratory infections may involve either the upper or lower respiratory system. An infection of the upper part of the respiratory system is above the lungs and may affect the throat, pharynx, nasopharynx, sinuses, larynx, and the upper portions of the trachea. These are rarely life threatening. Lower respiratory infections involve the lower portion of the trachea and the lungs (the bronchi, bronchioles, and alveoli), and produce decreased lung sounds, crackles, or wheezes when listening with a stethoscope. Audible wheezes, gurgles, and congestion heard without a stethoscope are generally coming from the upper airways. Pneumonia is any inflammation of the lungs and airways that causes breathing difficulties and a deficiency of oxygen in the blood due to the accumulation of fluid and debris inside the alveoli (the smallest portion of the airway where the transport of oxygen occurs into the blood stream) or a thickening of the tissues between the alveoli. Not every dog who coughs has pneumonia and not every dog with

Most importantly, the occurrence of this disease had a statistically significant effect on lifespan in our breed, shortening it by an average of 175 days. Pneumonia is a significant problem in Irish Wolfhounds.

pneumonia coughs. Pleurisy, inflammation of the lining around the lungs, may occur as a complication of pneumonia.

The body has evolved some ingenious defense mechanisms to protect itself from injury and infection.

- **Aerodynamic filtration** - the nasal passages are designed to mechanically filter out larger particles, and warm and moisten the air as it enters the respiratory system. Smaller particles are deposited lower in the airways captured in a mucous covering on the mucosa.
- **Physical barriers to aspiration** - The larynx allows passage of air into the trachea while preventing the entrance of food or fluids. When swallowing, the epiglottis, a leaf-shaped flap of elastic cartilage, folds over to prevent blockage of the airway. Other portions of the larynx, the arytenoid cartilages, flex partially open and closed during respiration.
- **Cough reflexes** - These reflexes are mediated primarily by the vagus nerve. Receptors in the epithelium of the respiratory tract are sensitive to both mechanical and chemical stimuli. The bronchi and trachea are so sensitive to light touch that slight amounts of foreign matter or other causes of irritation initiate the cough reflex. Coughing removes the foreign material from the respiratory tract before it reaches the lungs. Coughing can only expel material from the trachea and major bronchi.
- **Tracheobronchial secretions and mucociliary transport system** - This system removes materials deposited in the lower 2/3 of the airway system.

Foreign material, including viral and bacterial particles, which become trapped in the mucous secretions are propelled by cilia, small hair-like structures that produce a wave like motion. This produces a steady movement of foreign materials up the airway.

- **Cellular inflammatory response.** Alveolar macrophages ingest and inactivate inhaled particles, especially at the alveolar and small airway levels. Viral infection of the lungs depresses bactericidal activity of the macrophages
- **Local and systemic immunity.** Specialized cells located throughout the respiratory system act directly against viruses and bacteria and produce antibodies, proteins that identify and destroy virus and bacteria as well as fight infection. The tonsils have especially high concentrations of these cells.

When the normal defenses are overwhelmed or undermined and the lining of the alveoli becomes inflamed, normal gas exchange is compromised, air movement into and out of the lung tissue is decreased and hypoxia (low blood oxygen levels) may occur.

CAUSES OF PNEUMONIA

Primary viral, bacterial, and fungal infections occur, but pneumonia may complicate ANY pulmonary disease process. In wolfhounds, when we think of cases of pneumonia, we are primarily thinking of disease caused by bacteria, but it is uncommon for healthy dogs to develop these without underlying causes.

- **Infections** caused by viruses, such as influenza or distemper virus, fungal

infections, or even parasitic infections may damage the lung tissue and lead to secondary infections caused by bacteria.

- **Suppression of the immune system** increases the risk of infections by any organism. This immunosuppression may be caused by other infections, drug usage, or other severe metabolic disease.
- **Cancer** of any portion of the respiratory system
- **Prolonged recumbency** causes lung tissue on the lower side of the body to not be fully inflated. It is important to regularly turn patients who cannot get up on their own. This can cause collapse of the small airways and alveoli, increasing risk of infection. It is further complicated by any loss of consciousness or abnormal mental status, increasing risk of aspiration.
- **Anesthesia** stops the swallow reflex and relaxes the muscles at the entrance to the stomach that leads to gastric reflux. It also suppresses the cough reflex.
- **Trauma** may cause compromise of blood flow to the lungs and inflammation, providing conditions favorable to bacterial growth
- **Any compromise** of the physical defense mechanisms of the respiratory system. These may be acquired or congenital (present from birth) and these may have a heritable genetic component.
- **Ciliary Dyskinesia** is a defect in the activity of the cilia, small hairs that sweep mucous and trapped debris out of the airways. This may be a primary genetic disorder passed as an autosomal recessive trait, but this system can also be depressed by noxious substances and may be depressed by some viruses for as long as a year. Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia, or PCD, can only be definitively diagnosed by electron microscopy on samples of respiratory epithelium or spermatozoa and is therefore uncommonly made.

- **Laryngeal paralysis**, or LP, is an inherited congenital condition not reported in the Irish wolfhound. Acquired LP may be associated with hypothyroidism, but analysis does not support a causal relationship. Dogs diagnosed with LP should be tested for thyroid function, but treatment of this condition does not result in resolution of symptoms. LP may be the earliest sign of progressive generalized neurologic dysfunction, and while a definitive cause has not yet been found, an inheritable condition may be present in these individuals. Stridor, a harsh noise when breathing caused by failure of the arytenoid cartilages to relax, is the most obvious clinical sign.
- **Anatomical abnormalities**
- **Regurgitation**, vomiting or problems swallowing can lead to aspiration.
 - **Megaesophagus** involves a decrease in normal muscle function and dilation of the esophagus, which causes retention of food without passage into the stomach and leads to a significant increased risk of aspiration. It can present as a congenital condition or in an

adult-onset form associated with a variety of conditions including myasthenia gravis.

- **Gastric** reflux occurs when stomach contents back up from the stomach into the lower esophagus. This is the primary mechanism by which anesthesia is a risk factor for aspiration pneumonias. Overproduction of stomach acid, the presence of hiatal hernias, and obesity make this condition much more likely.
- **Damage** to the respiratory epithelium from smoke inhalation, chemicals, or near drowning.

In any case of an individual dog who suffers from more than one episode of pneumonia in its lifetime or in cases where closely related dogs show this problem, it is imperative that we not only look closely for predisposing causes, but also consider that there is an inheritable risk factor in the line and plan future breedings accordingly.

¹ Occurrence of cardiorespiratory diseases and impact on lifespan in Swedish Irish Wolfhounds: a retrospective questionnaire-based study. [Orleifson et al. Acta Veterinaria Scandinavica 2017; 59: 53.](#)



Photo courtesy of Beth Renstrom



Chronic/Recurring Pneumonia Study



This study is investigating whether pneumonia in Irish Wolfhounds is related to a defect in the cilia known as Primary Cilia Dyskinesia. PCD is known to be an inherited disease and is autosomally recessive, meaning an individual has to inherit two copies of the defective gene to have the condition. One theory is that severe or chronic pneumonia in Irish Wolfhounds may be related to an incomplete inheritance (i.e., only one copy of the defective gene), such that some cilia function normally and some do not, and over time the individual's ability to remove dirt, dust and microbes from the lungs declines.

The same types of samples being collected from IWs with PCD can also be collected and analyzed in hopes of finding a genetic mutation responsible in Wolfhounds who have or have had pneumonia.

Study Forms

[Study Questionnaire](#)

[Study Samples Information](#)

[Blood Sample Consent Form](#)

Additional Study Details

Study Date(s):	0000-00-00
Study Status:	Ongoing
Enrollment Status:	OPEN to new enrollment
Lead Researcher(s):	Margret Casal, Dr med vet, PhD

Source: <https://www.iwfoundation.org/studies/chronic-recurring-pneumonia>



*Comparative Genetics and Orthopaedics
Laboratory at UW Veterinary Medicine*



Please share!

We are still actively recruiting cases for our study investigating osteosarcoma in young Irish Wolfhounds.

We are looking to collect a blood sample and pedigree information for purebred Irish Wolfhounds that are 5 years or younger and have been diagnosed with osteosarcoma.

Please let us know if you or someone you know is willing to help with this important study. We are able to have samples shipped to our laboratory, so coming to UW Madison is not necessary.

Thank you so much to everyone who is considering or has already participated! We appreciate the continued support.

Please contact us at genetics@vetmed.wisc.edu if you are interested in participating.

We look forward to hearing from you!

(Thank you to the very beautiful Maggie, pictured below, who recently participated in our study!!)



Spooktacular Halloween Articles



6 Most Toxic Halloween Candies for Dogs



Credit: PETCOACH EDITORIAL

It can be fun to encourage your pet to enjoy holidays with you, and it might be natural to wonder: can dogs eat chocolate or candy to share in the fun this Halloween? The short answer is “no.” While all sweets are potentially dangerous to dogs, some candies can cause major trouble and become a medical emergency if ingested. Here are Halloween's spookiest treats for dogs:

Chocolate



Chocolate is the greatest danger around Halloween time, but not all [chocolates are the same](#).

According to Dr. Kelly Ryan, director of Veterinary Services at the Humane Society of Missouri's Animal Medical Center of Mid-America, the danger with chocolate is that it contains theobromine, which is very similar to caffeine.

“The darker the chocolate, the more theobromine it contains. Milk chocolate doesn't contain as much theobromine, so it isn't as dangerous for dogs as dark chocolate,” Ryan says. “In fact, a 30-pound dog would need to eat two pounds of milk chocolate for it to be lethal.”

White chocolate has very little theobromine, so it's highly unlikely that it would poison a dog,

according to Ryan.

The weight of the dog, the type of chocolate ingested and the amount of chocolate ingested all impact just how serious the toxicity could be, says Dr. Jeff Werber, owner and chief medical director at Century Veterinary Group in Los Angeles.

“Symptoms of chocolate toxicity range from gastrointestinal disturbances, like nausea and vomiting, to neurologic signs, with possible trembling, seizures, elevated heart rate and abnormal heart rhythms, hyperthermia, collapse and, in severe cases, death,” says Werber. If your dog eats dark chocolate or semi-sweet chocolate, Ryan recommends calling your veterinarian as soon as possible, especially if you notice any changes in your dog’s health or behavior. “If your dog is old, very young, or has an underlying disease, it is important to call your veterinarian right away if he or she eats any type of chocolate,” Ryan adds.

Chocolate-Covered Raisins



Chocolate-covered raisins combine two potential health issues: toxicity from chocolate and toxicity from raisins. “In this case, the greater concern is from the raisins, not the small amount of chocolate, unless your dog is very small and has ingested a large amount of the candy,” says Werber.

Both raisins and grapes contain a toxin that can cause renal failure in some dogs. “We don’t know which dogs will display this sensitivity and we also don’t know the number of raisins or grapes the dog would have to eat to trigger the reaction,” says Werber. “Since there is no way to test for it or predict the risk, we generally do not give dogs raisins or grapes.”

Sugar-Free Candy



Xylitol is a sugar-free sweetener that can be found in gum, mints and some foods, including candy.

“While it is safe for humans, it can cause life-threatening low blood sugar and liver failure in dogs,” according to Ryan. “Symptoms of Xylitol poisoning include lethargy, vomiting, seizures, and collapsing.”

If you suspect your dog has eaten a product with Xylitol, contact your veterinarian right away.

Hard Candies and Lollipops



Dogs seem to love the taste of hard candies and suckers, but hard candy poses a choking hazard, according to Ryan. “They can easily be swallowed whole and can become lodged in the windpipe.”

In addition, hard candy can break into smaller, jagged and potentially harmful pieces, says Werber. “The stick in a lollipop is also cause for concern, as it can be a choking hazard or get stuck in the throat or in the intestine,” says Werber.

Wrapped Candies



You can't expect your dog to remove the wrapper before eating candy, which means he might end up swallowing paper, plastic or even foil along with the sweets.

“If there are enough candies ingested, the wrappers can cause an obstruction in the intestinal tract,” Werber says. “This can result in vomiting, and if not addressed, can prevent elimination and even cause the bowel to perforate.”

High-Fat Candies



Candies that contain large quantities of nuts are a concern because their high oil/fat content could cause pancreatitis.

“The more severe symptoms of pancreatitis may not show for several days after eating the candy,” says Ryan. “If your dog ate candy, watch for abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, and decreased appetite, and call your veterinarian right away if you notice any of the symptoms.”

Large amounts of candy, especially high-fat candy, can also cause bloat in dogs. While this condition can resolve with time, dogs with food bloat can be in a lot of pain, may have gastric upset (e.g. vomiting, diarrhea) and are more likely to develop gastric dilatation-volvulus, a life-threatening medical emergency in which the stomach twists upon its axis, Ryan says.

If you want to treat your pet on Halloween, consider [dog-safe treats and chews](#), or [stuff a treat toy](#) with their favorite goodies, like peanut butter or yogurt.



Shut the Front Door! And Other Tips to Ensure a Safe Halloween for Your Pets



Written by: [CHRISTIE LONG, DVM](#) Veterinarian, Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist
www.petcoach.com

The celebration of Halloween has taken on new dimensions in the U.S. in the last twenty years or so, with all of the members of the family, from adults to pets, taking part. Be prepared for the potential hazards Halloween poses to your pets – other than a zombie apocalypse and an invasion of blood-sucking vampires – and make sure your best friend stays safe on All Hallow’s Eve.

Leave him at home

In the U.S., we’ve gotten to a point that we can barely stand to be separated from our dogs. And I get it – I love taking mine out too.



But you should strongly consider whether your dog would be happier at home on Halloween, instead of trick-or-treating with the family, or attending the neighborhood Halloween party.

Tall hats and masks can be confusing and frightening to your pet, and may lead to misplaced aggression and fear. Many dogs will slip their collars, or suddenly bolt, leaving them at large and at risk for any number of mishaps.

Provide a safe haven within your home

The constantly ringing doorbell and the noise of children on the sidewalks outside can cause naturally nervous – and even normally calm – pets to become agitated. When the door opens, the candy-grabbing chaos ensues, and in the confusion your pet



may run out into the street where it seems safer – but of course it's not. Take extra measures to be sure that your pet is confined to a room with the door closed, or in his crate, during trick-or-treating hours. Provide a special treat or a new toy to keep him occupied.

Lock up the candy

By now we all nod our heads in unison when someone comments that chocolate is bad for dogs. There's nary a dog owner, or even a casual canine enthusiast, who doesn't get this. Yet dogs still poison themselves with chocolate with startling regularity, and the bulk of those poisonings occur around the holidays. Here's a newsflash: dogs can smell chocolate through its



wrappings. And many dogs love chocolate, so to them the wrapper is just the crispy and slightly bland

outer layer that enrobes the creamy center. And if enough wrappers are eaten, they can pose a serious gastrointestinal blockage threat. Throw in a few innocently-bystanding lollipop sticks, and you've got real potential for a surgical situation the day after Halloween.

So keep the Halloween candy waaaaaay up high, and don't let your kids keep their Halloween booty in their rooms, for more reasons than this one.

Think twice about the costume

Personally, I am massively enthusiastic about Halloween, mainly because pets in costumes make me laugh. I'm pretty certain the pets don't share my enthusiasm, but most of them tolerate dress-up with dignity and grace. And some just rip them right off.



If you're going to costume your pet, and your pet is tolerant, make sure you select a costume (or make one) that is comfortable. Don't obstruct their vision with a mask or floppy headpiece. Avoid elastic around the neck that could restrict breathing, and avoid tight closures that would be exceptionally uncomfortable.

Pet painting 101

In recent years it's become fashionable to paint your pet. Pink poodles and rainbow-hued hounds become prominent around Halloween. As long as you use non-toxic hair dyes to create your canine work-of-art, there should be no danger, but do verify safety before beginning. Pet stores often sell pet-safe paint, so buy these if you can.



There have also been reports of these dyes changing the color of urine when ingested, so don't freak out if your dog's looks like a river of Skittles the morning after Halloween – it's harmless.

Somebody's got to stand up for the rights of the pumpkin



Your pumpkin has feelings, and it has a right to not be gnawed into oblivion by your pet. This can be difficult, because it turns out that many dogs and cats think pumpkin is delicious, whether it's nestled on a flaky crust and topped with whipped cream or not.

What's the harm in this, you ask? It doesn't happen routinely, but every year around Halloween veterinarians see a few pets that have ingested moldy pumpkin, especially in damp climates. It turns out that one of the molds that grows in pumpkins produces a neurotoxin, which can cause vomiting, stumbling, tremors, and even seizures. So monitor your jack-o-lanterns for mold growth, or better yet – make sure your pets can't get to them.



Leave It To The Irish To Give Us THIS Hound



Credit: Bob McMillan, www.thewildstare.com

Halloween is on the horizon and as many of you know, we have the ancient Celts to thank for many of the scarier traditions surrounding the holiday. Their descendants also gave us the black hellhound and a host of otherworldly canines.

The British Isles are awash with stories of giant sinister hounds that stalk the lonely lanes near gallows or abandoned churchyards. Encountering one or simply hearing it bark three times was said to be a sure sign that death itself was at your door.



The Irish and the Scots also tell of the Cu Sith, or “fairy hound.” When we say “fairy,” we’re not talking Walt Disney’s chipper little Tinkerbell. Irish fairies could kill you with a look. Modern Irish construction crews have changed plans for new roads and even an airport because their digging would have disturbed reputed fairy sites.

Traditionally, Irish fairies lived in hollow hills or ancient burial mounds. Groups of “The Gentry” promenaded across the countryside at night on spectral horses, taking away anyone hapless enough to cross their path and see them. Sometimes they advanced with the sound of wind, strange music and baying hounds.

The fairy dogs that accompanied these eerie processions were likewise uncanny: Four feet high with paws as big as a man’s hand, covered in shaggy green fur. They guarded standing stones and ruined hillforts haunted by the Little People and watched the night with burning red eyes.

Historical Hellhounds

A fairy tale? Historically, certain families were believed to be especially haunted by the Cu Sith, like the O'Keefes in West Cork, who believed the sound of the dog's baying meant someone in the family would soon die. The O'Keefe's took to trailing breadcrusts away from their dwellings whenever a family member was ill to draw the spectral beast – and death – away.

Britain is awash with so many stories of demonic, spectral hounds that they have their own regional nicknames: Padfoot, Bogey, Moddy Doo, the Grim, Cwn Annwn and Black Shuck.

They didn't always keep to lonely places. In Suffolk in 1577, parishioners at Holy Trinity Church swore that when a tremendous clap of thunder struck the church one night, a giant black hound rushed down the aisles and killed a man and boy. When it left, the church's stone steeple collapsed and a black scorch mark was left burned on the door.

Across the Waters

But that was a long time ago and far away, right? Remember, the Appalachians were heavily settled by the Scots and Irish. Apparently they brought their ghostly hounds with them over the waters...

The old stone church on the edge of Valle Cruis, North Carolina, already had a spooky reputation in the 1950s when two young men drove their car past it late one night and added a new entry in the Tarheel State's catalog of haunted places.

A giant black dog with glowing red eyes stepped out of the shadows into the path of their vehicle. They swerved and it followed. They sped up, topping 70 mph and in the rearview, saw it still loping along behind the car. It only stopped as they crossed the bridge over a nearby creek. Traditionally, demonic forces could not cross moving water.

In 1937, famed blues singer Robert Johnson recorded "Hellhound on My Trail," after devil dogs had joined the pantheon of Southern 'haints.' Johnson, you'll recall, was said to have sold his soul to the devil at the crossroads. Now he sang about the hounds of hell not far behind him, ready to collect.

A few years earlier, R.F. Herrick had recorded "The Black Dog of Blue Ridge" about another hellhound in the mountains.

Monstrous black hounds began showing up in the folklore of Kentucky and West Virginia in the late 1700s as soon as the Scots-Irish arrived. Pike County, Kentucky was the scene of a series of sightings in the 1930s and '40s. A monstrous black dog was reputedly killing cattle in remote mountain coves.

There in 2014, the TV reality show “Mountain Monsters” taped an episode on hellhounds and captured the blurred shadow of a creature charging past the crew at an impossible speed.

African and Middle Eastern cultures had their versions of the hellhound. They’re mentioned in the Bible, too, in Psalms 19:4 and 2 Samuel 16:5-8. But the Gaelic version seems to have burrowed deeper into Western imagination.

Did they always act in sinister ways? Not in these two Gaelic tales...

The Shepherd and the Fairy Dog

A shepherd was drowsing by the fire in his remote cottage one evening when he heard a scratching at the door which he assumed was his sheep dog wanting in. He creaked open the plank door and in strode a giant green hound with glowing red eyes. He knew better than to disturb it – it was the fabled Cu Sith, a dangerous guest.

As his own dog flattened on the floor with its ears back, the giant hound lay by the fire to sleep. The shepherd set out food and water for it, but the Cu Sith ignored it. His sheep dog pressed against his shins as he sat and watched the visitor sleep. Finally, he napped himself.

At dawn, the green hound rose, shook itself and proceeded towards the cabin door. When the shepherd opened it to let his guest out, the fairy hound licked his hand to say thanks.

Later that winter, his sheep dog injured his foot and the shepherd was in a fix. Snow was already deep on the ground and more was falling fast. If he didn’t get his sheep to shelter fast, they’d die. Without his four-legged helper, the Shepherd staggered out into the blizzard.

He hadn’t made it far when he spotted the green hound. He figured this was it, his time was up. He stood and waited for the traditional three barks of the Cu Sith, signaling his doom. Instead, the hound came near and simply licked his hand. Then it reared back its head and howled. All around the dark, snowy field, pairs of red eyes lit up. The spectral pack drove his sheep into the barn and stood guard there all night against wolves. Amazed, the shepherd held out his hand to pat the lead hound’s head and...felt nothing but empty air.

Gift of the Fairy Hound

A man named Callum in the Scottish Highlands was distressed. His family was starving and despite all his efforts, he could not feed them. He decided to end it all by drowning himself in Loch Guinach. Maybe the neighbors would take pity on his fatherless family and feed them.

Callum took off his boots and laid down his coat so his body could be identified and, just before he flung himself into the dark waters, a beautiful woman stepped out of the lake. She told Callum to go home, that all would be well so long as he did one thing for her. When he went home, whoever or whatever first came out and greeted him would accompany him back to the lake in one year. Then, he would give them to the lady, who he now recognized as a fairy.

He knew that dealing with fairies was dangerous, but so was refusing them. Just then he recalled he'd left a malnourished lamb tied by his cabin door. Odds were, it would be the first to greet him. Parting with a sick lamb wouldn't be so hard, so he agreed to the lady's terms. She gave him a sack full of enough gold coins to feed the family well for well over a year.

Callum got home. His wife flung open the door and his children rushed out to greet him. Just before his youngest daughter reached him, his beloved dog dashed out and got to him first. She leapt up to lick his face. The dog, then, was to be the fairy's sacrifice. But he couldn't bear the thought. He discussed it with his wife and they agreed: the dog would not be sacrificed. He'd return the gold instead.

A year later at the lake, the woman again rose from the waters and listened to Callum silently. She refused to alter the deal, explaining that if she took back the gold, she'd have to take his life as well. He offered her other animals in place of his dog, who was now at his side, cringing from the supernatural figure. She shook her head no, the deal was set. The fairy whispered to the dog, it went and licked his hand, then followed the woman into the lake where they both vanished. Before disappearing, she told Callum to meet her again in one year.

A year later still, Callum stood by the lake and the woman surfaced and with her came his dog, bounding out to greet him, and with her was the finest puppy he'd ever seen. The fairy told Callum that he would see his beloved dog just one last time, when it was time for him to die. Meanwhile, the puppy was his to take.

The puppy became a wonderful dog but it and all its offspring had odd fairy traits – they all had silver eyes and could “see wind as light-eyed dogs should.”

Many years later Callum was in his stockyard when he looked up and saw his old dog. She barked three times. Callum knew his days were through. He patted his dog’s head, it licked his hand lovingly one last time and then it vanished. Three days later, Callum died.

October 5, 2018 - Posted by Bob McMillan

Lure Coursing/Racing Overview



Straight Line Running Events for Irish Wolfhounds

	Organization	
	Large Gazehound Racing Association (LGRA)	American Kennel Club (AKC) – Fast CAT
Event Type	Racing	Solo Sprint
Website	lgra.org	www.akc.org/sports/coursing/fast-cat/
Eligibility	Sighthounds (except Whippets)	All breeds
Registration	Must be registered with LGRA and a recognized registry of purebred sighthounds (like the AKC)	Must be registered with AKC
Number of dogs running	2-4 IWs run at a time (it is a race)	1 at a time
Track Length	200 yards But done 3 times (each is termed a program) for 1 race meet	100 yards Only one run per event. Some clubs offer two events on the same day.
Required Equipment for Entrant	Racing Muzzle (certain types) Racing Blanket (1=red, 2=blue, 3=white, 4=green)	Nothing No muzzle or blanket required
Collar	May be worn Buckle collars are common	Dogs may wear any type of collar except choker collars, a collar with prongs or an electronic training collar
Lure	Squawker (a furry object that squeaks as it bounces down the track) White plastic bags may be attached, too	Usually white plastic bags, sometimes a squawker
Minimum Age	12 months (though for IWs, it would be better to wait until ~18 months)	12 months (though for IWs, it would be better to wait until ~18 months)
Entry Fee	~\$10-15/meet	~\$20/run

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Inspection	For lameness and if in season	For lameness and if in season
Pre-qualifying (if the IW has no experience)	Nearly always required at multi-breed meets Relaxed at IW-only meets	Not required
Handlers	Someone to release the dog at the start and someone to catch the dog at the finish	Someone to release the dog at the start and someone to catch the dog at the finish
Winner?	Yes, based upon the outcome of the 3 programs and determined by a racing point system	No, you generally pick up a ribbon with your points/speed listed and go home or wait for another run if 2 trials/day
Points	0.5 to 8 Championship/National Points depending on the number of entries and overall order of finish. These points are used for titles.	Time to complete 100 yards is converted to miles per hour. An IW running 25 mph earned 25 points for that run to be applied to a title.
Titles	JSR (Junior Straight Racer) SSR (Senior Straight Racer) GRC (Gazehound Racing Champion) = 15 points SGRC (Superior Gazehound Racing Champion) = 30 points	BCAT = 150 points DCAT = 500 points FCAT = 1000 points
Yearly Rankings	LGRA publishes a Top 10 & Top 25	AKC publishes a Top 20
Locations	Closest clubs are in the Minneapolis, St. Louis, and Cleveland metro areas.	For 2021, there are/were 193 <u>FastCAT</u> events in WI, IL, and IN combined. Check AKC Event Search for the schedule.
Volunteering	Volunteering in the form of releasing/catching other dogs or line/foul judging is greatly appreciated and expected.	Usually the club running the <u>FastCAT</u> has everything covered, although they would welcome scheduled volunteers.

David Bezins/GLIWA, August 28, 2021
Any questions, e-mail dberzi@yahoo.com

Lure Coursing: Get Started

Credit: American Kennel Club

Ever wonder how the Sighthound got its name? Just as the label suggests, many years ago they were bred to pursue their prey by sight rather than scent which requires a display of fantastic athleticism and keen eyesight to stay in hot pursuit.

Today's Sighthounds demonstrate their coursing skills by chasing after a plastic bag attached to a lure that whizzes by on a specially designed course.



AKC Lure Coursing is a sport which tests the inherent coursing characteristics of Sighthound breeds. During a lure coursing trial, Sighthounds do what comes naturally in a safe, controlled environment. Hounds run in packs of three and must wear a light, soft blanket in pink, yellow or blue to help differentiate each dog. Lure Coursing trials are competitive where their ability to follow the lure over a course is scored according to a structured point system. They are judged on categories such as follow, speed, agility and endurance. A mechanical lure which consists of a white plastic bag attached to a movable line positioned slightly above the ground is controlled by a lure operator who moves the white bag in quick manner across a field according to the course layout, simulating the unpredictability of a real chase.

Most all Sighthound breeds love lure coursing events. It provides them a great outlet to use their natural ability to run fast and visually focus on something in motion. [Eligible Sighthound](#) breeds can compete in AKC Lure Coursing after reaching their first birthday and being [AKC, FSS or PAL](#) registered.

Lure Coursing events take place as tests or trials. Tests are non-competitive and meant to test the instincts of a dog with a pass/fail outcome. Trials are competitive and have three stakes a dog can enter and earn points - Open (for non-titled dogs, Specials (for dogs that earned their Field Champion (FC) Title), and Veteran (dogs over a certain age as required by their breed's [Parent Club](#)). In Lure Coursing Trials, judges score hounds for a maximum score of 50 points based on overall ability (10), follow (10), speed (10), agility (10), and endurance (10).

Lure Coursing Title Structure:

All Lure Coursing Titles are added to the dogs' official registered name according to the title's acronym. All lure coursing titles are added after a dog's name except a field champion title or a dual champion title which is added before.

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(JC) Junior Courser, dog must complete this lure coursing test twice and in each instance must run alone and receive a qualification after showing enthusiasm and no interruptions in each run from two different AKC judges.

(QC) Qualified Courser, a certificate is issued by an AKC judge once a dog shows he/she can run with another hound of the same breed or similar running style and can complete the course cleanly with no interference with the other hound, with no interruption and enthusiasm.

(SC) Senior Courser, dog must earn qualifying scores (with competition) at four AKC lure coursing trials under three different judges.

(MC) Master Courser, dog must have earned a SC and have earned an additional 25 qualifying scores (with competition) in either the Open, Veteran or Specials stakes.

(FC) Field Champion, dog must earn 15 championship points including two majors (majors = 1 st place earning a value of 3,4, or 5 pts according to the Schedule of Points by Breed) under two different judges and at least 1 point must be earned in competition with a hound of the same breed.

(DC) Dual Champion, dog must earn an FC title in Lure Coursing and a CH title in conformation dog shows.



Sighthounds typically don't require much training to chase a lure, since the action is instinctual. As with any puppy, early socialization with other dogs and basic obedience is highly recommended. Foundational test levels such as Junior Courser is a great place to introduce a hound to coursing and serves as a pre-requisite to the Qualified Courser test level where a dog must prove they can run cleanly with another hound.

To learn more about [coursing events](#) happening near you, check out AKC's [Events Calendar](#).

Beginner Lure Coursing

We learned a lot!

Thank YOU Dave
For all of your help!



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Quarterly Photos & Brags



See what GLIWA has been up to!



Missouri River
Irish Fest
2021
St. Charles, MO



Congratulations to Risha and David Berzins (and Tipitina) on her new AKC Championship August 15, 2021.

She went Winner's Bitch and Best of Breed. All points for her championship were out of the Bred By Exhibitor Class at a conformation show at the Greater Racine Kennel Club.

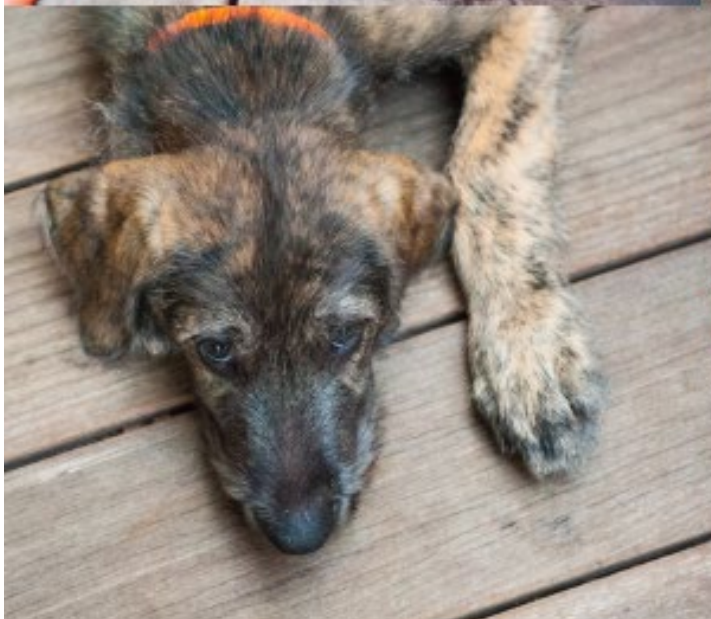
Howlin' Wolfhounds Eirian Rosslare's
Remembrance

X

CH Howlin's Tipitina Rose

CD BN RE BCAT JSR CGC TKN

(EVAN X TIPITINA) b. 04-5-2021







Congratulations
Courtney
Smith !

WTG Bravo! Caraglen Berwyck Bravo. Bred by Bev and Sue Stobart and Gretchen Bernardi. Owned and adored by Courtney Smith and Sue Stobart. Saturday and Sunday Hound Group 3 and on Sunday OH Hound Group 3 at the Belle-City Kennel Club. Under judges Mr Bill Potter, Mr Robert Schwalbe, and OH judge Terry Lyddon.

