

# *Midwest Wolfhound*



*A quarterly newsletter for & about Irish Wolfhounds & their people*  
Volume LIII Summer Issue 2019

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**VICE-PRESIDENT**

Risha Cupit-Berzins

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Debbie Greene

Michelle Whittenhall

**GLIWA INFORMATION**

For address or email changes,  
please contact [gliwa@gmail.com](mailto:gliwa@gmail.com)

**MidWest Wolfhound™ Editors:**

**Debbie Greene**

[playinnature@gmail.com](mailto:playinnature@gmail.com)

**Michelle Whittenhall**

[Michelle.Whittenhall@gmail.com](mailto:Michelle.Whittenhall@gmail.com)

**Cover photo credit: Milwaukee Irish Fest**

Risha Cupit-Berzins



## Secretary's Report



Board Meeting minutes June 29, 2019

**Held at the GLIWA Picnic. Pilcher Park, Joliet, IL.**

Article I. The meeting was called to order at 10:35 am by President Maria Lubera

Board members present: Risha Berzins, Claire Morrison, Joe Mahoney, Debbie Greene, Pat Powers, Michelle Whittenhall, Scott Mortenson

Absent: Elissa Cay Culp

Also present: Madeleine Mahoney, Robert Greene, David Berzins.

Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.

### Reports

**President-** The president apologized for holding a meeting later than it should have been because of circumstances beyond her control.

**Vice President-** No report

**Hospitality-** Debbie Greene will order new business cards with the traditional colors of the club.

**Secretary / Membership-** We have a total of 85 memberships. Two new memberships in the first half of 2019.

All memberships will come due the first of April each year. No matter when you join. This system will be much easier than having memberships coming due at different times of the year.

**Treasurer-** Joe Mahoney has the current Treasurer's report, it is available by request. Since Joe Mahoney has been treasurer, our account is up \$2500.00

**Activities-** Michelle will start sending reminders for events via email, Facebook and website. It would be great if more members would participate. It's a good way to socialize your wolfhound. She read off some of the upcoming events coming up. More will be added as we are invited.

**Publications-** Debbie Greene and Michelle Whittenhall are always looking for new articles and photos to add to the newsletter. Could be anything, new puppy, won a reward or just a cute picture you took this summer. We received an email from a member saying that they are not fond of the idea of the digital newsletter.

**Rescue-** Robert Greene is working on a rescue from New Castle, In. More info to follow once he discusses it further with Jean Minnier from the IWCA.

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**Fun Match-** Risha Berzins reported premium list will soon be completed. Lunches have been planned for Saturday. GLIWA boutique will be open with plenty of IW and club items. There will also be vendors organized by Christina. The photographer is same as last year, Sandi Ford.

Risha is in the market of finding a backdrop for the winning photos. Debbie Greene suggested we borrow or she will donate one from her daughters photography equipment.

Sunday is also a full day with heart testing, CGC testing and speakers on our breed. More details will be available on our website, Facebook page and the Midwest Wolfhound.

**Old business-** It is suggested that we move the fun match to a committee instead of being under old business. Scott M. will be looking for more info on a policy.

**New Business-** We need new photos on our website. All new photos should be sent to Mike Philpott. He will be redoing the website soon.

Joe Mahoney will email a check to Karen Frederick for the Harp and Hound ad for the 2019 Fun match.

Email all members are get an inventory on all club equipment.

New gliwa wear is needed for the boutique if we continue to have them available. Risha will look into this.

**Executive Session;** 11:14 until 11:22

Next meeting scheduled for August 17 at the home of Maria Lubera

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36

Respectively submitted,

Claire Morrison- Secretary

## GLIWA Event Recaps



### *GLIWA Picnic*

Pilcher Park is a beautiful place for a picnic! Sitting in the backyard of Pilcher Park Nature Center is such a wonderful, calming place. Each year we go there, and it is a peaceful oasis that is donated to us by the Joliet Park District for our Annual Picnic.

This year we forgot the games, walks and almost everything we do at a picnic. It was really hot! Even so, we had a great time. Folks drove long distances from Southern Illinois and Wisconsin for this camaraderie. It is not about the games or the food or the walks...it is about the fellowship with other GLIWA members and the experience of learning from those who have done what you are doing and those who have had the same experiences – good or bad. It is a family.

We had great food! Sides were provided in abundance by GLIWA members. And it was TASTY! Thank you to all who came and brought a side!

At the end of the picnic Chris Krowzack Bernstein and Maria Lubera did a grooming demonstration. A huge thank you to them for providing their expertise on the tools and ways in which a Wolfhound should be groomed. This is EXTREMELY helpful and they have graciously given this seminar more than once. It



is a great and wonderful tool for those of us who need guidance on Wolfhound care and grooming techniques. This link will help those of you who were not able to be there:

[IW Grooming Basics](#)

Thank you to all who came and this is an official invitation for those of you who could not make it, please come next year!



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*GLIWA  
Picnic*





## *Irish American Heritage Festival Recap* *By: Debbie Greene*

The Irish American Heritage Festival at the Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago was a wonderful experience for us and our dogs again this year. This group is so appreciative and happy to see us. They take great care of us and make sure we have water and always check on us to see if we are ok

This year was much hotter than usual! Mike Cherry, who is always prepared, brought the GLIWA tent as well as his fan. However, his new puppy was a fan hog! She was determined to stay as close as possible to the fan.

The second day the Greene's also brought a fan which made it a bit better. There was also a breeze that day which helped. We were joined by the Mortenson's and Mark Bettin on Sunday. Even though it was hot it was an enjoyable weekend for us all. One of my absolute favorite things about this event is that the people who come each year remember our dogs and even remember their names. It is so much fun to talk to these folks who love seeing Irish Wolfhounds as we love sharing ours with them! Thank you for another great year!





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GET YOUR IRISH ON AT THE **JULY 12 - 14**  
**THE 34TH ANNUAL IRISH FEST**

FEATURING  
TUPELO, DEREK WARFIELD AND THE YOUNG WOLFE TONES  
THE PRODIGALS, HOUSE OF HAMILL, MCPEAKE, SHANE HENNESSY  
THE BYRNE BROTHERS AND SOME OF THE FINEST  
LOCAL IRISH MUSIC AND DANCE ACTS IN CHICAGO!  
[WWW.IRISHFESTCHICAGO.COM](http://WWW.IRISHFESTCHICAGO.COM)

**IRISH FEST**  
JULY 12-13-14, 2019





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## *Will County Irish Fest- Joliet, IL*





## *Bicentennial Park 2nd Annual Dog Night*

On Thursday August 1st Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park held their 2nd Annual Dog Night. Debbie Greene is the Development Director for the Will-Joliet Bicentennial Park Inc. which raises funds for the park and oversees the Concert on the Hill Series. This year they partnered with the Will County States Attorney Jim Glasgow and the Therapy Dogs from the Childhood Advocacy Center for an evening about and including dogs. Will County State's Attorney James Glasgow hosted the second Animal Cruelty Investigation Essentials Seminar presented by the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) to discuss more about this growing epidemic. "All criminal laws are prosecuted by our office," Glasgow said. "One segment of those is animal cruelty.



In 2012, Glasgow started a program called 'Paws 4 Kids' that offers furry friendship and canine comfort to children who have suffered the trauma of sexual abuse. Having four animals at the State Attorney's Office and three dogs of his own, Glasgow said that the growing epidemic of animal abuse is something that highly resonates with him. "It's very close to my heart because I have three dogs at home and on my bad days they bring me so much joy," Glasgow said. The Greene's Wolfhounds, Finn and Bodhi, were in attendance as well as Sharon O'Connor and her rescue Wolfhound Cailin. They were quite an attraction.

*By: Debbie Greene*





*Milwaukee Irish Fest Photos*





## You've Got Mail



Dear Great Lakes Irish Wolfhound Association Members,

I wanted to write and say thank you so much for taking time out of your day this past Saturday! My husband and I attended the Will County Irish Heritage Fest for two purposes to see how our daughter responded to your lovely dogs and the Irish dancers :) I also was hoping to learn and gain some knowledge directly from Mom and Dads of the great Cú Faoil, so I could properly educate myself. I met a wonderful man but didn't obtain his name and it's bothering me because he was so helpful and so willing to answer all my questions. The gentleman was wear a baseball cap, glasses, had two babies with him, and a beautiful wife I wanted to say thank you! And let him know that I have been really researching and I understand what he was saying now about buying from a breeder and not just some person off the internet and I can spot the difference thanks to our talk :) also, your website and the akc website gave a lot of information too. I did notice that there are some non-verified breeders on the akc website and the true way I can tell is when they say they will release the pup if it's before the 10-12 weeks I know it's a bad deal. I still have so many questions lol I'm make a list as they come up :) We need to purchase a



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larger car like a mini van because we have Bear who's our current baby that is suppose to be a mastiff/Sheppard but he's only 70 pounds lol. But if there's ever an emergency or we want to go on a family trip we need a larger car that we all can fit in it's only fair. We have the land and I've been waiting for that for years :), so now I just have to wait a little longer which will get me time to prepare all my questions and make the perfect home for our future pup.

I am so grateful for the information I was given that could lead my family in the right direction :)

Also thank you for sharing your babies with my daughter, Maéve is still talking about it!!! Here are a few photos my husband took I thought you'd like to see her joy!

Thank you again! You all brought so much joy to Maéve which brought joy to us :) Also, thank you I learned we need a larger family car so our future love can have their own space :) we have a couch ready and the yard, Maéve also wants the guest bed moved into her room for the new baby :) I thought about the food, house space, yard space, but didn't think about the car space so thank you! We live in Elwood and have been blessed to have a huge area, but because of where we live we have to drive into "town" so we will for sure need a minivan.

go raibh míle maith agat,

Tom, Danielle, Séan, Maéve, and Bear Tabaka 🍀



Hello! I found your name on the GLIW web site. My late mother was an EXTREMELY avid Wolfhound enthusiast. I have a couple of pieces from her that I thought your club might be interested in using as prizes for your fun match in October. Attached are photos for your review.

The first is kind of a figure formed from pieces of rabbit skin on a black background. The second is a head study done as an etching or print. Please let me know if the club would be interested. I think my mom would be happy to know they went to a true Wolfhound lover.

Thanks for your attention!

- Anne Zarzycki

Bio on Anne's Mother:

Annette Sullivan was originally born in Brooklyn, NY but spent the largest part of her life her in the Midwest between Naperville, IL and Sturgeon Bay, WI. Although the busy mother of five, she always made time for her other "children", her pets. Over the years she and her children had a battalion of pets which once she had her farmette in Wisconsin broadened to include quirky ones like a pot-bellied pig and miniature goats. But beyond her husband and offspring, her first love was always her Irish Wolfhounds. Ever since the age of five when she became enamored with a wolfhound owned by a local parish priest, she lusted after having one of her own. Her dream finally came true in 1970 when after being on a waiting list for many months, she finally owned her dream dog, a wheaten colored Wolfhound pup named Boru. A passion was



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born. Annette went on to show her Wolfhounds, participated in fun coursing events and even bred a couple of litters. She eventually imported one dog from Ireland (another dream), but also at one time acquired a rescue "Wolfie" that she loved as her own. Over the years she owned at least 10 wolfhounds plus a wide variety of other breeds ranging from Great Danes, Golden Retrievers, a Collie, and Fox Terriers and many in between. Her love for dogs was an expansive one. But no other breed could ever surpass her beloved Irish Wolfhounds.





# GLIWA Calendar 2019

Come join us and enjoy the day with your wolfhounds!

~~~ 2019 Northwest Celtic Fest ~~~

**Sears Centre Arena: 5333 Prairie Stone Parkway, Hoffman Estates, IL**

**Saturday, October 5, 2019**

**Setup: 10:30 a.m.**

Fest Opens: 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (come for the day or a couple hours!)

Sears Centre Arena: 5333 Prairie Stone Parkway, Hoffman Estates, IL. (Poplar Creek 59/90, near the intersection of Route 59 and Interstate 90).

Directions are available online at <http://www.searscentre.com/arena/directions.aspx>

Join us for the largest, regional, indoor Celtic Fest! This family friendly event features, live music, authentic food, Celtic Marketplace, Celtic clans, free children's games and much more! Beer enthusiasts will enjoy the event's craft beer tasting highlighting more than 25 breweries! 10 tastes for \$10 - you can't beat that!

The event is indoors and we have access to water for the dogs (bring your own bowl/bucket). We are usually stationed near the back doors for easy bathroom access for the dogs.



~~~~ GLIWA FUN MATCH ~~~~

**October 19th-20th**

[GLIWA Premium](#)

**SAVE the DATE**

great lakes irish wolfhound association



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019

◆ Judge, Donna Tomson ◆

◆ Castlekeep Irish Wolfhounds ◆

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2019

AKC Canine Good Citizen testing and seminars

CUDAHY KENNEL CLUB, ST. FRANCIS, WISCONSIN



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## Rescue Report

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### The Story of Skye, a Rescue

By: Albert Miller

Life with a wolfhound is a wonderful thing. I've always loved big dogs; I like the ability to pet them without having to bend down. But Skye, my wolfhound, is more than just a pet. She's a loyal member of our family. Whether it be coming home from work to find her patiently waiting at the door or seeing her excitement as we walk through the town, her place is constantly by our side. Skye is a curious creature. When it comes time to cook, she quietly follows us into the kitchen and watches us with amber eyes as she begs silently for any dropped scraps. During the day she can usually be found on the couch, keeping a vigilant watch over the neighborhood and terrifying anyone who comes up to our house with her massive size. Little do they know; she just wants to be played with.

Skye is a delight with new people. Though she is a bit shy around children, mostly due to how they run towards her giant fluffy body with reckless abandon, she is ever friendly and never shows any signs of aggression towards anyone new she meets. The most dangerous thing about her is undoubtedly her large heavy tail that she wags with excitement like a massive flail. She is truly the kindest dog I have ever had the pleasure of knowing.

Skye also loves the outdoors. When she decides to stretch her legs, be prepared to sprint if you want to try to keep up. When Skye decides to accompany me on a jog, she turns it into a full throttle sprint. She's considerate enough to not pull me off my feet, but her pace is lightning fast. Luckily for my lungs however, the type of pace Skye usually enjoys is a lazy meander around the park. To anyone considering buying or adopting a wolfhound, I encourage you to meet one of these fantastic creatures. They need a lot of space, and love to go outside, but they will reward the effort you put into caring for them with a steadfast companion glued to your hip.

Photos of Skye on next page...







## Spotlight on Health



### *Calcinosis Circumscripta*

Article by Risha Cupit-Berzins & Dave Berzins

*What is calcinosis circumscripta?*

Calcium deposits in soft tissue

*Where do they occur?*

Often in subcutaneous tissue of the hind feet, but they can occur in other areas of the limbs as well as the tongue, lips, and other soft tissues.

*Other facts:*

Most often they are a single mass, but they can be in multiple locations.

They are often 0.5-3 cm in diameter.

They have a chalky, white appearance when opened up.

*Reference:*

Tafti AK, Hanna P, Bourque AC. *Calcinosis circumscripta in the dog: a retrospective pathological study. J Vet Med A Physiol Pathol Clin Med.* 2005 Feb;52(1):13-7.

### **How to become an expert in bandaging an Irish Wolfhound's foot**

Since he was 1-2 years old, Hubig had a small growth on his right back foot near the large foot pad that we knew was a calcinosis circumscripta. Through a non-related hound of ours from Ireland (Lilagh) and Hubig's aunt (Ursuline), we had experience with them in the past, both on hind feet. Lilagh's was surgically removed without much issue, but that was not the case with Ursuline. Her calcinosis was removed when she was 11 months old and she had issues with the surgical site as it never fully healed and would occasionally become infected through her remaining years (she lived to 10.5). Because of the issues with Ursuline, we opted to not remove Hubig's calcinosis because it was not hindering or bothering him.

However, in early May 2018, when Hubig was 5.5 years old, everything changed as his calcinosis circumscripta was getting larger and had gotten to the point that the skin was very thin. On a walk one Friday, the skin thinned enough that it no longer protected his foot and within a day, there was a raging infection and was oozing a mostly chalky liquid with a tinge of blood. Our floor had milky/chalk streaks all over. We messaged one of our veterinarians, who texted back it should be removed ASAP. The next Monday (May 14), he went in for surgery. Our vet removed the growth and the skin was beautifully sutured together. She put him on 10 days of Cephalexin and we changed the bandage as directed, and his foot looked like it was healing nicely. Each time he went outside, we double-bagged his foot and only kept him in the yard. But then a couple of days beyond day 10, his foot was painful and when we removed the bandage, it was obviously infected; the skin around the incision was inflamed, red, wet, and the sutures had split apart. Our vet put him back on Cephalexin until a culture came back (and eventually placed on Cipro) and rewrapped his foot after removing the non-functioning sutures. He now had a wound that was around 2.5 inches in diameter.



Though it was thought the wound would heal within weeks, the reality became that treating his foot wound would become part of our lives for the next 16 months. The wound was in a terrible spot for healing, being close to the ground and in an area that would flex with walking. His foot was nearly healed a few times during the 16 months, only to have something that caused it to become infected again. As before, his bandaged foot was wrapped in bags to keep it clean when he was let outside into the yard. Despite this, reinfections would expand the wound back to the starting point. He also developed proud flesh that limited healing. Overall, it was incredibly frustrating for both humans and Hubig.

For many months, we worked with our veterinarians and a veterinary wound care specialist to come up with the best way to address it. Under veterinary supervision, we used many different products and medications. Some worked, but often it seemed they tended to only do so for a given amount of time. Others were not appreciably effective. Throughout treatment time, bandage changes seemed to be most effective if done every 36-48 hours. Changing the bandage more frequently often did not allow enough time for healing, as the process of removing the bandage sometimes undid any progress, whereas allowing the bandage to be on for longer periods kept the oozing area too wet.

Over time, we did dry, wet, and wet-to-dry bandages. Various vet wrap, gauze, telfa pads, cast wrapping, and other bandages were used. Collagen products were tried, such as collagen gels/sprays (Collasate) and a few collagen scaffolds. The scaffold made from porcine collagen provided a setback, however, as we found out he was allergic to it but one scaffold from bovine collagen worked well for a time. Also tried were a colloidal silver cream, drying powder, antibiotic ointment (Fura-zone), antibiotic sprays, antifungals (TrizUltra), a steroid/antibiotic combination spray (GentaSpray), Manuka honey patches, and raw Manuka honey.

After wrapping his foot at least 250 times, we have our system in place and Hubig does too. We tell him "get in place" and he climbs up on the ottoman, and often falls asleep, snoring, while we wrap his foot. Since January, we have used the same procedure and while it has taken many months to heal, we generally did not have a setback during this time. I use a gauze pad with a cleanser/antifungal (TrizUltra) to clean the wound/area and then slightly dry. Next, about 3-5 sprays of the GentaSpray is applied to the wound with any excess dried with a gauze pad. I put 1 gauze pad in between the pads of his foot to absorb any dampness and to keep from getting a fungal infection. On a telfa pad, I apply a pea-sized dollop of Collasate on it, place it on the wound and then apply 3-4 gauze pads and wrap cast padding around his whole foot about 10 times. Next, vet wrap is wrapped in the opposite direction that the cast padding was done at least 10 times, checking that it is not too tight. Finally, a small piece of Elastikon tape is applied over the end of the vet wrap to keep it from coming loose. After we are done, we tell Hubig he is a good boy and that we are done, and he gets on the sofa and gives Dave kisses.

Hubig is normally a very active dog, taking part in agility, obedience, rally, and scent work. In this time, he was the very best boy anyone could dream of having. He always left that bandage alone, which was absolutely remarkable. On a couple of occasions, maybe out of boredom, he licked the bandage, but a quick "No. Leave it!" would be enough to redirect his attention, to something that was allowed. He got extra love, ear scratches, and took my place next to Dave at night, watching TV. In all these many months, we trained him in the house, working on scent work and some obedience to preoccupy his mind.

Normally in summer Hubig gets to have dinner with us outside at a favorite local restaurant, and go for Babe's vanilla ice cream with peanut butter drizzle, afterward, but he's been restricted from those things as

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well, so we don't potentially introduce new pathogens. We have taken him to Babe's and brought his ice cream treat to the van for him, though. We should be able to let him take a real trip to do both, soon. He certainly deserves the world for being so good through all of this.



Top Left:  
Hubig with his foot wrapped

Middle:  
Foot healed

Bottom:  
Post Surgery photo





# Marijuana, Cannabidiol & Dogs: Everything You Want (And Need) To Know

Authored by [Taryn Ziegler](#), [website](#)

As of 2017, more than half the states in the country have enacted some form of marijuana legalization and more are expected to follow. But as perceptions about legal weed dramatically shift in the country, it forces us to address the elephant in the room — or, in this case, the dog in the room.

More than ever before, it is legally acceptable for many people to have pot in their homes and, perhaps more telling of the changing marijuana landscape, to ask questions about what that means for their dogs.

Many people have questions like:

- Does medical cannabis work for dogs?
- Can dogs get high?
- Can I give my dog marijuana?
- What should I do if my dog eats my marijuana?

As responsible dog owners living in a world where marijuana is increasingly culturally acceptable and even common, we need to be able to address and answer these questions. To that end, let's really get into the weeds on this issue.

## Can Dogs Get High? How to Tell If Your Dog Ate Weed?

The short answer to the question “Can my dog get high?” is yes.

### What to Do If Your Dog Eats Pot

1. Dogs can get high, and it can be a distressing and dangerous experience.

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2. The sooner you seek veterinary help, and are honest about the exposure, the better. (Don't worry, your vet won't rat you out)
3. Most cases just require evaluation and mild supportive care, but some can have serious complications.
4. If it just happened and your dog isn't yet showing any signs, contact your vet, your [local Animal ER](#), or one of the animal-specific poison control hotlines.
5. If your dog is already showing signs of toxicity, head directly to your vet's office or local Animal ER.

Dogs do get high, but they experience the effects differently and more intensely than humans. In other words, a dog on weed is no laughing matter and, actually, is in a high state of distress. If you aren't certain whether your dog has consumed marijuana, you may observe the following signs:

- Dribbling urine
- Walking like they're drunk (or high)
- Beginning to fall over while standing still
- Low heart rate
- Low blood pressure
- Wide, dilated pupils
- Easily startled by sudden sounds

If your dog is showing one or more of these signs, and there's any possibility of exposure (don't forget about your kid's backpack or other "unexpected sources") it's probably safe to conclude: "My puppy ate weed." Dogs have more cannabinoid receptors in their brains than people (read further to learn more about the chemical components of marijuana), which means the effects of weed will likely be more pronounced and, potentially, more toxic. If you suspect your dog has consumed marijuana, please take them to the vet immediately. You can visit the [ASPCA page](#) on marijuana and the [Pet Poison Hotline](#) for additional help. The effects of marijuana can be exacerbated if your dog ingests an edible, particularly one that contains a significant amount of chocolate, or a THC-infused butter or oil. Chocolate is toxic to dogs (the darker the chocolate, the more dangerous it is — learn more about [dogs and chocolate](#)) and fats, like butter and oils, can cause a serious case of [pancreatitis in a dog](#).



## Is Secondhand Marijuana Smoke Bad for Dogs?



Marijuana users who choose to smoke, rather than eat, their weed, might also wonder if dogs can be hurt by secondhand smoke.

First, understand that just like a human getting a “contact high,” your dog can still get high from marijuana smoke. If you are in an enclosed space with a stifling amount of smoke, you may be putting your pet (and yourself) at risk. If your dog has a preexisting respiratory disease such as bronchitis or a collapsing trachea, you are placing them at an even greater risk by smoking nearby. For small amounts of smoke in ventilated areas, it is less likely your dogs will experience any side effects. If you do choose to smoke near your dog, be sure to monitor them for unusual behavior or difficulty breathing. More importantly, don’t blow smoke in your dog’s face; it’s just cruel.

## Can My Dog Die From Marijuana?

The risk of death from marijuana is relatively low for dogs. However, the risk is greater if a smaller dog ingests a large amount of marijuana, or if your dog consumes an edible. Marijuana edibles contain a more concentrated amount of THC than dried weed alone, and infused butters and oils also pose an additional risk of [pancreatitis](#) (which itself can be potentially severe or even fatal). And, of course, there is an even greater risk if the edible contains [chocolate](#).

Compounding matters, dogs have less ability to restrain themselves from eating too much, let alone to stop from ingesting a harmful amount of marijuana. Chocolate (and other edible varieties) tastes good to dogs (as it does to most humans), which can further lead to the dog overeating. If your dog eats any amount of marijuana edibles, you should seek help immediately either from your regular veterinarian, an emergency clinic (check here to [find an animal ER](#)), or an animal-specific [poison control hotline](#).

## How Do Veterinarians Treat Dogs Who’ve Ingested

## Marijuana?

Treatment for marijuana ingestion depends on how recently the ingestion occurred and how affected the dog is. The one thing that's for sure is that the earlier your dog is brought in, the better. If caught very early, a dog may be able to receive treatment to "decontaminate" them (to get it out of their system) and avoid or minimize any of the potential effects of the marijuana.

In mild cases, treatment is typically supportive in nature. Meaning that if your dog cannot effectively or safely eat or drink on their own, they may need IV fluids. Some dogs may require "heat support" if they're having trouble maintaining their body temperature.

For dogs suffering from an altered heart rate or blood pressure, IV fluids and specific medications may be necessary, along with continuous monitoring of their vital signs. If a dog develops aspiration pneumonia due to vomiting with an altered mental state, then they are likely to need oxygen therapy and IV antibiotics. Similarly, specific treatment for edibles containing chocolate, butter, or oils may also be needed for the unlucky dog that consumes that particular combination.

It's important to remember that your vet is not going to rat you out if you bring your dog in for treatment. Your responsibility to your dog is to get them the best medical attention possible by informing your vet if you think the dog consumed marijuana and in what form. Unfortunately, the urine test kits for people aren't as reliable in dogs. If weed is not known (or admitted) as the culprit, other toxins, or conditions like liver disease and seizure disorders, have to be considered and tested for. And those tests aren't cheap. It's far easier, less costly, and safer for your dog if you are honest with your vet. No one will judge you.

**Do you give your pets cannabis/hemp products? If so, researchers want to hear from you! Help provide important information by filling out this anonymous survey from the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.**

## Should I Consider Using Medical Marijuana for My Dog?





It's difficult to provide a definitive answer about the medicinal uses of cannabis — for either dogs or humans — due to conflicting federal and state laws and a resulting lack of study.

Researchers believe that the two most active chemicals in marijuana that have [medical applications](#) are cannabidiol (CBD), which seems to impart its benefits without causing a “high;” and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which does cause a “high” along with any medical benefits it may produce. Unfortunately, medical studies have been hindered by marijuana’s designation as a Schedule 1 drug by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), along with the costs and difficulties in procuring marijuana for study. Nonetheless, many people believe that cannabis helps treat various ailments and pains in themselves. Similarly, many people believe that cannabis — specifically the CBD component—offers many benefits for dogs. The following list outlines a few conditions that people feel are alleviated by the use of [CBD products in their dogs](#):

- [Arthritis](#)
- General pain, including pain from cancer
- Lack of appetite
- Nausea
- Cognitive dysfunction
- Epilepsy and seizures
- Stress and anxiety — including travel anxiety and separation anxiety
- IBD and other inflammatory diseases
- Lupus and other autoimmune disorders

Do note that, again, such claims are not currently backed up by clinical evidence for humans or canines. Anecdotal evidence suggests that CBD and THC may help alleviate a variety of conditions, but a great deal of scientific and medical work is still needed.

[Thinking about giving your dog cannabidiol \(CBD\) oil or edibles? Read this first.](#)

## Can My Vet Prescribe Weed for My Dog?

Despite the legality of recreational and medical marijuana in some states, marijuana is still classified as a Schedule I drug by the DEA. This means that the DEA considers marijuana a drug with no accepted medicinal use and a high potential for abuse. This makes prescribing weed as a medicine in any form, for both humans and dogs, a sticky business. (For a definition of DEA Schedules, visit the [DEA website](#).) Marijuana's extracts have also been considered a Schedule I drug since December 2016, [including CBD](#).

Veterinarians can't currently [prescribe or recommend marijuana or CBD products](#) for dogs for a variety of reasons:

- As Schedule I drugs, marijuana and CBD are classified as having a high potential for abuse and no proven medicinal benefits.
- State laws concerning the prescribing of marijuana and its extracts currently apply only to humans, not dogs.
- A lack of manufacturing regulations and oversight of CBD products for pet use leaves the door open to products that could be deceptively labeled at best, and potentially dangerous at worst.
- Veterinarian licenses could be put on the line for recommending CBD products for their patients, regardless of any anecdotal evidence of their potential benefits.

Ultimately, it all comes down to legality. The lack of a law-changing body of evidence, and the absence of political will to change the DEA classification, determines the ability of the greater veterinary community to prescribe and recommend these products for their patients. However, the proliferation of CBD-containing products for dogs (and cats), and the number of pet owners who are trying them and reporting positive results, is making it increasingly difficult for vets (and other pet owners) to ignore the topic and potential benefits any longer.

## The Take-Away for Cannabis and Dogs

Be extremely careful. The blossoming of marijuana and CBD use, both for dogs and humans, may be a positive change and a new path forward in medicine — or it could be a dead end. Regardless of the broader debate about marijuana, it is no laughing matter if your dog accidentally eats your weed. Additionally, be cautious when considering treating your dog with marijuana or CBD for any reason. Just because it may be working for you or a friend of yours, that doesn't necessarily mean that it will work (or be safe) for your dog.



## **Algae Fatal To Dogs Found In Illinois: Health Officials Over the last few weeks, reports of dogs dying due to blue-green algae toxicity have been reported in several states.**

By [Shannon Antinori, Patch Staff](#)



Aug 12, 2019 10:47 am ET | Updated Aug 12, 2019 1:39 pm ET

Earlier this summer, IDPH and the Illinois EPA warned of possible toxic algae blooms on Illinois lakes and rivers. (Illinois EPA).

ILLINOIS — The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Illinois Department of Public Health have urged residents to report sightings of harmful — and potentially fatal to dogs — blue-green algae blooms. A warning from the Illinois EPA came in June, two months before multiple reports nationwide of dogs dying after swimming in ponds containing blue-green algae.

IDPH said the agencies were conducting surveillance on Illinois lakes, rivers and ponds after news of harmful algae blooms (HABs) around the nation this summer. Residents are also asked to report any possible sightings of harmful algae, as well as any illness in humans or animals.

Earlier this summer, Woods Creek Lake in Lake InThe Hills was closed for nearly a week after toxic algae was discovered. Two years ago, the St. Charles Park District warned dog owners to keep their pets out of the water after the toxic algae was found in a pond at a dog park.

Devastating reports of dogs dying just hours after swimming in water containing the toxic algae have surfaced in several states. On Saturday, Georgia resident Morgan Fleming took to Facebook to warn other

dog owners after she and her husband took their border collie, Arya, to swim in a nearby pond to beat the summer heat.

"About 30 minutes later on the drive home, we noticed her making weird noises and she threw up and pooped in the car," Fleming wrote in a post that has since been shared thousands of times (*Warning: post contains photos some may find disturbing*). "We called our vet on the drive and they suggested we take her in. By this point our girl couldn't even stand... They told us she was in critical condition so we took her to the ER. By the time we got there, she was brain dead."

In North Carolina, two women took their three dogs — two West Highland terriers and a goldendoodle mix — on a doggie playdate to swim in a pond and play in the mud. Within minutes of leaving the pond, one of the dogs began having a seizure, owner Melissa Martin said on Facebook. By the end of the night, all three dogs were dead, the victims of blue-green algae poisoning, according to the dog owners.

"At 12:08 AM, our dogs crossed the rainbow bridge together," Martin wrote. "They contracted blue green algae poisoning and there was nothing they could do. We are gutted. I wish I could do today over. " Several dogs have also reportedly died after swimming in an Austin, Texas lake believed to have been contaminated with toxic blue-green algae.

### **What is toxic blue-green algae, and why is it bad?**

According to IDPH, "Blue-green algae, or cyanobacteria, are photosynthetic bacteria that are a natural part of the aquatic environment. Blue-green algae are often present in Illinois lakes in small or moderate amounts, but can grow and proliferate quickly in warm, fresh water that is rich with nutrients."

Harmful algae blooms may appear as a thick scum layer or green paint on the surface of the water, and can be a variety of colors such as blue, green or brown and may have a foul odor, IDPH said.

Most blue-green algae is harmless, but "the production of toxins is what makes an algal bloom harmful," according to IDPH. "Microcystin is the most well-known toxin produced during a harmful algal bloom, and it can cause a variety of symptoms by affecting the skin, liver, GI tract and nervous system. Ingestion, inhalation, or direct contact with contaminated water may cause illness."

Harmful algae can cause illness in young children, the elderly and people with compromised immune systems, as well as animals. Symptoms of exposure to algal toxins include rashes, hives, diarrhea, vomiting, coughing or wheezing.

### **If you spot a blue-green algae bloom**

If you see a potential harmful algae bloom, avoid the water and notify the Illinois EPA of a possible HAB event via the [HAB report form](#).

- Do not swim or wade through algal scums
- Do not boat, water ski, jet ski, or fish where algal scum is present
- Always shower off with soap and water after swimming in a lake, river, or pond
- Do not let dogs drink, eat, or lick algal scum off their fur
- Wash your dog off with clean water immediately if your dog swims or wades in water during an algal bloom.



If you think you or anyone else has symptoms that are a result of exposure to toxic algae, contact your health care provider or call the Illinois Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222. If your pet experiences symptoms that may be a result of exposure, contact your veterinarian immediately.



### How to spot toxic blue-green algae

The Illinois EPA said telltale signs of a harmful algae blooms include water that:

- looks like spilled, green or blue-green paint
- has surface scums, mats or films
- is discolored or has green-colored streaks; or
- has greenish globs suspended in the water below the surface.

Activities near, but not in or on a lake or river, such as camping, picnicking, biking and hiking are not affected, according to the Illinois EPA. With all activities, wash your hands before eating if you have had contact with lake water or shore debris.



## *Irish Wolfhound Database*

A call out to owners everywhere, can you help by adding to the database the age of death, and the cause if you know it, for any Wolfhound you have owned over the years?

It's not just the long lived hounds that are needed, although it's wonderful to see, but any and all hounds are needed to project a true reflection of average lifespan across our breed, which at the moment is 7.4 years based on the information so far. However, more data is needed so please do dig into the memories past and present and give us a push - we have just over 7500 hounds with details at the moment, it would be great to try for 10,000. It's easy to use the database, just request a username and password and you can edit any dog you have owned and add pictures too.



IWDB.ORG

### **The Irish Wolfhound Database**

The Irish Wolfhound database - Free and open for all



## *Irish Wolfhound Osteosarcoma Study*

The Comparative Genetics Laboratory at the University Of Wisconsin School Of Veterinary Medicine is looking for pedigreed Irish Wolfhounds (IW's) to help gather preliminary data for research grants aimed to understand the genetics of osteosarcoma. We are currently writing grants to help fund this work, and need to start actively collecting samples and running some preliminary experiments to support these applications. We are seeking:

- 1) IW's who have developed osteosarcoma before the age of 5; if one or both parents are available, this would be of substantial benefit. Larger families with affected and unaffected dogs are of great value, although having more than one generation is critical.
- 2) IW's over 10 years of age that have not developed osteosarcoma. Costs associated with participation will be covered. Please contact us if you have a dog that might qualify at [genetics@vetmed.wisc.edu](mailto:genetics@vetmed.wisc.edu).

Permission to cross-post.

### ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFO



[genetics@vetmed.wisc.edu](mailto:genetics@vetmed.wisc.edu)



<https://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/lab/corl/genetic-studies>

And check out our Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/SVMgenetics>

## Book Report



### *The Burren Mysteries - My Lady Judge by Cora Harrison*

*Report by Pat Powers*

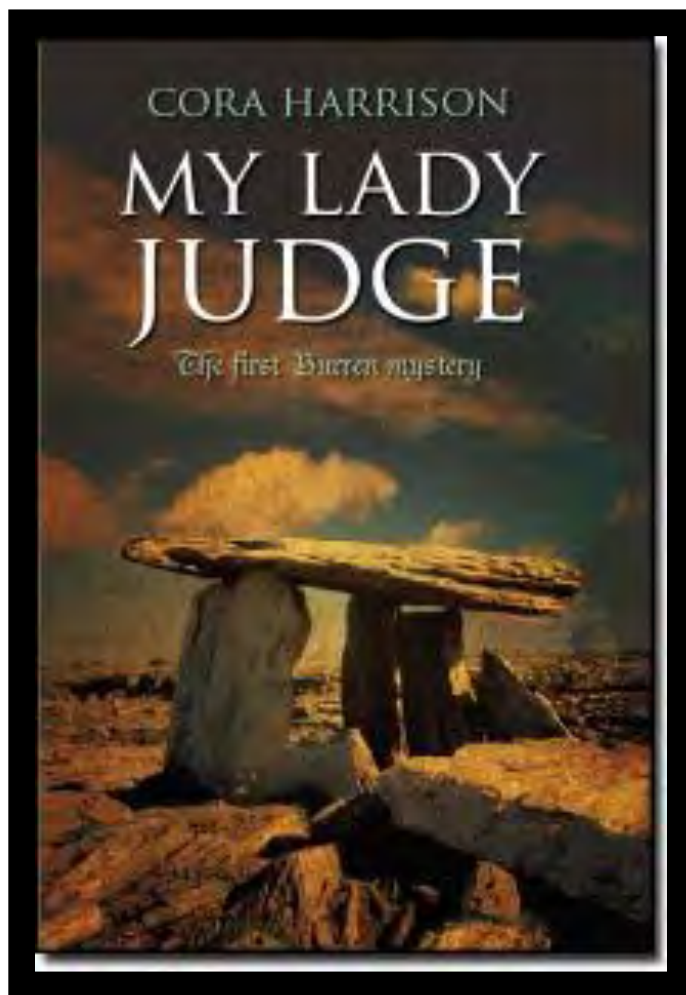
In 1509, in the west of Ireland Mara O'Davornen has been the Brehon for almost 16 years. She is responsible for justice and all legal matters in the kingdom of the Burren. Turlough O'Brien, a direct descendent of Brian Boru is King of Thomond, Corcomroe, and the Burren, and each kingdom has its Brehon who is the King's representative. She solves murders and sets the fines and compensation. Brehon law is very different from English law.

As often happens in books and tv, there are a lot of murders for a small area. I enjoyed this series with a woman protagonist who wasn't a teenager - and she actually ages through time.

Mara learned Brehon law from her father, and inherited his law school where she trains future teachers (ollambh) and Brehons. She has an Irish wolfhound named Bran who is part of several of the mysteries. With her students she questions witnesses and they try to puzzle it out. All courts are outside for all the people to see. Much of Brehon law is memorized although there are books by 1509. Each chapter has a short bit of law which has something to do with the case.

There are 14 books so far. The wolfhound Bran is in the early books, not the later ones. The stories of Medieval Ireland and life during that time, especially the bits of Brehon law are very interesting. The author, Cora Harrison is a retired teacher, with several series.

A good place to buy these books is on eBay.





In Memory Of...



*"Dogs' lives are short, too short, but you know that going in. You know the pain is coming, you're going to lose a dog, and there's going to be great anguish, so you live fully in the moment with her, never fail to share her joy or delight in her innocence, because you can't support the illusion that a dog can be your lifelong companion. There's such beauty in the hard honesty of that, in accepting and giving love while always aware that it comes with an unbearable price." – Dean Koontz*

Fergus

**Our Fergus lost his very tough battle with osteosarcoma this weekend. Everyone who met him knew just how special he was and there is a giant paw shaped hole in our hearts. We'll miss you forever, big guy!**





## Quarterly Photos & Brags



*Remember: Please submit any photos that show our breed's multifaceted personality: "Gentle when stroked, fierce when provoked". Brags from shows, agility, therapy, & community events welcome too!*

Introducing Shellane's new Champion ~ Ch Shellane Bacchus!  
(Cugein Baron of Cheniff x Shellane Gairbraid Vronyka)  
Bred by Maria Lubera and Carole Jeninga and owned by Maria Lubera.





# GREAT LAKES IRISH WOLFHOUND ASSOCIATION

We are grateful to brag that "Rosy" took:

Best in Sweepstakes: Barrassy's Right Reserved - Breeder: Simon & Barbara Bridges Owner: Kim Oliver & Mike Cherry under Sweepstakes Judge Rita Tretter

Best Puppy in Puppy Classes under Conformation Judge:Ms. S. Kelly Cromer





## GREAT LAKES IRISH WOLFHOUND ASSOCIATION

My parents, Dr and Mrs Joseph Terry, owners of multiple beloved hounds over the years, recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary, This photo was taken just before their 30th, in July of 1979, with Conan, son of Gormflaith.

Submitted by Brigid Malone

