

# Midwest Wolfhound

A quarterly newsletter for and about Irish wolfhounds and their people.

Volume XXXXVI Spring 2016



**WHATEVER IT IS**

I don't want to be around when it comes back

**GLIWA OFFICERS 2016**

**PRESIDENT**

**Michael Cherry**

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

**Maria Lubera**

**TREASURER**

**Joe Mahoney**

**SECRETARY**

**Michael Kelly**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Debbie Greene**

**Bill Hurless**

**Doug Morrison**

**Scott Mortenson**

**Pat Powers**

**GLIWA INFORMATION**

**For address or email changes, please**

**Contact Mike Kelley**

**[gliwa@lycos.com](mailto:gliwa@lycos.com)**

**Or mail to:**

**Michael Kelly**

**528 Cleveland Ave**

**Batavia IL 60510**

**MidWest Wolfhound <sup>TM</sup>**

**Pat Powers, Editor**

**256 Kinkaid Ct**

**Des Plaines, IL 60016**

**[trenaiw@yahoo.com](mailto:trenaiw@yahoo.com)**

**President's report:**

Spring Forward:

We survived and thrived this year's St Pat's Marching Season. Our Walk-about went well. Just returned from the IWCA Specialty ( almost 400 IWs) at Purina Farms in Gray Summit Missouri ( I Love Purina Farms it is like a Doggie Disneyland without the queues) There is some speculative chatter about the Midwest Regional IW Clubs cooperating for a 2018 proposal to host an IWCA Specialty so please let us know what you think about that idea keeping in mind that it is a lot of work mostly behind the scenes and after all it is just another dog show, so expect to be rewarded in the next life only. I was a little surprised the Dog Flu vaccine is becoming de rigueur but not without controversy of course. Full disclosure; I am an AKC Coursing Ability Test Judge but in several years have not seen any IWs out there so since it is done with a single dog on a 600 yard fenced course and is pass/ fail with every accommodation made to ensure the running dog passes then you may want to put it on your Summer bucket list. Lastly we should all celebrate the GLIWA Rescue coordinators Debbie and Robert Greene. We made a successful and rare double rescue keeping the two sibling together with their new adoptive farm family.

Be gentle and stroke your hounds proactively for me!

*Mike Cherry*

**MIDWEST WOLF HOUND <sup>TM</sup>**

**Copy right ©/2016 Great Lakes Irish Wolfhound Association**

All rights reserved. Individual articles may be reprinted if credited: "Reprinted from *Midwest Wolfhound*": provided that any article(s) listed as copyrighted by the author may not be reprinted without the express permission of the author. Reproduction of any entire issue of **Midwest Wolfhound** in print or electronically, is expressly prohibited.

**GENTLE WHEN STROKED ~ FIERCE WHEN PROVOKED**

## Minutes

### TO BE APPROVED

### Great Lakes Irish Wolfhound Association Annual Members Meeting Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7.50 PM

#### President's Report

-Mr. M. Cherry provided a brief GLIWA "state of the union" summary. In short, the state of GLIWA is "SWEET!". We're a small, but dedicated group, and thankful for all our members.

-Mr. Cherry thanked specifically Ms. C. Morrison, Activities Director; Mr. M. Kelly, Secretary, with assistance from Mr. S. Mortenson; Ms. M. Lubera, Vice President; Mr. J. Mahoney, Treasurer; Mr. M. and Mrs. H. Philpott for Web site maintenance, and beautiful donated centerpieces for the event; and Mr. R. and Mrs. D. Greene, Rescue Coordinators. Mr. Cherry also acknowledged and thanked Mr. W. and Mrs. L. Hurless, former GLIWA Rescue Coordinators, for their long service.

-Mr. Cherry recognized the presence of the current Irish Wolfhound Club of American President, Ms. B. Stolpe.

-Mr. Cherry cited and promoted the GLIWA effort to provide regional and local items for Irish Wolfhound Foundation gift basket auction at the National Specialty on May 2, 2016.

-Mr. Cherry also mentioned the last Locust Grove meetings (the 49th and 50th anniversary celebration) to be held in the third weekend of October.

#### Nominations for Officers

-All officers re-elected.

#### Previous Board Minutes included in Midwest Wolfie (MWW).

-Motion to Approve, passed.

#### Treasurer's Reports

-Available upon request.

#### Motion to Adjourn until Conclusion of Dinner

-Passed, 8 PM

#### Motion to Resume Board Meeting at 10.09 PM

-All officers cited no additional reports  
-Motion to meet on 21 May 2016, passed  
Motion to adjourn, 10.14 pm, passed



## Calendar of Events 2016



**Please check our website [www.gliwa.org](http://www.gliwa.org) for detailed information or changes**

### Calendar of Events 2016

**The Great Lakes Irish Wolfhound Association is a club that enjoys hosting and participating in many events and activities throughout the year. Anyone interested in our breed is welcome to join us.**

**We ask that you contact one of our activities directors if you plan on participating in any of these events.**

**Michael Cherry at [Michaelcherry1704@comcast.net](mailto:Michaelcherry1704@comcast.net),**

**Claire Morrison [dcmorrison@comcast.net](mailto:dcmorrison@comcast.net)**

---

#### Saturday, June 18

Scottish Festival and Highland Games

Hamilton Lakes, Itasca. Times are anytime between 8-4pm.

The Midwest's premier showcase for Scottish arts and Culture. Come out and spend the day with your wolfhound. The Irish wolfhound fans will be out in full force asking you every question there is to know about our wonderful breed. If possible please bring some kind of shade for your dog(s).

---

TBA during the week of June 27<sup>th</sup>

Frances O' Neill Irish Arts Week

Sponsored by "The Irish Music School of Chicago"

10 am until noon

It is a program of unique learning opportunity for children and adults. Taught by master traditional Irish musicians in residence for the week, students of every age will experience the magic of Ireland through its music, song and dance.

All they ask is that we bring our wolfhounds so that the children can have the experience of meeting the Giant Irish dog of Ireland up close and personal. We will set up in their lovely garden with plenty of shade and water for the dogs.

Held at Chief O'Neill's Restaurant & Pub. 3471 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, IL. 60618

Location <http://irishmusicschool.org/francis-oneill-irish-arts-week>

---

**July 8, 9, 10**

**Irish American Heritage Festival**

**Hours 1:30-6pm**

This Irish Fest showcases the finest in local and international Irish and American music, dance and family activities. The festival is held on the grounds of the Irish American Heritage Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and strengthening Irish culture in Chicago. The center is near Wilson Avenue exit and the Edens Expressway, at 4626 North Knox, Chicago, IL.

We will set up on under the trees on the east side of the grounds. At around 2, we will bring our dogs to the staging area where Christine Krowzack will give the audience a short biography on the Irish Wolfhound with Q & A afterwards.

Water will also be available, all you need to bring is a chair for yourself.



**August 27**

**Will County Irish Fest**

**St. Joe's Park, Joliet, IL.**

There is plenty of shade for the dogs and water will be provided.

More information will follow.



**Saturday, September 17**

**Fox Valley Irish Fest**

**Riveredge Park in Aurora, IL.**

**1-5pm**

The festival is being presented by the Aurora Civic Center Authority, the owner/operator of the Paramount Theatre and operator of RiverEdge Park in Aurora.

We will set up under a 10x10 tent with water out of a hose and electricity if we need it. RiverEdge Park is located at 360 N. Broadway, Aurora IL 60505 – just 3 miles off I-88. <http://riveredgeaurora.com/events/fox-valley-irish-festival-2/>



**Sunday, October 8**

GLIWA Annual Fall Picnic starting at noon

Pilcher Park, 2501 Hig30amhland Park Drive, Joliet, Illinois 60432.

Behind the Nature Center building. We will have our usual wolfhound games and measure for tallest dog and longest tail. Always a fun time with good friends, good food and our wolfhounds.

Debbie Green will cook for us, all we ask is that you bring a small side dish or dessert.



**October 21-22**

**49th & 50th Locust Grove Specialty fun Match**

**Hosted by Robert and Gretchen Bernardi**

**Berwyck Irish Wolfhounds, Edwardsville, IL**

More info to follow

## Getting a Tick Off of Your Dog

If your dog spends much time outdoors, a tick check should be part of your daily routine.

Even the best repellents may not prevent these parasites from latching onto your pooch. It can take 24 to 48 hours for an attached tick to transmit an infection to its host, so it's important to promptly and properly remove these parasites.

First, run your fingers slowly over your dog's entire body. If you feel a bump or swollen area, check to see if a tick has burrowed there. Don't limit your search to your dog's torso: check between his toes, under his armpits, the insides of his ears, and around his face and chin.

Don't limit tick checks to your canine family members. Dogs can't directly transmit tick-borne illnesses to people, but ticks can move from host to host. A tick may enter your home on your dog's back and move on to another pet or human, or a tick could hitch a ride on you and then move on to one of your pets. A good tick prevention strategy includes checking all family members, especially after outdoor activities in wooded, leafy or grassy areas.

Ticks can be black, brown or tan, and they have eight legs. Ticks are arachnids and related to spiders, not insects. They can also be tiny—some species are only as large as the head of a pin—so look carefully.

In some areas of the United States where there is no real winter, ticks are active all year, not just in the summer months. Even when winter is coming and there has been a killing frost, ticks can become active again if the weather turns warm for more than a day or two.

If you find a tick on your dog, don't panic! Follow these quick and easy steps to safely remove the pest.

Gear needed: Pair of gloves  
Clean pair of tweezers or a commercial tick remover  
Antiseptic - Isopropyl alcohol

## By HSUS

Wear gloves while removing the tick to avoid contact with your skin (ticks can transmit diseases to people, too).

If you're using tweezers:

Grasp the tick as close to your dog's skin as possible, but be gentle! Try not to pinch your dog's skin.

Pull outward in a straight, steady motion, making sure that you've removed the entire tick, since anything left behind could lead to an infection.

If you're using a tick remover

Gently press the remover against your dog's skin near the tick.

Slide the notch of the remover under the tick. Continue sliding the remover until the tick is caught in the small end of the notch and is pulled free. (The tick will remain in the bowl of the remover.)

Prevention is key: protect your pets from ticks and fleas

Store the evidence

Drop the tick into a small container that contains isopropyl alcohol (the alcohol will quickly kill the tick), and mark the date on the container. If your dog begins displaying symptoms of a tick-borne illness, your veterinarian may want to identify or test the tick.

Step 4: *Praise* your patient

Clean your dog's skin with antiseptic and make sure to clean your tweezers with isopropyl alcohol. Wash your hands, too! Then give your pup a treat for being a trooper.

Follow up

Keep an eye on the area where the tick was to see if an infection surfaces. If the skin remains irritated or infected, make an appointment with your veterinarian.

Watch your dog for symptoms of tick-borne diseases. Some symptoms include arthritis or lameness that lasts for three to four days, reluctance to move, swollen joints, fever, fatigue, swollen lymph nodes, loss of appetite and neurological problems

## St Patrick's Day Parades







Editor's note – this is about Great Danes, but the information is important to all dogs that are prone to bloat.

**BLOAT NEWS!!!**

**Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center**

**Michael A. Harkey**

**Beverly Torok-Storb**

**3/15/16**

Bloat, known to veterinarians as gastric dilatation-volvulus (or GDV), is an acute, life-threatening condition that occurs at high frequency in many large and giant breeds of dogs. Great Danes are unusually susceptible to this condition. About 37% of Great Danes will experience bloat at some time in their life, and the majority of them will die without immediate medical intervention. Other large and giant breeds are also way too prone to this condition. Yet the causes of this condition have remained a mystery for decades. The goal of our study is to identify the causes of bloat. This information could then lead to diagnostic and therapeutic strategies to minimize the occurrence of this deadly condition.

Our effort over the last two years has been supported by donations from generous pet owners who care deeply about dogs and want to find a cure for bloat. This study could not have happened without the help of all the Dane owners that enrolled their dogs, answered lots of questions, and sent samples for testing. We focused on Great Danes, because the high frequency of bloat in this breed guaranteed a large group of affected animals and increased the statistical power of the analysis. This effort has already produced results that will profoundly affect the community of Great Dane owners, who deal with this disease constantly. Hopefully, these results will soon translate to other breeds.

Importantly, bloat correlates strongly with an underlying condition of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), suggesting a possible pre-existing state in the gut that contributes to bloat. We hypothesized that, since IBD and bloat are co-existing conditions, they may have the same root causes. In both humans and dogs IBD is linked to specific genes of the immune system. It is thought that molecular variants of these genes (alleles) cause changes in the bacterial population of the gut (the gut microbiome), which in turn, sets up an unhealthy condition in the gut. This unhealthy microbiome contributes to chronic, low-level IBD. According to our hypothesis, it also predisposes a dog to bloat. While the causes of bloat are not clearly understood, several risk factors have been described in the scientific literature, including age, dietary, behavioral, pre-existing health and genetic factors. The most significant risk factors appear to be genetic, since strong correlations with bloat exist for breeds, families and gender. The best way to combine all of these factors is envision a genetic predisposition in some dogs, and a non-genetic trigger, such as stress, that sets off the bloat event.

To test this hypothesis, we enrolled two groups of Great Danes, a "bloat" group in which all members survived bloat through surgical intervention, and a "control" group that had never experienced bloat. In a genetic study, five immune genes were sequenced from each dog, looking for genetic variations that associate with bloat. In a microbiome study, the gut bacterial population

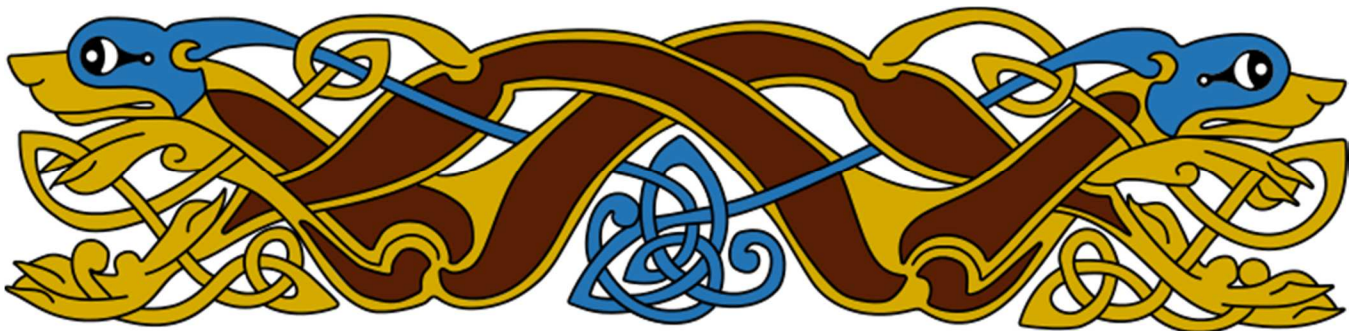
of each dog was analyzed from stool samples, looking for particular species that are unusually low or high in the bloat group.

We have just submitted the genetic study to the scientific journal, PLoS one, to be reviewed for publication. We have established three genes that contribute to bloat in Great Danes. For each of these genes, several alleles (molecular variants) are found in the Great Dane population, and in other breeds. One allele from each gene was found to significantly increase the risk of bloat in Great Danes. As shown in the graph below, those Danes that carried at least one of these risk alleles had a 3-fold higher risk of bloat. In fact, 62% of the dogs carrying a risk allele had to undergo emergency surgery to survive a bloat episode. This information will be crucial for owners and breeders that are trying to decide if preventative gastropexy surgery is appropriate for their dog, or if their dog should be bred. For this reason, we have designed genetic tests for these risk alleles. The tests will be offered to owners and breeders of Great Danes.

The second study, microbiome analysis, should be completed in the next couple of months. Since the genetic side of our hypothesis proved to be true, we have reason to expect to see specific microbiome abnormalities in the bloat group. If we do discover that bloat is caused by specific imbalances of the microbiome, then a whole array of therapeutic strategies will be available to combat the disease. For example, probiotics or specific dietary changes may be used to re-balance the microbiome, and thus, prevent bloat.

As you can see, the study has already generated some very significant results and we are excited to push forward with the next phase. We could not have done this without the generous support of our sponsors, and the efforts of all the Dane lovers who contributed their time, information and enthusiasm to this study. Thank you!!!

Many questions still remain: Will the findings for Great Danes carry over to other breeds? Are additional immune genes involved? Did we miss risk factors from very severe cases that were not survived? Will the microbiome data point to therapeutic strategies? All of these questions can be addressed in future studies, if we can find additional funding. We are asking the AKC to help us with the next phase.



## GLIWA Board Report 5-21-16

### Rescue

#### FINN

It has been a couple of busy months! We were contacted by an owner in Naperville about her 10 month old wolfhound Finn. When she purchased Finn she took him to the vet to find that he had virtually every worm / parasite possible. He was treated for that then got Giardia. Finn had OCD and had surgery to correct it. We have a 31 page medical file from the vet! \$11,000 later..... The owners / vet said he has IBS and was on a special diet. They were very afraid he would get sick again so they made sure he never touched dirt/grass/twigs to his mouth. They saw him eat grass when we were there and pulled it out of his mouth. He had no fenced in place to run as they lived on a golf course and a fence would obstruct the view. He had only been walked on a leash on the sidewalk so he wouldn't get into anything dirty. He has no AKC Papers and hasn't given us a breeder name. She said they didn't file the papers. The owners said they needed to re-home him because he had become very aggressive. Biting them and chasing them through the house. They slept with him in their kitchen at night. We met with them at their house and it took three more weeks to get him to our house.



Finn

He is fitting in well. He is a complete puppy and has had no training except sit, shake and down. He was VERY toy aggressive when he got here and that is in the vet report also. He was banned from playing with other dogs and staff because he wouldn't play nice. I have gotten him to a point I can now transfer a treat or a stick for an object he is NOT supposed to have. Very confusing for him because baby toys and dog toys look alike to babies and dogs! 95% of the time he is a very sweet dog and a big baby.

We are thinking at this point that we will keep him here if things work out.

We got several calls, emails and Facebook messages about a mixed breed wolfhound in the Champagne Animal Control Center. We had two people on our adoption list interested. One went to visit him. When Robert checked on the dog last week they had replaced the Animal Control Manager with a new person and the new person on his first or second day of work euthanized the dog. Heartbreaking!

We have received several Facebook messages about the dog in Champagne on Craigslist. This person wants to sell the dog for \$500.00. Since we are not in the business of buying dogs we have sent this information to several people on the rescue list. We are hoping one of them buys him. I just checked the craigslist add and it has been deleted.

We hear from Alice and George about Ivy periodically. They send us photos and updates. She is doing great and they really love her a lot!



Ivy

Gus and Opal are having some issues with the new owner's Newfoundland Hound and Robert has been working with her on training issues to hopefully resolve the issues. I believe there is one other dog that may need to be rehomed that Robert and Courtney have been working on..... more to follow.



Opal



**Gus and Opal**



## BREED PRIORITIES: The Irish Wolfhound



by Nikki Riggsbee

The Irish Wolfhound standard (the main portion) isn't long, just 412 words. It has a unique section that was the genesis of this series on breed priorities. Following the breed standard is a List of Points in Order of Merit, a list of 16 Wolfhound characteristics in priority sequence, from most important to least important. Only one other standard, for the Scottish Deerhound, also includes such a list.

I love these lists as a guide in evaluating these breeds. When I studied other breeds, I would ask mentors for their breeds' priorities. Later, this series was born, querying the breed experts on what was important in their breeds. Thanks to the Wolfhound and Deerhound folks, and to Captain Graham who originally authored both standards, for the concept.

The Irish Wolfhound breed standard, including the List of Points, was last approved in March, 1935. For this article, we surveyed current Irish Wolfhound experts to see if they, as a group, still valued their breed's characteristics in approximately the same sequence as presented in the List. This survey, however, took the breed characteristics directly from the standard, not from the List at the bottom.

Invitations were sent to twenty-six Irish Wolfhound experts to participate in the survey. Twenty-four accepted, and seventeen completed surveys were returned. Almost all the participants were breeder-judges, with a few added from the parent club judges' education committee. More than two-thirds of the judges have judged the breed's national specialty and other Wolfhound specialties.

### Prioritizing Virtues

Below is a list of breed characteristics from the Irish Wolfhound standard in sequence by the average survey ranks of the experts.

1. Rough-coated, Greyhound-like breed
2. Of great size and commanding appearance
3. Movements easy and active
4. Back rather long, loins arched
5. Muscular thighs, second thigh long and strong
6. Elbows well under
7. Shoulders muscular, set sloping

8. Forearm muscular, strong, quite straight
9. Head long, muzzle long and moderately pointed
10. Neck rather long, very strong and muscular, well-arched
11. Chest very deep, breast wide
12. Belly well drawn up
13. Head and neck carried high
14. Feet moderately large and round
15. Ears small, Greyhound-like carriage
16. Tail long, slightly curved, well covered with hair

All but one of the experts placed "Rough-coated, Greyhound-like breed" (1st) first or second. Nearly the same consensus was on "Feet moderately large and round" (14th). Just behind, with fifteen surveys agreeing, were "Of great size and commanding appearance" (2nd) and "Belly well drawn up" (12th). Over eighty percent ranked "Movements easy and active" (3rd) first, second, or third.

Next with seventy-six percent concurring were "Muscular thighs, second thigh long and strong" (5th) and "Tail long, slightly curved, well covered with hair" last. Twelve of the group felt the same about "Ears small, Greyhound-like carriage" (15th) with almost as many on "Back rather long, loins arched" (4th).

Ten agreed on the importance of "Elbows well under" (6th), "Forearm muscular, strong, quite straight" (8th), and "Head and neck carried high" (13th). The smallest majority was on "Shoulders muscular, set sloping" (9th).

The three virtues without majorities had split opinions, with almost half having one opinion and a similar group having another. "Head long, muzzle long and moderately pointed" (9th) had eight that placed it low, and seven ranked it high. "Neck rather long, very strong and muscular, well arched" (10th) had seven put it above average but another seven considered it below average in value. "Chest very deep, breast wide" (11th) was ranked middling by almost half, but a similar group thought it of lesser importance.

Thirteen of the virtues had majority opinions, with only the three virtues with bi-polar results missing a majority, and only by one. The difference between the ranks of the third and fourth virtues was over two-and-a-half points, emphasizing the importance of the first three virtues. Here is the official List of Points in Order of Merit from the AKC standard:

1. Typical. The Irish Wolfhound is a rough-coated Greyhound-like breed, the tallest of the coursing hounds and remarkable in combining power and swiftness
2. Great size and commanding appearance
3. Movements easy and active
4. Head, long and level, carried high
5. Forelegs, heavily boned, quite straight; elbows well set under
6. Thighs long and muscular; second thighs, well muscled, stifles nicely bent
7. Coat, rough and hard, especially wiry and long over eyes and under jaw
8. Body, long, well-ribbed up, with ribs well sprung, and great breadth across hips
9. Loins arched, belly well drawn up
10. Ears, small, with Greyhound-like carriage
11. Feet, moderately large and round; toes, close, well-arched
12. Neck, long, well-arched and very strong
13. Chest, very deep, moderately broad
14. Shoulders, muscular, set sloping
15. Tail, long and slightly curved

## 16. Eyes, dark

You will see that this survey in many cases reflected the official list. But in some virtues, the current experts disagreed on the relative importance. The virtues listed weren't identical or equivalent. The official List sometimes had more than one virtue per item.

### Ranking Faults

The experts also prioritized a set of faults from the standard. The list of faults below is in order from most serious to least serious.

1. Back sunken or hollow or quite straight
2. Bent forelegs
3. Dogs less than 32"; bitches less than 30" (at 18 months)
4. Lacking proportionate length of body
5. Too short in body
6. Weak hindquarters
7. General want of muscle
8. Short neck
9. Chest too narrow or too broad
10. Spreading toes
11. Head too light
12. Head too heavy
13. Large ears hanging flat to face
14. Full dewlap
15. Lips or nose liver-colored or lacking pigmentation
16. Too curly a tail

The Wolfhound standard has a prioritized list of virtues, but not of faults. But it is good to know which faults are the most serious, even when we are not fault judging. The group had mostly majorities in ranking the faults, which is excellent, although the majorities were not as big as those in the virtues.

The largest majority landed on "Lips or nose liver-colored or lacking pigmentation" (15th). Thirteen surveys agreed on "Head too light" (tied for 10th) and "Head too heavy" (12th). Seventy percent valued "Chest too narrow or too broad" (9th) similarly.

The most common majority, eleven of the group, agreed on "Back sunken or hollow or quite straight" (1st), "Dogs less than 32"; bitches less than 30" (at 18 months)" (3rd), "Too short in body" (5th), "Weak hindquarters" (6th), "Short neck" (8th), "Full dewlap" (14th), and "Too curly a tail" (16th).

Nearly sixty percent had similar opinions on "Bent forelegs" (2nd) and "Spreading toes" (tied for 10th). The smallest majorities ranked "Lacking proportionate length of body" (4th) and "Large ears hanging flat to face" (13th).

The only fault without a majority was "General want of muscle" (7th), with more than forty percent considering it very important, but the others were all over.

Where the same feature was on both lists, the group was fairly consistent. "Great size" was second, where "Lack of size" third. "Back length" was fourth as was "Lack of body length" and "Body too short" fifth. "Neck long" was tenth, while "Short neck" was eighth. "Ears" were fifteenth as a virtue, but thirteenth as a fault. "Tail" was last on both lists.

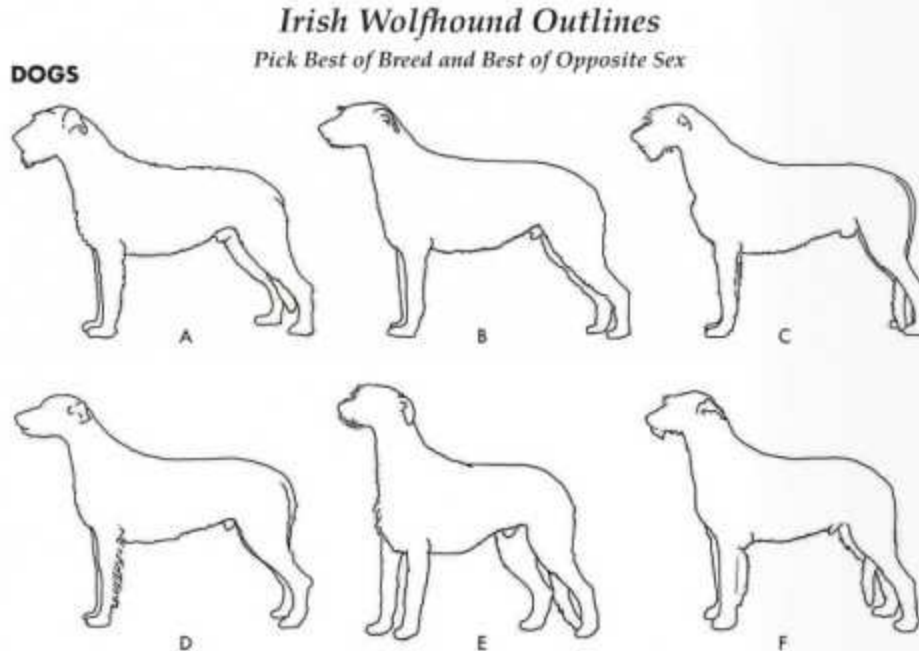
### Essential Characteristics



The survey asked the participants to identify the most important features that an Irish Wolfhound must have to be a good one.

Most often named was Greyhound shape followed by movement. Also frequently mentioned were power, great size, proportion and balance, and angulation. These were quite consistent with the virtues listed above and the List of Points from the standard.

Outlines



The experts were asked to evaluate the outlines of six dogs and six bitches and place the outlines in each group first through fourth based on quality. Note that they could see only the outlines. If they could see more, with hands on and including movement, the placements might well change.

The favorite dog was Irish Wolfhound "E." Those who selected him first said he had "sighthound shape, length of neck, neck flow into withers," "lovely curves and balance, lovely profile with head held high on strong neck," "good topline, rectangular shape, covers ground well, commanding appearance," "as close to type of a rough-coated greyhound-like dog, "clearly masculine," and "plenty of leg underneath, stands over a lot of ground, strong well-constructed hindquarters, well drawn up belly, overall balance and symmetry, the best placed rose ear."

Next favorite male was dog "D." Surveys that named him first commented that he had "better balance, topline, and underline," "proportion, width of stifle," and "correct length of leg and depth of chest."

The bitch placed first most often and with most first placements among the bitches was Wolfhound "U." Comments on her included "overall best balanced, matching angulation, body length, smooth correct outline," "excellent overall athletic make and shape, beautiful shoulders, lovely head planes and ears, topline strong, elbows well under, stifle broad, hocks low, good feet," "lovely sweep of stifle," "typical shape, good curves, slightly longer than tall," and "strong underjaw."

Runner-up bitch was Wolfhound "X." Surveys that placed her first said "the most acceptable length of leg with overall balance," "best balance including topline, leg length, depth of chest, beautiful curves, not overdone," "better balance, topline, underline," and "proportions, balance, and substance."

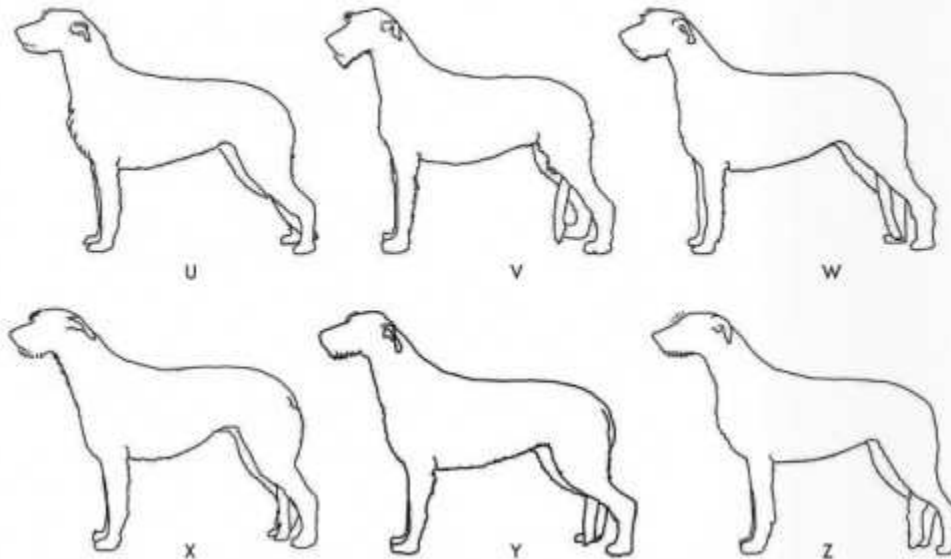
Dog "E" is probably Best of Breed because his placement average was best of the twelve, he was placed first more often than any other, and four surveys named him Best of Breed. Wolfhounds "U" and "X" were also named BOB four times.

All twelve of the outlines were placed first by at least one expert, and all were left out of the ribbons on at least one survey. Dog "F" was unplaced most often. Among the bitches, "Z" and then "V" were unplaced more often.

*Irish Wolfhound Outlines*

*Pick Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex*

**BITCHES**



Comments from Irish Wolfhound Experts

- When judging an Irish Wolfhound, always ask yourself, "Can it catch and kill a wolf?"
- They are not draft horses, but should be athletic, galloping hounds with a greyhound-like outline moving active and easy.
- Think Greyhound. These are hounds first and foremost, and great size and commanding appearance does not mean mass and substance.
- The essence of a Wolfhound should be shapely and athletic.
- Ask the age of the dogs. The young dogs shouldn't carry an abundance of body or angulation, and an older dog shouldn't lack a mature body.
- It is always better to put up correct type with less than perfect parts as opposed to a hound with perfect parts that lacks type.
- Remember the word "long." It is in our standard several times.
- Evaluate how the hound looks and holds himself on the move. Owner-handlers often don't stack their dogs well.
- He must be an athlete, with balance, muscle, brains, strength, and endurance to course and bring down large game easily.
- Avoid exaggerations.
- Don't overestimate size. While the standard wants "great size," balance and type should not be sacrificed.
- IW's should be slightly longer than tall with plenty of daylight under the hound.
- Recognize typical hounds that move well and are shown in good, hard condition.
- Functionality is foremost, followed by temperament. Tall, lean, and athletic describe the IW.
- Weak, flat loins are the antithesis of this sighthound breed; do not forgive it.
- Galloping hounds typically have a more open shoulder than breeds that call for 45 degree angulation.
- A short-ribbed back Wolfhound is unforgivable.
- The Wolfhound's strength lies in the perfect balance of speed and agility, and his speed from the perfect balance of power and strength.

- Moderation is the key.

Thanks to the Irish Wolfhound experts for being so generous with their comments and sharing their expertise.

#### About The Author

Nikki Riggsbee is approved to judge all Sporting, Hound, and Working breeds and eleven breeds in other groups. She has been active in both all-breed and specialty clubs. She is an award-winning author of four books and multiple articles, including the Breed Priorities series.

She began showing dogs in 1980 with Norwegian Elkhounds and Great Danes. Under the affix McEmn, she has owned and bred over thirty champions, with many more produced from her dogs. In addition to conformation, Nikki has also exhibited and titled Great Danes in obedience. Her website is [www.mcemn.com](http://www.mcemn.com).

Short URL: <http://caninechronicle.com/?p=49242>



### **A walk in the park**



**Looking for a puppy?**

**We can help you find a reputable breeder who cares about health and temperament. We also have a Breeder Referral section in our website [www.gliwa.org](http://www.gliwa.org).**

**For breeder referrals call  
Maria Lubera  
630-279-7179**

**Or contact the Irish Wolfhound Club  
Of America  
[www.iwclubofamerica.org](http://www.iwclubofamerica.org)**



**Reputable breeders want to meet the people who are going to have their puppies. Please be careful to check out any breeder before getting your new puppy and beware of buying a puppy over the internet sight unseen.**