



Irish Wolfhound Association of the Mid-South



Mission: Education about and rescue of Irish Wolfhounds
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President's Message

Ce Hoffman

Spring has sprung and for those of us who show our dogs, dog show season is revving up. The Potomac Valley IW club's specialty is the first weekend in April in Annapolis, MD. At the end of the month is the IW Club of America's National Specialty at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, MO. Even if you don't show, the specialty shows are a wonderful way to learn more about the breed, its history and versatility and to meet other wolfhound enthusiasts. IWAMS is planning a picnic at Mary Ryan's farm in Rice, VA for late May. Look for more information about the IWAMS event in the [club news corner](#).

Raleigh's St. Patrick's Day parade was a great success. I was pleased to see a good turn out of hounds present to lead off the parade. Look for pictures from the parade throughout the newsletter. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank our photographers for their efforts. They did a great job and managed to walk a dog in the parade as well.

As good as our parade turnout was, I bet it could have been better if we had been able to reach all of you who might have been interested. Last issue, I told you about our yahoo groups e-mail list. Our newsletter only comes out 4 times a year and we hope to have activities between newsletters. Some of them may be pretty spur-of-the-moment, and we'd like to have all that can come participate. This is a great way for your board to easily communicate with you and for you to communicate with us. You can also ask for help with a problem

with your hound and get a local response, or set up a hound play-date with another member. [Please join us by sending a blank message to IWAMS-subscribe@yahogroups.com](#). I promise, we don't bite and we would love to hear from you.

Well, back to spring cleaning and getting the hounds ready for show season. I hope to see many of you at the spring events. -Ce

Thank you!!

The following folks made donations during first quarter: Boyd, Donoghue, Hildebrand, Kennedy, Lawlor, Leonard, Madden, McLester, Murphy, Neulicht, Overcash, Padgett, Pevaroff, Ross, Takacs, Tattoli, Traylor, Vreeken, and Williamson. The hounds appreciate your support!

Club Celebrates 15 Years



At our fall gathering



**Marilyn Madden, Vice
President**

Tick borne diseases in dogs

It is that time of year again when we begin to find ticks on our dogs. We are all very aware of Lyme disease, but there are other tick borne diseases that are actually much worse. The diseases we should know about are Ehrlichiosis and Rocky Mountain Spotted fever (RMSF).

Ehrlichiosis is transmitted by the brown dog tick. The tick may transmit the disease for up to 5 months after engorgement. Blood transfusions can also cause infection.

In the summer especially, the risk is high. Symptoms may be: fever, generalized lymph enlargement, enlarged spleen and low platelets, decreased appetite, stiffness, reluctance to walk and swelling of the legs or scrotum, or possibly cough.

Sometimes the signs and symptoms are not as clear: lethargy, weight loss and depression, generalized weakness, hematuria (blood in urine), increased respiratory rate, nasal discharge, oral ulcers, increased urination, increase in thirst, rapid heartbeat, vomiting and central nervous system changes.

Diagnosis: can be determined in as little as 7 days after initial infection, although some dogs do not have positive tests until 28 days post infection. If you suspect ehrlichiosis a serology should be repeated in 2-3 weeks. (Also a western blot or PCR test should be considered.)

Treatment and prevention: The mainstay of prevention is of course tick control. The drug of choice for all forms of ehrlichiosis is doxycycline for at least one month. The dogs usually improve dramatically within a day or two.

In chronic cases the blood abnormalities may persist for up to 3-6 months. Sometimes supportive treatment such as platelet or whole blood transfusions may be required if hemorrhage is extensive. Test again in 6 months to confirm seronegative status. Remember also that previous

infection does not confer lifelong immunity, and dogs can become infected again with the same or other ehrlichial species after re-exposure.

RMSF is a disease of man, dogs and other small mammals. Risk of transmission is high when rickettsemia in tick lymph or excreta contact a person's abraded skin or conjunctiva during removal of engorged ticks from pets.

Clinical Signs: any combination of fever, anorexia, arthritis, cough or shortness of breath; swelling of face, extremities, altered mental status dizziness, or retinal hemorrhage. Diagnosis: IFA titer is the most sensitive test. Immunity appears to be life-long after infection. Treatment: Tetracycline three times a day for 2 weeks are generally effective.

***full text of this article is available at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IWAMS/files/>

Events Reports

January - Linda Ross

Charleston show



"Dah-link I think I smell some shrimp 'n grits"

(photo source Ross)

Several club members rendezvoused in the streets of Charleston in between ring times of the January show. Lynn Overcash and hound Connor were there along with former member and friend who moved north, Mary Ellen Shriver. (See carriage photo above). Sam and Linda Ross with Footsie and Rio played "tourists" as well. It was a magical

day ruled by Irish Wolfhounds in the downtown historic district on January 28th. There is nothing like the connection of the hounds to bring old club members together.

February – Jenny Phillips

Greenville-Spartanburg show

Some of our IWAMS members met at the show and went out to Steak and Ale for dinner afterward.

March - Raleigh parade

THE PIPES CALLED... all Irish Wolfhounds to guard the piper and lead the Raleigh St. Patrick's Day parade. We had a record turnout!

Parade photos By Diana Vreeken, Tom Madden, Jeff Traylor



Following the piper – the Tom & Marilyn, Ce & Bryan, Jeff & Martha et al; 14 canines and their humans enjoyed the sunny day.



Chatting with fans & signing autographs.

Club News Corner

Upcoming Events*

■ April 22-26 IWCA National Specialty

IWAMS is sponsoring a breakfast and exhibiting our story board. Good luck to our members who attend!

The storyboard adobe pdf is posted to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IWAMS/files/>

■ May 20 – Mark your calendars!

Club picnic at Mary Ryan's where there is plenty of fenced room for dogs to run. Club will supply hot dogs and hamburgers. Please bring a dish to share. Ce and team are trying to organize some hound fun, possibly lure coursing, weather depending. More details and directions to follow in a special mailing.

■ October TBD

Annual IWAMS Fall gathering

*Always check IWAMS web or yahoo group for most current details on any event due to last minute changes.

Kudos

Art and Linda King

- Ch Ard Rhi's Cleopatra of Eagle was Best Bred-by Exhibitor at the AKC/ Eukanuba Invitational in January.
- Ch Ard Rhi's Annabelle of Eagle earned her title in February.

Whelping box

Jeff & Martha Traylor

- Born to SingingSwords Conan and SingingSwords Tara, 2 male, 2 female puppies. Congratulations.

Over the rainbow bridge

The last 2005 newsletter pictured Mosby with his bicycle gear, pleading with his cat friend to take the risk of a ride. It might interest those members who knew Mosby (Tallest Dog award at the fall 01' gathering) that Mosby died here at his country home in February at age seven and four months. Like all wolfhound guardians I'm hounded daily by his absence. -Charlie

The club extends sincere sympathy to Charles Padgett for his loss.

Rescue Update

Mary Ryan

This has been an active few months in rescue. There have been many calls requesting a rescue, maybe some triggered by the Westminster show that was televised.

Leah

We received an owner give up - a 10 1/2 month old female. The owner thought she was unhappy because "Leah" cried all the time. Leah lived with a giant mastiff that was very dominant, a nice dog but he was the star of that household. Leah came from a puppy mill who shipped her by plane at 8 weeks old and she only weighed 6 1/2 pounds. Both the shipping paper and the vet who checked her recorded her weight at 6 1/2 lbs. She had a heart malfunction at that check up but it went away in later checks. I think the plane ride scared her. Now she is very tall and weighs a healthy 96 pounds.

At first, when I brought her home she cried a little but by the third day not at all. She is now a playful happy girl. She lives in a wonderful home with a longtime IWMA member who is home all the time and has an IW cross for her to play with. I hear she is wearing him out!

Charlie

As I write this Lynn Overcash is helping with another rescue. "Charlie" is an owner give up due to divorce. I will spend all day Wednesday picking him up from western

North Carolina. I really appreciate Lynn's help and input. Rescue takes a lot of people to make it work successfully. This IW is cat friendly - a rare find. I am going through the applications and members who want a cat friendly IW. More review will be required, of course. Next report will have a follow up on Charlie.

We do need good homes with fences. I have some wonderful people looking for dogs but if they do not have fenced yards I cannot place the dogs with them.

I must say again "thank you" to all the people who donated to rescue. We all appreciate you!



Charlie (photo by Lynn Overcash)

A related note from Kathy and Bob Massey:

There was an ad in a local newspaper this week for a free Irish Wolfhound to a good home.

Called the woman, talked to her at great length and she brought her over today to meet us and our wonderful Brightling. The owner decided we would be a good home and tonight our new girl (she is 6 1/2 or 7) named Anya has joined our family. We are so grateful that we got her as there were many, many calls from people who wanted her.

We do shudder to think of where she could have ended up and in whose hands; she is a

sweet and gentle girl and our Brightling, Bob and I welcome her with love into our lives.

We have had many rescues over the past 25 years -- each one of them were very, very special and brought such love -- but this was truly a surprise. Took her immediately to the vet and she is in good health and displays a very calm temperament.



Off Schedule Leads to "Diet Time"

Sam Ross

It seems everybody needs to go on a diet when Linda and I return home after being on the road for more than two days. This applies to me, Linda and the dogs that stay at home. I often wonder what happens at home when we're gone. I know why I gain weight -- junk food and heavier snacks. It seems as though the dogs on the road are the only ones who usually stay trim -- new place, anxiety, same amount of food. Therefore now that we are thinking about the upcoming specialty trip, once again these questions come up.

I give a detailed description of the feeding program to our sitter. I remind them that the feeding routine at home is always the same. These hounds have us trained. In the evening around 5:45PM Natty starts to whine and Anna begins to talk in a hoarse wail that is only related to food. (Naturally after ten years of ownership I speak Wolfhound fluently.) Seven wolfhounds and one deerhound all eat in the house and the routine is fun to talk about to other hound owners. Only that audience would understand. Here goes...

Our house is small but open. The kitchen, great room and den are essentially one large area. The bedrooms on each end have Dutch doors which make separation of the kids easier. First to be fed is the deerhound, who needs a place of her own. She needs to gain a little weight, but will play musical bowls and not get much food when left to her own devices. Then the two puppies (10mo and 8mo) eat in another part of the house with the smaller one in the bedroom and Rio, a young male, in the den area. Rio gobbles his food and would eat the younger Kit's if we were unable to isolate her. Now we have the big problem eaters out of the way.

Next the adults: Race, being the "main man", gets his food next in the entrance foyer. From there he is able to watch the front in case someone interrupts his repast, keep the bird company, and be the first out the door if he wishes.

Then the middle girls, Footsie and Sugar get their rations near the kitchen and Florida room. Footsie is usually jumping up and trying to get us to spill her vittles. She and Sugar frantically eat and then swap bowls and then try to abscond with any bits of kibble they can find from the other bowls. (Remember I told you these were the easier adults.) Ha!

Finally Natty and Anna, our mature ladies, eat in the kitchen area. They eat ravenously, with one difference, and that is they just dare anyone to come near. No one does.

Isn't that as clear as it can get! Now who couldn't understand the routine?

When we are gone, however, who knows what happens. We try to make the

directions as to whose bowl is whose and the size of portions as clear as possible. I have even gone so far as to package meals. Needless to say, whoever feeds looks at the size of the dogs and assumes that the single pouch of food could not possibly be enough so two would be better.

Perhaps the hounds act in such a way that the dog sitter is convinced that the directions just couldn't be right. "We are starrrrr-ving!" The puppies and deerhound frisk all visitors for sandwiches. The result is everybody gets fat when we are gone.

When we return from a trip diet time arrives and everyone feels abused, including me. "What do you mean only one scoop of kibble?" "No more milk bones?" "Where's the popcorn?"

Our housemates are such loving creatures, but it is hard to explain our living arrangements to "outsiders". They don't understand. Perhaps they think it couldn't be real. You readers and I know better. We also know that in spite of all of the rules of management our dogs are still so much easier to deal with than people, don't we?

Previcox Warning

An email from Eileen B. Flanagan "Og" of Carrickaneena Irish Wolfhounds, has been making the rounds about Previcox, the NSAID painkiller for canines. Administering it killed one of her hounds. Question your vet before allowing them to give this to your dog. Other owners say do not give Previcox, period (see our yahoo group).

Links to Sites of Interest

www.iwclubofamerica.org

www.irishwolfhounds.org

www.iwams.org

Irish Wolfhound Illustrated magazine

Editor: Gill Griffin

<http://www.irish-wolfhound-illustrated.de/>



Ready....March!!! (Vreeken)

Going to Westminster

By Diana Vreeken

In late 2004, Doug and I went to an IWF sponsored seminar called "Style, Form and Function". Mrs. Patricia Trotter was the main speaker and she said, "If you ever get an opportunity to go to the Westminster Dog Show—GO! The experience is absolutely wonderful." Well, we took her advice and asked our handler, Darlene Bergan, if she would like to show Finnagin at the Gardens. We knew Finnie was way too young, he wasn't even two yet, but we thought "Hey—no pressure—just for fun." We wanted this to be a positive experience for him.

Let me tell you, Mrs. Trotter was right! We had an absolutely fantastic experience! The Gardens was packed with dogs and people. From the security guards, to the handlers, to the spectators, most of the folks there were very polite and friendly. Eleven out of thirteen wolfhounds showed up that day, in spite of the snowstorm two days before.

Finnagin was a blessing in disguise that day. Because it was a bench show, we had to get there before 11:30 AM and stay until 8:00 PM. Finnie had to stay in his crate all that time. So, every 1½ to 2 hours Doug or I would take Finn out to stretch his legs and

potty him. For everyone out there whose dogs “exercise”, “potty”, or “relieve” –what ever you want to call it—on the spot, I envy you.

Throughout the whole day one of us was with him. He was a charm. Not a care in the world. He greeted everybody with a wag of his tail and checked all pockets for food. I took the anxiety drops an hour before show time to settle my nerves! He just wanted to play.

Walking on the green carpet and seeing him in the ring was a very happy moment. I was so proud of my little boy, he looked so handsome. I wasn't worried, this was just for fun!



Finnagin

The judge, Mrs. Dorothy Hutchinson pulled a beautiful male, Ch Curiann's Celtic Rune and BOS Ch Wolfhaven Rocknroll to Curiann, both owned by Judith Ryan. Next came first runner-up Ch R Noble Alaiinn Nora owned by Joseph M and Kathy L Roland. The 2nd runner up was Ch Wycket of Eagle owned by Randy Kubacz.

Now, were my ears hearing what I thought I heard? The third runner up was my little Finnie! Oh WOW! I had tears in my eyes when I saw that Mrs. Hutchinson placed my boy.

Back at the benches everyone gave heart warming hugs to everyone—not just to the 4 main winners, but everyone. This says a lot about our group of people. We wolfie people have it made. We all get along; we are pleasant and cheerful with one another. Watching some of the other breeds, well, the harmony was not the same.

Even if you don't want to enter, I would suggest going and experiencing it first hand. It really is a heart warming experience. It was our first time, but definitely not our last.

Smile of the quarter contest

Some Wolfhounds are known to smile just like humans. Tell your dog a joke and make him/her smile. Capture it in a photo and mail it to the editor.



These guys are snoozing, but maybe the pic will give YOU a smile (photo by Neu))

Member Biography

Jenny Phillips was born in Ravenna, Ohio and raised in Gaffney, South Carolina and is still living there with her husband, Doug. She is an Internal Auditor for a Savings and Loan.

Jenny first saw a wolfhound at a show in Greenville, SC. It was Barney, who was owned by one of our club members, Cindy Ledbetter. “All it took was me walking up to Barney to pet him and he leaned on me - that was it! I knew I would be in love with wolfhounds for the rest of my life.” Jenny asserts. It was a little over a year later, in 1998 when she got her first hound.

His name was Max and he crossed over the bridge at age 4. Next came Pari who arrived at age 3 1/2 and kept her company for 18

months before crossing. Such short lives! Now Chyna belongs to Jenny and Doug. She moved into their house and hearts at 2 1/ 2 and turned 6 in January 2006. Jenny says "As you can tell, my luck with wolfhounds has NOT been beginners luck." She adds that "the best thing about an IW is their unconditional love, devotedness and the way they steal your heart."

Jenny says that she is an advocate for both natural and prepared diets depending on the ability of the owner to provide and what works best for their lifestyle.

The question Jenny hears the most is: "How much does he/she eat?"

Jenny tells a tale about Chyna. "The love seat and sofa in my living room form an L-shape and are quite low in the back. The sofa back is against the wall but the love seat sort of divides the bar area in the kitchen from the living room. Chyna decided one day to step over the love seat instead of go around it. Of course she didn't know that the side we sit on was so soft. When she got her front end over the back of the love seat, her front feet sunk deep into the cushions. Because of her great chest, she was stuck with her front end on one side of the love seat and her rear end on the floor at the back of the love seat. I was in the other room and heard her barking as if to say "Hey! Could you come and get me out of this mess?" Can you picture it? What a wonderful laugh I had when I saw her."

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Editor's note: any errors are inadvertent. Please let me know if you have corrections. The opinions herein are those of the writers, and may or may not represent my personal beliefs.

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- Fund raising.....open**

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Notices

Mailing: We do not have email addresses for the following members: Bennett; Hathaway; Hildebrand; Jago; Kennedy; Lawlor; O'Brien; O'Donnell; Stevens; Tattoli – send 'em to Wendy if you got 'em.

Join:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IWAMS/>

Recommended READ: Balance Your Dog – Canine Massage by C. Sue Furman



The end (photo by Madden)