



# IW AMS



Vol. 11 No. 4

Irish Wolfhound Association of the Mid-South

August 2002

## FALL GATHERING

**Don't forget to mark your calendars. IWAMS is having another Fall Gathering on NOV 9th. It will be at the same location as last year, the Durham Kennel Club building in North Carolina. Look for the flyer coming soon.**

**The day should be busy. There will be games, mini-lectures, raffle, lunch and a business meeting. IWAMS will also offer Canine Good Citizen testing.**

**Cindy Ledbetter is in charge of lunch. Anyone who wishes to bring something needs to contact her. Volunteers will also be needed during the day. Anyone who wants to donate something to the raffle for rescue should contact Mary Reeves.**

Cindy Ledbetter : 919-542-2893 email cledbetter53@hotmail.com

Mary Reeves : 803-353-9954 , email mmreeves1416@aol.com

## IWAMS: The Beginning

By Joe Pitt

In what follows I am going to try to reconstruct some of the early history of our club – but my memory is very gappy – so, if you find what follows to be inadequate in however many ways, which it surely is, please send Linda Ross your own recollections – a history of the club is important and it will continue to be so as we shoulder on.

It was a fall evening, October at the Delaware Valley Specialty about 12 years ago in Allentown, Pa. The headquarters hotel was the ag-

ing and somewhat decrepit George Washington Lodge. It is now gone – its wandering grounds paved over for a shopping center – what else? The hotel was a tangle of one-story arms meandering out from a central core. The section of the hotel where most of us were lodged had a nice big grassy area that backed up to a line of trees. On the other side of the trees were the show grounds, bordered by a quiet stream. It was a lovely setting for a show.

At the end of the first day of judging a group of us, having fed the hounds were out walking our dogs before we headed off to find our own dinner. It was a gentle fall evening. Ginger Quinn, Linda and Art King, Cindy Ledbetter, Steve and Karen LeVan and Donna and I had sort of gathered together, relaxing in the company of the hounds and questioning once again why it was that we had to travel north to see each other. As usual most of us had a beer in hand. I don't remember who first put forth the idea that it was time to start thinking about a club of our own – but we didn't take the idea seriously, although we did remark that we probably had enough hound owners and lovers to really do it. One thing we did immediately agreed on was that we wanted a different kind of club – not just one dedicated to putting on *The Yearly Show*. I jokingly proposed a name, The Dixie Dogs, one I still fancy but not very many agreed with me. However, the idea was planted there.

Somewhere between then and November 1993 we did a lot of work, meeting several times at national and regional specialties. At some point we applied for and received recognition from the national club, but when is shrouded in mystery. I have spent hours looking through my notes from IWCA Board meetings, but the first mention I can find of IWAMS is in the May 12, 1993

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

minutes. Steve LeVan asked the Board to support the IWAMS November Gathering – which was presented as a judging seminar – and they did.

Some memory flashes of the early days are intense. There is the one I have of a large group of us sitting in a big circle after a show at Blacksburg under a big tree at our farm, discussing our proposed Bylaws – hounds by our side. Jon Kennedy had drafted them and I helped a bit on refining them and then we sent them out before we met that spring afternoon. We had agreed on a number of unique points. For example, we insisted that at least one hound should be present at every meeting. There was also some discussion about having the members be hounds only with their owners sitting in on their behalf, after all it was to become an Irish Wolfhound club, not an Irish Wolfhound Owners Club. We also decided that we needed a Brewmaster – the first and only holder of that position is Freddie Stevens. And I believe it was then that we started planning the November 1993 Gathering. This was to be our bold announcement that we were here and we were something different.

*The Next Installment: The 1<sup>st</sup> Gathering*

## CLUB NEWS

### BRAGS

Cecilia Hoffman writes “Blair’s California Dreamer is now a champion finishing with a 3 point major under James Reynolds.” Dreamer is owned and bred by us and earned his title from the Bred-by Exhibitor classes.

Susan & Bill Turczyn’s Theo won a Group 1 Hound in a special event Bred By competition at the Clemson Show.



Mike and Kathy Verble’s Harvey won Best in Show at Sand and Sea Kennel Club show in Fla.

### CYBERNEWS

by Billie Hubner

1. The Merck Veterinary Manual, the world’s best selling and most trusted vet-

(Continued on page 3)

**Mark your calendars** - on Sunday February 16, 2003 IWAMS will sponsor a “Wolfhound Friendly” entry at the all breed show in conjunction with the Greenville Kennel Club show. Gretchen Bernardi, a well recognized and respected Irish Wolfhound breeder, will be the wolfhound judge. We will have special IW prizes, majors, ringside mentoring (I hope) and our own special area for our club. This event will be perfect for those of you who can not attend Specialties but would like to see some of the best hounds in our region and hopefully beyond. Look for the coming flyer we will send later this fall with all of the details.

(Continued from page 2)

erinary reference. The manual is now available online at <http://www.merckvetmanual.com> A comprehensive reference on the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of animal disease, the online Merck Veterinary Manual is free of charge, accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

2. Flea repellent comparison. [http://my.webmd.com/content/article/1685.53323?z=1728\\_00000\\_1000\\_In\\_04](http://my.webmd.com/content/article/1685.53323?z=1728_00000_1000_In_04)
3. <http://www.showdogsupersite.com/sdbvet1.html>
  1. Unilateral Hip Dysplasia
  2. OFA Update - Joint Laxity and Stress Radiography
  3. The Trouble With Elbow Dysplasia

## RAINBOW BRIDGE

Murphy died of something very quick and painless. We had noticed that he was having periods of time when it was difficult for him to stand - his back legs were not functioning as well. He showed no signs of being in any pain (of course animals don't show signs until they are really hurting). That night he was fine and the next morning he was gone. He was the most loving and happy dog I have ever met. He is greatly missed. - *Trevor and Kamilla Batts*

Ann and MD Hathaway lost their McCabe.

*Our hearts go out to you. Ed.*

## RESCUE NEWS

Mary Ryan - Coleman has a 15 mos. old neutered male IW mix [great disposition and personality]. Anyone interested?

### Officers:

Joe Pitt - President  
 Mary Reeves - Vice President  
 Anne Burnett - Secretary  
 Jenny Phillips - Treasurer  
 Mary Ryan - Rescue

Linda & Sam Ross, Editors  
 864-947-1384

PlumBaroque@mindspring.com  
 Please continue to submit articles and photos for your newsletter. Understand the opinions of the articles are those of the author.



Gettysburg National Park - Memorial to the New York Irish Brigade. Submitted by Mariah McCann

## The Canine Good Citizen Test - Part 2

*Cecilia Hoffman*

This part of the series will deal with the obedience exercises. These exercises are not difficult and cover the basic commands a companion dog should know. Remember, you may tell your dog a number of times what it is you want them to do, but you may not physically help them to perform the exercise.

**Test 4. Out for a walk.** For this exercise, your dog must demonstrate that he will walk quietly on a loose leash. He may be on either side and does not have to be in heel position. He may not, however, wander from side to side or do loop-the-loops around you as you are walking. You will be asked to make a right turn, a left turn, an about turn and a stop. It is not necessary for your dog to sit when you stop. An about turn is done by turning away from the dog and going in the direction you just came from.

(Continued on page 4)

*(Continued from page 3)*

First and foremost, decide which side you want the dog to walk on. Unless you have plans to show in competition, it really does not matter which side the dog walks on. Dogs should walk politely on either side of their people.

If you have the dog that is ever eager to get to wherever it is you are headed, there are a number of different ways to teach them to stay with you and walk at your pace. I start by teaching my dogs to follow a treat off-leash inside the house. Working inside the house limits the amount of distraction and gives practice in making turns and avoiding obstacles - for both of you. The treat is only big enough to let them know they have gotten something, but not big enough to have to chew. Soft treats such as string cheese, cooked chicken, Pupperoni, or soft cat treats are best. Experiment to find the treat your dog likes best. Begin by showing your dog the treat, then walking forward 2 or 3 steps encouraging your dog to follow. Because I also show in obedience competition where the command "Heel" has a much different meaning, I use the command "Let's go" to mean walk with me. If the dog has followed me that 2 or 3 steps, while I am still walking, I let them have the treat. We keep walking with the dog getting a treat every 2-4 steps as long as they remain with me. If the dog jumps in front in an effort to mug me for more treats, I pocket whatever treats I have in my hand, step around the dog and keep walking. Once the dog falls back into position alongside me, I reward with a treat. Gradually, over a period of days I extend the number of steps the dog must walk nicely before they earn a treat. When we have reached that point, we are ready to snap on a leash and go outside to a quiet area to begin again with 2-3 steps. Since few of us are skilled at juggling a leash, treats and paying attention to where we are going, try tying the leash around your waist so your hands are free.

For those dogs that are lagging behind you either through lack of confidence or because what is behind you is more interesting, the same method will work. You may find that you have to pat your leg, to "tck" to them like you would to a horse to attract their attention to you and the treat. Once you have their attention, stop

"tcking" or patting so it does not become stale. If your dog lacks confidence, reward lavishly to begin with so they learn there are good things in store for them by following you. As they begin to understand, you can decrease the quantity of the reward you give and proceed as above.

If your dog has gotten into the habit of leading, or you have gotten into the habit of dragging her around, it will take longer to teach walking politely. Old habits, on both sides, need to be broken before the new habit can be formed. The biggest thing to remember is that if you pull when your dog pulls, the dog will just pull harder or support herself with the leash.

**5. Walking through a crowd.** This is the same as the above exercise except you and your dog will be asked to walk through a crowd of people (usually about 3-4 people). This is similar to what you would experience if you were to take your dog for a walk down a city street. The dog may show casual interest in the people in the crowd, but may not jump up or otherwise be obnoxious.



**6. Sit and down on command/ Staying in place.** Here you will be asked to command your dog to sit and to lie down. You

may use multiple commands or hand signals, you may even pat the ground to get your dog to lie down.

To teach a sit, begin by showing the dog a treat or favorite toy. Hold the treat at nose level and just in front of the nose. Slowly raise the treat to eye level and move it back toward the back of the dog's head. The dog's nose should follow the treat up and backward. There is a balance point in that position that once crossed, the dog must either step backward or sit to maintain its balance. To keep your dog from stepping backward, hold onto the collar or a very short leash.

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

Once the dog's bottom is firmly planted, give the treat or toy.

To teach a down, begin by having the dog sit. This way ½ the dog is already on the ground, leaving you with the task of getting the front half on the ground as well. Hold a treat at the dog's nose, and slowly lower it to the ground. The dog's nose should follow the treat. As the nose approaches the ground, very, very slowly move the treat along the ground about 3-4 inches in front of the dog. The dog should continue on down until his elbows touch the ground at which point you let him have the treat.

Remember dogs already know how to sit and lie down. They don't know how to do it when we ask for it. If you find you can't lure your dog into position, take advantage of the times when it is about to lie down (be sure it committed to lying down first) then reward while it is still settling into position. The same thing applies to sit. If you watch closely, as your dog learns that lying down or sitting will earn it a reward, it will begin to glance at you to see if you are watching, then will position itself. This is the point at which you can add the command and still reward.

The stay for the CGC test is for the length of time it will take you to walk to the end of a 20 foot lead, turn and return to your dog. The dog may either sit or lie down before you leave (it's your choice), but must remain in whatever position you have chosen until you return.

To teach a stay, begin by having the dog sit at your side. Command and signal your dog to stay. The usual signal is a hand in front of the dog's face with the palm facing the dog. When you give the signal, show the dog your palm, then drop your hand. Keeping your hand in front of the dog's face is the same as shouting at the dog. Remain next to your dog for a slow 5 count. Praise, and release the dog. Pick a word that will mean relax and be a dog. Most people use okay, but anything is fine. Gradually build up your time in 5-10 second increments standing at your dog's side until you have reached one minute. At that point you are ready to tell your dog to stay, and pivot to face your dog. Drop your time back down to 5 seconds and slowly build it back up again. Continue to increase your distance from the dog in

one foot increments until you have reached 20 feet. Each time you increase the distance, drop your time back down to 5 seconds and build it back up again. You will find as the dog begins to understand the exercise, it will take less and less time to get a steady stay at the greater distances.

One of the biggest mistakes people make is leaving the dog for too long a time at too far a distance. This makes the dog anxious and unwilling to remain in position.

**7. Coming when called.** This is probably the most important exercise for any dog to know. For the test, you will leave your dog, walk ten feet away, turn and call your dog. The tester may hold your dog for you while you walk away, or you may ask the dog to stay. The dog should come directly to you without any detours. It is not necessary that the dog sit in front of you once it has come. You may call multiple times.

If your dog routinely plays "Catch me. I'm a butterfly.", then you need to work on your recall. The most fun way to teach this is to make a game of it. Start in the house on leash, calling the dog from person to person, rewarding as she arrives at that person. Increase the distance between people, then start hiding and calling the dog and having the dog find the hidden person. Once this has been mastered, take the game outside, back on leash and begin again.

Come is one of the easiest exercises to teach, but also the easiest to mess up. Never call your dog to punish it or do something the dog finds distasteful. Always call your dog and reward with it treats, a toy, a favorite game, or extra hugs. Sometimes call your dog for no reason just so you can reward it, then let it go play again. This teaches the dog that checking in is a good thing. Never, ever let your wolfhound off leash in an unfenced area. When you have reached the point where your dog will come 199 times out of 200, then you might begin to think about.

**In Part 3, we'll discuss the distraction exercises.**

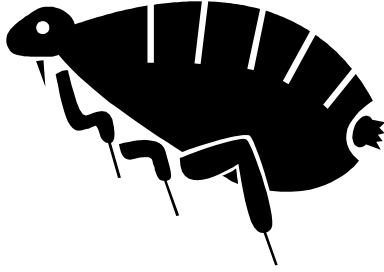
## Stuff You'd Rather Not Know About Fleas

by Melanie Mercer DVM Email: VETMEL1300@aol.com

Fleas generally spend their whole adult life on the same animal.

Fleas prefer a relative humidity of about nearly 75% or higher. In areas with very low relative humidity, the eggs dry out and never hatch.

A single female flea can lay hundreds of eggs in her lifetime.



The eggs aren't sticky, and fall off the dog WHEREVER it goes.

It is estimated that for every adult flea found on the pet, there are about 10 developing fleas in the pet's environment.

The flea population is typically made up of 50% eggs, 30% larvae, 15% pupae and only 5% biting adults.

The entire life cycle may be as short as 2 weeks or as long as 8 months depending on the conditions the egg and larva find themselves in.

Once the egg hatches, taking from 2-14 days on average, it lives in the environment feeding off flea feces (which is basically previously digested blood), house dust, which is in large part dead skin cells, and other organic debris.

A single flea bite can make an allergic dog scratch for a week.

During its maturation a larval flea produces a cocoon like a caterpillar in which it pupates and then hatches out as an adult. In this stage, the cocoon protects it from insecticides even if you spray the house.

Once they hatch from the cocoon, a new adult cannot lay eggs until after it takes a blood meal from you or your pet.

If you go on vacation, the ready to hatch new adult fleas wait to hatch out of their cocoons until you come home. They are stimulated to hatch by heat, movement and the presence of carbon dioxide. Take home message-if no-bodies been in the house that is flea infested for a while, send the dog or the kids in first.

## ORTHOPEDIC SURGEONS SUGGEST WAYS TO CONTROL PAIN AND IMPROVE MOBILITY IN CANINE PATIENTS WITH ARTHRITIS

Prepared by: Cheryl May  
Kansas State University Media Relations and Marketing  
July 23, 2002 Manhattan, KS.

For one in five dogs, going from puppy to adult is a painful journey. One in five dogs over age 1 has arthritis, resulting in pain and lameness. Concerned pet owners spot the problem and ask their veterinarians to prescribe treatment to control pain, improve joint function and slow the degenerative process within the joint.

Two veterinary orthopedic surgeons say that successfully managing dogs with arthritis requires a combination of

treatments. When used together, these measures can provide comfort and an acceptable level of function in osteoarthritic animals.

Dr. James K. Roush, professor and section head of small animal surgery at Kansas State University, and Dr. Ronald M. McLaughlin, associate professor of surgery at Mississippi State University, wrote a series of articles for the professional journal *Veterinary Medicine*, and described medical therapy for patients with arthritis. "The appropriate treatment in most cases consists of a combination of proper nutrition, weight control, controlled exercise, physical therapy, anti-inflammatory and analgesic medications along with osteoarthritis agents that modify the disease," they said.

"Proper nutrition is important because it may reduce the incidence of osteoarthritis," Roush said. "It is important to avoid overfeeding young dogs and to use a balanced diet -- to not over-supplement with calcium and protein." Roush said some commercial brands of dog food are specifically designed for fast-growing large-breed dogs, and are a good idea for pet owners to consider.

McLaughlin said Omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids may reduce the production of certain prostaglandins and help decrease inflammation. Omega-6 fatty acids can increase inflammation. He said research is under way to investigate the value of dietary fatty acid levels in treating animals with arthritis.

The surgeons advocate regular, low-impact exercise such as walking and swimming. Dogs with arthritis shouldn't be 'weekend warriors'. "Intermittent activity, particularly if strenuous, often leads to bouts of increased pain and lameness," McLaughlin said. "The activity should be initiated gradually and increased as joint function improves. It is important to maintain a consistent level of activity."

They also suggest owners consider giving their arthritic dog some form of disease-modifying osteoarthritis agents. These are marketed as nutritional supplements and have not undergone Food and Drug Administration review before reaching the market. Since there are no regulations to ensure that the products contain the agents listed on their labels, the variation among products is large.

Glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate supplements often are used to treat arthritis. Reports suggest that the two compounds used together complement each other because of their different mechanisms of action. The two surgeons say the most popular combination agent used in animals is Cosequin, available from veterinarians. Adequan is an injectable product considered safe at recommended doses. "Successfully managing patients with arthritis requires a combination of treatments," Roush said. "Proper diet, weight control, exercise, physical therapy, anti-inflammatory medications and disease-modifying osteoarthritis agents when used together can provide comfort and an acceptable level of function in osteoarthritic animals."