



IW AMS



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Irish Wolfhound Association of the Mid-South

June 2003

Raleigh St. Patrick's Day Parade Marne Burke

Every year, the Raleigh St Patrick's Day Parade committee invites all Irish Wolfhounds to "guard the piper" who leads the parade. Jerry Parnell, who piped for the second time this year, says it's to keep his autograph seekers at bay.

Among the eight IW's and their people who assumed this awesome responsibility on Saturday, March 15th, were our own Mary Ryan with Glynn and Shannon, Megan Devoe with Max, Marilyn & Tom Madden with Mara, Susan Flanagan with Clancy, and my mother and I brought Liam. Amidst the myriad of green garments on display were IW club jackets from Long Island and Delaware!

We gathered at ten, and with cell phone technology guided Mary through a morass of construction & streets blocked for the parade right to a parking space at the starting point. Following only the piper, we led 80 contingents past a crowd of thousands who, despite the brisk tem-

peratures, were warm & enthusiastic in their approval.

All of the hounds were endlessly patient with the people who came to ask questions and to touch, especially with the many children who wanted to be measured next to the dogs to see who was taller. What with the pipes & drums, the crowds of people (many in costume), flags whipping in the brisk wind, the horses & motorcycles, my mother's wheelchair, having leashes handed off to virtual strangers while owners made trips to the euphemism, it was like one enormous Canine Good Citizen test and they passed with flying colors – green, white & orange!

Afterwards, we adjointed to the sidewalk café of Greenshield's for lunch, where again the good manners of our canine companions impressed all who saw them. It was great fun and I hope even more wolfhounds and their people will turn out next year.



Marne Burke and friends get ready to lead. Even hounds "wear the green" for St. Patty Day.

RESCUE NOTES

MARY RYAN

LAST YEAR THIS TIME I WAS VERY BUSY WITH RESCUES. THIS YEAR AS OF THIS WRITING, I'VE HAD NONE. I THINK THAT IS GOOD NEWS. I JUST HOPE WE ARE NOT MISSING ANY IWS THAT COME THROUGH THE SHELTERS. PLEASE CHECK YOUR NEARBY SHELTERS AND LET THEM KNOW WE ARE HERE.

"DEVLIN"- OUR MOUNTAIN BOY AS I CALL HIM IS DOING WELL CONSIDERING HE IS OVER TEN YEARS OLD. FOR A DOG WHO HAD 8-10 INCH DREADLOCKS A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO-HIS COAT IS WONDERFUL-SHORT, WIRY, SHINY AND VERY DARK ALMOST BLACK EXCEPT ON HIS THIGH AREA, IT IS A LIGHT GRAY. DEVLIN HAS DEVELOPED ATRIAL FIBRILLATION. AS LONG AS I STAY HOME AND HE HAS HIS ROUTINE HE IS JUST FINE.

WE HAD A LITTLE INCIDENT LAST WEEK. I TAKE THE DOGS WITH ME TO THE BARNS WHERE I FEED THE OTHER ANIMALS. DEVLIN IS THE FIRST ONE AT THE GATE READY TO GO. DR. REGINA SCHWABE - A HOLISTIC VET WHO COMES TO THE FARM TO GIVE HIM ACUPUNCTURE AND CHIROPRACTIC HELP AND OVERSEES HIS DIET AND ADDITIVES - SAYS HE NEEDS THIS EXTRA RUN TO KEEP HIS REAR STRONG, I AGREE. WELL SUNDAY WE WENT JUST FINE BUT MONDAY WE WENT AGAIN AND THE DOGS DECIDED TO GO FOR A FURTHER WALK {ALL FENCED} WHILE I FED. THEY WERE IN SIGHT AND SAW ME HEAD BACK IN MY GOLFCART. I GAVE A CALL AND WE WERE ALL HEADED IN THE SAME DIRECTION. I GOT BACK AND NO DEVLIN. I CALLED AND THEN LOOKED FOR HIM {A HILL BLOCKED MY VIEW}. HE WAS IN THE ROAD SITTING, PUTTING HIS 2 FRONT PAWS OUT AND DRAGGING HIS REAR ALONG! I RACED TO HIM IN THE GOLFCART. THOSE BIG BROWN EYES WERE SAD AS HE LOOKED AT ME..... I HELPED HIM TO GET IN THE GOLFCART-HE DID WITH DIFFICULTY AND I BROUGHT HIM BACK TO THE YARD AREA. WE LAID ON

THE GRASS TOGETHER UNTIL HE RECOVERED. WE HAVE TAKEN A WEEK OFF GOING FOR EXTRA EXERCISE. DEVLIN IS JUST FINE NOW.

DEVLIN BARKS AT CASEY, THE DALMATIAN, WHEN CASEY MOVES QUICKLY NEAR DEVLIN. CASEY IS DEAF SO IT DOES NOT BOTHER HIM. WHEN I WAKE UP IN THE MORNING, THERE 6 FEET FROM THE BED, SO THEY CAN SEE ONTO IT I BELIEVE, IS DEVLIN WITH CASEY CURLED UP AND LEANING ON HIM. THAT IS A MOST WONDERFUL SIGHT TO GREET MY DAY!IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO BE TAKING CARE OF THIS WONDERFUL OLD BOY. HE HAS SO MUCH HEART AND HE TRIES TO RUN THE SHOW SOMETIMES. YES, HE DOES GET ME UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. BUT HE DOES KEEP ME THINKING HOW I CAN MAXIMIZE HIS STRENGTH AND KEEP HIM HAPPY AND HEALTHY.

IDA, MY BIG WHITE GIRL THAT JUMPED FENCES SO WELL, WAS DIAGNOSED WITH OSTEO SARCOMA IN HER RIGHT HOCK LAST SEPTEMBER. SHE WAS HAPPY AND ENJOYING LIFE UNTIL APRIL WHEN SHE CROSSED THE RAINBOW BRIDGE. OH HOW I MISS HER....IDA AND HER SISTER WERE PART OF A GROUP OF 4 DOGS I GOT WHEN A KENNEL BROKE UP.

AT THE TIME, THEY WERE THE SAD, SKINNY, POOR LOOKING TWO. WHEN I WENT UP TO THE PVIWC SHOW, THE OWNERS OF HER SISTER MADE A POINT OF LETTING ME HUG HER FOR AWHILE. SHE IS A GRAY BRINDLE WHO LOOKED SO GOOD SHE COULD HAVE WON THE SPECIALTY. IT IS SUCH A THRILL TO SEE THESE RESCUE DOGS LOOK HEALTHY, HAPPY, WELL-GROOMED AND VERY CONTENT WITH THEIR OWNERS.

IF YOU HAVE A RESCUE DOG PLEASE TAKE EXTRA SPECIAL CARE OF HIM OR HER. THEY DEPEND ON YOU SO MUCH FOR EVERYTHING! THEY APPRECIATE YOUR LOVE!

PLEASE NOTE MARY RYAN'S NEW ADDRESS MAILTO:ROTHERWOOD@CEVA.NET

How Do You Know When It's Time?

By Hilary Brown

I don't subscribe to the idea that dogs "will let us know when it's time", at least not in any conscious sense on their part. For one thing, I've found in my years of counseling folks who have ill pets and often accompanying them through the euthanasia process, that this notion is often interpreted in a way that puts a lot of pressure on people when they're already stressed and grief-stricken. "What if I miss the signs? He looked miserable yesterday but not today. What if I act too soon or not soon enough? How could he ever let on that he wants it to end? But maybe I'm deluding myself that he feels better than he does."

Dogs are not people. We lovingly anthropomorphize our dogs during our time together and there's no harm in that, even quite a bit of reward for both them and us. But the bottom line is that they are not people and they don't think in the way people think. (Many of us would argue that that speaks to the superiority of dogs.) These amazing beings love us and trust us implicitly. It just isn't part of their awareness that they should need to telegraph anything to us in order for their needs to be met or their well-being ensured. They are quite sure that we, as their pack leaders, operate only in their best interest at all times. Emotional selfishness is not a concept in dogdom and they don't know how hard we sometimes have to fight against it ourselves.

Dogs also have no mindset for emotional surrender or giving up. They have no awareness of the inevitability of death as we do and they have no fear of it. It is fear that so often influences and aggravates our perceptions when we are sick or dying and it becomes impossible to separate the fear out from the actual illness after a while. But that's not the case with dogs. Whatever we observe to be wrong with our sick dogs, it's all illness. And we don't even see the full impact of that until it's at a very advanced point, because it's a dog's nature to endure and to sustain the norm at all costs. If that includes pain, then that's the way it is. Unlike us, they have never learned that letting pain show, or re-

porting on it, may generate relief or aid. So they endure, assuming in their deepest doggy subconscious that whatever we abide for them is what is to be abided.

If there is a "look in the eye", or an indication of giving up, that we think we see from our beloved dogs, it isn't a conscious attitude on their part or a decision to communicate something to us. It's just an indication of how tired and depleted they are. But they don't know there's any option other than struggling on, so that's what they do. We must assume that the discomfort we see is much less than the discomfort they really feel. And we do know of other options and it is entirely our obligation to always offer them the best option for that moment, be it further intervention, or none, or the gift of rest.

From the moment we embrace these animals when they first grace our lives, every day is one day closer to the day they must abandon their very temporary and faulty bodies and return to the state of total perfection and rapture they have always deserved. We march along one day at a time, watching and weighing and continuing to embrace and respect each stage as it comes. Today is a good day. Perhaps tomorrow will be, too, and perhaps next week and the weeks or months after. But there will eventually be a winding down. And we must not let that part of the cycle become our enemy.

When I am faced with the ultimate decision about how I can best serve the animal I love so much, I try to set aside all the complications and rationales of what I may or may not understand medically and I try to clear my mind of any of the confusions and ups and downs that are so much a part of caring for a terminally ill pet. This is hard to do, because for months and often years we have been in this mode of weighing hard data, labs, food, how many ounces did he drink, should he have his rabies shot or not, etc. But at some point it's time to put all of that in the academic folder and open the spiritual folder instead. At that point we are wise to ask ourselves the question: "Does he want to be here today, to experience this day in this way, as much as I want him to?"

Remember, dogs are not afraid, they are not carrying anxiety and fear of the unknown. So for

them it's only about whether this day holds enough companionship and ease and routine so that they would choose to have those things more than anything else and that they are able to focus on those things beyond any discomfort or pain or frustration they may feel. How great is his burden of illness this day, and does he want/need to live through this day with this burden of illness as much as I want/need him to? If I honestly believe that his condition is such, his pleasures sufficient, that he would choose to persevere, then that's the answer and we press on.

If, on the other hand, I can look honestly and bravely at the situation and admit that he, with none of the fear or sadness that cripples me, would choose instead to rest, then my obligation is clear. Because he needs to know in his giant heart, beyond any doubt, that I will have the courage to make the hard decisions on his behalf, that I will always put his peace before my own, and that I am able to love him as unselfishly as he has loved me.

After many years, and so very many loved ones now living on joyously in their forever home in my heart, this is the view I take. As my veterinarian, who is a good and loving friend, injects my precious one with that freedom elixir, I always place my hand on top of his hand that holds the syringe. He has chosen a life of healing animals and I know how terribly hard it is for him to give up on one. So I want to shoulder that burden with him so he's not alone. The law of my state says the veterinarian is the one licensed to administer the shot, not me. But a much higher law says this is my ultimate gift to my dog and the responsibility that I undertook on the day I welcomed that dog into my life forever.

From the Editors:

We would like to thank all who contributed to the newsletter with articles and pictures. Editing the IWAMS publication has been a good learning experience. We now feel we need to take a break from this aspect of the club. Please let the officers know if you would like to take up this endeavor. We will continue with our wolfhounds and supporting the club in other ways. Best wishes for a great summer. Regards,
Linda and Sam Ross

COCOA BEAN MULCH

(URBANA, IL) March 13, 2003 -- As spring approaches, people will start to tend their lawns and gardens. Many will consider using cocoa bean mulch as a fertilizer. Made from spent cocoa beans used in chocolate production, cocoa bean mulch is organic, deters slugs and snails, and gives a garden an appealing chocolate smell. However, it also attracts dogs, who can easily be poisoned by eating the mulch.

Cocoa beans contain the stimulants caffeine and theobromine. Dogs are highly sensitive to these chemicals, called methylxanthines. In dogs, low doses of methylxanthine can cause mild gastrointestinal upset (vomiting, diarrhea, and/or abdominal pain); higher doses can cause rapid heart rate, muscle tremors, seizures, and death.

Eaten by a 50-pound dog, about 2 ounces of cocoa bean mulch may cause gastrointestinal upset; about 4.5 ounces, increased heart rate; about 5.3 ounces, seizures; and over 9 ounces, death. (In contrast, a 50-pound dog can eat up to about 7.5 ounces of milk chocolate without gastrointestinal upset and up to about a pound of milk chocolate without increased heart rate.) If you suspect that your dog has eaten cocoa bean mulch, immediately contact your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (1-888-426-4435).

Treatment will depend on how much cocoa bean mulch your dog has eaten, when the mulch was eaten, and whether your dog is sick. Recommended care may include placing your dog under veterinary observation, inducing vomiting, and/or controlling a rapid heart beat or seizures.

Report of the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) Canine Vaccine Task Force: 2003 Canine Vaccine Guidelines, Recommendations, Supporting Literature

Officers:

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

Photo Album

IWCA Na- tionals were held May 7–11 2003 at Springfield, OH.

In the photos to the right are Club member Donna Pitt and Brenda Neu joining the ranks.

Other members were seen at the event, including Brian Conner and Cecelia Hoffman, Donna Brown, David Williamson, Dawn Adams, Bill and Susan Turczyn, Nancy Reeves, and Sam and Linda Ross. The event will be the third week of May at the same site next year.



Linda R. "Racing along; David W. makes a "Ghostly" turn; under the tent making plans for the next twenty years are Susan T with Sam and Linda



**Please visit your web site:
www.iwams.org**

Future Plans:

The Greenville Kennel Club will have IW Breeder Judges Dianne Koontz and Joel Samaha the third week in February in Greenville, SC. If you are interested in sponsoring a trophy please get in touch with Linda Ross.



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