

# Nutritional Strategies for Unleashing Your Puppy's True Genetic Potential

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What is genetic potential? Simply put, its being all you can be, based upon the inherited physiologic and metabolic “gifts” you were given by your immediate and not so immediate ancestors. In Irish Wolfhounds, genetic potential is directly linked to historic form and function. For eons, that function was to hunt and kill large and dangerous game, from men to Irish Elk; to do it quickly and efficiently; and do it with minimal damage to the individual itself. To be successful, size, strength and speed were essential. Although the need to bring home the bacon, so to speak, is no longer part of the Wolfhound's current job description, its ability to successfully do so is still hard wired into his/her very being. But

least expect it and, more often than not, results in problems that are either difficult or impossible to correct when they occur.

## Planning the Project

We have already agreed (hopefully) that for the already super sized, 10 week old, 18 kg/40 lbs/2.86 Stone (whatever you prefer) puppy (here to be known as the Project) to reach his/her full genetic potential as a Wolfhound, the Plan and its assumptions must be rock solid. The first key assumption of this plan dictates that a special mortar be used in the construction of the Project, one that

will be mixed in the most mundane of objects, the bowl you feed him/her in. This mortar is composed of protein, carbohydrates, fats, minerals and vitamins, all of which should be supplied by whatever you choose to put into that bowl. The Plan calls for all these nutrients to be available at the right time, in the right quantity and in a format that is consistently and readily consumed by the Project itself.

Your objective is to safely promote, normal, Wolfhound growth. But what is normal Wolfhound growth? Opinions on what is normal have fuelled many a heated discussion but the answer to the question is obvious when one understands what the accurate definition of growth truly is.

**Growth is not simply weight gain.** Unless you intend to eat your puppy, weight gain should be viewed as just supporting data that something is indeed happening. Growth in a Wolfhound puppy is best defined as normal increases in skeletal size and muscle mass. This definition of growth focuses on sound structural development on which so much of his/her achieving full genetic potential depends.

The only tools needed to quantify growth are a yard stick and your educated eye. Long bone growth pretty much is indicative of skeletal growth as a whole. Use the yard stick to measure long bone growth by measuring the distance from the floor to the top of the shoulder. This can be a frustrating exercise, as usually the Project prefers to eat the stick rather than stand by as you attempt to measure him/her with it, and as puppies tend to grow in fits and starts, I recommend for your own peace of mind, that this be limited to a once per month occurrence.

Muscle mass however is more difficult to quantify. It is reflected in weight gain, and as muscle tissue is denser than fat, muscular puppies don't appear to be as heavy as a set of scales shows them to be. However, once a puppy exceeds 32 kg/70 lbs /5 Stone, weighing your puppy can become an Olympic event. As a consequence, assessment of muscular development often must become a more subjective measurement and is somewhat reliant on experience and becoming familiar with what your puppy should look like at any particular point in time.

There are a couple of ways to accomplish this. Dog shows, club meetings, and kennel visits are all excellent opportunities to view



these gifts of great size, great strength and speed come at a price. Although Wolfhounds have three to four times the body mass of an average dog, they are still dogs. As card carrying members of the genus canis, Wolfhounds pretty much adhere to the same biological time line to physiologic maturity as do its lesser members, and live life from day to day just as any other dog would.

However, biologically, canine equality for the Wolfhound comes with some unique physiological demands. For example, to reach sexual maturity,(which means to possess the physical capability of conceiving and bearing young,) at approximately the same time as the majority of dogs who are a third as large, growth and all processes associated with growth are, (as predestined by the genetic code of all Wolfhounds) pushed to their limits. The work involved in building the frame i.e. skeleton, tying that frame together with tendons and ligaments and covering that frame with muscle, puts a tremendous strain on all physiologic and metabolic systems. It's a dynamic 24/7 process especially during the first twelve months of life.

It is also a biological balancing act. Successful growth in Wolfhounds requires that the inputs needed to make bone, ligaments, tendons and muscle be available constantly, and be available in the right proportions to keep the process, which by the way, waits for no man, moving in the right direction. Any failure in that system will result in failure of this project as a whole. Unfortunately that failure is not usually seen right away, but comes to the surface when you

the Wolfhound up close and personal. Don't be afraid to open your mouth and ask for advice from experienced individuals. I have found such people are not only approachable but welcome the opportunity to be of help. Finally go to the Internet. There are a several web sites offering pictures and growth charts that will provide you with references for comparison, although it must be remembered that no two puppies are exactly alike and as a consequence the pictures and charts are only guides. If the Project looks balanced, and you can see a little bit of rib definition around the last two visible ribs, you are on target. As further insurance please realize that genetic variation due to sex and genotype have been taken into consideration in the development of the Plan, and will be dealt with as the Plan unfolds.

## The Secret to Success is in the Mix

The protein, fat, carbohydrate, vitamins and minerals that are required to reach your puppy's genetic potential, are equally important and co-dependent. Too much of one and not enough of another can compromise the desired result. A brief summarisation of each and what it does will help to clarify how they fit into the plan.

**Protein.** Protein is made of chains of amino acids, bits of structural nitrogen that are the biological building blocks of all tissue. In a growing Hound, protein provides the framework or matrix that ultimately ossifies to form bone, makes muscle, tendons and ligaments, skin, hair etc., pretty much everything else but the bark. As a consequence, the popular misconception that protein intake needs to be regulated in giant breeds as a way to avoid too rapid a growth rate, is actually a potentially harmful one. "High" levels of protein intake, whatever that amount truly is, stimulates neither bone nor muscle development. High protein does not make your puppy prone to a host of orthopaedic problems in the future, nor does it stimulate abnormal rates of muscle hypertrophy and hyperplasia. Not enough protein on the other hand, will actually increase the risk of future orthopaedic problems and increase the chances for abnormal muscle/tendon/ligament development. What does happen when protein is fed in excess is that the excess is simply changed into blood sugar or stored in various biochemical forms for future use as an energy source. Protein feeding is actually more a question of economics rather than physiology, as protein is expensive to feed and to waste. So when does essential turn to excess? It really is hard to say, but generally a Wolfhound puppy's diet should be between 24 and 28% crude protein, with 28% preferable to 24%. It is also better if the source of that protein is preferably of animal origin (fish, poultry, lamb, or beef), and better yet if it comes from more than one animal source.

**Carbohydrate.** Carbohydrate is of two types; simple and complex. Examples of simple carbohydrates commonly found in puppy diets are starches and sugars. They are usually supplied by the inclusion of small grains such as wheat, barley, rice or maize in the formula. Simple carbohydrates are used by your puppy as sources of energy. Complex carbohydrates are primarily fibre, the dietary source of which is usually the hulls of certain grains, (wheat, rice barley etc) and some less commonly used sources such as beet pulp. Dogs are incapable of digesting complex carbohydrates. Their inclusion in diets is for regulating water balance in the intestine and to provide the bulk needed to keep intestinal activity functioning normally. In any formulation,

carbohydrates are never a problem as they are inexpensive to use and as a consequence, they get used liberally.

**Fat.** Fat is also a source of energy and is supplied by either rendered fats of animal origin (tallow and fish oil) and/or by oils sourced from oil bearing seeds such as soya. In dogs, fat and oils are a more efficiently used source of energy than carbohydrates. More importantly, fats and oils are the only sources of a class of essential compounds called fatty acids. Fatty acids are involved with everything from hair coat to the immune response. Any Wolfhound puppy diet should be at least 12% fat.

**Minerals.** There are two classes of minerals; those needed in daily amounts that you would need a spoon to contain, called macro minerals and those needed in amounts that the same spoon would hold a year's supply of, or micro minerals. The macro minerals are calcium, phosphorous, magnesium, potassium, sodium, sulphur and chloride the micros include copper, selenium, iodine, and several others. Minerals are the key structural component in bone; allow muscles to contract and relax; are important to normal cell function, and are cofactors in a host of other biochemical and physiological activities. Almost all need to be supplemented in your puppy's diet. Although all the minerals are important, it is calcium and phosphorous that are directly linked to skeletal integrity. A Wolfhound puppy diet needs to be between 0.8 to 1.25% calcium and 0.6 to 0.9% phosphorous. In addition the ratio between calcium and phosphorous is very important and should average around 1.5 parts calcium to 1 part phosphorous.

**Vitamins.** Vitamins are also divided into two classes; water soluble and fat soluble. The essential fat soluble vitamins are A, D, E and K. These vitamins will not dissolve in water and are actually absorbed into the body the same way fats are. The water soluble vitamins include all the B complex (biotin, niacin, folic acid to name a few) and C. The role of vitamins are as cofactors in metabolism. Some, such as Vitamin D, are actually converted to hormones. All vitamins fit into the category of micronutrients, and some (Vitamins A and D) can actually be poisonous if over supplemented.

## Execution of the Plan

There are a myriad of ways to accomplish the Plan. The safest, most biologically efficient, and most economical way to get this done is to use an already formulated commercial product. In recent years, the dog owning public has been bombarded with misinformation concerning the adequacy, the safety, the need for commercial products. What the dog owning public does not know, is that dog food manufacturers are subject to intense government supervision and regulation, and in most countries this oversight is even more stringent than that used to monitor manufacturers of food products for human consumption. They have the proper equipment to ensure that just the right amount of macro and micro ingredients are included in the finished product, and employ knowledgeable professionals who are responsible for everything from ingredient procurement to formulation to proper and safe packaging. In recent years the popular press has reported incidents of pet food problems almost all of which were related to product contamination caused by ingredient mislabelling. The fact of the matter is that these isolated incidents are inconsequential when compared to what has been reported for food products made for human consumption, and are far outweighed by the ability to take the guess work out of

the question “what’s for dinner” at least as it relates to the subject at hand.

To be competitive, Pet Food manufacturers are forced to stay ahead of the learning curve in understanding canine nutrition, and implementing the latest scientific findings to ensure your Hound is getting what he/she needs to live a long and productive life. The alternatives; such as home preparation with individual ingredients or filling his/her bowl with raw animal body parts and home grown produce are, in my opinion, not viable alternatives. They leave the door wide open to biological error, i.e., imbalances

money they have spent on packaging, marketing and advertising to convince you that their product is somehow divinely inspired.

The next step is to read the ingredients list that is printed somewhere on the package. Look at the first two to three ingredients listed. If they are sources of animal protein be it beast, fish or fowl, put this product on your short list. Next, look at the chemical analysis also printed somewhere on the bag. The product you want should be between 24 and 28% crude protein. It should be between 12 and 14% fat. It should be about 3% fibre and contain between 0.8% to 1.25% calcium and 0.6% and



**Twenty three  
weeks**

between nutrients fed, feeding either too much or not enough. It is like driving down a country road at midnight without lights. Even if you know the road, what you can’t see can and will hurt you. Supplementation with food items in addition to the commercial product can be beneficial but that depends on the item, and will be dealt with later.

## Choosing A Commercial Product

All dog food manufacturers read the same books, have access to the same scientific literature and have their own in-house technical experts. There are also a million ways to make a 28% crude protein puppy food, so what can you use as criteria to get just the right 28% crude protein diet? Start with price. Automatically eliminate the cheapest and the most expensive. (Please make sure when you are doing your price comparisons you are comparing apples to apples and by this I mean you need to compare the price per lb/ kg rather than the price per bag. Dog Food marketing gurus have learned long ago to disguise price by using down sized packaging. Once upon a time the most common unit size for adult diets was around 50 lbs /23 kg . Today it’s more like 30 lbs /13 kg or even less. The same is true of puppy diets although the packaging has always been smaller due to use rate, duration of use, etc. Anyway, as the bag became smaller the inverse happened with the price, so beware.) The cheapest are cheap generally due to the choice of ingredients used. The most expensive are expensive possibly as a result of the ingredients used, but more than likely due to the

0.9% phosphorous. There is no need to worry about the rest of the vitamins and minerals, as these items are usually included at multiples of what the requirements have been determined to be. Always try to select the product that analyses on the high side of the ranges referenced here. You are safe either way, but if you recall the statement that no two puppies are alike, erring to the high side covers more genetic ground.

## What Happens Next?

Now that you have made an educated buying decision on the product that will fuel the Project’s achieving his/her full genetic potential, the details are in the doing. How much should you feed? How often? Does he/she need more? Let’s deal with these questions one at a time.

**How Much Should I Feed?** So far, we have defined everything the Project needs as a percentage of something. In my experience, I have never seen an animal eat a percentage. They need absolute amounts of protein, energy, minerals etc. to achieve their biological goals of sound growth, maintenance, reproduction, etc. A rule of thumb which goes a long way to transform these abstract percentages into tangible units of measure is that the average puppy is able to consume about 3% of his/her body weight daily as food. At about 6 months this is more like 2%. Once mature, the average is just a little less, about 1.5%. If the average weight in puppyhood for your Wolfhound is about 70 lbs / 32 kg, then the amount of food consumed during that stage of his/her life cycle



is around 1.75 lbs / .80 kg per day. Using the percentages of each nutrient needed on a daily basis, your puppy, from the age of 3 months to 6 months will need around 224 grams of protein; 112 grams of fat; 10 grams of calcium and 7.2 grams of phosphorous per day. This will be delivered in the commercial product along with all the rest of the macros and micros. All commercial products use a similar manufacturing process called extrusion. As a result, they all have a similar moisture content and density. The result is that a measuring cupful (**one cupful of dry meal fills the cup to the 8 fl oz mark and weighs around 120 gram**) of one, pretty much equals a measuring cupful of another. So, regardless of brand chosen (so long as it is at least 24% protein and 12% fat, 0.8% calcium and 0.6% phosphorous) use the following as a guideline;

2 months; 2-4 cups per day with both sexes at a similar feeding rate per day.

3 months; 3 – 6 cups per day. Start females at 3 and work up; for males, start at 4 and work up.

4 months; 4-7 cups per day. Females will average about 5 with males averaging at around 7.

5 months; 5-8 cups per day. Females will average about 6 and males around 8.

6 months; 5-8 cups.

These are guidelines. Your puppy may want/need less than what is recommended, and in some cases more. You can also refer to manufacturer's recommended feeding rates for the product chosen, but these tend to be based upon large breeds, not giant breeds. If you use the guideline, you can also safely implement the 10 minute rule, which is to allow access to the measured amounts for a 10 minute time period. This allows the Project to get his/her full ration in spite of a world full of distractions to the business in hand. **Please note, the 10 minute rule does not mean to let him/her to eat all he/she can consume in 10 minutes.** Free choice feeding that results in weight gain as fat, will absolutely ensure failure of the Plan and ultimately catastrophe for the Project.

## When Should I Feed?

The gastric stomach of a dog is not very large. Its job is simply to mix stomach acids and certain enzymes with what the Project ate to prepare the food for digestion and absorption further down the line. To compensate for this design, in puppies it is advisable to feed several small meals over the course of the day. For puppies from 2 to 3 months their daily ration should be divided into 4 to 5 meals. From 3 to 6 months this can be decreased to 3. After 6 months, and preferably for the rest of his/her long and productive life, this can be decreased to 2 meals a day.

## Should I Supplement A Commercial Product?

Over the course of my life I have learned that lasting friendships are built on the avoidance of a critical discussion of another man's politics, his religion, and most importantly, his dog. This third maxim goes beyond just the dog itself but actually encompasses all issues related to that dog. Individual belief systems as to the best way to train, best way to groom, the best way to even pick a name are deeply rooted and are protected with savage veracity. Unfortunately, I have chosen a profession that demands that I be ready to step into the breach whenever duty calls, and hopefully remain whole, and unbloodied. The question to supplement or not to supplement, a question masochistically raised by myself

to myself, is one such moment. The correct and possibly most universally offensive answer is no. In fact; depending upon what you are supplementing with, this no is an empathic no. On the other hand, philosophically if you need to supplement something, there is a short list that works well with all commercial products.

**Things Not to Use As Supplements:** Calcium, unless it is in a form that has phosphorous along for the ride and at a ratio of 1.5 to 1. Avoid supplementing trace minerals especially if sourced from something exotic like seaweed or distilled elephant dung. As for vitamins, religiously follow the manufacturer's recommendations as a lot is not better than a little and as I have said, over supplementation of certain vitamins can actually be dangerous. Avoid supplementing individual amino acids (methionine, lysine, arginine etc). These must be fed in balance. Failure to do so will interfere with the utilization of all the other amino acids which will negatively impact all tissues dependent upon protein, which is pretty much everything. Also, during puppyhood, avoid table scraps. They tend to be high in calories, low in protein and devoid of all minerals.

**Things to Use as Supplements:** Dairy products of all kinds but especially full fat cottage cheese. Cottage cheese can be fed up to a cup (8 fl oz) a day either on top of or as a substitute for the commercial diet. Eggs are great but must be fed cooked. Whether they are fried, boiled or scrambled they are excellent sources of high quality protein. Another protein source are organ meats such as liver, or kidneys and tripe. These are best cooked to avoid the Project from looking as if he/she just fought in some sort of gladiatorial contest. Raw, fresh poultry parts, necks in particular, provide not only food, but canine entertainment. These can be fed whole or dissected into bite size pieces and mixed into the diet as a treat. Raw carrots, Brussels sprouts, and peas are items puppies seem to enjoy and all provide a positive contribution to the core nutritional program.

**Things to Use As Supplements That Make You Feel Good:** This category includes things that won't hurt but the jury is still out if they actually help. Probiotics; prebiotics; enzyme supplements; supplements targeted at joint integrity and inflammation such as glucosamine; exotic forms of fats and oils; most (read all) herbal preparations are common examples. If you personally had luck with any of these," good on ya" and keep using them. Your own little Project will be the better for the attention that comes with fussing.

## A Final Word

Hopefully you have found this discourse to be informative, or at the very least, thought provoking and entertaining. It is written as a guide to help make your job of care giver to a force of nature, easier. However there is yet another reason why this subject is worthy of your time and study. It is the birth right of every Wolfhound to grow large, grow strong, to be able to cover ground effortlessly like the hunter he is still , but most importantly, it is his birth right to be able to grow old with those whom he loves and who love him. There are many things that we cannot control which put this key objective at risk, but nutrition, is not one of them. What happens nutritionally in the first 6 months of a Wolfhound's life has a profound effect on his/her future. By building a nutritional management program focused on this physiological fact, one that is based upon known science and not opinion, and tempering that with experience, we can eliminate at least one variable to achieving success.

# Positive Reinforcement Training

Tracey Carroll

I would like to share with you some training tips that have helped me so much and made training easy and fun for me and my dog. I am still learning everyday, meeting with amazing people who have helped me and whose advice and experience I want to pass on to wolfie enthusiasts. I hope that what I have found will help other owners to get as much enjoyment and fun out of their dogs as I have.

So hang up the choke chains, throw away the sticks and stop talking to the back of your dog's head.

Let's use Positive Reinforcement !

## What is positive Reinforcement ?

Can you remember how happy you were if your teacher gave you a Gold Star every time you got your times tables right and it made you want to do it again? That's positive reinforcement.

With big enthusiastic dogs like our wolfies if they want to do something it's so much easier than trying to force them.

Dogs don't know or care about Gold Stars. They care about praise and food. Positive reinforcement training uses praise or treats to reward your dog for doing something you want him to do. Because the reward makes him more likely to repeat the behaviour, positive reinforcement is one of the most powerful tools for shaping or changing your dog's behaviour. I have found it very effective when training the gentle giants we all love. As I'm five foot tall I needed to find an alternative to being dragged around like a ping pong ball!

Rewarding your dog for good behaviour sounds pretty simple, and it is. To practice the technique effectively, you need to follow some basic guidelines.

## When to reward

Correct timing is essential when training

The reward must occur immediately (within a second or two) or your wolfie may not associate it with the right action. For example, if you have your dog sit; start pulling goodies out of your pocket; find you haven't any; go and get more; reward him after he's stood back up: he'll think he's being rewarded for standing up.

## Commands

Dogs don't understand our language but they do recognise sounds and tone of voice and this is very important. Keep commands simple, one word and keep your voice happy and



light . The most commonly used dog commands are:

Watch	(to get the dogs Attention )
Sit	
Stay	
Down	(which means lie down)
Off	(the furniture or baby )
Stand	( for showing or examination)
Come	( back to me rather than the stranger walking past )
Heel	(which means walk close to my side - dogs shoulder to your hip )
Leave	(stop eating the little fluffy dog or you will choke! )

## Consistency

This means always rewarding the desired behaviour and never rewarding undesired behaviour. For example, telling the dog not to beg at the table one day and then feeding them from the table the next day is no good. It takes away all the work you have done. You have told your wolfie that if they do the opposite to what you ask for long enough they will train you ( and they



don't even need words ). Let's try some wolfie training:

## To get a Sit

This is a very important move and must be done by the dog completely. Yanking the lead up and pushing the backside down is not the best way to teach a dog to do this. With this method you tell the dog that when I say sit I will yank on you and push you until your back end drops. So the dog will sit to avoid the yank and the push not because he want to sit or understands and respects you.

So to ask your dog to sit have your dog standing right in front of you and be sure to have a tasty treat in your hand.

Guide the treat from his nose level up over his head, the treat should be a few centimetres away from your dog at all times.

Your inquisitive dog will follow the treat up with his nose and at the same time his rear end will hit the ground. As soon as his hind legs hit the ground give him the treat and lots and lots of praise.

If your dog backs up or jumps up at the treat you are taking your hand too far back over his head, or holding it too far away from his nose. Repeat this step until your dog gets it, then you can introduce the verbal part of the command.

Just before you begin to move your hand (the one with the treat in it) say "sit". Your dog will soon respond to your verbal "sit" command without movement of your hand. Remember to practice this command at any time of the day, in any place.

## Walking at Heel

Have a go at building a good solid and reliable heel. Too many times you are pulled down the street by an over eager dog who wants to lead you around. It's so much calmer when you can walk relaxed with your wolfie beside you.

You can go through these steps off leash or on leash. The leash is there for security only, it is not used to drag your dog around or hold him in a position.

The idea is to condition your dog to want to be by your side rather than to force him to be there:

Stand with your dog closely next to your left leg, both of you facing the same way.

Have one of your wolfies favourite treats in your left hand, hold it up near or above, or in the case of the bigger dogs on, your hip, not directly in front of your dog's nose. Now say "Finn" (your dog's name) to get his attention and to gain eye contact. Immediately take two steps forward then stop. If your dog moves with you and is still in the heel position enthusiastically praise him and give a treat.

As soon as your dog swallows his reward from step 3 repeat the heeling steps again, then do it again. Say "Finn", take two steps forward offering encouragement to your dog ("come on, heel or let's go"), stop, praise and treat. Only ever give the reward when your dog is still in the heel position.

At this point your dog will be very interested and attentive. It's important to note that you are using the treat to reward his behaviour rather than to lure or bribe him.

If at any time your dog drops behind or noses ahead of you hold off with your praise and reward. Turn around in a circle and reset your own and your dog's position and start again.

Repeat and build up the number of steps a few at a time

## Recall

We have all had that heart stopping moment when our great sight hounds have spied something afar, delved after it in earnest and we have gone running after them lead flapping and screaming their name. When we finally get them back we are fit to explode, so what to do?

Never under any circumstances punish your dog when he



comes back to you. Even if your dog seems to take an eternity to respond to you and you've got smoke coming out of your ears through frustration, it's important that you don't get angry with your dog. He'll associate your anger with the last action he did - which was returning to you. So he will be less likely to come back the next time!

Your goal is to make coming to you a more attractive option to your dog than any other alternative such as to keep on running. Young puppies love to follow you around and often bound up to you with great delight - use this to your advantage. At this early stage all you need to do is make it clear to your puppy that you are always happy to see him each time he comes to you. Make it a very pleasant and rewarding experience, every time. Lots of treats and praise and excitement. If it's always good to come to their owner then they will want to come to the owner. Have a relaxed and open stance to invite the dog in and keep your voice tone happy and light.

The next step is to introduce the verbal "come" command as your dog returns so that your dog connects the word with the act of coming to you.

If you have someone else there to help, you can now introduce the "back and forth" game. Position yourself at one side of the room and your helper on the other side. Call your dog over "Finn come" (only once, but you can encourage him over), then reward when he arrives. Next your helper calls him over and rewards him when he arrives.

This game is a lot of fun for your dog and teaches respect for the "come" command from a person other than yourself.

I hope this helps you as much as it has helped me. We have big strong clever gentle giants and we should show the world what a pleasure and honour it is to be able to share your home and heart with one.

Best of luck training !



# Creation of the Irish Wolfhound Health Group

Peter Pask

The Irish Wolfhound Club (UK), has for many years had a deep interest in the health of the breed and to this end set up its own health group a long time ago. The club elected representatives to sit on this group and it was chaired by the whoever was chairman of the club at the time. A proposal by Ruth Jenkins ( EAGLESCRAG ) and seconded by Jean Malley ( AINSEA ) to form an Irish Wolfhound Club Health Fund was made in the mid 1990's and it was agreed that funds would be raised by breeders paying £10 from each stud fee and £5.00 from puppy sales. This later expanded into donations from individuals and over the years this money has been used to fund health initiatives that were recommended as worthy of financial support by the health group and ratified by the IWC (UK) at each AGM. Much money has been spent in this way and indeed continues to be spent in support of good causes either by direct donation to the appropriate body or direct to the Health Group.

It appeared to me that the health and longevity of the breed was at the heart of our love for the breed by everyone and not limited to the members of the Irish Wolfhound club. There are four Irish Wolfhound clubs in the British Isles and I felt that a body to represent the views of these clubs on a collective basis would be of great advantage to the health and well being of the breed. Consequently during my visit to the EIWC congress in Holland some years ago I made contact on an informal basis with some of the officials of the Irish Wolfhound Society, Irish Wolfhound Club of Northern Ireland and the Irish Wolfhound club of Ireland.

The feedback I received was very positive and consequently I took this idea to the next meeting of the Irish Wolfhound Club. The concept was received with much enthusiasm and I was tasked with leading the initiative and making a formal approach to the prospective participants. A meeting of the four clubs was convened to formalise the idea where representatives of the clubs put forward their clubs opinions and parameters within which such a group would operate.

It was essential that this group was not autonomous but a representative voice for the four breed clubs. After approval at each of the clubs AGM's the group 'was born' and as well as dealing with health concerns it was tasked with lobbying the Kennel Club on health issues in the breed. Members of the group were made up of the existing Irish Wolfhound Club Health Group and representatives from the other three clubs. A chairman was elected which was myself, the secretary was Tim Finney and the treasurer Rebecca Peek. It was agreed that these appointments would be for a period of three years to provide some continuity to the group. At the end of the first three year term the officers stood for re-election and were all elected for a further term.

It should be made clear however that the Irish Wolfhound Club of Ireland gave its full support to the formation of the group and its aims but sometime into the project

made the decision to withdraw and to focus their health initiatives on a more local basis within the Republic.

It had always been essential to me that whatever the group did it had to be measurable and achievable and of value to the breed and its owners. With this in mind the group decided that two initiatives could be pursued at any one time to give a focus to successful outcomes.

The first two initiatives put to each of the Club's AGM's were :

Regional Heart testing

Production of a booklet :

‘ Introducing your new Irish Wolfhound’

These were approved by the Clubs and the Group was ready to go to work. Of course as with any organisation basic funds are needed to get under way and each of the clubs gave £250 towards administration costs.

Both these projects have been a great success and achieved their objective. The heart testing sessions are ongoing and well attended and the booklet is provided free of charge to breeders to include in their puppy packs.

Since this time the group has gone from strength to strength. Very quickly a web site was set up [www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk](http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk) and is a resounding success. It contains lots of information and forms for downloading and is well worth a visit. It will continue to expand as time goes on.

The group has also been instructed by the breed clubs to represent their concerns regarding the Kennel Club's 'Assured Breeder Scheme' and to constantly liaise with the Kennel Club. Their fortitude has recently achieved excellent results as the Kennel Club have agreed to include Breed specific elements of our code of conduct included as 'strong recommendations' in the ABS scheme. These are :

All litters are screened for

- 1) Portosystemic Shunt ( Liver Shunt)
- 2) Bitches over 6 years not to produce a litter
- 3) Bitches under two years not to produce a litter
- 4) Bitches not to produce more than one litter in a 12 month period
- 5) All hounds used for breeding to take part annually in a heart testing scheme approved by the Irish Wolfhound Clubs: the minimum requirement being examination by stethoscope, ECG and ultrasound scan.

As you can see this lobbying function is a "work in progress" and will continue.

A number of other initiatives have also been approved and achieved with great success. One of these was :

- a) The production of a leaflet entitled Guide to Pneumonia in the Irish Wolfhound and
- b) The production of a leaflet Dealing with Heart Problems in your Irish Wolfhound

Both of these leaflets have been appreciated by owners of wolfhounds and are free to download from the website. It is anticipated that this will also be an ongoing project and further leaflets will be provided as the need arises.

The Kennel Club require the group to keep databases of new conditions that affect the breed. Individual members of the group have agreed to take responsibility for maintaining these databases. So far we have only noted one new condition called Startle Disease but to date no cases have been recorded in the UK.

Following an approach from a Geneticist who has received funding for an attempt to find the mode of inheritance of Livershunts the group agreed to assist the research by

facilitating the collection of cheek swabs of affected puppies and also parents of affected puppies. It was also agreed to again start collating data on the incidence of Livershunts.

The foregoing is an overview of the group for the information of all who are interested in Irish Wolfhound health matters and how the group was formed and what it is trying to achieve. I am proud to be part of this group and encourage the ongoing review of all Health Group projects to ensure they still remain "fit for purpose".

I did not stand for re-election as chairman this year but was happy to remain on the committee. The officials for the next three years are chairman Mr Tim Finney, Secretary Miss Rebecca Peek and Treasurer Mrs Jean Malley. Over the years there have been several changes of committee members but at present they are myself, Noel Box, Pat Pask, Alys Simpson, Miranda Brace, Jean Timmins, Jo Braine, Anne Wilson, Marion Finney.

## Members' Successes 2011

### USA Ch Diva of Shantamon

Reg: AKC HP37530201  
Born: 4th January 2010  
Dam: Gina of Shantamon  
Sire: Osmar of Shantamon  
Breeder: Mr. Gerard Clarke & Pauline Clarke  
Owner: Doreen A. Sabalesky, M.D.



Ch Diva of Shantamon was imported from her homeland Ireland to the United States. Diva was awarded Hound Group 4 Best Puppy Competition at the Reliant World Series of Dog Shows at her first showing at the age of 6 months. Diva has continued her show career with multiple Best of Breeds and Best of Opposite Sex. Diva became a Champion at the young age of 1 year and 9 months. Currently, at just 2 years of age, Diva has 30 GCH points, places in the Top 25 Qualifiers for the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship, ranks #6 in the Irish Wolfhound Breed in the United States and #2 Irish Wolfhound Bitch in the country. Diva has opened all doors including Westminster Kennel Club 2012. At the tender age of 2, Diva has a magnificent show record and is only just beginning. I am especially thankful to Gerry and Pauline Clarke for this wonderful opportunity to have such a fine Irish Wolfhound represented in the United States.

Doreen A. Sabalesky, M.D.



## In Memoriam

### Gwen Fottrell 1932-2011 *Prefix/Affix Tailteann*

On the 16th of October 2011 the club and the Irish dog world lost Gwen Fottrell. Gwen was a great supporter of our club and her parents had bred Irish Wolfhounds starting in the 1920's along with Kerry Blues and Irish Terriers as they were keen to promote Irish Breeds after the founding of the State. Under their prefix "Tailteann" they made up the 5th Irish Wolfhound Champion of The Irish Kennel Club "Desmond of Tailteann" who was born in 1927.

Gwen's father Henry Fottrell was a founding member of The Irish Kennel Club and became its chairman from 1936 to 1978. Gwen started judging at Championship Level in 1950 judging all over including "Best in Show" at the I.K.C. St. Patrick's Day Show. She was only one of seven people to be awarded "Honorary Life Membership" of The Irish Kennel Club. The Irish Kennel Club head office is known as "Fottrell House" in honour of the family.

She loved all dogs and her house could be full of any breed mixing with her Boston Terriers, Great Danes etc. Her love of dog welfare was borne out with her involvement in The St Francis Dispensary, a voluntary free care centre for dogs in Dublin.

We were lucky to live beside Gwen in Castleknock as she would call in to check on the Wolfhounds and put us on the right track if we needed advice or help. She gave me a fright one day when I took out a new pup for his first walk, Gwen was driving down the road when she saw him and as she was having a good look the car was straying over the white line. I waved frantically at her only to have her then wave back. Fortunately the other car stopped and then Gwen stopped; she got out for a better look and all the locals had to wait while she examined the pup and gave her approval. Gwen was a great and generous host and always invited us over to her parties.

As was fitting a Guard of Honour of the Officers of The Irish Kennel Club with Irish Wolfhounds was formed at her funeral much to the delight of all her friends that attended.

Gina & Eddie Bourke.

Gwen's parents lived and farmed in Castleknock, having had various farm animals, but most renowned was their Jersey herd and dairy. Gwen's father kept of all things monkeys, which led Gwen to get TB. She was sent to Switzerland to be cured, but was severely ill, and was actually anointed, which caused her some amusement. Gwen eventually came back to Ireland, and the monkeys left!

The dairy business was well known, and they delivered milk both in the neighbourhood and south of the Liffey. They also ran a boarding kennels, as well as showing and breeding their own dogs. Gwen did fit well into that style of life and would have been popular among what would have been regarded as "the social set" of that time.

Unfortunately one day some staff failed to turn up, and Gwen had, much to her dismay, to go out on the milk round, on the horse drawn milk float! She kept her head down so as not to be seen by anyone that might have known her, but on the return journey up the hill from Chapelizod, who should come down the hill, but the local fox hunt. Horror! Trying to keep the head down did no good as the first rider past recognised Gwen, and saluted her in a loud voice, loud enough for the rest of the followers to follow suit. She was mortified, but she herself told the story and obviously got over her "embarrassment" quite quickly.

Gwen would have attended St Francis Dispensary for over 40 years, at least once a week, and would have been involved as committee member and trustee up to the time of her death. As



a result of this she would have collected many strays, abandoned animals, and of course sick animals. This would have accounted for the large number of various breeds that lived both in Castleknock and Banagher. She was also involved with the local beagle pack, and did most of the looking after and walking of pups for many years. She had a busy life but obviously her real life was her devotion to the welfare of animals, and her connection with the more unfortunate of them made her more than special.

John Clotworthy



# Miss Sheelagh Seale

Ballykelly Irish Wolfhounds

When I was asked to write this article, I thought to myself where do you start to write about such a legend in the world of the Irish Wolfhounds ?

It saddens me that some people in our breed today have not heard of the legend that was Sheelagh Seale. To those of us who had the privilege to meet her, she will always be a legend and an inspiration.

It is with fond memories I write this article. I count myself very lucky indeed to have met, worked with, and learned so much from this great lady.

My first memory of Miss Seale comes from when I was a young girl just left school and looking for a career with dogs. I opened one of the dog papers and saw a photograph of a lady with two magnificent dogs by her side. At that moment I fell in love with the Irish wolfhounds, I remain so to this day.

I got out pen and paper and wrote a letter to Miss Seale. Within a matter of weeks I was on my way from England to Ireland to the world famous Ballykelly Irish Wolfhound kennels to work with Miss Sheelagh Seale -how lucky was I!

Sheelagh Seale was born in Ireland. She spent much of her early life in England, India and in Switzerland where she went to finishing school. She often talked about her travels. In particular she talked about India which she loved so much.

Sheelagh got her first hound as a rescue in 1934. Little did she know then how Irish Wolfhounds would dominate her life right to the very end. During the Second World War Sheelagh was living in Dartmoor in southern England, not too far from the sea. As food was in short supply for people, never mind large hounds, she travelled to the docks to collect whatever the fishermen were discarding after cleaning their catch.

She knew this was not a long term solution and had heard of owners and breeders having to put down healthy hounds just because there was insufficient food to feed them. She was determined that this would not happen to her. She was not prepared to let any of her beloved hounds be put down. With this in mind she made the decision to move back to Ireland. There her hounds could live a long, healthy and happy life. The war almost destroyed the breed in England. At this time breeding primarily happened in Ireland.

I could go on to list all the wonderful Ballykelly champions in Ireland and around the world. I could tell you that most of the bloodlines in Ireland go back to the Ballykelly hounds, as do some from around the world, but that's for another day. This article is more of an insight into Miss Sheelagh Seale the person.



Sheelagh always fed her hounds on fresh red meat and tripe. Many hours each day were spent in the kennels kitchen cutting up the meat for the hounds. They were also provided with fresh milk from the goats and eggs from the chickens. The hounds did not always show much gratitude for those eggs - they sometimes killed the odd chicken to Sheelagh's horror .

She was also a great believer in using many different herbs. For the dogs, for herself and for me! She always used honey in her tea -never sugar. She would be pleased to see so many herbal products on the market today. When I went out to exercise the hounds I always had to carry a bag with me, not a poop-a-scoop. My instructions were to bring back dandelion leaves for the salad and nettles for soup (I can still taste the soup today), and Sloe berries which were boiled and the juice given to some of the hounds. Any hound that had been ill and needed a boost was in for a treat. They were given a spoonful of Guinness each day, and they loved it - lucky hounds.

Sheelagh loved music. Her favourite singer was Mario Lanza. Quite often when she would be listening the odd hound would join in with the maestro - much to her amusement.

Sheelagh passed away in 1992 after a short illness. She was a truly remarkable lady, and should always be remembered for the legacy she left the Wolfhound world in her magnificent Ballykelly blood lines. Her character, her knowledge, and her great love for her hounds inspired all of us who knew her.

I am so lucky to have been taught by "one of the greats"

Velda Clark

Tarlog Irish wolfhounds

## Whose “Sportsman’s Cabinet” is it, anyway?

Silvan Urfer (silvan (at) gmx.com)

Everybody who has done a little reading on the origins of the Irish Wolfhound as a breed has at some point encountered the famous Reinagle etching of an Irish Wolfhound, which is said to have been published in “The Sportsman’s Cabinet”. This publication is then often described as a rather short-lived English periodical that appeared for two years only in 1833 and ’34 and was edited by a certain Mr Johnson. Imagine my delight when, a couple of years ago, I was able to buy two custom-bound volumes of exactly this publication, described as containing every single issue ever published, including all the original copper etchings. The two volumes arrived in my mail, and I dutifully went to the section on the Irish Wolfhound, which apparently was in the form of a letter to the editor. However, even though the two volumes contained quite a few very nice original copper etchings of various kinds of dogs and horses, the Reinagle Wolfhound was nowhere to be found. I assumed that it had been removed and framed or sold by some previous owner, as it often happens with books this age, and put the two volumes on one of my shelves a little disappointed.

Now, a few months ago, I was talking to an antiquarian book seller who claimed to also have two volumes of the “Sportsman’s Cabinet” for sale – however, his were most definitely not custom-bound periodicals, but rather an encyclopaedia of dog breeds, authored by a certain Mr Toplin and published in 1803 and ’04. And yes, they did contain a copper etching titled “Irish Greyhound”, which was readily identifiable as the Reinagle Wolfhound – even though most of our modern reproductions seem to have neutered the dog somewhat (see included image compared to that on page 26).

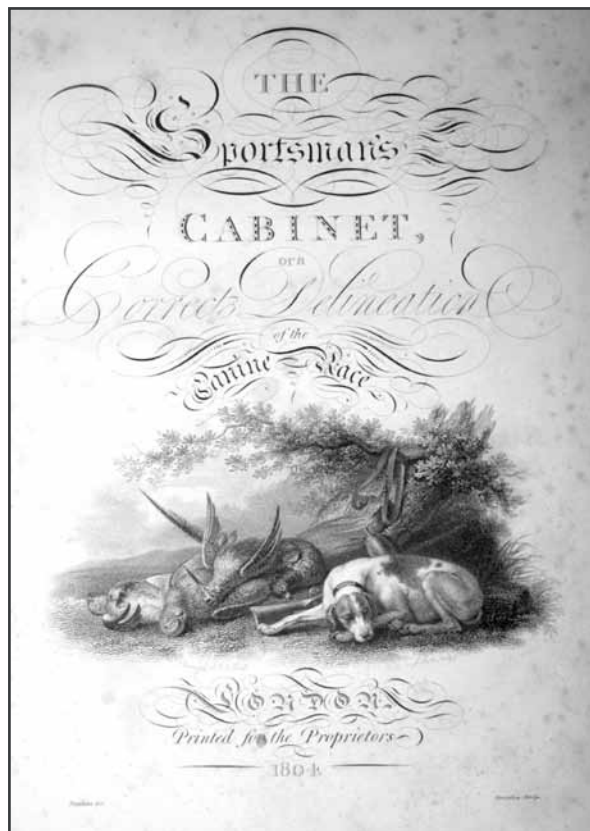
Given that the price was fairly reasonable, I did buy the two volumes of this version of the “Sportsman’s Cabinet” and can now say without a doubt that they are the books that Wolfhound historians are referring to when discussing the source of the Reinagle etching. As stated above, this “Sportsman’s Cabinet” was never published as a periodical, but was intended as a two-volume book from the beginning. It is considerably bigger and printed on better-quality paper than its later namesake, and the entry on the “Irish greyhound” is in the form of an encyclopaedic article rather than a letter to the editor.

In order to alleviate the confusion that has been perpetuated in most of the available literature on Irish Wolfhound history (as well as to save the interested reader some money), I would like to republish the entries on the Irish Wolfhound from both publications on the following pages, including photographs of both their frontispieces, as well as the original Reinagle print. The obvious similarities between the texts of both entries, which certainly have not helped in clarifying the issue, can probably be attributed to the letter-writer’s familiarity with the previous publication. Presumably, plagiarism was the most sincere form of flattery even then.

### IRISH GREYHOUND

In: Toplin, “The Sportsman’s Cabinet”, Vol. II, p. 98-101, London 1804

THE dog originally distinguished by this appellation is, in the present age, so rarely to be seen, that it is a matter of doubt whether one of the pure and unmixed breed is to be found even in the most remote part of the country from whence, in the first instance, they are supposed to have derived their name. It is affirmed, by the best and most respected authorities, that the Danish-dog, the Irish greyhound, and the common greyhound of this country, though they appear so different, are but one and the same race of dog. The Danish-dog is said, by Buffon, to be but a more corpulent Irish greyhound; and that the common greyhound is the Irish greyhound rendered thinner and more fleet by experimental crosses, and more delicate by speculative culture; for these three different kinds of dogs, though perfectly distinguishable at first sight, differ no more, comparatively, from each other than three human natives of



Holland, Italy, and France; and, by the same mode of argument, he justifies the supposition, that had the Irish greyhound been a native of France, he would have produced the Danish-dog in a colder climate, and the common greyhound in a warmer one; and this conjecture, he observes, is absolutely verified by experience, as the Danish-dogs are brought to us from the north, and the greyhounds from the Levant.

In whatever state of ambiguity the origin of the Irish greyhound may remain, certain it is, that the similitude between the dog of this description and the Danish-dog is so exceedingly correct, that little doubt can be entertained of their being of the same race, with such trifling variation as may have been occasioned only by the difference of climates in which they have been produced. The name, however, from a long series of disuse, is nearly buried in oblivion; and the



few to be seen, either in this country, or our sister kingdom, are denominated Danes, although every concurring circumstance and collateral consideration palpably tend to prove they are from one and the same stock. The great strength, speed, and ferocity of these dogs formerly rendered them perfectly appropriate to the purposes of the chase, before it had acquired its present improved and systematic uniformity; and to this breed may be attributed the entire extirpation, and final destruction of the wolves with which the woody districts of England and Wales were, in earlier times, so seriously infested. Since which, having been found but ill-adapted to the more modern sports of the field and refinements of the chase, that they have been permitted, by various accidental crosses, and casual commixtures, to dwindle into a gradational oblivion; the few now to be accidentally seen appearing in a very different, though a very respectable capacity.

The dog now under description is, in appearance, a produce between the greyhound and the mastiff, and, in his general stature, from eight and twenty to thirty inches high; his head is rather straight, muzzle long, and nearly pointed; ears naturally short, and half pendulous (but these, in conformity with fashion, are generally cropped when young); eyes mostly grey, or white; in others, of equal white and yellow; chest deep, flank long, belly small, legs straight and long, tail thin, wirey [sic], and with a curve in its erective termination; colour sandy red, or pale yellow, with frequently a snip, or blaze in the face. There is also another description which varies, in a small and inconsiderable degree, from the same race, and that more in the colour than in any other respect which has, with some, given rise to the appellation of Harlequin Dane; these have a fine marble-coat, beautifully variegated with large and small spots of black, grey, liver-colour, or sandy-red upon a white ground; some of the former also have sometimes tan-coloured spots about the face and legs. The majestic and commanding aspect, bold muscular action, and elegant carriage of this dog, would recommend him to notice, had he no other useful properties or points of attraction; but from those he has already in possession, we observe honoured in adding to the splendid pomp and magnificent retinues of the noble, wealthy, and independent; before whose emblazoned vehicles he trots or gallops with a degree of dignity denoting no small consciousness of the patronage he is under, and the state of grandeur he is selected to precede and support.

In the rigid and attentive execution of the trust so confidently reposed in him, he displays no trait whatever of fear or pusillanimity, amidst various obstructions, but supports the intrepidity of his character, and the eminence of his appointment, by a firm and stately dignity, undebased by any clamorous, or barking disquietude. Though it is to be remarked, in all public parades near town, as well as in the streets of the metropolis, that they are never permitted to appear without a muzzle, the better to prevent the possibility of an attack upon any of their own species, or animals of any other description. The Dalmatian, or common coach-dog, already described, is considered a much

more humble and subordinate attendant upon the horses, the carriage, and the servants, than the individual now depicted, who, from a certain consciousness of his own magnitude, seems to appear both the harbinger and escort of his lord, being bold and eager in his approach, and ready in his defence. It does not



appear, by any regular transmissions upon record, that these dogs have ever been appropriated to any particular department of the chase, either ancient or modern, but were, most probably, destined to many pursuits, according to the customs and fashions of the times in which they lived. Indeed, from their aggregate of distinguishing properties of strength, speed, instinctive courage, and indefatigable perseverance, there cannot be a doubt, but with the hunters of centuries past, who traversed the trackless deserts [sic] in pursuit of game of every kind, as well as wild animals of the most ferocious description, these dogs must have been held in high estimation; were as fearless as those who then boldly exposed their persons to the imminent dangers of the most perilous chase; as they would attack much larger, and much more fierce and powerful animals than are now to be found in this country in its present refined state of sporting and agricultural cultivation.

This is the precise kind of dog, and, most probably, the very exact and same breed that the amateurs of fine painting may have observed transmitted to us in pictures from the eminent artists of former times. They are frequently introduced, and expressively depicted in the finest productions of Rubens, Snyders, and others, as well as in the popular and well-known prints of Ridinger, where he is represented fierce, swift, and powerful, rushing on to combat with the wolf, boar, or stag, equally undismayed at either, without having been once depicted at bay. But when the dark, woody forest retired before the constantly increasing advantages of cultivated enclosures, and the sanguinary, ferocious, and solitary tribes fled the populous haunts of men, this dog then became a subject of peace, and a servant of shew [sic]; yet even now it is natural to conclude, he might be brought into use in some department of field-sports, if the breed could be preserved under proper subjection, as the whole race invariably attack sheep with the most inveterate fury and aversion.

## The IRISH WOLF-DOG

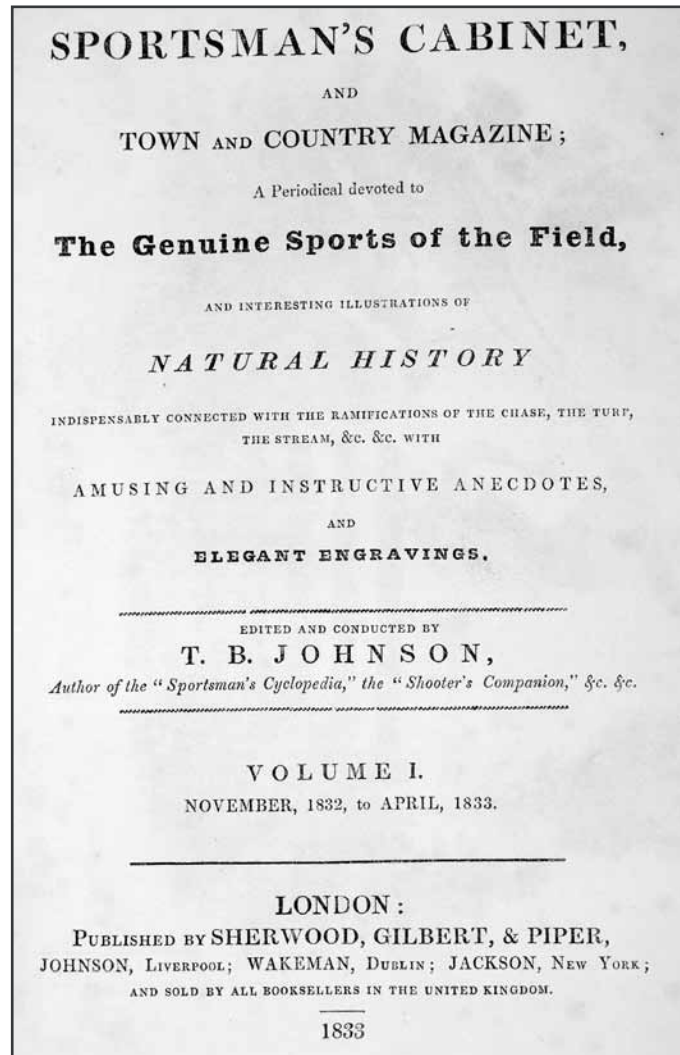
In T. B. Johnson (editor) "Sportsman's Cabinet", Vol. I, p. 103-107, London 1833

To the Editor of the Cabinet

Sir,

A friend of mine, who feels much interested in objects of natural history, and who has lately bid farewell to the Emerald Isle, on account of the agitated state of that distracted portion of the British dominions, put into my hands, a few days ago, a skull of the celebrated Irish greyhound or wolf dog, an animal, which, in days of yore, was so highly esteemed, and which might be said to be peculiar to the Sister kingdom. Now, although there was nothing remarkably interesting in the contemplation of the skull in question, yet a train of ideas naturally enough led me to a retrospection of that period when the Irish greyhound appeared indispensable as well to the chase, as to the care of the flock, and even to human protection; and I could not help regretting the extinction of the noblest species of the dog tribe, though the service of this animal is no longer an object of consideration. The same friend who presented the skull to me, remarked that two of these dogs only were at present to be found in Ireland, one of which was in the possession of the celebrated Hamilton Rowan, who very obstinately refused all applications for the purpose of continuing the breed.

A writer on this subject observes, the great Irish wolf dog, which may be considered as the first of the canine species is very rare, even in the only country in the world where it is to be found, and is kept rather for show than use, there being neither wolves nor any other formidable beast of prey in Ireland that seem to require so powerful an antagonist. The wolf dog is therefore bred up in the houses of the great, or such gentlemen as choose to keep him as a curiosity, being neither good for pursuing the hare, the fox, or the stag, and equally unserviceable as a house-dog. Nevertheless, he is extremely beautiful and majestic in appearance, being the largest of the dog kind to be seen in the world. The largest of those I have seen, observes the writer (and I have seen above a dozen,) was about four feet high, or as tall as a calf of a year old. He was made extremely like a greyhound, but more robust, and inclining to the figure of the French mâtin or the great Dane. His eye was mild, his colour white, and his nature heavy and phlegmatic. This was perhaps owing to his having been bred up to a size



beyond his nature; for we see in man and all other animals, that such as are overgrown are neither so vigorous nor alert as those of a more moderate stature. Goldsmith, the writer here alluded to, was most likely mistaken in regard to the height of the Irish greyhound, as it by no means agrees with other accounts, which state the height of this animal to be scarcely three feet, and even this is enormous. However, be the height what it may, all accounts agree, in placing them at the head of the dog tribe; and that they were both fierce and powerful are evident from the nature of their employment, which was to clear the country of wolves; but these being destroyed, the dogs also are wearing away, as if nature intended to blot out the species when they had no longer any services to perform. In this manner several kinds of animals fade from the face of nature, that were once well known, but are now no longer seen. The enormous elk of the same kingdom (Ireland) that by its horns could not have been less than eleven feet high, the wolf, and even the wolf dog are extinct, or only continued

in such a manner as to prove their former plenty and existence. Hence it is probable that many of the nobler kinds of dogs, of which the ancients have given us such beautiful descriptions, are now utterly unknown, since, amongst the whole breed, we have not one that will venture to engage the lion or the tiger in single combat. The English bull dog is the most courageous of the kind, but his exploits, owing to his comparatively diminutive form, are nothing compared to those of the Epirotic dogs mentioned by Pliny, or the Indian dogs of which an account is given by Elian.

It is affirmed by respectable authorities, that the large Danish dog, the Irish greyhound, and the common greyhound of this country, though they appear so different, are but one and the same race of dog. The Danish dog is said by Buffon to be but a more corpulent Irish greyhound; and that the common greyhound is the Irish greyhound tendered thinner and more fleet by experimental crosses, and more delicate by speculative culture; for these three different kinds of dogs, though perfectly distinguishable at first sight, differ no more comparatively from each other than three human natives of Holland, Italy, and France; and, by the same mode of argument, he justifies the supposition, that, had the Irish greyhound been a native of France, he would have produced the

Danish dog in a colder climate, and the common greyhound in a warmer one; and this conjecture, he observes, is absolutely verified by experience, as the Danish dogs are brought to us from the north, and the greyhounds from the Levant. At all events, in whatever state of ambiguity, the origin of the Irish wolf dog may remain certain it is, that the similitude between the dog of this description and the Danish dog is so exceedingly correct, that little doubt can be entertained of their being of the same race with such trifling variation as may have been occasioned only by the difference of climates in which they have been produced. However, after all the speculative theories, I am inclined to think that the Irish greyhound or wolf dog was originally produced by crossing the rough or wire-haired greyhound and the mastiff, being merely two removes, in this way, from the later: – it appears in fact to be the strength and courage of the mastiff, united to the speed of the greyhound; and if we consider the nature of the employment for which they were originally intended, nothing could be better calculated for the purpose.

Some years ago, a mastiff bitch belonging to a friend had a litter of whelps, and though no particular dog had been put to her, it was nevertheless determined to rear one of the puppies. The whelp for the purpose of rearing was selected with indifference; but as it grew, it became evident that the sire of the animal was a neighbouring greyhound. It attained an enormous size, (in fact, it was the largest dog I ever saw) retaining perhaps more of the mastiff than the greyhound in its disposition. It was amazingly strong, though of a peaceable temper, and its courage was equal to its force. This animal would attack either bull or bear with all the bravery of a well-bred bull dog, when encouraged by its master; and what is singular, it had a remarkable antipathy to an ass, which it would uniformly seize whenever one of these creatures happened to come in its way. I once saw it attack a strong male ass, and the latter making a desperate defence, a very furious battle was the consequence: the ass was not able to use its hind feet effectively owing to the manner in which the dog had attacked it; but it struck with its fore feet, and bit most vehemently; and yet the combat was of short duration, as in a few seconds the ass was laid prostrate, and would have been quickly killed had not the dog been taken away. The dog in question was not quarrelsome, nor was he ever known to resent the insults of the smaller animals of the tribe; he was heavier than the Irish greyhound (weighing 140 pounds) but from his character and appearance altogether, I have little doubt, had he been crossed with the greyhound, that the Irish greyhound or wolf dog would have been the result.

What is by some called the Harlequin Dane varies in a small degree from the race of which I have just been speaking, and that more in colour perhaps than any other respect: these have a fine marble coat, beautifully variegated with large and small spots of black, grey, liver colour, or sandy red upon a white ground. The majestic and commanding aspect, bold muscular action, and elegant carriage of this dog would recommend him to notice had he no other useful properties or points of attraction. He is sometimes, though but rarely seen trotting before the splendid retinue of the wealthy, with a degree of dignity denoting the state of grandeur he is selected to precede or support. In the execution of the trust reposed in him, he manifests neither fear nor pusillanimity, amidst various obstructions, but supports the intrepidity of his character, and the eminence of his appointment, by a firm and stately demeanour, undebased by any clamorous or barking disquietude. The Dalmatian or common coach dog

is considered a much more humble and subordinate attendant upon the horse, the carriage, and the servants, than the animal above mentioned, who from a certain consciousness of his own force, seems to be both the harbinger and escort of his master, being bold and eager in his approach and ready in his defence. It does not appear by any regular transmissions upon record, that these dogs were ever appropriated to any particular department of the chase, either ancient or modern, but were most probably destined to many pursuits according to the customs and fashions of the times in which they lived. Indeed from their aggregate of distinguishing properties of strength, speed, instinctive courage, and indefatigable perseverance, there cannot be a doubt that, with the hunters of centuries past, who traversed the trackless desert in pursuit of game of every kind, as well as wild animals of the most ferocious description, these dogs must have been held in high estimation; were as fearless as those who boldly exposed their persons to the imminent dangers of the most perilous chase; as they would attack much larger, and much more fierce and powerful animals than are now to be found in this country in its present refined state of sporting and agricultural improvement.

Dogs of the above description are frequently introduced and expressively depicted in the finest productions of Rubens, Snyders, and others, as well as in the prints of Ridinger, where they are represented as fierce, swift, and powerful, rushing to the combat with the most determined and impetuous ferocity, instantly closing with the wolf or the boar, and equally undismayed at either.

Now that I am upon this subject, I cannot forbear to notice another variety of the dog tribe, which, from appearance might be regarded as the Dwarf Irish greyhound, and which, though not altogether extinct, is much less common than formerly – I allude to the lurcher. The dog passing under this denomination is supposed to have been originally produced from a cross between the shepherd's dog and the greyhound, which from breeding *in and in* with the latter, has so refined upon the first change, that very little of the shepherd's dog seems now to be retained in the stock, its patience, docility, and fidelity, excepted. The lurcher, if thus bred, without any farther collateral cross, is about three-fourths the height and size of a greyhound, rough and wire-haired, ears nearly erect, dropping a little at the point, of great speed, courage, and sagacity. These dogs are but little calculated for the diversions of the great, but used to be great favourites with the farmers, as they are capable of running up to a rabbit or a hare not fully grown, and easily taught to carry the game in their mouth to almost any distance. The late celebrated breeder of cattle, Bakewell, of Dishley near Loughborough, Leicestershire, had a very large specimen of the lurcher, by which he was usually attended, and which possessed almost incredible sagacity. The qualification, however, for which he was most prized by his master, was the following: – Mr. Bakewell was in the habit of riding over his grounds – in fact, being very corpulent, he walked very little, but was much on horseback, on which occasions he was uniformly attended by his favourite dog; if he happened to drop his whip or stick, the dog would immediately seize it, and with a spring place it in the hand of his master. In riding across his grounds, Mr. Bakewell sometimes dismounted while his horse leaped the fence, when the dog would stand ready prepared on the other side, and seizing the bridle reins, hold the horse till his master had also crossed the fence. It is not necessary to enumerate the whole of the feats which this dog would perform, but what is not very usual with dogs of this description, he would take the



water, and both swim and dive as well as any water spaniel; yet his accomplishments appeared instinctively natural, rather than the effect of education. Indeed, generally speaking, the lurcher, tough rough and unruly by nature, soon becomes tractable, imbibes instruction in a shorter space of time than would readily be believed, and soon conforms himself to the various motions, manners, and pursuits of the person who commands him. Possessing these qualifications, it can create no surprise that this is the very race of dogs applicable to the aggregate wants of the poacher; in fact, they are so admirably adapted to the universality of the system and the services required, that no other breed of the whole species seems so peculiarly calculated for the purpose: they equal, if not exceed, any other dog in sagacity, and are easily taught any thing that it is possible for an animal of this description to acquire by instruction. Some of the best bred lurchers are but little inferior in speed to the greyhound; rabbits they kill to a certainty if they are at any distance from home; and when a rabbit is started not far from a warren, the dog invariably runs for the burrow; and by thus getting between the rabbit and its retreat, seldom fails to secure his game. As their name implies, so they will lurk about the borders of a rabbit warren, and the moment they perceive a rabbit at any distance from the holes, they throw themselves in the intervening space, seldom without success. But the qualifications of the lurcher do not stop here. In nocturnal depredation, he very soon becomes a proficient: when nets and wires are fixed for hares, the lurcher is despatched by a single word of command, to scour the field, paddock, or plantation, which, by their running mute, is effected so silently, that a great number of hares may be very soon caught in a plentiful country with little fear of detection.

The writer happened to be returning from a small market town in company with a farmer who kept one of these dogs which then attended him. It was about eight o'clock in the evening in the month of October; our road lay across a small rabbit warren, over which we trotted at the rate perhaps of seven miles an hour: the lurcher, however, secured three rabbits and brought them successively to her master, when rearing by the side of his horse, he took them from her mouth without alighting.

That lurchers which were once common enough, and are now very scarce, is easily to be accounted for, as a man cannot keep a dog of this description, without suspicion attaching to him as a poacher. The farmers have been compelled by their landlords to abandon animals so notoriously destructive to game, while the professed poacher, to disarm suspicion as much as possible, generally makes use of an animal for his purpose of the terrier kind intermixed with the bull dog, or a cross between the bull dog and cur, many of which will run mute, and are found to answer the purpose of driving hares as well as the lurcher.

I remain, your's, &c.

An old sportsman.

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# GALTYMORE IRISH WOLFHOUNDS



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Galtymore Irish Wolfhounds**

**Bayles**

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**Australia**

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**email: *thedon@nex.net.au***

***anne.omahony1@bigpond.com***



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Tanya 58., 6600 Szentese, Hungary  
[glornagael@gmail.com](mailto:glornagael@gmail.com)**

# Athcarne Irish Wolfhounds

**Athcarne Ciaran (Dulta)**



**Sire:- Athcarne Cianan (Oisin)**

**Dam:- Monageer Brid of Athcarne**

**We are expecting puppies early March**

**Sire:- Ch Uella O'Hogan**

**Dam:- Athcarne Sibhe**

**Tony & Ger Redmond**

**Athcarne Irish Wolfhounds**

**Athcarne Cottage, Duleek, Co Meath, Ireland**

**Phone: 00 353 (0) 41 9825313 Mobile 00 353 (0) 862 769213**

**E-Mail: [athcarne@yahoo.com](mailto:athcarne@yahoo.com)**



# *GULLIAGH KENNELS*

Established 1965



**Gulliagh Aramis (DOB 03.08.2010)**  
**(Int Ch Chambord du Grand Chien de Culann x Gulliagh Ginny)**

Aramis, our semi-French gentleman, out of our semi-American Ginny, had this notable win, Best Puppy in Show at Cork & District Canine Club Ch show, at just 10 months. He was also Best Puppy in Show at the Irish Wolfhound Club of Ireland Ch Show. He has been little shown while growing into his 36+” frame, but came out at the IW of Northern Ireland Ch Show in September to win his class and Best Movement in Show. His inbreeding coefficient is 1% (KC)/4.7% (IWPedigrees), which gives us options for future breeding within the kennel.

2011 saw us finish two males, Ch Gulliagh Ardtully (brother of Ch/GB Ch Gulliagh Corrig) and Ch Cuknocklong Henry Higgins, aka “Hal” (see photos and pedigrees in this issue). Both have won Best Head at Specialty Ch Shows. Hal gained his first CC/BOB at Belfast Ch Show 2011 in Sept 2011. At just 2 years old, he is barely mature, and we look forward to further successes in the coming show season.

In November, we had our proposed breeding stock heart tested at the Dublin session, run by the IW Health Group (UK) with Dr Serena Brownlie, and thankfully all were clear. This is to become a regular annual event in Ireland, North and South, in line with the regional testing being carried out throughout the UK and most of Europe. This is a great service at a reasonable cost to ourselves and other conscientious breeders. All our puppies are tested for liver shunt.

*Timothy, Marion, Ian & Max Finney*

Telephone/fax +353 (0)1 8078993

email: [gulliagh@eircom.net](mailto:gulliagh@eircom.net); website: [www.gulliagh.com](http://www.gulliagh.com)





NIAMH  
23 APRIL 2009

**Grand Champion Kerryarc Voodoo Quest at Tuama CGC**

CH Kerryarc Burning Man x  
CH Quest Sea Raider's Alvilda CD RN CGC  
BRED BY Ed Powers & Cathy Lursen-Powers  
OWNED BY Sharon Toomey Clark & Larry Clark / Mandy Tyler

## TUAMA IRISH WOLFHOunds

Sharon Toomey Clark & Larry Clark  
1055 Harvard Avenue Claremont, California 91711



**Champion Mermaid Moonlight Bay O Tuama CGC**

MAISY  
21 JUNE 2007

CH Kerryarc Roman x CH Mermaid Seafoam of Kerryarc  
BRED BY Chandler Tyler & Mandy Tyler  
OWNED BY Sharon Toomey Clark & Larry Clark



# Shantamon Irish Wolfhounds Est. 1973



Ir. Eng.Int Ch. Lady Ionagh of Shantamon, Photo taken May 2009 winning her Eng. Title under Breed Specialist Zena Thorn Andrews.

Lady's titles speak for themselves and include BIS Combine Canine Club Int Show 2007, BIS Deise Champ. Show 2007, BIS Irish Breeds Champ Show 2007, BIS Irish Wolfhound Club of Ireland 2008, also 4 X 4th BIS, 14 X 1st Group 10, 7 X 2nd Group 10, 4 X 3rd Group 10, 5 X 4th Group 10, 68 Green Stars, 6 Cacibs, 3 CC's plus 1 Res CC, On route to her English Title, Lady beat 3 recent Crufts CC Winners.

Annual Champion Irish Wolfhound 2007, 2008, 2009. Top Hound in Group 10 2008, 2009. Winner of Group 10 at Irish Show Dog of the Year Finals 2008 and 5th overall Winner All Breeds.

Proudly owned and bred by Gerard F. & Pauline Clarke, Shantamon, 39 Athlumney Castle, Navan, Co. Meath Ireland Phone 00353 46 9060639.

E. Mail [mpaulineclarke@hotmail.com](mailto:mpaulineclarke@hotmail.com)

# Shantamon Irish Wolfhounds Est. 1973



## **Ch Roxanne of Shantamon (Annual Champion 2011)**

Sire; Baronglen The Knightwalker

Dam; Ir. Eng. Int. Ch Lady Ionagh of Shantamon (Annual Ch 2007, 2008, 2009)

Roxanne like her Dam gained her championship title at the age of 16 months. At 14 months she won BIS at the I.W.C.I. Championship Show also Best Head/Expression and Best Movement. Her wins for 2011 are GRI x 1 GR3 x 5. 7 BOB, 12 Green Stars, 8 Res G. Stars and 1 CACIB.

She finished the year with BIS at the I.W.C.I. Open Show and is Annual Champion I.W. for 2011.

Her Sire The Knightwalker won BIS at the I.W.C.I. Championship Show 2010, also Height Trophy.

Her Dam, Lady won BIS at the 2008 I.W.C.I. Championship Show, also Best Head/Expression.



# Shantamon Irish Wolfhounds Est. 1973



## **CH Osmar of Shantamon**

Sire; Multi Ch. Pitlochrys Catweazle

Dam; Ch. Ebony of Shantamon

Osmar's major success in 2011 was winning BIS at Kilkenny All Breeds Championship Show. At the 2011 I.W.C.I. Championship Show he won the Champion Dog Class and the Height Trophy.

His wins to date are 1 x BIS, 1 x GR1, 3 x GR2, 1 x GR3, 7 BOB, 16 Green Stars, 16 Res G Stars, 1 CACIB.

He also won BIS at the 2010 I.W.C.I. Open Show.

He is the Sire of Am. Ch. Diva of Shantamon who at the age of two is ranked in the Top 20 I.W's in America.

Ch Osmar is joint runner up Annual Champ. 2011.

# Shantamon Irish Wolfhounds Est. 1973



## **Ch Int. Ch Opherra of Shantamon Annual Champion 2010**

Ch. Int. Ch Opherra of Shantamon Annual Champion 2010 Sire; Multi Ch Pitlochrys Catweazle

Dam; Ch Ebony of Shantamon

Opherra's major win in 2011 was BIS at Banbridge All Breed Champion Show. She also won her 4th CACIB and therefore her Int. Title.

Her wins to date are 1x BIS, 3xRes BIS, 1 x 4th BIS, GR1x6, GR2 x 3, GR3x1, GR4 x 1, BOB11, GS31, Res GS 13, CACIB 4.

She won a Puppy Stakes in 2010 and 5th overall in Pup of the Year (All Breeds). She was Annual Champion 2010 and Group10 Winner and overall 5th in the 2011 Show Dog of the Year Finals (all breeds). Ch Int Ch Opherra with her brother Ch Osmar are joint runner up Annual Champion 2011



## **Nina-Leigh of Shantamon EW 2009.**

Nina won GSB and Best head/expresson at the 2010 Irish Wolfhound Club Championship Show Judge Mrs M Brooks. Also winner of the CACIB / GSB at the European Winners show 2009 Judge Mr K Edh (SW).

GSB / BOB / GR2 Dundalk Ch Show 2009 Judge Zola Rawson (Mumtaz).

BOB / 1st GR 10 2008 I.W.C. Open Show Judges Mrs E Hanley / Mrs R Curran. Her 1st show.

Nina's older full sister Linda Love was 2nd to her in the Open Bitch (10 present) at the 2010 I.W.C.I. Championship show.

Nina was only shown once in 2011 at the I.W.C.I. Champ. Show where she once again won Open Bitch and Res. G. STar, beaten only by CH. Roxanne of Shantamon



## **Ch Ebony of Shantamon**

Ch Ebony is the older full sister of Ir Eng Int Ch Lady Ionagh of Shantamon. She is the mother of Ch Opherra and Ch Osmar.

She was Res BIS at the Deise Ch Show 2006 and has 2x 1st in Group 10.

She also won the Brood Bitch Trophy at the 2010 I.W.C. Ch Show.

Thanks to all the Judges who gave awards to our hounds and special thanks to the judge of the 2010 IWCI Ch Show Mrs M Brooks for Nina's GS and Linda Loves 2nd to her in Open Bitch also Best Head,

Best Brace, Best Team and Brood Bitch.

Also thanks to our 2011 Club Show Judge Outi Piisi-Putta for Roxannes, Nina's and Osmar's wins.