

## Profile

# Knocknarea Irish Wolfhounds

### IKA & ULLI PEILER

As a young man, Ulli Peiler and his father were frequent visitors to Ireland from their home in Germany and it was on one of these trips in the early 1970's that Ulli made his first acquaintance with Irish Wolfhounds.

When Ulli and Ika were married these Irish trips became an important part of their lives. They bought a cottage in the lovely and remote lands of County Sligo and came over to visit three or four times per year.

In 1981 Ulli was sponsored by his German University to spend a year in Ireland researching his Thesis on the interaction between the rural Irish and German culture. Ika planned to work at her own profession as a Barrister. Like many of their countrymen, Ika and Ulli and their son Max came to visit and stayed to live.

Later in the same year I had the pleasure of meeting Ulli & Ika for the first time when they came to talk about Irish Wolfhounds and about the possibility and feasibility of getting an Irish Wolfhound of their very own. Some time later they got their first puppy, "Lady of Nutstown" (Int. Ch. Nutstown King x Clodagh of Moll Machie) from John and Kathleen Kelly.



*Lady of Nutstown at 7 years.*

"Lady" did well in her puppy classes but Ika and Ulli admit that in their eagerness to learn as much as possible about the breed, the various Irish lines and their background, they perhaps took "Lady" too many shows as a puppy with the result that she developed a dislike of showing.

In 1983, Ika & Ulli got "Champion Athcarne Nora of Knocknarea" (Carrokeel Kalypso x Athcarne Neesha) as a puppy from Tony & Ger Redmond. A tall, elegant and typical bitch, Nora won her first Green Star in 1986 and finished her title last year.

The first Knocknarea litter was bred in 1984 from "Lady" by Carrokeel Kalypso. From this litter "Carrokeel Knocknarea Aine"



*U.S. Ch. Carrokeel Knocknarea Aine.*



*Canadian Ch. Knocknarea Muirne.*

became a U.S. champion and her sister Knocknarea Muirne became a Canadian champion. "Knocknarea Deirdre", who had a slight injury as a puppy, stayed at home. In 1985 "Lady" was bred to Athcarne Oisín. This litter produced "Knocknarea Briciu" (male) who is now the rising star of the Knocknareas. An exceptionally big hound, "Briciu" was BEST IN SHOW winner at our 1988 Club Championship show when he and Ika had a most successful Day. They won Limit Dog, Green Star Dog as well as Best of Breed and "Briciu" was an easy winner of the overall Height Trophy. It is a rare occurrence for the Best of Breed winner also to win the Height Trophy. The judge was Mrs. C. Boissevain, Wolfhound and hound Specialist. This was "Briciu's" second Green Star, he should have no difficulty finishing his championship. His litter sister "Knocknarea Caoimhe" is now a

member of Cullchoill Irish Wolfhounds in County Wicklow and is a lure coursing winner.

In 1986 "Knocknarea Deirdre" was bred to "Killykeen Mars" and from this litter Ika & Ulli kept "Knocknarea Cinn Oir". Now a lovely typical three year old, "Cinn Oir" will be campaigned in 1989.

In 1987 "Lady" was bred for the third and last time to "Athcarne Oisín", a repeat of the 1985 mating which produced "Briciu". The offspring of this litter are still a bit young for assessing but a number of the puppies promise well.

Recently "Knocknarea Cinn Oir" was bred to "Briciu". Two very promising youngsters from this litter, "Knocknarea Eoin" and his sister "Knocknarea Eilis" are now part of home group and promise well for the future of the Knocknareas.



*Briciu, Eoin, Cinn Oir, Eilis.*

Ika & Ulli Peiler have had remarkable success in their breeding programme in a relatively short space of time. This, I believe, can be attributed to three main factors: First, their own attitude to breed and breeding, they took time and trouble to learn as much as possible before starting to breed and they continue this policy as they progress. They did not fall into the trap, common among novice breeders, of over confidence which often leads to complacency and lack of growth or progress. The second factor is their nutrition programme. They have studied the subject in depth and use a diet that is as natural as possible with minimum use of additives. Their hounds attest the success of the diet, they have nice straight limbs and are above average in size — which kills the notion that extra additives give increased size. The third factor which plays an important part in the success of the Knocknareas is the environment in which they are reared. They all live as part of the family. Yes, I mean all seven Wolfhounds are house dogs and share their beds willingly with a couple of whippets and two terriers. It is usually the little ones that keep the big ones on the go when out in the fields. The hounds have ample space for long walks around their home and, a few miles in one direction they have the



*The Knocknareas' waiting for their morning run.*

Carrowkeel mountains up which they can ramble and to the West they have the sea shore with lovely sandy beaches and where very few people seem to frequent. Thus the Knocknareas seem to have the best of all possible worlds.

*ELIZABETH C. MURPHY*



*Athcarne Nora of Knocknarea, K. Briciu, K. Deirdre.*