

FROM THE ARCHIVE

A PROFILE OF MISS N. TYWMAN AND HER ARTICLE ON PUPPY REARING TAKEN FROM THE 1972-73 CLUB MAGAZINE



Miss N. Twyman.

Profile

Miss N. Twyman was elected President of the Irish Wolfhound Club of Ireland. Her family has been connected with Irish Wolfhounds since 1928, and she judged the U.S. Speciality Show in 1970. Nendrum is her Prefix/Affix. The worldwide

success of the Nendrums leads one to believe that Miss Twyman has bred consistently over the years but in fact she has only bred four litters.

Her first hound was Carol of Eaglescrag, bred by her sister, Mrs. Jenkins, Eaglescrag Irish Wolfhounds, England. Carol was bred to Miss Seale's International Champion McGilligan of Ballykelly, this litter produced one Irish Champion, Carna of Nendrum and two International Champions, Captain and Colin, the latter a winner of three B.I.S. Carol's second litter was by English champion Sulhamstead Max, this litter produced Irish Champion Connel of Nendrum, B.I.S. winner; English Champion Clonroe of Nendrum, B.I.S. winner; also Irish champion Corrie of Nendrum. Reserve B.I.S. winner, Corrie is still living with Miss Twyman today.

Irish Champion Corrie was bred twice; first to English Champion Sanctuary Brave Knight, this litter produced one Dutch champion, one U.S. champion and one U.S. and Canadian champion, also one Irish champion Ardgour of Nendrum.

We hope to see Miss Twyman exhibiting again in the Irish Wolfhounds classes with her new young bitch Fenora of Eaglescrag Nendrum granddaughter of Carol

Puppy Rearing By M. TWYMAN

Has anyone ever read a "Doggy" book that did not contain two inevitable chapters, 'Puppy Rearing and 'Ailments?' I doubt it. For this reason I shall be as brief as possible about routine and food, etc., and just give the system I have developed for my own dogs, partly from reading some of the vast supply of literature on the subject and partly from experience with my own dogs plus some physiology and anatomy.

First weaning. The bitch usually, I find, does this for herself. The usual pattern seems to be that when the puppies are about five weeks old the mother does not want to stay permanently with them and is quite happy to feed them 3-4 times a day and live elsewhere. In the course of the following 2-3 weeks she will reduce the number of times per day that she wishes to feed the puppies until eventually she is quite happy just to look at them now and then.

Early feeding - Normally between 17 and 21 days of age, depending on the number. I have found that puppies will begin to take an interest in scraped raw meat (a spoon is much better than a knife for scraping). The first time I put a small piece of meat into each puppy's mouth and immediately they have tasted it they start looking for more. I do this twice a day for a few days and then increase to three times. After 3-4 days the meat can be finely minced instead of scraped. At this stage each puppy has its own ration. The next stage is to introduce the puppies to liquid food. First a little warm milk (preferably not pasteurised) to teach them to lap and then after a day or two thicken the milk with 'Farex' and add a few drops of Halibut liver oil, better at this stage than cod liver oil.

Now that the puppies can eat and drink one can settle down to a regular time-table. I usually feed puppies four times a day instead of the often recommended five. Feeding times can be made to fit in with ones other activities, the actual times do not matter as long as they do not vary.

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At 3-10 weeks the puppies meals can be something like this (for one puppy):

1. Breakfast cereal, brown bread or puppy biscuit meal with warm milk and an egg.
2. About 1 lb. raw meat or tripe and 1 teaspoon of cod liver oil.
3. Same as 1.
4. Same as 2 but replace cod liver oil with two teaspoons of bone meal.

The amounts of these meals should be increased as the puppy grows and soaked puppy meal or brown bread can be added to the meat to increase the bulk.

At 6-12 months three meals a day can be given.

1. Fresh milk with 2 eggs followed by dry biscuit meal or stale brown bread.
2. Meat- 1 lb. plus with cod liver oil.
3. 1 lb. meat or tripe and biscuit meal soaked in gravy and bone meal.

When the puppy is a year old the feeding plan can be the same for the rest of his life i.e. morning milk and dry biscuit and evening meat or tripe and biscuit and soup and for a time cod liver oil and bone meal. This is because Irish Wolfhounds continue growing and developing until they are a, least two years old and sometimes longer.

This plan is all very well for an average litter born in good weather with a healthy mother, take for an average litter seven puppies. Sometimes things do not work out that way, e.g. I had a litter of 15, 13 born alive and all survived and some did extraordinarily well in the show ring. One's first thought when faced with a litter of that size is to go and look for a foster mother. This is not necessary and asking for all sorts of trouble in the way of parasites and major infections such as distemper, jaundice, enteritis, hepatitis, etc. The easiest way to cope with this problem is to leave the puppies with their mother and 4-5 times a day and perhaps once during the night offer each puppy a supplementary meal from a baby's feeding bottle. The hungry ones will drink greedily from the bottle; I also found that this particular litter divided itself into two lots and fed from the mother alternately and they started eating meat at about ten days old.

The bottle-feeding is also useful when a mother of puppies is not able to feed them for some days after whelping-due to a variety of reasons such as exhaustion or running a temperature due to infection, etc. When I first bred a litter of puppies I used all the standard vitamin and mineral supplements, as advised, but with later litters I used much more simplified diets and produced even better puppies and have finally come to the conclusion that a lot of these things are not necessary. An excess of one vitamin can inhibit the absorption of another, and so that by feeding all these additives it is possible that we could upset the whole vitamin mineral balance and so do more harm than good. My own conclusion is that the simpler the diet the better and the less we interfere with it by adding to it things whose action we perhaps do not completely understand the better it is for the puppies.

It may have been noticed that I have recommended brown bread and biscuit meal instead of the various complete dog rations' that are on the market. The reason for this is that these rations contain a large percentage of raw cereal, which is indigestible to a great extent as far as dogs are concerned. The same applies to flaked maize, barley and oats, etc. These cereals merely act as roughage as far as a dog is concerned. His digestive system is not set up for this kind of food It is too short and being a carnivore he needs more concentrated food i.e. meat, etc.

Another important point is bone meal versus calcium phosphate. There is a possibility that calcium phosphate can cause an excessive amount of irregular bone development giving an appearance in a puppy of having rickets. This does not happen if bone meal is used. The basic ingredients for puppy rearing are milk, (unpasteurised, quantity unlimited) eggs, raw meat, tripe, brown bread and or biscuit meal, cod liver oil and bone meal.

Please note that these are my own personal ideas and if you disagree with them or think that something has been omitted I shall only be too glad to enter into an argument! (or perhaps discussion)

NB: Do not forget distemper, etc., inoculation.