

# The Breed Standard

**Safeguarding our Breed for the Future**

By

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# The Three Great Lights of our Breed

- As a people our Wolfhounds have walked beside us on the Island for Ireland for millennia. They have evolved alongside us as we as a people have evolved.
- The first written account of the Irish Wolfhound appears in 391AD
- **Captain Hugh Richardson – Tyrone**
- **Sir John Power – Kilkenny**
- **Captain George Graham – Kilkenny & Gloucestershire.**
- The first breed standard was written in 1885 and a breed club formed.
- In Dublin at the Irish kennel club show in 1879 the first classes were given to the Irish Wolfhound.

# The Importance of our Breed Standard

- It is a picture in words, of how the Irish Wolfhound should **look**, **perform** and **behave**.
- It is the template that all breeders **must** breed to.
- It is the degree of excellence all judges **must** judge to.
- It **educates** individuals, new to the breed and acts as a single source of truth.
- It is the essence and foundation stone of our breed, on which all strategic initiatives **must** be based.

# Risks to our Breed Standard

- Inexperienced breeders with no knowledge of the breed standard.
- Inexperienced “Qualified” Judges with little or no knowledge of the Breed Standard.
- Judging to “Show Ring Fashion Trends” which leads to breeding to achieve those trends.
- Champion Chasing (Mating too many to too few)
- Deliberately misinterpreting the breed standard to justify hounds who don't meet the breed standard and/or are not fit for purpose.

# In Conclusion

- The future is bright, we have excellent people in our breed who dedicate their efforts to the safeguarding of our breed and building on the work done by those who have gone before us.
- To Ireland and the Irish, the Irish Wolfhound is an integral part of our heritage, they are part of who we are as a people and a nation. It is for this reason that the Government of Ireland granted them protected heritage status. They feature on our currency and now on our passport.





Questions ?

