

Attachment 2

EIWC chairman's report for the years 2006 and 2007

Membership

The number of E.I.W.C. membership countries counts 15 different European national breed clubs plus England and Northern Ireland as associate members. The status quo has thus remained unchanged since our 2006 meeting. Sweden, who has never officially terminated their membership, has formed a new breed club and they are once more discussing the idea of "re-activating" their E.I.W.C. membership. We will be looking forward to their decision.

Three new countries are interested in joining the Federation, they are: Austria, Hungary and Estonia.

It is not possible to give an exact number of individuals, who are currently members of the E.I.W.C. through their breed club memberships, but according to our treasurer we are counting roughly 2750 persons.

The Board

Our President, Elizabeth Murphy stepped down following the AGM/ election in the Irish Wolfhound Club of Ireland, where a new president was elected. The E.I.W.C. presidency follows the presidency of the Irish Club. Our board has enjoyed working with Betty, who has been a central figure in the E.I.W.C. from the very beginning. We wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to Betty. Fortunately we are blessed with Kathleen Kelly as our new president, whom we are looking forward to working with. Welcome aboard Kathleen.

About the members of board in general one can clearly see that there are no "big egos" in constant need of confirmation. The different personalities somehow seem to compliment each other in a focused down to business sort of way.

For my own part I must say that it has been a great pleasure to work with the current members of the board, and I wish to thank you all for the constructive discussions we have had over the past two years.

Delegates

We acknowledge that our delegates are one of the important links from the board back to all the members. It should be pointed out here that it does not have to be a one way communication: The more interaction we have between members and board, the better our chances are of working for the breed and for our members. I wish to thank the delegates for their work.

Activities:

In 2006 we had the last Congress, board meeting and the show. This was hosted by the French Club. The event was extremely well organized, in beautiful surroundings and with an all time high number of (180?) dogs entered in the show. There will be much to live up to for those who follow.

Meetings:

The board is able to do most of our work via the internet, which we have made frequent use of in our dealings with various subjects. It has worked out well for us, and is a viable solution second best to the actual meetings. In a way there is even an advantage in having our cyber meetings, since this means having a full record of all dealings in writing.

The Magazine :

Carolyn Dean has created an outstanding publication, which continues to receive praise and awe all over the IW world so far. Many of the more suspicious observers have given in to subscribing. Carolyn is bringing the latest issue; number 5 to the congress. The magazine is still not carrying its own weight, but according to Carolyn it is her labour of love, so she will be happy on the day she can break even. We may have to consider various means of fundraising in support of her work.

It is my hope that the members will continue to support this magazine by subscribing, advertising and with written contributions. It is important that all the member countries try to submit bi-annual reports of their current club activities. This is a task for the delegates to undertake with a bit more vigour, than has been the case with many countries up until now. The idea of having a magazine is to connect the members, who are spread out over a vast geographical area.

Other publications:

We have decided to undertake the task of publishing a new, revised and expanded version of Lois Thomassons book: The Irish Wolfhound Odyssey. The work is in progress. Carolyn Dean will be responsible for design and lay out of the book, which promises well for the result.

The website:

We are very pleased and grateful to Melitta Kuhless, for her continued work as our webmaster.

The EIWC longevity/health database:

At our meeting in France, we had a presentation of the work with our longevity and health database. This is still a work in progress.

It is my sincere hope that the current trend, which can be seen world wide, towards breeding systematically for health and longevity, will continue to grow at the rate it is now. In the long run positive motivation, information and cooperation will prove to be a far more powerful tool towards betterment than the whip.

Planned activities for the next 2 years

One of the great responsibilities of the E.I.W.C. is to inform about the breed. This is best accomplished by connecting nations and enhancing increased communication flow in general. We also wish to provide information of a more specific nature, such as the publication of the afore mentioned book by Lois Thomasson – and hopefully other breed specific publications in the future.

The magazine is a continuous work which needs your continued support in order to survive.

We have briefly discussed the idea of creating various forms of fundraising for the E.I.W.C. activities. It does not take a rocket scientist to understand that activities are directly proportional with availability of funds.

The 2010 E.I.W.C. congress and show is proposed to be held in Denmark in connection with the World Dog Show. The two events will take place in the same weekend. This is done to enable exhibitors and Wolfhound enthusiasts to enjoy two truly major events in just one trip.

Pernille Monberg
Chairman E.I.W.C