



IRISH WOLFHOUND HEALTH GROUP

- Group formed in 2004
- Group comprised initially up to 5 representatives from each of the UK Clubs - the IW Club, IW Society & the IW Club of Northern Ireland - also, the Irish Wolfhound Club of Ireland (FCI).
- The purpose of the Group is to monitor and promote the health and welfare of the breed, to educate and inform, and to be a united breed voice in all matters relating to health issues.
- Shortly after formation the IWCI withdrew from the Group in order to look after health issues independently

IRISH WOLFHOUND HEALTH GROUP

CURRENT DELEGATES

- Chairman: Mr Tim Finney (IWCNI)
- Secretary: Ms Rebecca Peek (IWS)
- Treasurer: Mrs Jean Malley (IWC)
- Mr Noel Box (IWC)
- Mrs Miranda Brace (IWS)
- Ms Jo Braine (IWS)
- Mrs Marion Finney (IWCNI)
- Mrs Pat Pask (IWC)
- Mr Peter Pask (IWC)
- Ms Allys Simpson (IWC)
- Ms Jean Timmins (IWS)

IRISH WOLFHOUND HEALTH GROUP

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

Group meetings held twice yearly. Between times business conducted via countless emails!

- Heart testing
- Research support
- Publication of information guides
- Maintenance of database of breed diseases
- Liaising with Kennel Club (London)
- Health Seminars
- Website

IRISH WOLFHOUND HEALTH GROUP

➤ Heart Testing

- Heart testing has been carried out in the UK for the last 25 years, by Dr Serena Brownlie or other cardiologists approved by her. Since 1993, 1834 IWs have been tested, using stethoscope, ECG & ultrasound scan. Results all go back to Dr Brownlie to be recorded in a database.
- The benefits of heart testing are possible early detection of problems ,giving assurance of current heart health of breeding stock and providing data for research. To assist in the latter, we are currently looking for saliva samples from older dogs (over 8 years) who are heart-tested clear.

IRISH WOLFHOUND HEALTH GROUP

- Heart testing sessions run regionally in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and, in 2011, for the first time, in the southern Ireland
- Up to 15 dogs per day are tested.
- Cost is currently £40 per dog, except for super-veterans (over 8 years) who are subsidised by the whole cost, if they contribute DNA samples through cheek swabs to our research program. In 2011, 28 Super Veterans screened.
- Rebecca Peek is the main coordinator .
- Testing sessions are run at shows (there was one at last weekends IW Club Ch Show) and in private homes kindly offered by owner.
- The Group is now acquiring a mobile ultrasound machine, funded by the IW Club Health Fund and Sky

IRISH WOLFHOUND HEALTH GROUP

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

- Heart testing
- **Research support**
- Publication of information guides
- Maintenance of database of breed diseases
- Liaising with Kennel Club (London)
- Health Seminars
- Website

IRISH WOLFHOUND HEALTH GROUP

SOURCE & DESTINATION OF SAMPLES

Source	Destination	Research
“Livershunt” blood – pups	IDEXX Laboratory	Statistical incidence study
“Livershunt” cheek swabs – affected pups & parents	Dr Frank Steenbeck	Livershunt genetic research
“Livershunt” blood – pups – additional samples	AHT DNA Storage Bank	AHT Osteosarcoma Research Project Other Research
Heart testing sessions – Unaffected 8+ & affected younger - cheek swabs	Imperial Heart Research Project	Heart Disease
8+ years unaffected by Osteosarcoma – cheek swabs		AHT Osteosarcoma Research Project

IRISH WOLFHOUND HEALTH GROUP



IRISH WOLFHOUND LIVERSHUNT RESEARCH

The Irish Wolfhound Health Group has been approached by Mr Frank van Steenbeek, a PhD Research Student at the University Of Utrecht, who has received a grant for a genetic study on intrahepatic shunts in Irish wolfhounds.

He needs DNA samples from dogs who are either:

a) Affected puppies who have been operated on.

or

b) Sires or Dams who have produced a shunt puppy in a litter.

The Health Group would like to support him in this project by collecting DNA samples taken via cheek swab from any dogs fitting the criteria here in the UK.

Mr Van Steenbeek has confirmed that all contributions are **completely confidential** and the DNA material and information on the dogs will not be released to any third parties.

If you would be willing to contribute a cheek swab from your dog if they fit the criteria – please contact Jean Timmins on jean.timmins@btconnect.com and she will arrange for a swab kit to be sent out to you. Help with taking the swab can be arranged if needed.

IRISH WOLFHOUND HEALTH GROUP

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

- Heart testing
- Research support
- **Publication of information guides**
- Maintenance of database of breed diseases
- Liaising with Kennel Club (London)
- Health Seminars
- Website



Introducing your new Irish Wolfhound

**A Guide to help you care for your
Irish Wolfhound
Published by Irish Wolfhound Health
Group**

**On behalf of
Irish Wolfhound Club
Irish Wolfhound Society
Irish Wolfhound Club
of Northern Ireland**

www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk

On the 11th December 2004 representatives from these clubs held the inaugural meeting of the Irish Wolfhound Health Group. The purpose of the IWHG is to monitor and promote the health and welfare of the breed, and it is hoped, would have greater effectiveness through a single united organisation acting on behalf of all three clubs, than the individual clubs alone.

It was agreed that health issues would be the main concern, but that the group's remit should also extend to cover other issues that may affect the future welfare of the breed. This might include potential animal legislation emanating from the EU, The Animal Welfare Bill and other legislation which may have a negative impact on the breed, such as the Dangerous Dogs Act. Also, there is the necessity to inform and educate the public so as to maintain the current good reputation of the breed.

As part of the IWHG these three breed clubs have joined hands to produce this leaflet, to help you care for your new Irish Wolfhound throughout its life, to help you recognise when there may be a need for breeder advice and/or veterinary attention, together with hints on how to deal with some of the health issues which affect Wolfhounds.

Irish Wolfhound Health Group Website - www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk



Bloat (Gastric Dilatation Volvulus)

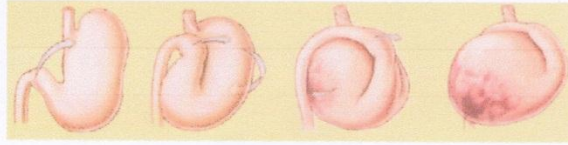
THIS IS AN EMERGENCY.

YOU MUST GET YOUR DOG TO THE VETS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Bloat is a very serious, life-threatening health risk for many dogs, especially deep chested breeds. Bloat can kill in less than an hour so recognizing the condition and getting your wolfhound to a Vet is extremely important.

Anatomy of Bloat

Bloat refers to two conditions. The first is gastric dilatation, in which the stomach distends with gas and fluid. The second is volvulus - or torsion, in which the distended stomach rotates. The spleen is attached to the wall of the stomach, and therefore rotates with the stomach. If not corrected quickly, the blood supply is cut off and the tissue of the stomach wall will die. Bloat develops suddenly, usually in a healthy active dog and in all circumstances the dog must be taken to the vet quickly.



Symptoms

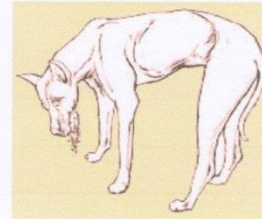
- Swelling of the abdomen (particularly on the left side) and tender.
- Restlessness and pacing, standing with head down.
- Un-productive vomiting may bring up foam but no food.
- Stomach sounds like a 'drum' when tapped
- Lack of normal 'gurgling' sounds from stomach
- Salivating
- Dark Red gums (pale in late stages)
- Anxiety
- Whining for no apparent reason

Possible Causes

- Exercising vigorously before or immediately after a meal.
- Rapid Eating - (can cause gulping of air).
- Drinking a large amount of water too quickly, (can cause gulping of air)
- Genetic pre-disposition
- Stresses such as travel, fear, bitches in season etc

Suggestions for Avoiding Bloat

- Don't feed after exercising - ideally let an hour pass before and after feeding.
- Don't let the dog gulp large amounts of water after exercising
- Consider splitting the daily feed over two meals
- Avoid stress
- If feeding a dry complete food, always ensure it does not swell when soaked - as it will do this in the stomach of the dog. Soak a small amount of the food to ascertain whether it will swell or simply soften.
- If your dog gulps his food, consider using a specially designed food bowl or placing a large stone in the centre of the feed bowl (to fill one quarter the area of the bowl) - this can slow the dogs eating down as he negotiates the stone.



Veterinary Care

If dilatation is the only symptom, the Vet may try to relieve the buildup of gas with a stomach tube inserted down the mouth and through the oesophagus into the stomach. Gas needs to be expelled plus some of the contents within the stomach. It is possible that relieving the trapped gas will suffice but if not, or if it is apparent that the gut has twisted, the dog is then prepared for surgical intervention to examine the abdominal organs to assess the damage and to also reposition the stomach. In many cases the spleen is seen to be enlarged and may need to be removed. The vet will attach the dog to a saline drip to reduce toxic shock and restore the electrolyte balance. Post-operative care is as crucial as the initial emergency surgical treatment and usually the dog requires intensive care for at least a few days but needs constant monitoring in the first 48 hours.

Shock and dehydration are very common post-operative complications which require careful experienced monitoring. On returning home the dog will need careful nursing and management of diet which will be advised upon by your vet. The majority of dogs having undergone surgery will recover fully in time.

There is a procedure called a Gastropexy whereby the stomach is stitched into place to prevent further rotations. You can talk to your vet about this procedure and they can decide whether it is viable to perform it during surgery or whether it would be in the dogs best interest to have this done as a preventative measure at a later date once it has recovered. Whilst a Gastropexy can prevent further twisting of the stomach, it does not prevent the dog from gassing if it is prone to this for some reason.



Guide to dealing with heart problems in your Irish Wolfhound

Irish wolfhounds have a high prevalence of cardiac dysfunction, some of which is inherited. This is why it is important to test regularly from the age of 2, or before being used for breeding. If you are aware of a heart condition **before** your dog shows symptoms, you are in the best possible position to preserve its quality of life.

The most common abnormality is Atrial Fibrillation (AF). Not all cases of atrial fibrillation will progress to Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM), but most will. Most wolfhounds with DCM will progress to Congestive Heart failure.

If your dog is diagnosed with heart disease, this does not necessarily mean that you are about to lose your wolfhound. As with humans, many dogs are able to live relatively happy and healthy lives despite their condition when early diagnosis occurs and proper treatment is administered.

Most of the treatment options available focus upon fixing irregular heartbeats, increasing the amount of blood that the heart pumps with each beat, and reducing the build up of fluid that this condition often causes in the lungs and abdomen.

Methods of heart testing

- **AUSCULTATION** – Listening to the heart with a stethoscope. This is where the murmurs and irregular heart rhythms can be detected.
- **ELECTROCARDIOGRAM (ECG)** – Small electrodes are attached to the dog, which record the electric waves generated during heart activities. (It is a painless procedure but the dogs are required to lie on their right/left side.) This gives the cardiologist more information on the electrical system of the heart, if they have a fast or slow heart rate and heart rhythm problems.
- **ECHOCARDIOGRAM (CARDIAC ULTRASOUND)** - This illustrates the anatomy of the heart, including the valves, chamber size, walls and thickness. With M-mode, the cardiologist is able to take measurements which can then be compared to the breed norm.

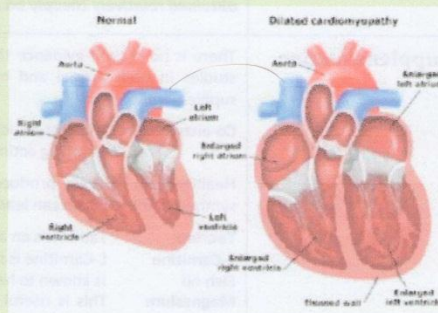
Any one method on its own does not guarantee that a dog is free of the condition, so a full screening is recommended. An annual test is also recommended and **required** if the dog/bitch is used for breeding.

Some of the heart problems associated with Wolfhounds

ATRIAL FIBRILLATION is a heart rhythm disturbance. This is where the top chambers of the heart are out of sync with the lower chambers, and therefore less efficient. Approximately 12% of wolfhounds have atrial fibrillation. They can be asymptomatic, with no obvious problems as long as their heart rate remains within normal 80-100 beats per minute, or at least below 140 beats per minute. Some wolfhounds can be asymptomatic for a number of years, and not need medication, but they will need regular monitoring. Some wolfhounds go on to develop Dilated Cardiomyopathy.

MURMUR is an abnormal heart sound produced when the blood flow into and/or out of the heart becomes turbulent. It is graded from 0 – 6 in intensity and is usually due to a leaky valve or abnormal blood vessel. It is not necessarily a cause for concern, and it can come and go, but it needs to be monitored as it might be a precursor to the start of a problem.

DILATED CARDIOMYOPATHY (DCM) is a progressive disease of the heart muscle. The heart is unable to contract normally and the muscle stretches, the walls of the heart become thinned and the heart gets bigger and less efficient. **Early diagnosis and medication can improve the condition greatly and improve the prognosis for survival.**



Canine Heart Disease is marked by a variety of symptoms which can include the following:

- Lack of appetite
 - Weight loss
 - Lack of energy
 - Pale gums
 - Non productive coughing
 - Fast and Irregular breathing –i.e. over 40 breaths per minute when at rest.
- Check your dog's breathing rate. It's best to do this while your dog is sleeping. The normal respiratory rate for dogs is 10 to 30 breaths per minute, although dogs that are panting during vigorous activity can breathe up to 200 pants per minute (that's why you should check for your dog's breathing when he is asleep).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased heart rate – it is useful to know what your dog’s normal resting heart rate is. The normal heart rate of a wolfhound is between 80 to 100 bpm. And if they are excited or exercising not more than 140 bpm for long periods of time. The best area of your dog’s body to check his heart rate is at the left side of his chest, at the spot where his elbow can touch if it is raised. Place your hand over this spot; if you have a stethoscope that will make it much easier for you. Count the number of beats his heart makes for 15 seconds, then multiply that number by 4 • Abdominal Swelling • Fainting
Congestive Heart Failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heart Failure is a consequence of underlying heart disease. • Heart Failure happens when the heart cannot pump enough blood around to meet the needs of the dog’s body, as the heart continues to work harder to pump blood, further damage can occur • Common symptom is fluid retention in the abdomen. • Urgent treatment and medication is required to remove fluid build up and regulate the heart. • Continued monitoring by veterinary surgeon is required.
Some of the drugs prescribed for heart conditions	<p>FRUSEMIDE – a diuretic which reduces the water retention in the body by increasing the production of urine.</p> <p>VETMEDIN – opens up the blood vessels as they leave the heart and so reduces the resistance to blood circulating around the body. This reduces the work that the heart has to do. At the same time it opens up the blood vessels that return blood to the heart, reducing pressure on the heart.</p> <p>FORTEKOR – an ACE-inhibitor which inhibits the hormones and compounds that constrict the blood vessels, making it easier for the heart to pump.</p> <p>LANOXIN (Digoxin) – helps the heart work better and it helps control the heart rate.</p> <p>DILTIAZEM – a calcium-channel blocker which works by relaxing the blood vessels so that the heart does not have to pump as hard. It also increases the supply of blood and oxygen to the heart.</p> <p>ATENOLOL – beta blocker which slows the heart rate and reduces the amount of blood the heart pumps.</p> <p><i>Many wolfhound owners have found the use of Vetmedin, supplied by your vet or on prescription for which some vets may charge a nominal fee, helps to prolong the quality of life for their dog, above all other heart medication. It is generally accepted well, and has, on occasions brought the enlarged heart measurements back to within normal range. This does not mean that the dog is ‘cured’ or that it was wrongly diagnosed, it just means that the medication has worked effectively. A large number of wolfhounds have responded well to Vetmedin, together with, if necessary, an ACE-inhibitor. Whilst many wolfhounds are insured, some aren’t, and the cost of medication has to be taken into consideration. If you aren’t insured, Vetmedin can be obtained relatively cheaply on line – 100 x 5mg tablets cost approximately £45 (Apr 2011)</i></p>
Supplementation	<p>There is no proven evidence that these supplements aid heart conditions but they are referenced in ongoing studies in both animal and human heart conditions. You should check with your Vet before giving any supplements.</p> <p>Co-enzyme Q10 Thought to increase energy production in the heart muscle, increasing the strength of the pumping action.</p> <p>Healthy dogs naturally produce Taurine and L-Carnitine required for heart function, but some are unable to synthesize these which can lead to a deficiency – supplementation may therefore help.</p> <p>Taurine Taurine is an amino acid required for the development and function of the myocardium.</p> <p>L-Carnitine L-Carnitine is required for the myocardial cells to produce energy and thus contract.</p> <p>Fish oil Is known to have a cardioprotective effect.</p> <p>Magnesium This is useful for a dog with Atrial Fibrillation who is NOT on medication as it is used for regulating heart rate. If the dog is on Lanoxin (Digoxin) do not give it.</p> <p>Vitamin E Thought by some to improve heart health.</p>
<p>The IWHG hold regional heart testing by veterinary cardiologists at greatly reduced rates: details can be found at: http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk Contact Rebecca Peek: milkwoodhounds@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01252 793257 text 07860 142867</p>	



Pneumonia in the Irish Wolfhound

Key Fact Guide

The Irish Wolfhound Health Group has put together this Guide to Pneumonia in the Irish Wolfhound in response to a growing number of misdiagnoses and misunderstanding of the condition in the breed.

In America the drug of choice for wolfhounds is Rocephin (ceftriaxone), a 3rd generation cephalosporin, which is not licensed in the UK. Excelen is the drug recommended by wolfhound people in the UK, who have had experience of pneumonia. Excelen is also a 3rd generation cephalosporin, available in the UK, licensed for pigs, but not licensed for dogs. To obtain it, a waiver needs to be signed by you.

Wolfhounds are unique in their presentation of pneumonia. They may have a normal temperature and their lungs may appear clear on x-rays.

There have been a number of cases of Vets misdiagnosing pneumonia as heart failure. If your wolfhound has clear lungs, does not have a raised temperature, but does have atrial fibrillation, some Vets will put the difficulty in breathing down to heart failure, and treat that, not the pneumonia.

Recognizing pneumonia

- Sudden onset.
- Difficulties in breathing.
- Head lowered and stretched forward level with the back, neck extended to expand the airway as much as possible.
- Dog reluctant/unable to lie on its side.
- Dog may or may not be coughing
- Temperature may be very high – but a normal temperature does not necessarily preclude a diagnosis of pneumonia.
- Their lungs may appear clear on x-ray.
- There have been cases of pneumonia in wolfhounds following a lungworm infection. (Lung worm is no longer restricted to the south of England, and is present in most areas)

Treating pneumonia

- **URGENTLY-** if there is any doubt, treat with the antibiotics first, and argue later – do not take a wait and see attitude.
- Most Vets will want to administer an antibiotic intravenously, as it is important to hit it hard and fast.
- Fluids intravenously should be considered – but care should be taken if your wolfhound has a heart condition.
- Excelen is the drug recommended by wolfhound people who have had experience of pneumonia in the UK.
- Other antibiotics have been used – Ceporex, Baytril and Antirobe, Cefuroxime, Zithromax, Marbofloxacin and Trimethoprim sulfa, but there is a better chance of preventing a recurrence with Excelen.
- **Drug treatment needs to continue for at least 4 weeks.**
- Steam and coupage can assist in moving the congestion from the lungs
- If your wolfhound has had pneumonia, it is more likely to have it again.

Convincing/alerting Vets

- You need to have a conversation about pneumonia with your Vet, **before it happens.**



Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA)

What is PRA?

Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA) is an inherited disease of the retina, in which the eyes are genetically programmed to go blind. It has been termed 'night blindness' because this is the first thing that happens – the dogs cannot see at night. In latter stages of the disease the dogs daytime vision will deteriorate. PRA occurs in both eyes simultaneously and is non-painful. In Irish Wolfhounds the condition manifests when the dog is an adult.

This is one of the breed's success stories as the incidence in the breed is very low and we have not had a case for several years now, due to the vigilance and sharing of information within the breed. It is not only because people have tested for it.

Mode of Inheritance

In Irish Wolfhounds this is an autosomal recessive gene, this means that both parents of an affected puppy have to carry the faulty gene. It is considered a rare condition in this breed, and fortunately carriers for PRA are known and care can be taken to avoid putting carriers together.

While there have been genetic tests developed for many other breeds, there has yet to be a test developed for the Irish Wolfhound. For a more in depth article discussing PRA in Wolfhounds follow this link www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/pr2.html and a list of known carriers can be found on the IW Health Group website www.iwhealthgroup.org. Breeders must be aware that they will have to research well beyond a five generation pedigree to establish whether these dogs appear within it.

Testing for PRA

The test that is available only tells you if a dog is affected or not, but cannot identify carrier status, so it cannot prevent you from possibly producing it. If a breeder knows that they have carrier lines in their pedigree then they would be advised to test their stock before breeding at an earlier age as the disease might not have shown up by this stage. However, unless you are aware of the carrier lines, this test would not prevent you possibly breeding with a carrier. As there are new people coming into the breed all the time and also those carrier lines disappearing off the 5 generation pedigree, it would be worthwhile keeping PRA at the forefront of our minds as a reminder to check our pedigrees thoroughly before going ahead.

Breeding with Carriers

If a carrier for PRA appears on one side of the pedigree, none of the puppies will be affected – but some will have inherited the gene from the carrier parent, although it is not possible to establish which of the dogs these will be. A list of known carriers of the PRA gene can be found on the Irish Wolfhound Health Group Website - www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/pr2

In a breed with a small gene pool breeding with carriers is often a necessity, but they must be bred to known clear lines. With each generation the risk of the faulty gene being passed forward decreases exponentially until six generations of breeding in this manner produces a risk of 1/132. At this point the known carrier line can be considered in the same way as a clear line and the risk of producing a PRA affected puppy is negligible. However, recessive genes can never be regarded as completely bred out.

It is possible to get a Risk Analysis for PRA prior to breeding a litter by applying by email to Ann Janis email: iwrisk@yahoo.com citing who the prospective Sire and Dam will be, breeders are encouraged to use this facility. This will give you a percentage risk of whether or not PRA might result from this combination. If you are not sure, don't take chances, ask someone more experienced. Although there have been no cases for several years now, it could still reappear.

IRISH WOLFHOUND HEALTH GROUP

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

- Heart testing
- Research support
- Publication of information guides
- **Maintenance of database of breed diseases**
 - **Jean Timmins. Recording details of current & any suspected new diseases**
- Liaising with Kennel Club (London)
- Health Seminars
- Website

IRISH WOLFHOUND HEALTH GROUP

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

- Heart testing
- Research support
- Publication of information guides
- Maintenance of database of breed diseases
- **Liaising with Kennel Club (London)**
- Health Seminars
- Website

IRISH WOLFHOUND HEALTH GROUP

- **Liaising with Kennel Club (London)**
 - **Kennel Club Assured Breeders Scheme** - Group advises on minimum criteria for membership, in line with breed's own Code of Conduct, which is more stringent. KC now includes as strong recommendations Livershunt testing, breeding limits for bitches and hounds used for breeding to be heart tested annually in scheme approved by the IW clubs.
 - **KC/BVA Proposed Breed Heart Testing Scheme** – possibly our own scheme will get official recognition and be adopted by the KC. Test results will likely be published, and entered in the KC database for use in their Breed Mate scheme

IRISH WOLFHOUND HEALTH GROUP

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

- Heart testing
- Research support
- Publication of information guides
- Maintenance of database of breed diseases
- Liaising with Kennel Club (London)
- **Health Seminars**
 - First held in Sept 2011. Speakers: Dr Simon Swift (Heart Disease in Iws), Mr Keith Shea (AI & Canine Fertility) and Prof Jeff Sampson (KCs Assured Breeders Scheme and Breed Mate Scheme). Good attendance - to be repeated
- Website

IRISH WOLFHOUND HEALTH GROUP

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

- Heart testing
- Research support
- Publication of information guides
- Maintenance of database of breed diseases
- Liaising with Kennel Club (London)
- Health Seminars
- **Website**
 - **Maintained by Ann Vaudin – current news – multiple downloads available including information guides.**

IRISH WOLFHOUND HEALTH GROUP

QUESTION:

“WHAT ONE THING WOULD IMPROVE
THE WELL-BEING OF THE IRISH
WOLFHOUND?”

ANSWER:

“HEALTH SURVEILLANCE”

SURVEY OF IW HEALTH TESTING (NOV 2011) – IAN FINNEY

THE QUESTIONS –

- Heart testing
 - Is it optional or compulsory for IWs before they can be bred
 - If it is compulsory, does your breed club or your kennel club enforce this requirement
- Liver shunt (PSS)
 - Is it optional or compulsory for IW puppies bred
 - If it is compulsory, does your breed club or your kennel club enforce this requirement
- Other
 - Does your country have any other optional or compulsory breed-specific health requirements for IWs

SURVEY OF IW HEALTH TESTING (NOV 2011) – IAN FINNEY

Survey of Health Testing in Irish Wolfhounds – Summary (November 2011)				
	Heart testing	Liver shunt	Hip/Elbow Dysplasia	Notes
Australia	Optional	Club compulsory		
Belgium	Club compulsory	Club compulsory	Optional	
Croatia	Optional	Optional	Hips compulsory	
Czech Republic	Optional	Optional	Optional	Scheme to decrease inbreeding %, No more than 2 repeat matings optional DNA profiling
Denmark	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended	Optional	Club strongly recommends
Estonia	Optional	Optional	Optional	All optional but 100% compliance by breeders for all tests
Finland	Full results published	Full results published	Full results published	Eye examination for PRA
France	Full results published	Full results published	Optional	
Germany	Club compulsory	Strongly recommended	Special conditions	
Hungary	Optional	Optional	Optional	Pre-breeding examination by a judge
Ireland	Optional	Recommended	Optional	
Italy	Optional	Optional	Optional	Liver shunt done by nearly all breeders
Latvia	KC compulsory	KC compulsory	Special conditions	Test for presence of cancer cells
Luxembourg	Optional	Optional	Optional	Just one breeder. Carries out all tests.
Poland	Optional	Optional	Optional	Minimum grading from show required
Netherlands	KC compulsory	KC compulsory	Optional	
Norway	Optional	Club compulsory	Club compulsory	
Slovakia	Club compulsory	Optional	Optional	Teeth, especially narrow underjaws, checked before breeding
Spain	Optional	Optional	Optional	No IW or Sighthound club
Sweden	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended	Optional	Scheme to decrease inbreeding %, narrow underjaws warned of
Switzerland	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended	Optional	Very broad range of measures
UK	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended	Optional	Strongly recommended in single Code of Ethics shared by the three UK clubs
USA (IWCA)	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended: Eyes - Cerf testing

SURVEY OF IW HEALTH TESTING (NOV 2011) – IAN FINNEY

- **SOME CONCLUSIONS**

- Responses have been almost 100%
- Varying degrees of compulsion used, ranging from mandatory testing to optional.
- Some countries with larger populations of Wolfhounds, including Australia, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Norway & Slovakia, make testing for one or more of the diseases mandatory - the instruction coming either from their national kennel club or from the breed club.
- Only a little less compelling are France and Finland, who publish all results of testing, thereby effectively running a "Name and Shame" operation.
- The breed clubs in Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK strongly recommend that breeders test, and by all accounts the response seems to be good in these countries.
- The remaining countries are either very small in Wolfhound numbers or have yet to confront the breed's health issues in an organised way.

EIWC Coordination?

- As there are different levels of compulsion throughout the world, how about increasing cooperation between countries, instead of the individual approach?
- An EIWC Health Subcommittee to organise a base guideline which all clubs adhere to?
- Use the example of the UK IWHG to create an European or even World body

EIWC Coordination?

- To not make compulsory perhaps, but make it so that all Clubs don't just recommend, but actually organise events for testing
- To publish centrally as many results as possible
- One clear body that universities can work with for the development of genetic tests, ie. with Uppsala and Utrecht

PSS Research in Utrecht

- “Unravelling the Genetic Background of Intrahepatic Portosystemic Shunt in Irish Wolfhounds”
 - Dr Peter AJ Leegwater, PhD