

The IRISH Wolfhound



Congratulations on your new Irish Wolfhound! To help you enjoy your IW and to promote the well-being of the breed, the Irish Wolfhound Club of America would like to provide you with some basic information.



Fence & Safety

*The Instinct to Chase Is Still Strong,
So a Fence Is Important!*

The Irish Wolfhound is an ancient breed of the greyhound family. He was used to hunt wolves and elk and to accompany Irish nobles to war. The instincts originally developed for the chase are still very much a part of the modern hounds.

Therefore, for their own protection and to maintain good relations with your neighbors, it is important that they not



be allowed to roam freely. A conventional wood or wire fenced yard is essential. Breeders should insist on it. If you don't have a fence, you'll need to be with your puppy every time he goes outside. This can be difficult in a busy household. Puppies can be very destructive when confined to the house, which argues even more strongly for a fenced area.



Your Breeder

*Your Puppy's Breeder
Is a Valuable Source of Information*

Besides adequate exercise, your Irish Wolfhound will need professional veterinary care, vaccinations, good quality food and basic training and socializing. The growth patterns, nutritional needs and treatment for health problems are not the same for a giant breed as for small dogs. Reputable and conscientious breeders are committed to their puppies for life, and should be willing to help you with advice and support for any problems or questions you may have.

If for some reason you lose touch with your IW's breeder, or you simply want to find others near you who share your interest in IWs, the IWCA can provide you with names of knowledgeable owners in your part of the country. Educational materials are available through the club and in book stores. Some of the better resource materials are listed on the back of this brochure. The club magazine, *Harp and Hound*, is available through membership in the club.



Breeding

To Breed or Not To Breed. . .

The decision to breed your Irish Wolfhound should not be taken lightly. You should not even consider producing a litter of puppies unless you are prepared to devote the time, energy and funds to give them a good start in life and to keep every puppy until a suitable home can be found. The expense of producing and raising a litter can be quite large and proper homes for IWs are not always easy to find. Neutering your IW is a simple and relatively safe alternative that has many health benefits as well. If you decide to take on the commitment of breeding your IW, the IWCA urges you to proceed responsibly. Like every AKC-registered breed, Irish Wolfhounds have an approved standard that describes a model of how the ideal IW should look, move and behave.

Responsible breeders strive to produce hounds which conform to this standard. They will not breed animals with serious deviations from it, and certainly not breed any IWs with serious health problems or known genetic defects. They carefully screen potential homes, help educate new owners, and bear lifelong responsibility for the puppies they produce.

If for any reason the owners cannot keep the puppy, responsible breeders either take the puppy back or provide help in locating a new and suitable home, regardless of the age of the hound.

Unfortunately, these ideals are not always adhered to. The IWCA has an active network of rescue volunteers who help place those needing a new home and rescue abandoned or abused dogs. Visit:

www.iwclubofamerica.org

Activities & Training

A Comfortable Companion & Good Citizen

Irish Wolfhounds are eligible to participate in a wide variety of AKC-sanctioned activities. Conformation showing is open only to non-neutered dogs (except the veteran's class at independent specialties) and measures how closely an IW conforms to the official AKC breed standard.

Neutered dogs can participate in obedience competitions, lure coursing, tracking, rally, agility and junior showmanship

(for youngsters between the ages of 10 and 18). Canine Good Citizen® is another activity you and your dog can participate in to demonstrate your dog's good behavior.

Not all hounds do well in every one of these events, but if you can find one that both you and the dog enjoy, it can provide you with many hours of rewarding companionship. Of course, even though many IWs don't excel at the precision exercises necessary for obedience competition, you'll need to teach your hound manners and enough obedience commands to make him or her a comfortable companion and good citizen.

Resources

Copies of the breed standard and other informational materials, breed contacts, membership applications, rescue assistance and information may all be obtained from The Irish Wolfhound Club of America. Some of the most popular items are:

Harp and Hound, quarterly publication of the IWCA, available through membership only.

The New Complete Irish Wolfhound, by Joel Samaha, at bookstores and from Howell Book Company.

Playtraining Your Dog, by Patricia Gail Burnham, at bookstores and from St. Martin's Press.

What All Good Dogs Should Know, by Volhard & Bartlett, at bookstores and from Howell Book Company.

The Magnificent Irish Wolfhound, by Mary McBryde.

The Irish Wolfhound Guide, by Alfred de Quoy.

A more comprehensive list may be found on the IWCA website. Please visit our website at:

www.iwclubofamerica.org

