

Midwest Wolfhound

A quarterly newsletter for and about Irish wolfhounds and their people.

Volume XXXXII Issue Spring, 2015

**Great Lakes Irish Wolfhound Association
Agility Demo and Practice
Saturday, June 13th at 11 AM**



GLIWA OFFICERS 2014/15

PRESIDENT

Michael Cherry

VICE-PRESIDENT

Maria Lubera

TREASURER

Joe Mahoney

SECRETARY

Mike Kelly

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Debbie Green

Doug Morrison

Scott Mortenson

Pat Powers

GLIWA INFORMATION

For address or email changes, please

Or gliwa@lycos.com

Or mail to:

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Batavia, IL 60510

Great Lakes Irish Wolfhound Assn

MidWest Wolfhound™

Pat Powers, Editor

256 Kinkaid Ct

Des Plaines, IL 60016

treanaiw@yahoo.com

President's report:

Thank you for giving me the honor of serving as President of the Great Lakes Irish Wolfhound Association

How did I get here and where do we want to go?

My story: In 1984, my then fiancé and now wife Kim Oliver told me that she always wanted an Irish

wolfhound. Knowing little about pure bred dogs, let alone IWs, I bought a Dog Fancier's magazine at the newsstand in LA (yes it was that long ago!), found

an ad for a wolfhound at Sandstorm Kennels (Linda Rose Breidenstein), traveled to visit there and wound up with our first wolfhound, Erin Deoch

Laidler CD. He proceeded to steal our hearts and change our lives, and from then on, no other breed spoke to us quite the way that Wolfhounds did.

From that single introduction, we, like so many other fanciers of the breed, loved their calm, yet noble nature, their knowing gaze and their capacity

to love and be loved. Since then, we've shared our home with eleven hounds, all with unique

personalities and from diverse bloodlines, but all universally special to us and part of our family.

Following "Doc", we lived with, from the west coast, 1985 CH. Mick (Susan Miecielica & Mark Miecielica),

1986 Sunstag Murphy's Law (Dixie Hirsch), to the midwest, 1989 Berwyck's Libera (Gretchen

Bernardi), 1989 Stoneybrook Mercato O'Harmony (Lynn M Simon & Judith A Simon), 1995

Stoneybrook Collin O'Harmony, 1995 Stoneybrook Coleen O'Harmony, 2000 Bailey (also from

Stoneybrook lines).

Today we have three hounds living with us: 2006

Harmony's Loki Of GLIWA (rescue), 2009

Stoneybrook Odin Of Harmony, and now 2014 Freya (Ulster Celtic Wish O'Harmony, Karen Straghan).

Together, we enjoy everything we can with them,

MIDWEST WOLFHOUND™

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from confirmation, lure coursing, skijoring, pet therapy, like hospice visits and reading programs with children, and now (fingers crossed!) we hope to start agility training with Freya
 I have not bred hounds as is true of many of us in GLIWA, but we all could not live without the fruits of their labors- our wolfhounds. The internet is not a substitute for knowledge and experience. We seek expert associations and persons to help us, which is why I value the society and community of GLIWA so much. You've come to the right place for wolfhound-learning, be it regarding health, exercise, fun, or just generally the experience of living with them. With that in mind, please join us and our activities and seek our breeder members for advice, learn from members accomplished in all the varied activities, and also enjoy the companionship of us ordinary wolfhound guardians. I can guarantee that you will find many opinions but only one goal: Learning to better live and love with our wolfhounds.

SEE YOU AT OUR GLIWA SPRING ACTIVITY--THE AGILITY DEMO ON JUNE 13!)

Mike Cherry



Great Lakes Irish Wolfhound Association Board meeting Saturday, November 15, 2014

Maria Lubera, Vice President called the meeting to order at 11:51 a.m.

Board Members present: Maria Lubera, Joe Mahoney, Debbie Habian, Mike Cherry, Doug Morrison, Debbie Greene, Bill Hurless, Pat Powers

Board Members absent: Jane Brown, M.B. Kinsella-Topping

Guests present: Claire Morrison, Madeleine Mahoney, Brian Campbell, Mike Kelly
 Reading of the Minutes

Motion made and approved to accept 8/17/14 meeting minutes as read

Reports

President: No report

Vice President: No report

Secretary: No report

Treasurer: - Compiled a binder of Midwest Wolfhound 1996 – current. Activities chair will retain for reference

- Compiled a binder of Rescue Reports 1996 – current. Rescue chair will retain for reference

- Reported \$500 donation made by GLIWA to Texas 72

- Motion made and approved to accept Treasurer's report

- Detailed Treasurer's report available upon request

Activities: - Mike Cherry requested Claire save previous contacts from festivals

Discussion re speakers on therapy similar to lure coursing fanatics, combining therapy seminar with lure coursing at next year's picnic

Upcoming: Annual Meeting at Rockwood Tap, Sat., February 7, 2015

Publications: No report

Rescue: No report

Old Business

- Annual dinner: Speaker Melanie Mercer; menu same as last year, different dessert

- Motion made and approved to pay for Mel Mercer's dinner at annual meeting and travel expenses not to exceed \$500

- 2015 spring match or lure coursing fun day:
Debbie Greene needs firm date to reserve
Pilcher Park; Mike Cherry and Debbie Greene
to work out date and details of LGRA

versus structure seminar, and due to time
constraints, will e-mail Board details

- Jane Brown and Mike Philpott are GLIWA
website administrators

- Nominating Committee's 2015 Board slate
presented as below:

President: Mike Cherry

Vice President: Maria Lubera

Secretary: Mike Kelly

Treasurer: Joe Mahoney

Directors for new 2-yr term: Scott Mortenson,
Doug Morrison

Directors finishing 2-yr term: Bill Hurless,
Debbie Greene, Pat Powers

Old Business continued

- Debbie Greene reported on investigation into
setting up PayPal account for GLIWA
for dues, dinner fees, merchandising.

Discussion had on standard account, no fees
for selling, setting up separate business
account, preventing hacking. Maria Lubera to
check with IWCA how their PayPal account
works

- Motion made and approved to set up PayPal
account for GLIWA

- Maria Lubera appointed Joe Mahoney, Debbie
Greene and Mike Philpott to work
together on setting up PayPal account

New Business

- Motion made and approved to donate
additional \$500 to Texas 72

- Discussion on additional donation to Texas
72; Maria will get current figures on need

- Discussed and agreed to add blurb on Annual
Meeting invite for Texas 72 donations

- Next board meeting at Annual Meeting
Saturday, January 7th, 2014

- Motion made and approved for adjournment at
12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Debbie Habian, Secretary

**Great Lakes Irish Wolfhound Association
Annual Members meeting of February 7,
2015**

Call to order

Jane Brown, President called to order annual
meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Board Members present: Jane Brown, Maria
Lubera, Doug Morrison, Joe Mahoney, Debbie
Habian, Joe Mahoney, Bill Hurless, Debbie
Greene

Absent: Pat Powers, M.B. Kinsella-Topping

President's Report

The main business of this meeting is the
election of board members and officers. No
other business requiring a vote of the
membership has been put forward and motion
was made and approved for all business to be
tabled until next regular meeting, TBA

The below printed slate of candidates was
elected by consensus as no nomination by
petition for any office or directorship was filed
as per article VII, section 6 of the by-laws.

President – Mike Cherry

Vice President – Maria Lubera

Secretary – Mike Kelly

Treasurer – Joe Mahoney

Director (2 yr term) – Scott Mortenson

Director (2 yr term) – Doug Morrison

Following completing original 2 yr term, not up
for re-election

Director – Debbie Greene

Director – Bill Hurless

Director – Pat Powers

- Motion made and approved via e-mail on
1/26/15 to pay for Ann Sury's dinner
at annual meeting

- Mel Mercer and Ann Sury, guest speakers for
annual meeting

- Mike Cherry thanked all outgoing board
members for their service

- Motion made and approved for meeting
adjournment at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Habian, Secretary

Calendar of Events 2015



Please check our website www.gliwa.org for detailed information or changes

May 23, 24, 25 Memorial Weekend Gaelic Park Irish Fest 2-6 PM

Come for one, two or all three days.
Everyone enjoys meeting our wolfhounds and asking questions.

Location; Gaelic Park, 6119 W. 147th St. Oak Forest, IL.

They would like us to park in the handicap lot (paved lot); it is directly in front of the Gaelic Park main building and immediately adjacent to the permanent Gaelic Park sign. Two people will be given free admission for each hound.

http://www.chicagogaelpark.org/Irish_Fest.htm

May 25, 2015 - May 28, 2015 Irish Wolfhound Club of America – 86th National Specialty Island Grove Regional Park, Greeley, CO Judge~ Gretchen Bernardi, Berwyck For more information; <http://www.iwclubofamerica.org/index.htm>

June 13th Agility demo and practice 11 AM -1 PM

Come join us for a fun day with your wolfhound.

David and Risha Berzins, who are very active with their wolfhounds in agility, will start the day with a talk and demonstration. Then, with some guidance,, we and our dogs will have an opportunity to go through the course. Following the seminar, we will have lunch with the entrée provided by GLIWA. You are welcome to bring a side dish or dessert. To keep it organized, if your last name begins with the letters from A-M bring a side dish, N-Z bring a dessert.

For those that are not interested in doing agility you are still welcome to join us.

There is no charge for members to attend and a \$5 fee for non-members.

It will be held at Leslye Sandberg's home; 20884 N Exmoor, Barrington, IL. 60010

Bring x-pens if you have them and a lawn chair. Water is available and there is some shade. No flexi leads, please.

There will be a GLIWA board meeting immediately after the event. Anyone who would like to stay is invited.

Please respond to Michael S. Cherry Michaelcherry1704@comcast.net; or Claire Morrison morrison-iw@att.net

So we have a good idea how many to expect for lunch.

June 20 Scottish Festival and Highland Games Anytime between 8-4

Hamilton Lakes, Itasca. Times are anytime between 8-4pm.

The Midwest's premier showcase for Scottish arts and Culture. Come out and spend the day with your wolfhound. The Irish wolfhound fans will be out in full force asking you every question there is to know about our wonderful breed. If possible please bring some kind of shade for your dog(s). Please contact Mike Cherry so that he can set up a schedule

Cambridge, MN

Northstar Irish Wolfhound Club - Specialty
Jun 20, 2015

**July 18th, 19th
Irish American Heritage Center Irish Fest,
Chicago, IL
2-6 PM**

This is a two day festival, come for one or both days. We will set up under on the southwest corner of the festival under the trees. Water will be available for the dogs, bring your own lawn chairs.
Located at 4626 North Knox, Chicago, IL.

Lompoc, CA

Irish Wolfhound Association of the West Coast -
Back to Back Specialty
Jul 23, 2015 - Jul 24, 2015

Boxborough, MA

Irish Wolfhound Association of New England -
Specialty
Jul 26, 2015 - Jul 27, 2015

Auburn, WA

Irish Wolfhound Club of Puget Sound - Specialty
Jul 31, 2015

West Dundee

Fox Valley Irish Fest
First Saturday of August 2015

Peoria

Peoria's Erin Feis
Third Weekend in August

Joliet

Will County Irish Fest
First Weekend in September 2015

Greeley, Colorado

Rocky Mountain Irish Wolfhound Association –
Specialty - Sep 04, 2015

Southern Illinois (SIUC)

Southern Illinois Irish Festival
Third Weekend in September

Mohnton, PA

Irish Wolfhound Association of the Delaware
Valley - Specialty
Oct 03, 2015 - Oct 05, 2015

Petaluma, CA

Northern California Irish Wolfhound Club –
Back to Back Specialty
Oct 09, 2015 - Oct 11, 2015

Locust Grove Specialty Match
Hosted by Robert and Gretchen Bernardi
Edwardsville, IL

October ?

GLIWA Annual Fall Picnic

**Pilcher Park, 2501 Highland Park Drive, Joliet,
Illinois 60432.**

Behind the Nature Center building.
Always a fun time with good friends, good food,
games and wolfhounds

Matamoras, PA
Irish Wolfhound Association of the Garden
State - Specialty
Oct 25, 2015 - Oct 26, 2015

**St Patricks Parade, Manhattan, Il
March 7, 2015**





THE TEXAS 72

By Mike Kelly

During the evening of February 7th, 2015, after another bitterly cold, blustery day in a seemingly endless Chicago winter, GLIWA members attending the Annual GLIWA Membership Dinner were transported to sunny, warm Houston, Texas by Dr. Melanie Mercer's retelling of the travails of the Texas 72. The story told was one of perseverance, courage, and fortitude-- by both canine and human--and was alternately sad and uplifting with the promise of forging strong bonds between agencies charged with the protection of animals and organized, dedicated rescue groups.

Although known as the Texas 72, Dr. Mercer indicated more than 72 Irish wolfhounds were rescued in late September 2014. With photographs and video, Dr. Mercer revealed the deplorable conditions these dogs had endured. Through a complex set of negotiations the hounds were released from the Houston Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) to the South Central Irish Wolfhound Club. The SPCA recognized the advantages of entrusting the dogs to a group dedicated to the protection, welfare and guardianship of the breed. During the presentation by Dr. Mercer and Ms. Ann Sury, Rescue Chair, occasional gasps were to be heard from the GLIWA audience members, and looking around the room it was easy to spot people shaking their heads in disbelief and sadness. Video shot at the SPCA kennel facilities showed row upon row of giant sized dog crates with wolfhounds in various states of health. Some were matted, most were underweight, some were clearly "broken", and all seemingly had never been handled.

The South Central Irish Wolfhound Club rescue group rallied to the cause. The community through efforts big and small, assessed every hound, and transported the dogs, one by one, sometimes having to lift and carry them to vehicles. Although Dr. Mercer served as the veterinary coordinator for the effort, she stressed that unnamed members of the South Central club lent pieces of their hearts, themselves, and their time to this monumental, unprecedented rescue. Demonstrating her enduring love of her breed, Dr. Mercer spaying and neutering and 2, as she called hound assessments. fall 2014, at the time of meeting, the efforts Mercer continues to may have been so incapable of finding Rose (a rehabilitation Stannas (a work in of the individual hound wrote in a recent that they are aggressive unhappy. It's just that good relationship with humans and don't know how to accept affection. They are completely happy living in a group of dogs but may never really be the happy pets they were meant to be." Through the video and pictures, and the stories she told, Dr. Mercer conveyed her remarkable talent for comprehending how best to work with dogs.



profession, and this recounted the marathon sessions (spay-a-thons 1 them), and individual Although beginning in the GLIWA membership were continuing. Dr. house several dogs who broken they may be forever homes. Autumn success story) and progress), were several stories she told. As she Facebook post, "It's not or depressed or they have never had a

In addition to the positive relationship forged between the local SPCA and the club, another favorable by-product of the rescue effort will be nationwide. There will be an effort to streamline and harmonize foster/adoption applications for Irish Wolfhound member clubs of the IWCA. Perhaps even more promising, though, is an approach to formalize and develop a foster support system to include a mentor program to pair families with rescued hounds with a mentor, who would be a designated contact individual available by telephone or email to answer questions, discuss specific challenges or issues for the newly adopted wolfhound. Additionally, new foster families would be provided support through social media like Facebook, and printed materials with describing available resources for the special needs of these much beloved hounds. GLIWA members engaged Dr. Mercer during the presentation, and afterwards with additional questions, ways to help, etc. At the time of the member dinner, GLIWA had donated more than \$500 to the rescue effort. GLIWA members, Irish

Wolfhound fanciers, owners, and indeed, all dog enthusiasts owe great thanks to Dr. Mercer and Ms. Ann Sury for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to overseeing this project.



The Texas 72 by Dr.Mel Mercer

In January, it was my pleasure to update the members of GLIWA on the details of the Texas IW rescue situation. In September of 2014, reports surfaced of 72 Irish Wolfhounds among the 104 animals confiscated by the Galveston County Sheriff's Department near Houston, Texas. After legal proceedings, these animals were turned over to the Houston SPCA, and the wolfhounds were finally released to the IWCA and their representatives from the North Texas Irish Wolfhound Club..

It turned out that there were 75 Irish wolfhounds or wolfhound crosses ranging in age from 12 weeks to

an estimated 5 or 6 years. The staff of the SPCA vaccinated and performed heartworm tests as the dogs were being transferred. The SPCA was indispensable in this rescue endeavor and we could not have managed to handle this transfer without them.

A large number of these dogs were infected with heartworms and other parasites, had skin infections and matted coats, chronic ear infections, upper respiratory infections, and were malnourished. A few had more serious conditions, including cancer, heart disease, liver shunts, and blood clotting disorders. And there were even a few pregnancies, though this was difficult to diagnose due to their overall condition.

But our single greatest challenge in the processing and placement of these dogs was their lack of socialization and limited human contact. Many of these dogs exhibited nearly feral behavior and were very far from the typical dog handled by regional rescue organizations. This is an ongoing process and some of these dogs may never be placed into "normal" home environments.

The IW community, both nationally and internationally, came together in an unprecedented fashion and has donated tens of thousands of dollars through the IW Foundation to care for and rehabilitate these poor souls. Countless volunteers groomed and interacted with the dogs while there were in a kennel waiting for transport, moved the dogs to different regions of the country, and opened their homes and hearts to attempt to give them the type of home that is their birthright. A very small number of the most emotionally damaged dogs are still waiting for their more permanent homes, but I am hopeful they will eventually be able to enjoy a more normal life. Photos by Dr Mercer



Decatur St Patricks Parade



Dublin, Ohio St Patricks Parade



Cleveland, Ohio St Patricks Parade



Oshkosh St Patricks Parade



Photos by Claire Morrison, Helen Philpott, Marcia Kelly, Brendan Brannigan, Elaine Covert, Bill Hurless

GLIWA BRAGS

Grand CH Caraglen Emmett of Avalon. Finished on Feb 28, 2015 bred by Bev and Sue Stobart and Christine Krowzack. Owned and Adored by Courtney and Ryan Smith. CH Caraglen Berwyck True Lies x Ch Slaine Caraglen True Lies.



GENTLE WHEN STROKED ~ FIERCE WHEN PROVOKED

**Great Lakes Irish Wolfhound Association
invites you to an Agility Demo and Practice
Jumps, Tunnels and Weaves
Saturday, June 13th at 11 AM**

Come join us for a fun day with your wolfhound.



David and Risha Berzins, who are very active with their wolfhounds in agility, will start the day with a talk and demonstration. Then, with some guidance,, we and our dogs will have an opportunity to go through the course

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There will be a GLIWA board meeting immediately after the event. Anyone who would like to stay is invited.

Please respond to Michael S. Cherry Michaelcherry1704@comcast.net; or
Claire Morrison <morrison-iw@att.net>

This way we have a good idea how many to expect for lunch.

Photo by Risha Cupit Berzins

Naperville St Patricks Parade





South Side St Patricks Parade



Canine Influenza: Pet Owners' Guide American Veterinary Medical Association

Canine influenza (CI, or dog flu) in the U.S. is caused by the canine influenza virus (CIV), an influenza A virus. It is highly contagious and easily spread from infected dogs to other dogs through direct contact, nasal secretions (through coughing and sneezing), contaminated objects (kennel surfaces, food and water bowls, collars and leashes), and by people moving between infected and uninfected dogs. Dogs of any breed, age, sex or health status are at risk of infection when exposed to the virus.

Unlike seasonal flu in people, canine influenza can occur year round. So far, there is no evidence that canine influenza infects people. However, it does appear that at least some strains of the disease can infect cats.

Canine influenza symptoms and diagnosis

Greyhound resting on a blanket CIV infection resembles canine infectious tracheobronchitis ("kennel cough"). The illness may be mild or severe, and infected dogs develop a persistent cough and may develop a thick nasal discharge and fever. Other signs can include lethargy, eye discharge, reduced appetite, and low-grade fever. Most dogs recover within 2-3 weeks. However, secondary bacterial infections can develop, and may cause more severe illness and pneumonia. Anyone with concerns about their pet's health, or whose pet is showing signs of canine influenza, should contact their veterinarian.

CIV can be diagnosed early in testing a nasal or throat swab. infection is a blood test that the first week of illness, 10-14 days later.



the illness (less than 4 days) by The most accurate test for CIV requires a sample taken during followed by a second sample

Transmission and prevention of Dogs are most contagious incubation period for the virus, shedding the virus in their nasal signs of illness. Almost all dogs infected, and the majority (80%) illness. The mortality (death) rate is low (less than 10%).

canine influenza during the two- to four-day when they are infected and secretions but are not showing exposed to CIV will become of infected dogs develop flu-like

The spread of CIV can be reduced by isolating ill dogs as well as those who are known to have been exposed to an infected dog and those showing signs of respiratory illness. Good hygiene and sanitation, including hand washing and thorough cleaning of shared items and kennels, also reduce the spread of CIV. Influenza viruses do not usually survive in the environment beyond 48 hours and are inactivated or killed by commonly used disinfectants.

There are vaccines against the H3N8 strain of canine influenza, which was first discovered in 2004 and until 2015 was the only strain of canine influenza found in the United States. However, a 2015 outbreak of canine influenza in Chicago was traced to the H3N2 strain – the first reporting of this strain outside of Asia – and it is not known whether the H3N8 vaccine provides any protection against this strain. Used against H3N8, the vaccines may not completely prevent infection, but appear to reduce the severity and duration of the illness, as well as the length of time when an infected dog may shed the virus in its respiratory secretions and the amount of virus shed – making them less contagious to other dogs.

The CIV vaccination is a "lifestyle" vaccination, recommended for dogs at risk of exposure due to their increased exposure to other dogs – such as boarding, attending social events with dogs present, and visiting dog parks.

Human Health and Bartonella

One Health researchers around the world study diseases that affects both humans and animals.

Did you know?

Approximately 75% of emerging infectious diseases affecting humans are zoonotic, that is, transmitted from animals to humans.

Many of these infections, including Bartonella, can be transmitted to humans by companion animals, including dogs, cats, horses, and other pets.

Vectors, including fleas, ticks, lice, and biting flies, play an important role in transmitting zoonotic infections, like Bartonella. Fleas found on cats and dogs are the most common vector linked to transmission of Bartonella species.

Individuals at high-risk of acquiring Bartonella infection include those who work or live with animals, or those with high exposure to fleas, ticks, lice, and biting flies.

Stealth infections like Bartonella are increasingly implicated in complex chronic disease syndromes, yet are extremely difficult to diagnose accurately.

Anaplasmosis – Another Tick Borne Disease Affects Dogs Posted on April 10, 2012 | By Dr. Laurie S. Coger

Anyone who spends time outdoors with their dog knows what a problem ticks have become in recent years, and this year may be even tougher. As well as being a nuisance, they can spread a number of diseases to both dogs and humans. Lyme disease, the most common tick borne disease in the Northern Hemisphere, has been well known since the late 1970's. In the past few years another serious tick borne disease, Anaplasmosis, is becoming increasingly common.

Rodents are considered the main reservoir of Anaplasmosis, although many mammals may be infected. The disease is typically spread by the deer tick in the northeastern and upper Midwest and by the black-legged tick in the western United States. The brown dog tick may also be capable of spreading the disease. It is caused by the bacteria *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* (previously called *Ehrlichia equi*, so you may also hear the disease called Ehrlichiosis). The bacteria invades the white blood cells, and spreads throughout the body. In many cases, platelets, a vital part of the blood clotting system, are destroyed. White blood cells may also be affected.

Typical signs of infection are high fever, lethargy, and severely painful, swollen joints. Multiple legs may be affected. Swollen lymph nodes, and eye inflammation may be present. Some reports describe seizures or other brain disorders. Bleeding, either direct as in nosebleeds, or under the skin, as in bruising, occurs in dogs with platelet destruction. In my practice, these are the most serious, and sometimes fatal, cases.

Diagnosis of Anaplasmosis is based on the presence of characteristic signs, and is confirmed with blood testing. The 4Dx test, made by Idexx Laboratories, is the most commonly used "in house" test. Since this test kit tests for heartworm disease, as well as Lyme disease and another tick borne bacteria, *Ehrlichia canis*, many veterinarians routinely use it to screen dogs yearly. In many instances, infection is detected before clinical signs appear. I prefer to treat any dog that tests positive for the first time on the 4Dx test, whether symptomatic or not. Other testing is available, including antibody titers and detection of the *Anaplasma* DNA in a blood sample.

Other testing that should be done once Anaplasmosis is diagnosed includes a complete blood count (CBC) and organ profile. The CBC will reveal whether bleeding is a danger from platelet destruction, or if red or white blood cells are dangerously low. The organ profile will show the status of the vital organs, which can be damaged by the disease. These tests are typically repeated at the end of treatment, to determine success as well as any adverse effects from the drug(s) used.

The majority of dogs respond favorably to treatment with doxycycline, typically given for a month. Severe cases may require additional medications, and even blood transfusion to replace lost red blood cells and platelets. These cases may require prolonged intensive care, and sadly some do not survive.

Some studies suggest that the bacteria cannot be fully cleared from the body, and that relapses are possible. It does not appear that dogs develop any immunity to the disease, so re-infection is also possible. Differentiating between a relapse and reinfection is difficult. Because of these factors, many owners of high-risk dogs have the 4Dx test run several times a year. Should dogs that have previously tested positive show signs compatible with Anaplasmosis, many veterinarians automatically retreat them.

At present, there is no vaccine available for Anaplasmosis. Prevention of the disease hinges upon preventing tick bites. Avoidance of tick-infested areas when possible is an obvious strategy. Treating the home yard with pet safe chemicals, and keeping shrubbery closely trimmed deters both ticks and the rodents that harbor them.

Use of popular flea and tick products is the main prevention plan employed by many dog owners. Products that repel or prevent the tick from biting are likely superior to those who kill the tick once it bites. Not all products are suitable for all dogs, so be sure to read all package inserts and consult your veterinarian. Most of these products come in a formulation that is applied every 30 days.

Many owners are turning to natural tick repellents, especially in dogs that do not tolerate traditional products. These contain essential oils, such as clove, eucalyptus, and lemongrass. These oils can act as a repellent, and at least one commercial product claims to affect the insect central nervous system (Ectopamine). Disadvantages of these products include the necessity of frequent application, variable effectiveness, and in some cases a very strong odor.

Should you find a tick on your dog, it should be carefully removed as quickly as possible. Studies indicate it takes 24 – 48 hours for the tick to transmit bacteria, so frequent “tick checks” and removal can lessen the risk of disease. The use of a commercial tick removal tool is recommended, as the risk of breaking the tick is decreased. Tweezers are not ideal, as they often break the tick. The bite site should be cleaned after removal, with a surgical cleanser or hydrogen peroxide.

As reported in the Times Union recently, humans can also contract Anaplasmosis; however, the risk of getting the disease from an infected dog is extremely low. Human infection typically results from a tick bite. It is important that you remember to protect yourself from ticks before your head out with your dog. Use human tick repellents, wear light colored, protective clothing, and check yourself for ticks frequently. Should you have a bite, consult your physician immediately.

Tick borne diseases are becoming more widespread across our country. We have learned a great deal about these diseases, in both humans and dogs. More effective means of detection and treatment are being developed, but the foundation of prevention will always be avoiding tick bites.



Looking for a new puppy?

For breeder referrals call

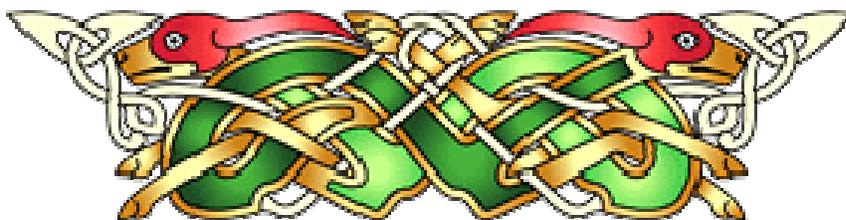
Maria Lubera

630-279-7179

**Or contact the Irish Wolfhound Association
Of America**

www.iwclubofamerica.org

**We can help you find a reputable breeder who
cares about health and temperament. We also
have a Breeder Referral section in our website
www.gliwa.org.**



Reputable breeders want to meet the people who are going to have their puppies. Please be careful to check out any breeder before getting your new puppy and beware of buying a puppy over the internet sight unseen.