

GREAT LAKES IRISH WOLFHOUND ASSOCIATION

# *Midwest Wolfhound*



*A quarterly newsletter for Irish Wolfhounds & their people*

*Volume LVIII  
Winter 2020*

## Secretary's Report

- Track progress of the club and view the official record of each board meeting
- November Meeting Minutes
- [GLIWA Board 2021 Nominations Slate & Proxy Ballot](#)

## Calendar of Events

- Find locations, dates, & details of events GLIWA is participating in. Please join us!

## Rescue Report

- The latest news on wolfhounds in need of support & rehoming via GLIWA rescue

## A Walk in the Woods

- GLIWA's October Walk in Messenger Woods

## Spotlight on Health

- The health & wellbeing of our hounds is our highest priority. Here you will find articles on health care, behavior, training and nutrition.
  - [GLIWA EKG Clinic- A Success Story](#)
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## Walking (Your Wolfhound) in a Winter Wonderland

- [Keep On Walking In The Winter Wonderland](#)
- [It Really IS Possible to Train an Irish Wolfhound](#)
  - Use your time stuck inside this winter to try some new training techniques!

## Quarterly Photos & Brags

- Christmas Card Edition!
- Please submit any photos or articles that best show our breed's multifaceted personality: "Gentle when stroked, fierce when provoked". Brags from shows, agility, therapy, & community events welcome too! Email RE: Midwest Wolfhound Quarterly Photos to editors.

## Christmas Wishes from GLIWA

**PRESIDENT**

Maria Lubera

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

Risha Cupit-Berzins

**TREASURER**

Joe Mahoney

**SECRETARY**

Claire Morrison

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mark Bettin

Scott Mortenson

Elissa Culp

Debbie Greene

Michelle Whittenhall

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**Cover photo credit:**

Séamus— by Cheri Taluzek

## Secretary's Report



### Great Lakes Irish Wolfhound Association Board Meeting, November 8, 2020

Zoom meeting was called to order at: 1:56pm

**Board members present:** Maria Lubera, Risha Berzins, Joe Mahoney, Claire Morrison, Elissa Culp, Debbie Greene, Mark Bettin, Scott Mortenson. Absent: Michelle Whittenhall

**Guests:** Robert Greene, rescue coordinator

**Reading of the Minutes:** by secretary Claire Morrison. Approved by Debbie Greene, second by Risha Berzins.

#### Reports:

**President:** Activities or lack thereof due to Covid are certainly cramping our style this year. Because of that we are conducting this meeting through Zoom. We will also have to consider whether to hold our Annual Members meeting and election of Officers in person this February.

**VP:** No report

**Secretary/Membership:** Total memberships 85, with two new members in the last quarter.

**Treasurer:** Report available upon request.

**Activities:** Only activity we are doing are wolfhound walks with Covid safety in mind. Scott Mortenson and Mark Bettin are planning more walks in the near future. Stand by and watch for announcements on Facebook and on our website. Any suggestions for walks in the future are welcome.

**Fun Match:** Not much going on. Trophy pottery will be purchased in advance for the 2022 match. Risha felt having trophy's ordered in advanced would help with the efficiency of the match. Motioned by Risha Berzins and second by Debbie Greene. Approved by all. Maria Lubera stated, if for some reason they are not used for the match, they could be sold in the GLIWA boutique.

**Publications:** As always, Debbie Greene and Michelle Whittenhall are looking for members to contribute photos and stories. They asked that if you have something to share, please send them in early. Debbie Greene has ideas on articles for the newsletter, but will have to get permission.

**Rescue:** Active with one rescued wolfhound that was abused. With the help of some members, she was quickly taken from the home and is now in a foster home with wolfhounds. She is adjusting well and will go to her adopted family once she is able. Breeder was contacted, but was not interested in taking her back. A couple of other rescues are in the works.

**Old Business:** Nominating Committee chair; Christine Bernstein along with Pat Powers and Michael Kelly sent in their slate for the 2021 election. It is published in this Winter Newsletter and will be sent out to members via email.

GLIWA heart testing (EKG) went well despite the cold. There were a total of 16 dogs. Risha Berzins was creative and made lovely ornaments and yummy cookies for the dogs.

**New Business:** GLIWA Annual Meeting will most likely be canceled because of Covid.. After much discussion, Maria Lubera suggested we replace it with a zoom meeting. Debbie moved that we do and Risha second it. It was approved by all. Date will be Saturday February 13th, 2021 at 3pm. Anyone interested in attending, please send us your email so that we can contact you closer to the date with a link that will get you into the Zoom meeting.

**Policy:** Elissa Culp has nothing to report.

**Ways and means:** None

**Closing:**

Our next meeting will be at the Annual meeting held on Zoom. February 13th, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Claire Morrison  
Secretary



## Great Lakes Irish Wolfhound Association Report of the Nominating Committee Official Slate for Election 2021

According to GLIWA By-Laws, the Nominating Committee respectfully offers the following Official Slate of Candidates for Election at the February, 2021 Annual Meeting of the Members, as ratified by the Board of Directors at the November 2020 meeting:

For:

President (1 year term)	Maria Lubera
Vice President (1 year term)	Risha Cupit-Berzins
Secretary (1 year term)	Michelle Whittenhall
Treasurer (1 year term)	Joseph Mahoney

The following are completing their original 2 year terms, and are not up for re-election

Director (2 year term)	Debbie Greene
Director (2 year term)	Elissa Culp
Director (2) year term)	Helen Philpott (finishing term for Michelle Whittenhall)

The following are beginning their 2 year term on the board.

Director (2 year term)	Scott Mortenson
Director (2 Year term)	Mark Bettin

This shall serve as the sole Official Notice to the Members, per By-laws, of the Official Slate of Candidates for election.

### **Nomination by Petition, Proxies, Write-in Ballots:**

According to GLIWA Bylaws any 10% of the members eligible to vote may nominate by petition a candidate or candidates for any office or directorship. A copy of the Nominating Petition Form is included. For the 2021 election, 10 signatures of members eligible to vote shall be required for EACH person nominated by petition for any office of directorship. The Secretary must receive nomination petitions no later than 10 days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting.

Proxy Statements will be accepted in lieu of attendance from any member eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting. While no official form is required, we have included a Proxy Ballot with this letter. Per By-laws, "Write-in" votes and "Floor Nominations" shall NOT be accepted.

\*Respectfully submitted by the nominating committee; Chris Bernstein, Pat Powers, Michael Kelly



Proxy Ballot  
Annual Members Meeting, February 2021

Article IV Section 8: Proxies. Any Member entitled to vote at any meeting at which a vote of the Members shall be taken shall be entitled to submit at any time prior to the beginning of such meeting, a written and signed Proxy Statement which shall serve as said Member's vote on every matter specifically addressed by said Proxy Statement; provided that any Member may withdraw his or her proxy by personally attending the meeting for which the proxy was submitted. All Proxy Statements must be in writing, signed by the Member, and must express the Member's specific vote on each issue addressed by said Proxy Statement. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to ensure, insofar as it is reasonably possible, that the Member's intentions are accurately included in the official tally of votes.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a member in good standing of the **Great Lakes Irish Wolfhound Association** do hereby cast my vote(s) by proxy as follows:

For the official slate of candidates for election.

For the official slate of candidates for election. **Except** as listed below.

For the candidates for election listed below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Office or Directorship

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Office or Directorship

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Office or Directorship

Signed \_\_\_\_\_



Nominating Petition  
Annual Members Meeting, February 2021

Article 7 Section 3: Nomination by Petition. Any ten percent (10%) of the Individual Members eligible to vote at any Annual or Special Meeting of the Members may nominate in writing a Candidate for any Office or Directorship. The Secretary shall provide each Member, along with the official Notice of the Official Slate of Candidates, and at the Association's expense, one (1) copy of a standardized Nominating Petition Form for the Member's use. The Secretary shall provide any Member with one (1) copy of a standardized Nominating Petition Form at any time upon such member's written request. No other format shall be used for nomination. Completed Petition Forms shall be filed with the Association not more than sixty (60) days and not less than ten (10) days prior to the first day of the Annual Meeting at which the Nominees by Petition shall stand for election.

We, the undersigned members in good standing of the **Great Lakes Irish Wolfhound Association**, do hereby nominate:

For election to the position of;

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## GLIWA Calendar



GLIWA Calendar 2021

Come join us and enjoy the day with your wolfhounds!

### ~~~~~ New Year's Day Wolfhound Walk ~~~~~

Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021  
Fullersburg Woods- Oak Brook, IL  
10:00 AM

**Walk:** We will meet by the **Ben Fuller House** which is situated off of the Graue Mill and museum parking lot. \*This is different than the nature center parking lot.

Link to google maps [here](#).

[Map for parking/meet up](#)

**Lunch:** Following our walk, we will have lunch in a heated tent at York Tavern (3702 York Road in Oak Brook, Illinois between Ogden and 31st Street). We can conveniently leave hounds and cars at the original parking lot & walk to the tavern (it's that close).

<https://yorktavernoakbrook.com/>

\*Please **RSVP** to Mark Bettin ([mbettin@themart.com](mailto:mbettin@themart.com) or 312-735-2773) & include your name & cell phone #.

### ~~~~~ GLIWA Annual Dinner Update ~~~~~

Saturday February 13, 2021  
3:00 PM

After much discussion, the board has decided to replace the annual dinner/meeting with a zoom meeting due to COVID concerns. The date will be Saturday February 13th, 2021 at 3:00 pm.

**RSVP:** Anyone interested in attending, please send us your email ([gliwaiw@gmail.com](mailto:gliwaiw@gmail.com)) so that we can contact you closer to the date with a link that will get you into the Zoom meeting.

We are so sad to have to cancel this event, but the safety of all our members is our highest concern. Next dinner will be an event you don't want to miss!

Please continue to check <https://www.gliwa.org/events> for additional group events!

## Rescue Report



### *Clover Rose*

*By: Robert Greene, Rescue Coordinator for Great Lakes Irish Wolfhound Association.*

This rescue was a bit unorthodox because of COVID. Clover Rose was in a situation that needed to be changed quickly. Fortunately, Mindy Ballinger had contact with the owner and jumped in immediately. She was able to pick her up, get her to a vet and foster and evaluate her and keep her for almost 2 months. Travel restrictions were in place because of COVID and because of that, the first home chosen for her decided to pass on her. Jen had sent in an application and was ready to take her immediately... so when the first family declined, we called Jen. Clover Rose, Jen and Mindy were all in Indiana so there was no problem with travel. Finally, on December 18<sup>th</sup> Jen and Clover finally met and fell in love. We would like to give a HUGE thank you to Mindy and Courtney for all of this assistance with this rescue!

#### **Jen's version of the story:**

Hi, my name is Jen and I live on an 80-acre hobby farm with my parents. My mom and I own a store together and have just relocated it from SW Michigan to our farm in NW Indiana. Our hobby farm consists of a number of rescue animals that include 11 horses (one is a border), 5 goats, 2 potbelly pigs, 2 naughty geese, 5 cats and our 10-year-old rescue dog named Elsa. I have been a large dog momma for the last several years (all rescues of course) and have been drawn to the Irish Wolfhound breed for as long as I can remember.

When my almost 3-year-old Great Dane mix (also a rescue) Walter passed away in May of 2020, I thought I would take a break being a dog mom. Walter had more special needs than we could have ever imagined so it took a lot out of us. Of course, that "break" did not last as long as I thought it would as I found myself joining the Irish Wolfhound Lovers Facebook group shortly after he passed. It was in this amazing group that I connected with Courtney Smith, a GLIWA member. We quickly became Facebook friends, and she was such a wealth of information for me. I had mentioned I was interested in adopting a rescue, so she directed me to the GLIWA website, and I submitted my application. I knew the organization only received a few rescues a year, but I was willing to wait as long as it took. I figured the right fit for us would show up in our lives when he or she was supposed to.

To my surprise, I received a note from my new Facebook friend the end of November to let me know that a female that had been in foster care with GLIWA for about a month was now ready to find her forever home. She asked if I was still interested in adopting and my immediate response was "Absolutely yes!" And then I asked a million questions to make sure we would be a good fit for her and vice versa. Her foster mom did an incredible job helping this sweet girl learn to trust and build her confidence. We made the 2.5-hour drive on Dec 18th to meet her and we immediately fell in love with her. Welcome to the farm Clover Rose, we adore you to pieces. Thank you GLIWA for all you do!

*Sincerely,  
The Kerr  
Family*

# CLOVER ROSE RESCUE





*A Walk in the Woods*



The GLIWA group met at Messenger Woods Forest Preserve in Homer Glen at 10:00 a.m. on October 11<sup>th</sup>. The walk was about 1.5 miles.

Following our walk, our group had lunch at Girl in the Park, which is a dog friendly restaurant with a tent and a terrace.

What a fun day! See photos below.



Thanks Mark Bettin for organizing!

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## Spotlight on Health

*GLIWA EKG Clinic- A Success Story**By: David Berzins*

Give me a P. Give me a Q. Give me an R. Give me an S. Give me a T. What does it spell?  
Well, nothing. But they are parts of an EKG signal!

Braving very windy and blustery conditions, GLIWA hosted an EKG testing clinic on Sunday, November 1 at the home of David & Risha Berzins in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. An EKG (electrocardiogram, also sometimes abbreviated ECG) measures heart function by measuring the electrical activity of the heart. A yearly EKG is recommended for all Irish Wolfhounds over the age of 2, not just those used for breeding. The latest data from the Irish Wolfhound Foundation (IWF) Life Cycle II study shows that heart related problems are still the #2 cause of death among Irish Wolfhounds, responsible for about 17% of IW deaths. Specifically, dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is what often afflicts Irish Wolfhounds. Although an echocardiogram is needed to diagnose DCM, EKG testing is important as a low-cost screening tool because certain electrical arrhythmias (atrial fibrillation) commonly precede or are concurrent with DCM. Unfortunately, atrial fibrillation is not uncommon. A recent study of 645 IWs in North America found about 9% had atrial fibrillation.

The GLIWA EKG testing clinic was facilitated by the Irish Wolfhound Foundation and participants were asked to donate \$15 per IW to the IWF. Owners were also asked to enroll or update their IWs in the Life Cycle II study. Dr. Mariellen Dentino mailed the EKG machine used for the clinic to GLIWA. For testing, a lead with an alligator clip was attached to the wolfhound just above each knee and each elbow. An EKG tracing was then obtained by printing on thermal paper for a few minutes. The EKG strip was mailed to Dr. Dentino for interpretation and follow up with each owner via e-mail. For any with issues, they were also sent to Dr. Bill Tyrrell, a board-certified veterinary cardiologist and one of the leading experts in IW heart health in the world. Overall, 16 Irish Wolfhounds participated in the GLIWA EKG clinic. As a reward for their cooperation, the wolfhounds received a personalized heart ornament and tasty treats.

## References:

Irish Wolfhound Foundation Focus, Fall 2020.

Tyrrell WD Jr, Abbott JA, Rosenthal SL, Dentino M, Abrams F. Echocardiographic and electrocardiographic evaluation of North American Irish Wolfhounds. J Vet Intern Med. 2020 Mar;34(2):581-590.







## *What is the IWF Anyway?*



### **The Irish Wolfhound Foundation**

The mission of the Irish Wolfhound Foundation is to promote the appreciation, knowledge, and understanding of Irish Wolfhounds by raising and allocating funds for research, education, and rescue. We are a 501(c)(3) charitable organization with an all-volunteer Board.

The IWF started out as a sort of offshoot of the IWCA. In the late 1980's and early 1990's several factors contributed to the idea of establishing a separate organization for IW health, education and rescue. One was the success of the annual boutique and auction at the National Specialty that had been established "for the hounds" by several IWCA members. Initially this was to support rescue, but those activities also started funding the health screening that started taking place at national specialties at about the same time. There were eventually three IWCA funds supported by the boutique and auction: Rescue, Health Research and Education. Before long the lion's share of IWCA money was in these three funds, thanks to numerous contributions from the IW community.

Additionally, the custodians of a generous bequest from the Van Brunt family known as the Riverlawn fund wanted a tax-exempt organization to receive it.

And lastly, a longtime member of the IWCA, Phillipa Crowe, had a strong vision for what a new organization could be and became the force behind the idea of the Foundation. She went so far as to personally pay all startup costs out of pocket to start the IWF. The Irish Wolfhound Foundation was finally formally established in January 2002 with Phillipa as the first President. Unfortunately, she died that August, leaving us a large endowment but depriving us of her efforts. The IWF carried on and by the 2003 National Specialty the other members of the IWF Board had set up EKGs, echoes, CERF testing, urine testing, a lunch lecture, and evening lectures - all very successful. The IWF has continued to organize health screening and educational seminars since that time, expanding our efforts to include regional specialties, some specialties in Canada, and regional events like club meetings and informal gatherings of IWs and their people. This helps people who may not travel to specialty shows to participate in heart screening and our health studies, and sometimes educational presentations.

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Today the IWCA and the IWF work to complement each other, which is what was envisioned when the IWF was founded. Mariellen Dentino is on our Board and also the head of the IWCA's Health Committee, Eugenia Hunter serves on both Boards, and both organizations have supported some of the same studies being funded through the AKC's Canine Health Foundation's donor-directed programs. Jean Minnier heads rescue efforts for both organizations, and we usually split the cost of rescue activities, which are carried out on the local or regional level. Education is still largely independent, but we focus on health and the IWCA on things like judges' education and conformation so there's really not much redundancy there.

Probably the most unique thing about the IWF is our Health Research Committee, which consists of several of our Board members (Mariellen Dentino and Frances Abrams) and a number of experienced veterinary researchers like "our" cardiologist, Dr. Bill Tyrrell. The HRC is really key to our ability to spend health dollars wisely. There are a lot of studies going on in the world, but not all of them will turn out to be scientifically valid and published in peer-reviewed journals. Someone may have a great idea, but if they only study a few dogs and don't tightly control the way the study is run they may not prove anything. Anecdotal evidence is interesting, but it isn't the same as proving a cause and effect relationship. Our HRC has the knowledge and experience to evaluate a proposal and recommend that we fund it, or not. We rely on their judgement when making funding decisions for health studies. I can't imagine the Board, as a group which is mostly lay people (not scientists), trying to evaluate which studies are worth funding. We are so, so lucky to have this dedicated and knowledgeable group of people at our disposal.

In general, the IWF provides funding directly to researchers, but we do run a few studies of our own, mostly in concert with Bill Tyrrell and his associates. We are currently running a longitudinal study called the Life Cycle Study II (sort of a follow-on to the Lifetime Cardiac Study), in which we follow dogs for their entire lives. We'll get DNA, screen their hearts every year, and get annual updates on their health. We get incredibly valuable data out of this kind of study. Mortality data, for instance, and whether dogs with heart disease live long lives with early detection and treatment. The owners get subsidized heart screening by a Board-certified veterinary cardiologist, which benefits **any** Wolfhound, not just those who may go on to reproduce. Win-win.

And our DNA Bank is another fabulous tool for researchers. The thing that makes the DNA Bank so valuable for them is that we have information on the dogs, including health conditions and often heart screening results and pedigrees. It's a gold mine. Which needs to continue to grow, because there's no such thing as too much data when you're researching health issues.

On the educational front, in addition to sponsoring speakers, we also publish an annual newsletter, *Focus*, and have both that and an extensive Health Library available on our website.

For fundraising, we conduct our annual membership drive in June, host an online Gift Shop with Zazzle, participate in the online fundraiser known as Giving Tuesday (held on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving), run periodic targeted fundraisers for special expenditures (like the Texas 72 rescue), and receive bequests and challenge grants from large donors. We don't have a patron like the Irish Wolfhound Health Group in England, and are very dependent on individual donors from the Irish Wolfhound community.

## So, how can you help?

- Join, if you haven't already. And renew every year.
- Give your vet a membership. Wouldn't you like him or her to receive the latest news on issues affecting Irish Wolfhounds?
- Donate randomly.
- Shop in our online store.
- Bring your dogs to specialties or clinics and get their hearts screened.
- Enter the LCSII study, which is open to IWs of any age, and fill out a yearly update on your dog's health. (We would like, but do not require, an annual EKG after the dog turns 2.)
- Donate your dog's DNA.
- Volunteer to help at a health screening clinic, or in some other capacity. If you think you can help, offer!

Our website is [www.iwfoundation.org](http://www.iwfoundation.org), where you can find links to donation options and study entry, as well as lots of valuable information. Our online store is at [www.zazzle.com/store/iwfoundation](http://www.zazzle.com/store/iwfoundation).



## *Pneumonia in an Irish Wolfhound*



Pneumonia in Irish Wolfhounds can present differently than pneumonia in other breeds. One of the key indicators is the posture illustrated in the video above, where the dog seems to be trying to stretch out his trachea to get more air in. This is usually accompanied by heavy panting. Sometimes there is also coughing and fever, but not always. There can also be fatigue and inappetence. The disease progresses frighteningly fast and a dog can go from just fine to panting and distressed in a matter of hours.

Unfortunately, xrays are often inconclusive even though the dog is obviously very sick. The pneumonia will show on xray eventually, but waiting for that to begin treatment would be a mistake. IW pneumonia requires rapid, aggressive antibiotic therapy. Antibiotics should usually be continued several weeks after a clear xray, regardless of how quickly the dog seems to recover. Supportive care may also be required, such as oxygen and IV fluids, necessitating a stay in the emergency clinic. If caught and treated promptly, most dogs will recover from pneumonia.

Some IWs will suffer from repeated pneumonias. A study is ongoing to see if there is a defect in the lung cilia in these dogs.

Here is a video of signs/presentation of an IW with pneumonia:

<https://youtu.be/maPHkTOKRfs>

### **Further Reading**

- [Chronic Pneumonia and PCD Studies and Treatment Protocol](#)
- [Pneumonia: What You Need to Know](#)
- [Pneumonia \(IWHG\)](#)
- [Wolfhound Rhinitis/Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia \(PCD\)](#)

Links provided here provide Irish Wolfhound-specific, sighthound, and/or general canine information relevant to Irish Wolfhounds.

**Disclaimer:** The Irish Wolfhound Foundation provides the information on this website for the education of its readers. No information on this website should be used for veterinary medical purposes, diagnostically, therapeutically, or otherwise. Consult a veterinarian before attempting to medically treat your dog or changing your dog's medical treatment.

Credit: [The Irish Wolfhound Foundation](#)



## *Pneumonia: Misunderstood & Misdiagnosed*



In America the drug of choice for wolfhounds is Rocephin (ceftriaxone), a third generation cephalosporin, which is not licensed in the UK. Excenel is the drug recommended by wolfhound people in the UK who have had experience of pneumonia. Excenel is also a third 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 and this can be requested from your vet.

**Note on Dosage:** Anecdotal evidence suggests Excenel is given as a 4.5ml subcutaneous injection every 24 hours – and is often combined with Antirobe. This dosage is based on experience and a history of success using the drug for pneumonia in the Wolfhound. It has been observed that treatment length can vary from five days to six weeks, depending on the severity of the infection. It is strongly recommended that you discuss your dog's requirements with your veterinary surgeon, ideally before the need for it arises, as not all veterinary surgeries will keep Excenel in stock.

**Note to Veterinary Surgeon:** Excenel is marketed as Naxcel in the US. Naxcel is licensed for UTIs in dogs, information regarding Naxcel can be found on the Pfizer website. Wolfhounds are unique in their presentation of pneumonia. They may have a normal temperature and their lungs may appear clear on x-ray for several days after the dog first shows signs of illness. 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.

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- Dog may or may not be coughing.
- Temperature may be very high – but a normal temperature does not necessarily preclude a diagnosis of pneumonia.
- Lungs may appear clear on x-ray.

There have been cases of pneumonia in wolfhounds following a lungworm infection. Lungworm is no longer restricted to the south of England, and is present in most areas).

### A PICTURE OF PNEUMONIA

This is the typical stance of an Irish Wolfhound with pneumonia, with the head and neck stretched forward. The eyes are preoccupied and dull, she is reluctant to lie down and if she does is unable to lie on her side. The photograph was taken as soon as the dog became ill. Her owner, who knew the signs of pneumonia, said "When the photo was taken she had difficulty breathing, couldn't lie down, and had a temperature of 40.2 degrees C".



Remember though that not all pneumonia cases will have a raised temperature and not all will show any lung congestion on X-ray. Immediate treatment is absolutely essential regardless. Please see our [Pneumonia Guide](#) for more information.

### 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.
- Excenel is the drug recommended by wolfhound people who have had experience of pneumonia in the UK.

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- 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 Excenel.
- Drug treatment needs to continue for at least four 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

**BEFORE THIS HAPPENS** – Please have a conversation with your veterinary surgeon to ascertain their views on using Excenel should the situation arise. When a dog is already sick, it is not a good time to find out that your veterinary surgeon will not consider alternative treatments from the mainstream.

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### Downloads

Essential information for owners  
(updated April 2018)



Essential information for vets  
(new April 2018)



Latest update (November 2019)



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*The IWHG comprises members of each of the breed bodies. None is a qualified veterinarian: any suggestions made are based purely on the personal experience of those wolfhound owners who have had to use the drugs mentioned and are a guide only for you to discuss with your own vet. It is the responsibility of the owner to make a decision on any course of action they take with their hound and we strongly recommend that this is done in conjunction with your vet.*

Credit: [Irish Wolfhound Health Group, UK](#)





*Why Dog Grooming is so Important in Winter*



Dog grooming isn't just a "hot weather thing." In fact, dog grooming during the winter months is just as important for the safety and well-being of your pet as it is during the warmer months.

A healthy coat is like a thermos—it acts as a temperature regulator, keeping warmth in during the winter and keeping heat out in summer, explains celebrity veterinarian Dr. Jeff Werber, DVM.

The key is to help your dog maintain a healthy coat throughout the seasons so it can regulate temperature properly. "This requires basic care, such as bathing, brushing, keeping moisturized, eliminating mats and tangles," says Dr. Werber.

To help your dog achieve that healthy winter coat, here are five dog grooming areas that need extra attention when cold days roll around.

**Pay Special Attention to Nails**

Your furry one's nails might need some extra attention in winter, as nails wear down less and might collect salt or snow while on outdoor walks. "In winter months, the snow and ice form a barrier between the harsh surfaces and your dog's feet," says Dr. Werber. "This reduction in friction results in the nails not getting worn down as much, thus needing more attention."

In addition, Dr. Werber points out that most people are not as active and don't tend to run as much with their dogs during the winter, so nails definitely don't wear down as much.

If you don't take your dog to the groomer regularly, it might pay off to have a pair of dog nail clippers or a dog nail grinder at home.

## Trim the Hair Between the Toes

In the winter, there are a variety of chemicals and salts used to melt ice on sidewalks and outdoor walkways – and they can get stuck in the hair between the toes and pads, explains Dr. Werber. Licking paws after walks over rock salt can lead to gastrointestinal disturbances as well as electrolyte issues, in some cases.

“Besides possibly ingesting these caustic materials orally, they can also irritate and even cause infection,” Dr. Werber says. “Snow can also get stuck there, creating the potential for [frostbite](#).”

Part of protecting dog paws in winter requires trimming the hair on the feet and between the paw pads to make it easier to wipe them clean of all debris post-walk, explains Courtney Campuzano, owner of Groom & Board, a grooming salon and daycare/boarding center in South Philadelphia.

## Try Out Dog Boots

Because of the harsh effects of the salts and many other chemicals applied to sidewalks and streets to accelerate the melting of ice, Dr. Werber recommends outfitting your dog with dog boots or paw protectors if they will accept them.

Products like [Musher’s Secret paw protection natural dog wax](#) are also viable options to protect sensitive feet, according to Campuzano, as they form a barrier that protects your dog’s skin from the elements.

## Take Care of Dry Skin

Dry dog skin can occur more often in winter for the same reason our skin can get drier in the winter – artificial, dry heat, says Campuzano. “Maintaining a regular bathing schedule is your best defense,” Campuzano says. “Most dogs should get a good shampoo, condition, blow out and brushing about once a month.”

A foot with a large amount of overhanging hair (left) catches more salt, snow, and ice than a well trimmed foot (right), and can cause a number of health and comfort problems for your pet.



A special moisturizing dog shampoo can help with dry dog skin, according to Dr. Werber. Products like the [Veterinary Formula Solutions ultra-oatmeal moisturizing shampoo](#) can be a good place to start.

“But be careful about lotions which can cause the coat to become greasy,” says Dr. Werber. “Try a spray-on, water-based moisturizer instead.”

There are also dog supplements, such as omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids, which can be taken orally to help replenish natural skin oils, says Dr. Werber. If your dog has dry skin, talk to a veterinarian about potential dietary changes or supplements that could help.

### **Don't Forget Regular Brushing**

Long-haired dogs, like Toy Poodles or Standard Poodles, and drop-coated breeds, like the Shih Tzu and the Maltese, who require haircuts, are more likely to have owners who fall victim to the idea that dog grooming should cease for the winter, according to Campuzano.

“It's the idea that they need their long coats to keep them warm in the winter,” says Campuzano. “The problem with it is that, as the hair begins to grow longer, the at-home brushing needs to become more frequent, and at some point, it will likely become an unmanageable task.”

The bottom line is that you need to keep your dog's coat healthy and mat-free at all times, says Dr. Werber. Whether you need to do daily or weekly brushes will depend on the type of coat, its length and whether the hair is prone to tangling.

“A short coat will be fine with a bristle brush, but a longer, thicker coat may require a stronger, more rigid brush,” Dr. Werber says. “Some coats even require special tools to get through the thickness of the coat.”

*Credit: Diana Bocco, <https://www.petmd.com>*

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## Walking (your Wolfhound) In A Winter Wonderland

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### *Keep On Walking Through the Winter Wonderland*



*Written by Bob McMillan, [thewildstare.com](http://thewildstare.com)*

Sure, that may be the sound of the ice floes cracking out there, or it could just be your joints popping in the cold. Either way, flinch no more. You have a wolfhound to walk! And the odds are, he gets frisky in the cold.

You, on the other hand, may feel as lively as a frozen cod. You probably have about the same complexion, too. Buck up. It's only 90 days (or thereabouts) until spring. And there's more good news: Studies have clearly shown that living with dogs cuts your chances of dying of heart problems by 33 percent.

(The studies are silent on your odds of your surviving skiing across the ice sheets behind a giant dog, being slammed into a snowbank and no one finding you until the spring thaw.)

The rule of thumb for a large adult sporting dog is that they need up to 90 minutes of exercise a day. Yes, that shaggy lump poured like putty over your couch cushions is, technically, a sporting dog. And no, his heaving himself into a different position every hour doesn't count towards his daily minimum.

For his sake and yours, you need to get out there in the elements and hoof it. It's not as bad as it sounds (Yes it is. I'm 63 years old and live in the South. We're not happy if we're not sweating buckets. I'm trying to be encouraging...). A few techniques to get you both out there and back again:

#### **Layer Like A Laplander.**

While your dog may have a natural fur coat, you do not. I recommend layering. Long johns, sweat pants, jeans, T-shirts, sweaters, parkas, let's face it, you cannot wear too many clothes. If you can still swing a leg add another layer. It'll not only keep your parts from freezing, it'll give you extra bounce when you fall over. Layer evenly and you'll roll. Just hang onto that leash and let your dog do the work.

## Lets Get Happy!

Most wolfhounds are like kids when it comes to snow. They love to frolic in it. I've seen wolfhounds completely white with hoar frost, grinning. It's not the cold or ice bothers them. It's having to budge off that couch. Researchers have concluded that wolfhounds don't actually hibernate in winter. It just seems that way. It seems that way so much that you probably poke yours every hour to be sure they're still breathing.

You have to make it interesting (After you make them conscious). I've tried darting past mine with a pinch of cheese. They snapped it up on my way by. And rolled back over. Then let loose a Green Cloud of Doom. Sure, you can take a sack of cheese but a sack will only get you to the door. You cannot carry enough cheese to lure them on a cold 60-minute walk.

So you have to be upbeat. You have to convince them that going out on the tundra in a screaming blizzard is way more fun than snoozing by the fireplace. Yes, you could win an Academy Award for this one, Best Performance With A Wolfhound In A Whiteout.

Some recommend knocking back a bottle of Jim Bean to boost your happy factor but this leads to disorientation on the ice and mumbling. The trick is to be chipper. Keep their interest. Talk to your hound while you walk. "Look, Armand! Have you ever seen a car do so many complete revolutions on ice?" Or, "Boy, those little ice pellets down the back of your pants sure are exhilarating, huh!" Maybe, "Wow, boy, see that squirrel? Over there! Frozen stiff to a tree!"

Be lively, but try not to sound manic. Try to keep the teeth chattering to a minimum.

## On Prancer, On Blitzen!

If your banter is sufficiently animated, your hound will perk up once he drags his belly into a snowdrift. I know I would. In fact, he may get pretty excited. If you're on a leash, you're about to get excited, too, because in all that clothing, you're not bounding at all like you used to. And he's leaping like a freaking gazelle. But, if you've layer correctly, you'll just bounce around like a ping pong ball until your frisky friend gets tired of dragging all that dead weight. Sixty minutes more and you can roll back inside and see what color your bruises are turning.

## The Road Less Taken

To keep your walks interesting, mix up the routes from day to day for a change of scenery. Of course, if it's snowed another two feet during the night, all landmarks may look different. Maybe there's a flare gun down there in one of those pockets for when you realize you've completely lost your way. Maybe the rescue choppers can still fly in this weather.

## Check Your Footing

Being lashed to a 170-pound dog on slippery surfaces may sound foolhardy to some. But those are just the sane people. You're lashed to a 170-pound dog on a slippery surface. The sanity ship has sailed.

But meanwhile, watch your footing. In the worst winter conditions, you may want to invest in ice boots with those little metal cleats. If you don't want to spend the money, maybe you can lash the business end of a garden rake to your soles. I found this to be a bit lumpy for easy walking but a few smart spins across that ice and the tines were nubbins in no time.

Or, you could just go completely native and strap on ice skates. If you have ankles of steel and the reflexes of a cat, sure, go ahead and do that triple salchow like you saw on TV. Otherwise, keep your knees bent, chug along behind your hound and watch for partially submerged curbs, benches or bodies.

Of course, watch your dog's feet for that gnarly ice balls between their toes and be on the lookout for puddles or anti-freeze or chemicals used to melt sidewalks, both of which can be deadly to your hound.

Relax. A few weeks of this regimen and you're bound to break something, maybe more than one something. Then you and your dog and your cast can sit out the rest of this cold, wretched winter by the fire.



## *It Really IS Possible to Train an Irish Wolfhound*



*Written by Bob McMillan, [thewildstare.com](http://thewildstare.com)*

Train an Irish Wolfhound? They're giant predators who think for themselves. You're a silly human making funny hand gestures and jabbering sternly at them. And you think your Irish Wolfhound is going to mindlessly obey you just because your other dogs did?

The truth is you actually can train an Irish Wolfhound. No, really. They're regularly trained for therapy work, the show ring, lure coursing and even obedience trials. Sure, I've written jokingly about the wolfhound's notorious stubborn streak and the cool, deadpan looks they give you when you ask them to do things they just have no interest in doing. But they love you. They actually do want to please you.

Within reason.

## GREAT LAKES IRISH WOLFHOUND ASSOCIATION

And that's the key to working with your hound, reason and respect. Because you're not going to force a wolfhound to do anything. They know their size. Not only can you not lift one, you'll cause them to shut down if you speak to them harshly or resort to rough handling. Veteran wolfhound owners know this but newcomers to the breed may not realize how sensitive and tenderhearted these giants actually are.

An Irish Wolfhound will open up and pour out his heart to you like no other breed I know. But only if he trusts you. It's not easy to win someone's trust if you're domineering and being absurd.

I'm a strong believer in positive training. I see no reason to ever hurt or threaten any dog trying to teach it your rules. So shock collars and choke chains are strictly out as far as I'm concerned. But especially with Irish Wolfhounds. Because the bond we have with them is unlike anything most of us have ever experienced. Is it worth damaging something so precious so you can feel like you're the boss?

We say they're practically human. They are. So keep that approach in mind as you begin training. Show them what you want, do it with love and respect, make it worth their while and they'll respond. Because you're your wolfhound's human. Nothing in the world means more to them than you. You wouldn't tell any other loved one, "Sit!" and then zap them with an electronic device or jerk on a choke chain until they mind, right? You don't need to with your Irish Wolfhound, either.

Training my Oisín to use a car ramp was the trickiest training I've tried. He was eight months old, easily topping 100 pounds, and I could no longer lift him without a very quick trip to the chiropractor. But he needed to continue his daily socialization in town. His growth plates hadn't closed yet so he couldn't just jump down from our SUV once I got him there. He needed that ramp.

Oisín trusted me. I'd worked with him every day on behaviors like "sit," "stay" and "touch" with a hand signal. But he was pretty sure that ramp was a medieval torture device. I set it up. Oona, his aunt, sashayed right up it because she knew she was going for a ride. I indicated it was Oisín's turn. He stood there looking away, embarrassed. He wanted nothing to do with thing.

So I worked with him at his comfort level, placing the ramp flat in the backyard and asking if he'd put a foot on it for a piece of cheese. I let Oisín decide. He touched it, got his cheese, and walked off. We did it again and again for five minutes. I let my boy decide which he liked better, walking around sniffing the grass or slapping a paw down and getting cheese. You can guess his choice.

We kept all the sessions no longer than five minutes. Wolfhounds are highly intelligent. They get what you want. It's just a matter of gently persuading them to do it. They just don't see the point of endless repetitions for something they already know. So, keep it short. Make it fun by showing enthusiasm and make it worth their time.

Within a day, I couldn't put the ramp down fast enough before he was slapping it with his foot for cheese. Then we worked on him crossing it. Then on him going up it when it was slightly elevated on a stump. We kept the sessions short, he got cheese as a reward and he couldn't get enough of it. He was excited to see the ramp come out.

We hit a bobble when I moved the ramp to the car. He balked again. Going up that contraption and into the dark, little boxy back end of our SUV just did not look at all appealing to him. So I upped the incentive. Little pieces of hot dog got him on the ramp, but not up it. So I broke out the heavy guns, rotisserie chicken. It was warm, savory, dripping with juices. I wanted to stop and eat some myself.

I let him get a taste of the chicken, then set the dish in the back of the SUV. He knew what was expected. I asked him if he'd go up. He overcame his suspicions and went right on in. Face down into the chicken. We practiced going back down the ramp and back up. We did this for a few days and then took it on the road. He was getting to ride to exciting places and snack on tasty treats. And I was saving my back. Mission accomplished.

It only took a month and a half. But he learned how, he was doing it eagerly and we were still best buds.

And then one day he used a wolfhound's prerogative and decided just he'd do it his own way instead. As much as rotisserie chicken made his mouth water, that ramp was just still too sketchy to my sensitive juvenile. Oisin was 34 inches at the shoulder by now. He decided he'd just sidestep the ramp and do a gentle bunny hop into the back end. And it turns out his legs were long enough by now that when we got home, he could just step down to get out. No jolts to those joints. Just an easy step. So from then on I respected his decision and we did it his way.

I listen to my wolfhounds. Training is a conversation, a way of improving understanding and communication. They get a better handle on what I want. I learn their fears and reservations. We work together to get around them.

I also use a lot of cheese. Some would call this bribery. That's okay. But are you willing to do



work you're not really enthusiastic about without a paycheck? Neither is your hound. We negotiate. Eventually the price is right.

You can train your hound this way to do just about anything that's physically possible for them to do – and as long as they see a reason for doing it. More often than not, that reason is simply because they love you. So show them, ask them, say please and reward them.

It's not an approach that appeals to those who thrill to commanding someone to do their bidding. "Love" and "respect" may be foreign concepts to such trainers. The shame of it is, those people will never win and keep the love and respect of their Irish Wolfhound. Or any other dog for that matter. Their dog may snap to and obey out of fear of repercussions, but they'll never completely trust or open up to their humans, Which raises the question, why get a dog in the first place if it's not to have a close friend?



*Christmas Cards & Poems*

**Wolfhound Pup for Christmas**

Too big for a stocking,  
Too huge to be smart,  
He's just the right size  
To fit into your heart.

Providing, of course,  
Your dimensions can hold  
A gift that is greater  
Than mountains of gold.

For this is the manner  
Of Wolfhounds and men:  
We measure their height;  
It's our depth that they ken.

They read us and judge us  
And reckon our size,  
Not by asking our wealth  
Or whether we're wise,

But, seeing right through us  
And weighing our ways  
With level yet loving  
Imperial gaze.

They ask us one question  
With wondersome eyes: --  
And this is the test -  
"Is your love up to size?"

So Ho! for the holly  
And Hie! for the tree,  
May the heart of a Hound  
Bring blessings to thee!

-- William J. Dammarell



### ***Red and Green for Christmas***

*In the high court of Heaven, by logical law,  
Next the Bishop of Myra sits His Grace of Armagh.  
For though while on earth their sees lay far apart,  
They're joined up in Heaven to rule the world's heart.  
So one day in December the Bishop in Red  
To the Bishop in Green most naturally said:  
"My Feast is approaching, and you should be fretting  
What particular sort of a gift to be getting.  
Permit me, old friend, to presume your good nature  
It's meself that's admirin' that magnificent crature  
For it's lonesome I get as I swing the world round,  
And it's grateful I'd be for your comfortin' hound.  
To tell you the truth, 'tis meself that needs cheer  
With no one to talk to all night but those deer."  
Said the Bishop in Green, "Now Nicky, you rogue,  
You needn't be forcing that horrible brogue.  
The hound you're desirin' that lies at my feet  
Is worth all the gold in this Heavenly street.  
But since Christmas requires, to balance the scene,  
That a touch of the red be touched with the green,  
I'll give you my Wolfhound, a monarch on paws,  
A gift from St. Patrick - to you, Santa Claus."*

*-William J. Dammarell*



## Christmas Caroler

In Bethlehem one midnight  
An ox and ass knelt down  
Their body heat helped warm a Babe  
From chill of frosty ground.

And legend tells us that all beasts,  
At that momentous hour  
Fell to their knees in homage  
And so proclaimed His power.

In mute dumb love they worshipped  
And with them was the hound  
Of a pagan king in Ireland  
Beside a sea-green sound.

His subtle spirit trembled  
Keen to the mystic art  
And all his fire and courage  
Burned in his noble heart.

He sensed the wondrous moment  
As he tossed his head on high  
And so beheld in splendor  
A great star in the sky.

With lightning speed he sprang erect  
To salute the brilliant light  
And with the angels joined his voice  
On that first Christmas night.

So when your Wolfhound lifts his head  
And free the wolf-call rings  
Remember once the king of dogs  
Thus hailed the King of Kings.

-Elizabeth R. Dammarell

*Here we come a Caroling...*



Above:  
Dave & Risha Berzins' gang  
(Graphic Credit Risha Berzins)

Left: "Jack at Christmas"  
- Maria Lubera



Above: "Bravo, Fenna, Lily, & Reagan Marie" - Courtney Smith

Below (2): "Rory enjoying Christmas" - Michelle Whittenhall



Left: "Bodhi dashing through the snow"  
- Debbie Greene



Right: "Aile & Bodhi assisting Santa"  
-Debbie Greene



Below:

“Rulf Embraces his inner ELF - along with his bestie Hossa. Nellye - nope, hate it, bah humbug, can't make me like it!” – Leslye Sandberg





Right: "Renegade" - Scott Mortenson



Below: "Bo visits Santa" - Mark Bettin



Right: "Falco's first white Christmas" - Scott Mortenson

*This Christmas may you have...*

*"Walls for the wind  
And a roof for the rain,  
And drinks bedside the fire,  
Laughter to cheer you,  
And those you love near you,  
And all that your heart may desire."  
-Irish Blessing*



*GLIWA sends you the warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a  
happy, healthy New Year.*