

GREAT LAKES IRISH WOLFHOUND ASSOCIATION

MIDWEST WOLFHOUND



A quarterly newsletter for Irish Wolfhounds & their people

*Volume LX
Summer 2021*



Secretary's Report

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- *May Meeting Minutes*

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In Remembrance of...

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Quarterly Photos & Brags

- *GLIWA Members Downtown Chicago Walk*

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Maria Lubera

VICE-PRESIDENT

Risha Cupit-Berzins

TREASURER

Joe Mahoney

SECRETARY

Michelle Whittenhall

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Bettin

Scott Mortensen

Elissa Culp

Debbie Greene

Helen Philpott

GLIWA INFORMATION

For address or email changes,
please contact:

gliwaiw@gmail.com

MidWest Wolfhound™ Editors:

Debbie Greene

playinnature@gmail.com

Michelle Whittenhall

Michelle.Whittenhall@gmail.com

Cover photo credit:

“Rowan” courtesy of Michelle & Tony Whittenhall

Secretary's Report



GREAT LAKES IRISH WOLFHOUND ASSOCIATION Board Meeting Agenda of May 15, 2021

The meeting was called to order at: 12:35pm

Board members present: Maria Lubera, Risha Berzins, Joe Mahoney, Michelle Whittenhall, Mark Bettin, Scott Mortenson, Elissa Culp, Debbie Greene, Helen Philpott

Absent: N/A

Guests: N/A

Reading of the Minutes: Michelle Whittenhall moved that GLIWA approve the minutes as printed in the Midwest Wolfhound Newsletter. Scott Mortenson seconded. Motion passed.

Reports

President: The President welcomed Helen Philpott to the board.

VP: No Report

Secretary / Membership: No Report

Treasurer- Joe Mahoney sent out a copy of his report on 4/19/21.

Activities: Mark Bettin & Scott Mortenson reported the following:

- Will GLIWA host an Annual Picnic? Maria Lubera will check with Mike Cherry regarding using his property as a picnic and lure coursing location. Frank from Midwest coursing could help set up a run at the Cherry's farm, pending Mike's agreement.
- GLIWA walks- Scott Mortenson & Mark Bettin will continue to post upcoming walks.
- Hoffman Estates Celtic Fest- Oct 2, 2021. Mark & Scott will follow up with Linda at NOW arena and say we will participate, but not do an agility demo.

Fun Match: Risha & Dave reserved October 16-17 at Cudahy Kennel Club. Other talking points included the following:

- Risha secured hotel blocks & the judges dinner is secured at the Packing House & special ordered cupcakes for the dessert.

GREAT LAKES IRISH WOLFHOUND ASSOCIATION

- GLIWA may have a repro vet come to give a talk on Sunday- Risha will work on securing this.
- Heart testing will be available on Sunday of the match.
- Joe Rolland will be the judge for 2021.

Publications

- No Report

Rescue: Debbie Greene reported the following:

- GLIWA received a report of dog in Huntley, IL however, it was not a purebred wolfhound. Debbie get a call from & spoke to the adoptive family for some information.
- Debbie & Robert Greene also visited Clover Rose in Indiana who is doing well!

Old Business: Maria Lubera spoke to the following:

- Anne Varney donated some wolfhound books to GLIWA which we are selling to raise funds for the club. Any unsold books will be sold at the Fun Match.

New Business:

- Maggie Wolf is organizing a small event to get people from different regional clubs to get together.

Our next meeting will be held at the GLIWA Picnic on 8/28.

The meeting was adjourned at: 1:13 pm



GLIWA Calendar 2021

Come join us and enjoy the day with your wolfhounds!

Summer/Fall Events:



GLIWA Fun Run, Annual Picnic & Board Meeting



Hosted by Mike Cherry, Kim Oliver, and Candi Harrington

Saturday August 28th, 2021 (*“rain date” of Sunday August 29th*)

10:00 AM (see schedule below)

WHERE: 35209 52ND STREET, BURLINGTON WISCONSIN 53105

CONTACT: 847-946-7966

***FEE:** Free for current GLIWA Members, or \$25 for Non-members

RSVP: Please RSVP to gliwaiw@gmail.com if you plan to attend the coursing seminar and/or lunch.

DIRECTIONS: Wisconsin 94 North to 50 West toward Lake Geneva for about 15 miles.

Turn North on 352nd then go about a mile to corner 52nd & 352nd and you have arrived at
ODD DUCK FARM.

SCHEDULE:

~~~~ **RACING and COURSING: 10 AM to NOON** ~~~~

Brief intro and demo by David Berzins & Mike Cherry, then individual dog straight racing

## GREAT LAKES IRISH WOLFHOUND ASSOCIATION

(LGRA) followed by loop coursing (ASFA/AKC). No equipment required by attendees, and there is no obligation to run. Those either too young or old can enjoy watching. The entire property is fenced. *(See aerial photo below is before the fencing was installed)* There are three separate fenced areas as well as portable kennel fencing. We have plenty of water for the hounds (BYOB- Bring your own **BOWL**).

### What to bring/what to know:

Bring your own folding camp chair(s)

ExPen

Water bowl for your hound

Small tent (if you wish)

Flea and tick protection is highly recommended for your dog(s)

Human beverages, side dish and or dessert to share

~ ~ ~ ~ **LUNCH: NOON to 1 PM** ~ ~ ~ ~

Hosts will provide: Local grilled brats, portabellas, buns, condiments, paper plates, napkins, plastic utensils as well as ice and coolers.

Please bring your own beverages, and side dishes and desserts that are easily shared.

~ ~ ~ ~ **BOARD MEETING: 1 PM to 2 PM** ~ ~ ~ ~

GLIWA Board Meeting indoors while the rest of us run around outside and visit.



### 9th Annual Northwest Celtic Fest



10/2/2021

NOW Arena, Hoffman Estates, IL

GLIWA members only

The event runs from **11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Parking and event entry are FREE.** This spectacular fest has been established as a region wide showcase of all things Irish, Welsh and Scottish.

Designed to celebrate Celtic heritage, the fest will also include a craft beer tasting, live music, dancing, food and fun; there's something for everyone! We will have a meet & greet area with our official GLIWA members & Wolfhounds.



GLIWA FUN MATCH



SAVE the DATE October 16-17, 2021

great lakes irish wolfhound association

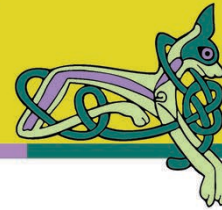
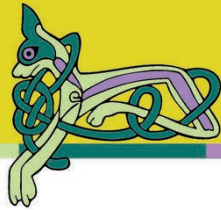


SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021

♦ Judge, Joe Roland ♦

♦ R Noble Irish Wolfhounds ♦

Fun Match, Auction, and Judge's Dinner



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2021

Seminars and EKG testing

CUDAHY KENNEL CLUB, ST. FRANCIS, WISCONSIN

for more information: [www.gliwa.org](http://www.gliwa.org)

Hotel Options:

- LaQuinta - rooms held nights of Oct 15 and 16, - total is \$103.81 /night under "Great Lakes Irish Wolfhound Association". Hold good through Sept 15. There's a mix of King and Double beds w microwave & fridge. Call 414-762-2266.  
<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/laquinta/oak-creek-wisconsin/la-quinta-inn-milwaukee-airport-oak-creek/overview>
- Home 2 Suites - no weight limit, but \$50 one time nonrefundable pet fee. Oct 15, 16, King is \$144, DBL queen is \$155. Call 414-481-2900.  
<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/mkeaiht-home2-suites-milwaukee-airport/>

Similar to last year, Judge's Dinner is at the Packing House. Dessert will be extra special this year!



## Spotlight on Health



### *Blood Collection for Research - The Irish Wolfhound DNA Bank*



The Irish Wolfhound Foundation is building a bank of Irish Wolfhound DNA for current and future research purposes.

The IWF started banking blood from all Irish Wolfhounds enrolled in the Lifetime Cardiac Study and has continued to collect blood samples in conjunction with other studies.

In addition, Irish Wolfhounds diagnosed with osteosarcoma, or wolfhounds eight years of age and older with no history of any cancer, are also requested to donate blood for osteosarcoma research. Blood samples will be collected at many of the upcoming specialties where IWF-sponsored cardiac screening is offered, or can be donated at any time using this [form](#). Blood draw instructions for your veterinarian are located [here](#).

### Study Forms

[Venipuncture Consent Form](#)  
[Blood Draw Instructions](#)

### Additional Study Details

**Study Status:** Ongoing

**Enrollment Status:** OPEN to new enrollment

**Lead Researcher(s):** Margret Casal, Dr med vet, PhD



*Investigating Diet-Related Dilated  
Cardiomyopathy in Dogs - It's Complicated*



04/09/2021

**Author:** Sharon M. Albright, DVM, CCRT

In July 2018, the [FDA alerted](#) pet owners and veterinarians about increased reports of dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) in dogs. Affected dogs were not breeds or mixes thereof known to have a genetic predisposition for DCM and they were often reported as eating diets with peas, lentils, other legume seeds (pulses), and/or potatoes in various forms (whole, flour, protein, etc.) as main ingredients. The FDA and veterinary professionals began investigations into the issue, but a clear cause for the apparent increase in diet-related DCM has been elusive.

*Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is a disease where the heart becomes enlarged and the muscle cannot contract or pump adequately to provide normal blood flow throughout the body. Clinical signs in dogs include increased heart rate, coughing, difficulty breathing, weakness, and fainting. Arrhythmias, congestive heart failure, or sudden death are also possible. Treatment involves the use of medications to support heart function and remove excess fluid from the lungs. Unfortunately, the disease is rarely reversible except in a small number of cases that respond to supplementation with the amino acid taurine.*

The association between diet and DCM is unproven. If real, the relationship is likely complex because there are many factors that could influence disease development:

- Are pet foods deficient in specific nutrients?
- Are the nutrients present in the diet, but not adequately digestible or usable for the dog?
- Is something inhibiting uptake or usage of the amino acid taurine (or its precursors) which is important for heart cell function?
- Are nutrient interactions in dog foods causing the problem?
- Are toxins present in the food?
- Are certain dogs genetically predisposed to this nutritional imbalance?

With so many possibilities to sort through, the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) and its donors are supporting the investigation with [CHF Grant 02661: Investigation into Diet-Associated Dilated Cardiomyopathy in Dogs](#). This grant provides funding for a multi-institutional, prospective evaluation of apparently healthy dogs. Investigators are comparing various measures of heart health in dogs eating grain-free diets and diets with peas, lentils, or potatoes as main ingredients to those in dogs eating grain-inclusive diets and diets without peas, lentils, or potatoes as main ingredients. They will use this information to determine if differences in the structure and function of the heart vary based on diet type in outwardly healthy dogs. Most of the recent clinical reports of suspected diet-related DCM have described dogs suffering from advanced heart disease. This investigation of outwardly healthy dogs is important to determine if evidence of heart disease is present at an earlier stage.

Initial results from this study were recently published in the *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine*<sup>1</sup> and provide an important, objective analysis.

- Diets were classified and compared in two ways: grain-free versus grain-inclusive and those with peas, lentils, and potatoes in the first ten ingredients versus those without peas, lentils, and potatoes in the first ten ingredients. All diets were commercial kibble and dogs had to be eating the same, single diet for six months prior to examination.
- Four specific breeds were examined: Doberman Pinschers which have a known genetic predisposition to DCM, Golden Retrievers which were over-represented in reports to the FDA, and two breeds with no known genetic predisposition to DCM – Whippets and Miniature Schnauzers.
- Investigators performed echocardiograms, measured blood and plasma taurine concentrations, measured cardiac biomarkers (NT-proBNP which is an indicator of cardiac stretch and cardiac troponin I which is an indicator of cardiac injury), and screened Doberman Pinschers for two genetic mutations associated with DCM in this breed.

Although no differences were found for echocardiographic measurements between diet types, the major finding from this study was that cardiac troponin I levels were higher in dogs eating grain-free dog foods or dog foods with peas, lentils, or potatoes in the top ten ingredients, compared to dogs eating foods without these qualities. Cardiac troponin I is a marker of heart muscle injury. Therefore, the finding of even low-level cardiac troponin I elevations in these

outwardly healthy dogs suggests that there could be heart muscle cell damage even before any changes in heart size or overall function are apparent on the ultrasound exam of the heart. The clinical importance of the higher cardiac troponin I levels requires more research, but this finding adds a piece of information to a very large and complex puzzle.

There are limitations to the current study that should be considered when interpreting the results. The results only apply to the four dog breeds evaluated and analyzing the combined results could have hidden significant differences in heart variables within an individual breed. However, this study was not powered to examine these breeds individually. Additionally, there was an unequal number of dogs in each diet group, evaluation did not eliminate all possible causes of higher cardiac troponin I in dogs eating grain-free diets or those with peas, lentils, or potatoes as main ingredients, and the prevalence of arrhythmias was not evaluated. Finally, accurate diet classification is an area of uncertainty and could change with future research. Despite these limitations, this study contributes new knowledge to this important issue in canine medicine and will guide future research endeavors.

While owners and veterinarians are anxious for answers, the AKC Canine Health Foundation and its donors remain committed to the arduous task of scientific study needed to find accurate information. Learn more about this study and how you can participate [here](#).

1. Adin, D, Freeman, L, Stepien, R, et al. Effect of type of diet on blood and plasma taurine concentrations, cardiac biomarkers, and echocardiograms in 4 dog breeds. *J Vet Intern Med*. 2021; 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jvim.16075>



## *Safe Chew Toys for Your Dog*



Credit: <https://holidaybarn.com/blog/safe-chew-toys-for-dogs/>

Here's an understatement... dogs are big chewers. It's instinctive, and it's pleasurable for them. We're happy because it's good for their teeth and gums and it gives them something to do when you've no time to play... And they love it! It's good to provide your dog with something to chew, but it's overwhelming when faced with a number of choices there are. Not only that, but some chews and chew toys can be dangerous.

Always err on the side of caution when selecting a chew treat or toy for your dog. Even when you think you have selected a "safe" chew, the chew could be old and brittle, or of poor quality in general. No chew is 100% safe. Chews can break or fracture teeth. They can cause choking. Chews can be responsible for lacerating the gums, esophagus, and even the intestinal lining. Often chews or bones are the cause of digestive obstructions when swallowed. Furthermore, many chews are manufactured using harmful chemicals such as bleach... Who wants their dog to ingest bleach, right? So, what do we do? We want to give them something they desire, but more than anything, we want them to be safe.

Before we get started looking at the many types of chew "bones" and chew toys that are available, let's talk specifically about your dog and his chewing habits.

### **CONSIDER YOUR DOG'S CHEWING HABITS BEFORE BUYING A TOY**

Some dogs have a very strong chew drive, while some may have been like that when they were a puppy but have outgrown it. Some dogs have super strong chew drives, our "power chewers", and chew heartily throughout their lifetime. Some dogs chew only on specific things... like blankets, fleece, or leather, for example. When selecting a chew, take into account your dog's chewing habits. A "power chewer" would probably destroy a cornstarch bone, whereas a mild chewer may find a deer antler to be too hard. Also, the size of your dog makes a difference as to what chew you select for them. If the entire chew fits in your dog's mouth, it's too small and could easily be swallowed.

The condition of your dog's teeth and gums can make a tremendous difference in what or IF you provide him a chew. Teeth that have not been well cared for may find nearly every chew to be uncomfortable or damaging. Red or irritated gums may become even more painful if your dog is given a chew toy. Older dogs may not find pleasure in chewing because their teeth are not as strong as they once were. Check with your vet to make sure your dog's teeth and gums are healthy enough for chewing.

## **ALWAYS SUPERVISE YOUR DOG WHEN HE HAS A CHEW TOY**

I hope that the number one takeaway from this blog is the importance of supervising your dog when he has a chew. I cannot stress it enough. As we stated before, no chew is 100% safe. Your dog can easily become choked or hurt in some way while chewing in your absence. Many times people give their dog a chew or bone to enjoy when they are leaving the house, but that's such a bad idea. Leave chews for special occasions shared with your dog, like enjoying in front of the TV on movie night, or while out to dinner on a dog-friendly patio.

Let's look at some of the chews on the market today and examine their safety.

## **TYPE OF CHEW TOYS**

### **ANTLERS**

Antlers from deer or elk are normally found at your local pet supply store. They're long-lasting and have no smell. Antlers are generally considered safe, although some reports of broken teeth have been reported. Elk antlers are softer than deer antlers. When fresh, they tend not to splinter, and they're loaded with minerals. However, cheaper or older elk antlers can splinter easily and split. The older the antler, the tougher, so make sure you buy from a reputable supply store.

### **REAL ANIMAL BONES**

People have been giving dogs real animal bones to chew since the beginning of time. These can be raw marrow bones, femurs, ribs, kneecaps, etc... Real animal bones are a good source of fats, vitamins, and minerals. Rib bones are a good size for smaller dogs and they're also a little softer than other weight-bearing-type of bones. Be sure to match the size of your dog to the size of the bone... i.e., knee caps may be too small for medium-large dogs, as they will attempt to chew-up and swallow, resulting in a blockage. Knucklebones are not recommended because they can actually be eaten in full, breaking off in large pieces and possibly causing choking or blockage. Watch for sharp edges too. Cooked bones become hard during the cooking process, which causes them to splinter. They are so much more appealing to us because they look clean and are a lot less messy for your dog to chew, but we should never give our dogs a cooked bone.

Likewise, we should never give our dog a chicken bone. Chicken bones will break and splinter and can cause internal injuries as well as cutting the insides of your dog's mouth.

### **TENDONS**

Bully sticks, the most popular among tendon types of chews, are easily digested and generally safe. They're high in protein, low in fat, and contain no carbs or grains. Bully Sticks help to keep your dog's teeth clean, but they make his breath smell horrid! Some bully sticks are now available in "low odor", but I would find out how the odor control was accomplished... was the bully stick soaked in bleach or hydrogen peroxide? That's not a good thing...

It sounds gross, but bully sticks are made from pizzles that have been stretched and dried. There are other "tendon" types of chews including tracheas, esophagus, and Achilles tendons, some of which are rather small and could be dangerously swallowed whole.

### **NYLON AND PLASTIC BONES**

Nylon and plastic bones are very popular and can be purchased in nearly all pet supply stores and department stores. They are fairly safe for very light chewers, but more powerful chewers can easily chew them apart, possibly causing them to lodge or obstruct. These bones are often infused with meat or sweet flavoring to make them appealing to your dog. Read the manufacturer's warning label. If you buy them for your puppy or light chewer, always supervise.

### **RUBBER CHEWS**

Kong is a good example of a well-made rubber chew. These are virtually indestructible. The most important thing to remember when choosing a "kong-type" chew is to select the correct size for your dog. A large dog could easily swallow the small kong designed for little dogs.

Your dog may not like a rubber chew. It generally has a "non-food" smell that is not appealing to your dog (unless you fill it with something yummy like peanut butter, cheese, or treats!). Beware of off-brands that may be made from cheaper rubber and could more easily break off.

Here at Holiday Barn Pet Resorts, we safely treat our [dog boarding](#) to "Bizzy Bones" which are Kongs filled with a delicious flavor of the month... This month, Pumpkin Pie!

### **DENTAL CHEWS**

There is a stigma attached to dental chews from an incident years ago when veterinarians claimed that a popular dental chew caused intestinal obstruction. Since then, they have been reformulated and are actually fully digestible and safe to swallow. Dental chews are generally safe. They're enjoyable for your dog, and you are rewarded with fresher doggie kisses!

Still uneasy about giving a dental chew to your pet? One source online recommends putting the dental chew in a glass of water and see if it dissolves by the next day. If so, then you can be assured that it is safe for your dog to swallow (but remember, they can still get choked if they attempt to swallow a piece that is too large for them!)

### **YAK/HIMALAYAN CHEW**

These chews are actually a hard cheese made from yak or cow's milk. People of the Himalayans use to chew on them. Manufacturer's claim they're safe as they become softer as they are chewed. Yak and Himalayan chews are fully digestible, long lasting, not too stinky, and won't stain your carpet. They're low in fat but high in calories. Made from milk, salt and lime juice, my concern is the sodium content. Manufacturer's claim the sodium is negligible, however, I would check with my vet before giving these types of chews to dogs with heart conditions or hypertension.

### **PIG EARS**

Pig ears have a high-fat content. They're greasy. And they make your dog's breath smell awful. Not a good choice for dogs that are overweight or dogs with pancreatitis. Seemingly innocent, they too can cause choking or intestinal obstruction if not chewed fully. Pig ears are so rich (bacon anyone?) that many dogs cannot tolerate them. If you are fine with your dog chewing on pig ears, make sure you buy them from a reputable dealer as it is often reported that pig ears are infected with the salmonella bacteria.

## RAWHIDE

Rawhide and pressed rawhide is the most widely known, most widely available, and most affordable, but oh so bad for your dog to chew on! Here's the rest of the story... Manufacturers use a chemical to separate the leather from the animal, then they bleach it, then they dehydrate it. Then they paint it (so it kind of looks like chicken or beef), artificially flavor it, cut it, roll it, and then GLUE it together! And then we give it to our dog to chew on! Yuck! Not only that, but our dog's system cannot digest it or break it down, so when he swallows it, the dehydrated chew ends up expanding inside of his stomach. Then, guess what? An emergency trip to the vet! However (It pains me to state this, but I must...), given the amount of rawhide consumed by dogs each year, the risks are relatively small, [according to WebMD](#).

While slightly more digestible than rawhide, pressed pork hide is also not recommended for generally the same reasons as with beef rawhide.

As with pig ears and any treat or chew made from animal parts, salmonella or E.coli is always a concern.

## DRIED SWEET POTATOES

Dried sweet potatoes are an excellent source of vitamin A. Vitamin A is amazing for your pet's nerves, eyes, muscles, skin, and coat health. Sweet potatoes are high in fiber and completely digestible. If you buy them at a pet food store, make sure they are sourced only in the US, not in China where sweet potato treats have been known to contain highly toxic chemicals. But it's best - and easy - to [make them at home](#). Flipside, sweet potatoes are high in sugar and therefore, not recommended for dogs with diabetes or with yeast issues.

## JERKY TREATS

Okay, this is my personal opinion... NEVER buy animal jerky...i.e., chicken, duck, beef, etc. for your dog. Too many times, poorly processed meat jerky has made it to the stores and caused our dogs to become very sick. Period. BUT, you can make healthy jerky treats at home with clean, boneless chicken breast (or the meat of your choice) cut into long, thin strips. Bake them on a cookie sheet for around 3 hours or more (depending on thickness), at 180 - 200 degrees. Use caution when storing.

Chew on this, [learn more about the risks associated with animal jerky from Dogster](#)

## COW HOOVES

Cow hooves are durable, last all day, and are very affordable. I use to give my prior dog cow hooves, even though I hated the way it made her breath smell. I will not give my dog a cow hoof to chew on today, as too many claims have been made as to how dangerous they can be. They can fracture teeth, splinter, and develop sharp edges which can cause mouth lacerations. That being said, my prior dog happily chewed them for years and they may be considered safe for moderate chewers. As with any animal product, they can contain salmonella. Buy only from a reputable manufacturer who properly cleans and pasteurizes the hooves. Again, always supervise your pet when chewing on any object and throw them away before they get small enough to swallow.



## **FISH SKIN**

From what I can tell, fish skins are not a bad chew. Loaded with omega 3 fatty acids, good protein; but rather high in fat. Make sure it's cooked or it could contain deadly parasites. My personal opinion is to stick with clean, natural Icelandic or codfish rather than nasty farm-raised fish. Beware of anything sourced outside of the US. Some sites advise feeding sparingly to avoid mercury exposure. I can only imagine what your dog's breath is going to smell like after chewing on fish skins! Eeek!

## **BULLY HORNS**

On the good side, water buffalo horns are great for teeth and gums. They're inexpensive, high in protein, low in fat, and last for weeks. Bully horn's hollowed-out middle is great for filling with peanut butter. On the bad side, severe splintering and breaking into shards has been reported. Upon inspection, it looks like the bottom portion of the horn can be very thin... I can see how it would easily break into small, sharp pieces. If you choose to buy bully horns, be sure the horns are taken from slaughtered animals used for meat so that you are not supporting the cruel, inhumane act of removing horns from live animals (Water buffalo do not shed their horns naturally).

## **CORN STARCH**

Cornstarch chews were all the rage not too many years ago. They're very digestible, breaking down safely in your dog's stomach. Best for mild to moderate chewers, they won't last long. A strong chewer could become choked as he could easily bite off a large piece. Obviously, Corn Starch chews are made of corn, so beware of food allergies. Also, they're not particularly "good" for your dog, but they're not really "bad" either.

## **ROPE BONES AND FLEECE BONES**

Most dogs love rope and/or fleece bones, and you'll be happy to know that they're generally safe. These types of "bones" consist of ropes or strips of fleece fabric braided into a bone shape and knotted at the ends. Your dog's chewing action flosses their teeth, removing plaque and bacteria...especially when accompanied with a fun game of tug-of-war! Look for 100% cotton fibers, and be sure to wash them as often as possible to keep them clean and sanitary.



*Tips to Keep Your Dog Cool in the Summertime*



*Credit: ALLI WITTBOLD - [www.monsterk9.com](http://www.monsterk9.com)*



The warmer temperatures that come with summer means lots of time spent outside, more adventuring, traveling, and the ever-lasting challenge to keep cool! As a dog owner, it's important to always have their summer comfort and well-being in mind, too.

Dogs don't have the luxury of sweating and accessing cooling mechanisms the way we do. So it's up to us to give them lots of opportunities to get--and stay-- cool.

Here we'll talk about the way your dog's body works to keep itself cool and what kind of behaviors you might see them doing to help this process along. Then we'll talk tips on what you can do to keep your dog cool in the summertime.

**HOW DO DOGS STAY COOL?**

Dogs, like most other fur-covered animals, don't have the sweat glands that we do to cool our bodies off when the temperature around us soars. Yes, they have a limited number of sweat glands in their paws, but these are mostly there to help their feet gain some traction.

However, your dog's body does cool off in three distinct ways: evaporation, heat transfer, and convection. Let's take a look at these, and I'm guessing you'll have noticed your dog engaging in these types of behavior often on hot days.

**PANTING: EVAPORATION COOLS THE BLOOD FLOW THROUGH THEIR MOUTH**

When we think of a hot dog, we think of panting, right? When your dog uses panting as a way to cool their body down, they increase their breathing to 200-400 breaths per minute! That's some really fast breathing.

Panting works to cool off your dog through evaporation. The evaporation that occurs in their mouth when they are panting actually lowers the temperature of the blood flow in their mouth. This blood then continues through their body and ultimately cools down their core temperature. Panting is one of your dog's first and most accessible forms of defense against overheating, but when temperatures outside go over 90 degrees, or when it's especially humid out, their panting becomes less productive ([source](#)).

### ***CONDUCTION: HEAT TRANSFER TO ANOTHER SURFACE***

Have you ever noticed your dog sprawled out on the tiled bathroom floor, or retreating to lay in the cool basement on a hot day? This is because your dog intrinsically knows that they can cool their core temperature down through heat transfer.

When your dog lays on a cool surface, the heat from their body transfers out and their overall core temperature starts to lower. Dogs, even the furriest of them, have much less hair on their stomachs, making this an effective way to get cool. While not exactly the same, you may also catch your dog lying belly-up on really hot days as a way of cooling their undersides as well. Having the chance to lay or even stand in cool water is a super effective way to cool your dog down through conduction-- you'll find more tips on this below.

### ***CONVECTION: AH FEEL THAT BREEZE?***

Airflow as a means to lower body temperature is convection. This is why many dogs know to stand or lay in front of a fan or over an AC vent. The air flowing through their coat works to cool down their core temperature.

### ***HOW TO KEEP MY DOG COOL IN THE SUMMERTIME?***

Now that you know how your dog's body works to stay cool, you can start to come up with effective ways to help keep them cool in the summertime. Here are some ideas that are a mix of fun, practical, and necessary for your dog's comfort and well-being when the temperatures outside start to rise.

#### ***1. INCORPORATE WATER INTO PLAYTIME AND EXERCISE***

Water is an excellent way to help your dog cool down on hot summer days. You can incorporate this into your daily routine in a variety of ways. **If you have access to a pond, lake, or slow-flow river take your dog there for their daily exercise.**

My dogs love **fetching in the water**, and while the two retrievers are at work our husky wades in the water and even swims a bit on really hot days. Remember, dogs intrinsically know that contact with something cooler will cool their core temperature down. So even the most reluctant swimmer will at least dip their feet in.

Also, **try taking your dog on a stream or river walk.** Strap on some water shoes or sandals, and literally walk in the stream with them. Our dogs (and kids!) love this alternative to a typical walk on hot summer days.

### ***2. SET UP A KIDDIE POOL IN THE YARD***

Sometimes I'm not sure who loves the kiddie pool in the backyard more the kids or our lab! When it's hot out he is so happy to just lay in the pool. Our other dogs even hop in briefly for a quick cool down. Giving your dogs this access to water in the yard is a great way to help them cool down.

I've also heard that some dogs love sprinklers or getting sprayed with a hose. So if you don't have a kiddie pool just yet, these alternatives could be just as fun and effective.

### ***3. SWITCH UP YOUR ROUTINE TO AVOID THE HEAT OF THE DAY***

Believe me, I know that no matter how hot of a day it is some dogs need to get their wiggles out somehow. If you can't skip exercising altogether, alter your routine so that you are getting out in the early morning or late evening. These times of day are generally cooler and the sun is lower in the sky which provides some relief.

### ***4. THINK TWICE BEFORE YOUR USUAL WALK ON SIDEWALK OR CEMENT***

When the sun is shining and the temperatures outside get hot, cement, asphalt, and wooden surfaces can get dangerously hot too. This can put your dog's foot pads in danger. The easiest way to tell if it is too hot outside for your dog's paws is to put your own hand or foot on the surface. If you can't stand it for more than a few seconds, it's probably best to avoid it with your dog.

As an alternative, keep your dog's paws comfortable and cooler by opting to walk on a wooded trail or in a field. Trails in the woods have the added benefit of all that shade. Bonus points for a trail near a creek or stream.

### ***5. SEEK SHADE AND PROVIDE SHADE IN THE YARD***

In the summer, it's essential that your dog has access to shade when they are outside. You probably know firsthand what a relief shade can provide vs. being in the blazing sun. If your yard doesn't have trees that provide shade, consider investing in an EZ-Up canopy to do the trick.

Additionally, when you are out exercising, [traveling or adventuring with your dog](#) this summer, try to plan your trip to a location where there is a shady spot to cool down and have a water break.

### ***6. GIVE LOTS OF COOL WATER***

On that note, you always want to supply your dog with access to fresh, cold water to help them stay cool in the summertime. Of course, your dog should always have water around, but the risk of dehydration is even higher on those extra-hot days.

After walking or playing on an exceptionally hot day, you can expect to see your dog's water needs increase by double or triple the amount that they typically drink.

It's also totally fine to add ice to your dog's water bowl or even give them some ice cubes to play with. Some people **freeze dog treats inside bowls of ice or in ice cubes** as a fun activity, your dog will love it.

## 7. KEEP UP WITH GROOMING-- BUT DON'T SHAVE YOUR DOG!

In the summer, [regular brushing](#) is an important and easy way to help keep your dog cool. It gets the unneeded fur out of their coat quickly and efficiently, which keeps them cooler.

However, you should avoid shaving your dog, especially if they have a double coat (like a Siberian Husky). In most cases, your dog's coat actually insulates them in a way to help them stay cooler and it protects them from sunburn and skin irritants. What's more, if you shave it when it's not medically necessary, it may never grow back the same again.

Along with regular brushing, **another important summer grooming tip is to let your dog dry completely after swimming**. If it is especially humid outside, or they are going into an AC house after getting wet, you should help this process along with a thorough towel drying. Many long-furred dogs, like Golden Retrievers and German Shepherds, are prone to hot spots in the summer. Having fur that is left wet or damp can predispose them to this uncomfortable skin condition.

## 8. KNOW THE SIGNS OF HEATSTROKE AND DEHYDRATION IN DOGS

The last important tip when it comes to keeping your dog cool in the summertime is to know the signs that something more serious is going on. Heatstroke is a condition that occurs when your dog's core temperature goes above 104 degrees.

At this point, your dog's normal ability to cool itself off stops working and their other major organs and body systems start to fail, often leading to death. *This is what happens when your dog is left in a car on a hot day.*

However, before heat stroke sets in, your dog will likely display **symptoms of heat stress or heat exhaustion**. According to [Preventive Vet](#) these include:

- Slowed pace or lethargy
- Seeking shade and rest
- Looking to drink any source of water available (think puddles)
- Excessive and persistent panting
- Labored breathing
- Rapid Pulse
- Wide and stressed-looking eyes

If you are noticing these symptoms on a hot summer day, take measures to get your dog to a cool place, give them frequent small amounts of cool water and let them rest. Take their temperature rectally, and as long as it is below 104, you can continue to treat them in this manner. If symptoms do not subside, never hesitate to call your vet about your concerns.

When **heat stress starts progressing to a true heatstroke**, you will see:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Excessive, thick drool
- Staggering
- Collapse
- Seizure
- Unresponsiveness

In this case, or if your dog's body temperature is above 104, it is best to call an emergency vet and get professional advice about how to treat your dog in their specific state.

In general, if they are still responsive, you want to get them to a cool place and give small amounts of water while you make arrangements for professional help.

**Most importantly when a dog is suffering a true heatstroke is to get them into the care of an emergency vet ASAP.**

### ***YOU'RE READY TO KEEP COOL IN THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER!***

When it comes to dog ownership in the summer, it's most important to be aware of the potential risks, plan daily exercise and activities in the early morning or later evenings, and incorporate shade and water into their day-to-day.

Remember the three main ways that dogs keep their body cool and use them to your advantage when helping your dog stay cool this summer!

Tips for Traveling with Your Wolfhound



*Traveling with Your Wolfhound*



by Debbie Greene



Courtney  
Smith &  
Bravo >



< Alex  
Smith &  
Emmett

**What to take:**

A first aid kit for you and your dog, medications, water, snacks, favorite chew toys and food. Don't forget water and food bowls. If your Wolfhound is like ours you might want to bring a couple of towels along. As you can see from the top left photo you might need to bring along a video game and a child to entertain your Wolfhound too!

Vet records/inoculation records – especially if you are going to cross state lines or go into Canada or Mexico.

**Where to stay:**

There are numerous websites that list pet friendly hotels. One of Mark Bettin's faves is BringFido: [Pet Friendly Hotels & Dog Travel Directory](#). Bring Fido has many great tips and tricks for traveling with your dog. Another is the AKC website! Did you know Motel 6 is the Official

Lodging Provider for the American Kennel Club? [Dog-Friendly Hotels: A Guide to Dog-Friendly Hotel Chains in the U.S. \(akc.org\)](http://www.akc.org). There are search engines on most travel and rental sites for dog friendly rentals. Many independent operators are extremely pet friendly! Some even provide beds, water bowls and pet treats upon arrival. Just call head to see what might be in the area you are traveling to.

If you are into camping KOA has many sites with cabins that are also pet friendly. Or as the Mahoney's do - travel in an airstream trailer and stay in most any campground you choose.

You will need to keep your dogs on leash. I have seen some folks linking several EX-Pens together to make a corral. Pretty ingenious!





*Traveling with Sebastian, by Angie May*

## **Traveling with Sebastian** **By Angie May**



**Here are some of the things that we try to do when traveling with Sebastian.**

- 1) Before the trip - Exercise - walk and running if possible (zoomies - a few short sprints to burn off a bunch of energy is nice). Make sure he has plenty of time to purge his system of urine and waste! If not, traveling with a wolfhound who is passing gas is hard on the nose!
- 2) Feed well the day before, but don't introduce any new foods that day. Minimize water a few hours before you depart.
- 3) In the summertime, sand and pavement can be super-hot. Bring dog booties to protect their feet. Try to make them get used to wearing them around home (Sebastian still doesn't like them!)
- 4) Carry water and a collapsible bowl for drinking water.
- 5) Remember the poop bags! Keep some in your pocket all the time when walking.

- 6) Air travel - in the summer, try to keep the dog in a cool place before boarding. It can get hot, a nice frozen water bottle or cool wet rags can be useful to cool him down.
- 7) Bring a big beach towel for him to sleep on.
- 8) Irish Wolf hounds don't usually like the water (at least our two did not). We put him in a life jacket when worried that he might fall in. I think they can swim, but a life jacket with a "handle" on top will help you pull him out of the water if needed.
- 9) Bring special treats for after you get there. For dog food, if you feed raw, freeze single portions in Ziplock bags.
- 10) Rent a van - it's easier to get into for the dog.
- 11) Get some type of light that they can wear in the dark. I use both a headlamp with an elastic headband that slips around his neck or a rechargeable glow-in-the-dark necklace.
- 12) Sleeping in a strange place is easier if you let them sleep in the same room as you. Get plenty of exercise that day so they will sleep well.
- 13) Remember, dogs are psychic - they can read your mind! If you can relax and enjoy yourself, they will likely settle down also. If they seem anxious, sit with them and let them settle down and relax.
- 14) Research places to ensure there will be dog friendly and safe areas before booking your trip. We usually rent a place with a kitchen, so that we can cook food at home with the dog. Sometimes, we will find dog friendly restaurants with outdoor seating.
- 15) Have fun and get used to the staring and comments!



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*Paw Prints Across the United States*



*by Joe & Madeline Mahoney*

Here are some photos from previous trips with our Irish Wolfhounds. They loved traveling in our 30 foot Airstream. The only issue we ever had was being denied a campsite due to weight restrictions at the campground!! That only happened twice out west.



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## *Mark & Bo's Great Adventures!*



*by Debbie Greene*

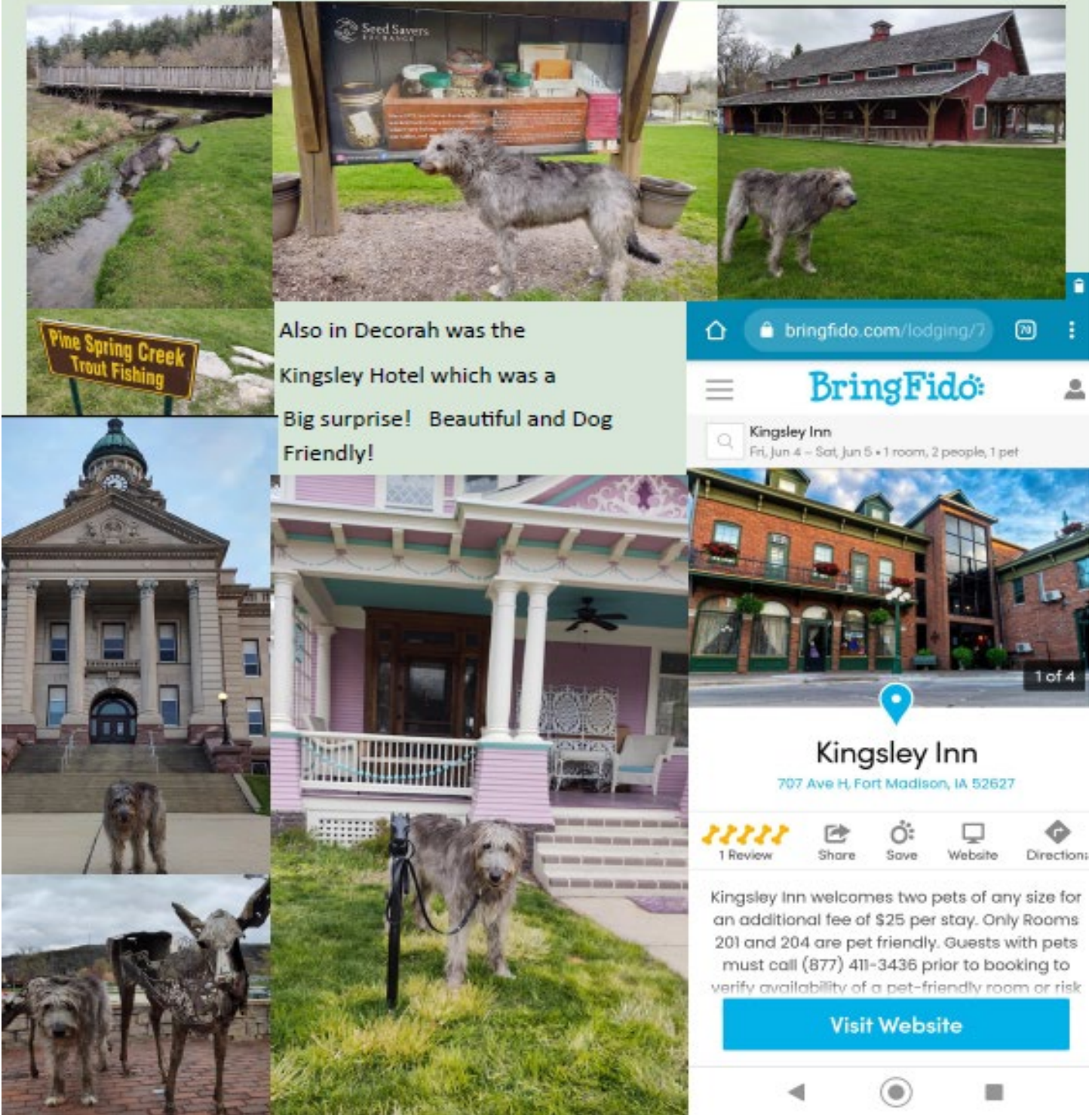
For any of you that follow Mark Bettin on Facebook you undoubtedly know he and Bo are on the go most weekends and any days off they can find to explore. This spring and summer they have been extra busy. They went to Decorah, Iowa to see the Field of Dreams because Mark's beloved White Sox will be playing the New York Yankees there later this summer.





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While in the Decorah area they went to the Seed Savers Exchange and they were pleasantly surprised! The 890 acre farm boasts rolling hills, stony bluffs, and beautiful rivers and streams as well as multiple gardens where they grow nearly 1,000 varieties of seed each year. Bo particularly enjoyed the trout stream!



Also in Decorah was the Kingsley Hotel which was a Big surprise! Beautiful and Dog Friendly!

bringfido.com/looding/7

## BringFido

Kingsley Inn  
Fri, Jun 4 - Sat, Jun 5 • 1 room, 2 people, 1 pet

### Kingsley Inn

707 Ave H, Fort Madison, IA 52627

1 Review   Share   Save   Website   Directions

Kingsley Inn welcomes two pets of any size for an additional fee of \$25 per stay. Only Rooms 201 and 204 are pet friendly. Guests with pets must call (877) 411-3436 prior to booking to verify availability of a pet-friendly room or risk

[Visit Website](#)

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Other stops for Bo and Mark were: Effigy Mounds, Izaak Walton, Preserve and Natural Bridge State Park , as well as Garden of the Gods!



To follow the Adventures  
of Mark and Bo  
Follow Mark Bettin on  
Facebook



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## Oh, for the Love of Wolfhounds

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by Michelle Whittenhall

Have I finally lost it?

Those are the words I kept repeating to myself as I frantically rushed to clean up the plate of food my toddler had thrown all over herself and the floor. My husband came in and hurriedly helped as well. We had to clean up before our 12 week old Wolfhound puppy (Rowan) could reach it.

*"No...stay...Rowan...STAY...don't you come up here...Evelynn PLEASE STOP with the throwing of the pasta...Rowan NO don't chew the cabinet...you guys are driving me crazy!"* and end scene. Now I sit here a sweaty, out of breath mom to two kids under 5 and a new puppy. Why did I do this to myself? My friends told me I was crazy to get a dog, nay a puppy, nay an Irish Wolfhound puppy right now. My own mother told me I had finally lost it- maybe they were right?

I'll admit, I questioned my own sanity the first week he was home. My girls were still adjusting to having a new dog as we had lost our last Wolfhound two years prior. This was a whole new experience. They ran up to him, were loud, made unpredictable movements toward him- all the things I've taught them repeatedly NOT to do around dogs. But Rowan took it in stride and slowly, slowly they all adjusted to each other. The girls became calm and Rowan was curious. *What were these wild creatures that dropped their food constantly and had high energy all day long?* He investigated the kids carefully; watching closely and anticipating their movements. Then one day my youngest was with the puppy in the living room and I realized...I heard nothing. No sounds coming from the part of the house where my 20 month old and Rowan were playing. *This is it- mutual destruction...or worse, they teamed up together to make mischief.* I rushed downstairs to find them both asleep next to each other on the floor- curled up together with their heads touching (transferring their mischief-maker intelligence to each other, no doubt). *Thank God. Maybe this will work.*

Later that same day, my older daughter was running with the puppy in the backyard. *Oh no, he's getting too amped up.* She's petite for a 4 year old weighing less than 30 lbs....and there was no doubt in my mind that she was about to be pounced on. Except again, that's not what played out. Once my daughter got tired and stopped, so did Rowan. He immediately walked beside her and followed her across the yard, listening to her talking about some piece of (abstract) art she did at preschool that day. *Good boy. Had I already forgotten how in-tune Wolfhounds are with their people?*

Now that he's been with us for a few weeks- that second guessing of myself has stopped. I can see how someone on the outside may think I'm crazy for bringing a new puppy into this young, chaotic family. He takes a lot of work, patience, and training. But here's the thing, as much as Rowan can fire me up, he has this uncanny ability to know exactly when to stop. He and I will lock our eyes and the moment he realizes I've moved from anger to exhaustion he comes over and melts into my lap and demands snuggles and kisses (much like my human children). He looks up at me with those *"Just teasing, sorry, I love you but will probably do this all over again tomorrow"* eyes. And honestly, would I want it any other way? I certainly wouldn't want a dog without a personality (like that's even an option when you own Irish Wolfhounds). Sure, it would be easier if he obeyed all my commands. It would be easier if he wasn't so intelligent that it took me 3 attempts of testing different baby gates until I found one he couldn't open. Then again, I love that he is curious and mischievous with a rough & tumble attitude one minute, then sweet as pie the next. I love that he is helping to teach my girls to respect animals while also showing them a little piece of love they were missing out on before. I love that at the end of a stressful day, he's my source of calm. He's strong willed, and I know that during an extra stubborn streak, I can't budge him if he doesn't want to move. But he WILL move, if asked nicely. We all know that asking nicely and treating Wolfhounds with the respect they deserve is key. Why is that? I think it's because of their sensitive nature. This breed is so loving and kindhearted, characteristics even the youngest puppy will show to everyone he meets. Wolfhounds stare into your eyes and open up your heart & soul in a way other dogs can't. They have a depth of understanding & warmth about them. I experienced this connection with my first

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Wolfhound and her absence caused my heart to ache for another...enter Rowan. *"Don't worry mom, I got you"* Rowan says lovingly as he jumps into my lap and knocks the wind out of me. Then he looks up at me with those sweet eyes of his and falls asleep on the forbidden blanket that happens to be laying on top of the forbidden couch. He knows I won't move him.

Crazy? No, adding him to our family isn't crazy. Crazy in love? Then yes, we are crazy in love with our new Wolfhound. My family & I wouldn't have it any other way. In the end, Wolfhounds (especially puppies) are a big undertaking. Adding one to your family is serious business. But when one comes into our lives they do complete us. They add to our family in ways we never thought possible, they expand our hearts, they test our patience, and most of all they push us to become the best versions of ourselves by giving us their unwavering affection.



In Remembrance of...



Saying Goodbye to a Long Time GLIWA Member

**Brigid Lee Boyle**

(nee Scanlon) 70, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, ended her battle with cancer on June 21, 2021.

Brigid was a long time GLIWA member and a great volunteer for our club, the IWCA and Midwest Coursing Club and just a great person to be around. She was the life of any and every party she attended, but hosting was her favorite. She opened her home to anyone and everyone who wanted to come over for a great meal and a glass of chardonnay. Sundays were for board games and champagne and laughter filled every room.



Gone too soon, we will all miss you Brigid!



Quarterly Photos & Brags



*See what GLIWA has been up to!*

## Downtown Chicago Walk



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