

GREAT LAKES IRISH WOLFHOUND ASSOCIATION

# Midwest Wolfhound



*A quarterly newsletter for Irish Wolfhounds & their people*

*Volume LXVII  
Summer 2023*



## Secretary's Report

- Track progress of the club and view the official record of each board meeting
- May- Board Meeting Minutes

## Calendar of Events

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

## 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
- Irish Wolfhound Orthopedic & Joint Issues

## How To Walk A Wolfhound Even If You're Old As Dirt

## Quarterly Photos & Brags (GLIWA PICNIC)

MIDWEST WOLFHOUND™

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# GREAT LAKES IRISH WOLFHOUND ASSOCIATION

## **PRESIDENT**

Risha Cupit-Berzins

## **VICE-PRESIDENT**

Chris Krowzack  
Bernstein

## **TREASURER**

Mark Bettin

## **SECRETARY**

Michelle Whittenhall

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mark Bettin  
Debbie Greene  
Helen Philpott  
Maria Lubera  
Courtney Smith  
Jen VanOrder

## **GLIWA INFORMATION**

For address or email changes,  
please contact:

[gliwaiw@gmail.com](mailto:gliwaiw@gmail.com)

## **MidWest Wolfhound™ Editors:**

**Debbie Greene**

[playinnature@gmail.com](mailto:playinnature@gmail.com)

**Michelle Whittenhall**

[Michelle.Whittenhall@gmail.com](mailto:Michelle.Whittenhall@gmail.com)

**Cover photo credit:**

Pucca & Ro- Jen VanOrder

## Secretary's Report



### Board Meeting Agenda for May 13, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 12:34 PM

Board members **Present:** (*tick the box if present*)

Risha  Chris  Michelle  Mark  Maria  Debbie  Helen  Courtney  phone  Jen

Board members **Absent:** (*tick the box if absent*)

Risha  Chris  Michelle  Mark  Maria  Debbie  Helen  Courtney  Jen

Guests in attendance  none

Reading of the Minutes or a motion to approve as printed in the Midwest Wolfhound Newsletter

Moved  Chris  Seconded  Maria  All in favor  x

#### Officers' Reports

**President – n/a**

**Vice President – n/a**

**Secretary / Membership** – Many new memberships coming in this year. We will continue to send reminders for people to check online (or email the club) if they are unsure of their payment/member status. Michelle is locking the member's website down for those who are overdue.

Reminder that if you are a current member, you can check your status via logging into the member section of the website.

**Treasurer** – Treasurer's report available upon request.

#### Committee Reports

**Activities** –discussed the NW Celtic Fest at the NOW Arena Hoffman Estates, IL Sat, Aug 12 (outdoors) 1:00 to 6:00

and Scottish Games, Itasca, IL Friday June 16 (1:00pm -10:00 pm) and Saturday June 17 (9:00am-10:00pm). Most likely GLIWA will do Celtic Fest and not Scottish games since one is shaded and one isn't.

**Fun Match-** These are booked: Hotel, Packing House, Layton Market (lunch), photographer, EKG vet tech. Ordered: Don Goodrich pottery, bowls, crocks. People can now reserve the hotel under the GLIWA block.

**Hospitality – n/a**

**Publications – n/a**

**Rescue – n/a**

**Policy – n/a**

**Ways and Means – n/a**

#### Old Business:

Bylaws committee update – This will need a special meeting to discuss (possibly during Aug meeting) how we will move forward, via Zoom.

#### New Business

Helen discussed GLIWA board and members volunteering and assisting with the IWCA National Specialty in May, 2024 at Purina Farms. Would like to have more regional club liasons to support each other as well as IWCA and vice versa. Would love for club members interested in helping with the Specialty to reach out and volunteer. IWCA is making a list of positions they need volunteers for. If interested please email gliwaiw@gmail.com .

# GREAT LAKES IRISH WOLFHOUND ASSOCIATION

## **New Business** (continued)

Mike Cherry offered Odd Duck Farm for another GLIWA fun run. Date is still TBD. We will keep the club updated.

Motion to adjourn meeting:

Moved \_\_Maria\_\_\_\_ Secoded \_\_Michelle\_\_\_\_ All in favor \_\_x\_\_

Board Meeting adjourned at: 1:10 PM.

Next Board Meeting on August 5th.

*Respectfully Submitted by Michelle Whittenhall- Secretary*



# GLIWA Calendar 2023

Come join us and enjoy the day with your wolfhounds!



Northwest Celtic Fest  
Saturday August 12th  
1:00 - 5:00 PM

Now Arena in Hoffman Estates  
5510 Prairie Stone Parkway  
<https://www.facebook.com/NWCelticFest/>

Now an OUTDOOR event taking place at the Village Green adjacent to the NOW Arena on Saturday, August 12, 2023 from 1:00pm to 6:00pm. There will be a large vendor tent that will have overhead lighting as well as water access for the dogs.

Featuring live music, FREE kids activities such as large inflatable games and activities will surround the tented area. After 6pm the adjacent Hideaway Beer Garden will open their stage and continue until 11:00pm.

**\*\*This event is for GLIWA MEMBERS ONLY\*\***

Please RSVP [here](#).

Come join us for our fabulous annual fun match!

SAVE the DATE October 21-22, 2023

great lakes irish wolfdhound association

  
**conformation fun match**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023

◆ Judge, Maura High ◆

◆ Coleraine Irish Wolfhounds ◆

Fun Match, Auction, and Judge's Dinner

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023

Seminars and EKG testing

CUDAHY KENNEL CLUB, ST. FRANCIS, WISCONSIN

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





## Spotlight on Health



### *Irish Wolfhound Orthopedic & Joint Issues*

The growth rate of an Irish Wolfhound puppy is truly astounding. Not surprisingly, sometimes things go wrong. Many of these problems are caused or made worse by inappropriate diet. Too much calcium, for example, is linked to osteochondritis dissecans (OCD). Feeding too much is also linked to OCD and other disorders. Slow and consistent growth is desirable to try and avoid joint issues in a puppy. [Click here to read the article entitled "How Much Exercise Is Appropriate For a Young IW?"](#) from Harp & Hound by Mel Mercer, DVM, CCRT. Your breeder and veterinarian are excellent resources to help you manage your puppy's growth.

#### ***Bursas***

Bursas (or hygromas) are benign fluid-filled sacs around a joint. They are most commonly seen on elbows, but can occur around other joints. No one is completely sure why they occur, but it may be related to growing puppies flinging themselves onto hard surfaces such that the body forms a fluid cushion to protect the joint. They are unsightly, but don't hurt the dog and eventually go away on their own. Surgery to drain or remove the bursa is not recommended, as complications like infections are possible, and often the body simply regrows the hygroma, anyway. Patience is required on the part of the owner!

#### ***Hip and Elbow Dysplasia***

Like many other breeds of dogs, IWs can have hip or elbow dysplasia, which can lead to lameness. However, the incidence in the breed is low. Since both are believed to have a genetic component, the IWCA recommends that all adult IWs be tested for dysplasia. Testing consists of xrays of the hips and elbows. The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals registers test results and has a database where you can [search for individual dogs or list all Irish Wolfhounds](#) in their database.

#### ***Panosteitis***

Panosteitis is a poorly understood disorder resulting in pain and lameness in puppies 6-18 months of age. It can be thought of as literal "growing pains." Often symptoms come and go in several weeks-long episodes. Xrays can confirm the condition. Ultimately, the puppy will grow out of the condition with no permanent effects. Pain should be managed and activity restricted when symptoms appear.



## ***Hypertrophic Osteodystrophy (HOD)***

HOD occurs in younger puppies (3-6 months of age) and results in lameness and pain. The growth plates swell, the puppy can be lethargic and uninterested in food, and there is often a fever. Diagnosis is via xray. Like other puppy joint disorders, HOD can be episodic and will eventually be outgrown, although there can be lasting damage to the bones if there have been enough incidents. Pain management, restricted exercise, and a balanced diet aimed at slow, steady growth are important in treating this condition.

## ***Osteochondritis Dissecans (OCD)***

OCD is a disease of the cartilage rather than the bones, and typically appears between the ages of 4 and 10 months. Cartilage pieces in the joint cause pain and lameness and may damage the growing bone. It can be treated conservatively with strict rest, pain medicine and a slow growth diet. In extreme cases, surgery to remove the cartilage pieces may be required.

## ***Rear-End Weakness***

About 20% of senior IWs (those 8 or older) experience a gradual weakening in the rear, to the point that they are eventually unable to use their back legs. There is no known single cause. Possibilities that should be investigated include arthritis, myasthenia gravis, degenerative myelopathy, and spondylosis. In addition to treatment for any cause that is discovered, alternative therapies such as acupuncture may be beneficial in reducing pain and regaining function.

*Source:* [www.iwclubofamerica.org](http://www.iwclubofamerica.org)



## *How To Walk A Wolfhound Even If You're Old As Dirt*



*Author: Bob McMillan The Wild Stare*

I notice that, like me, many wolfhound people are living in what we euphemistically call our “golden years.” That’s right, we’re old as dirt, but we’re still totally up for taking our giant, brawny friends on a stroll. We just have to fall back on a few sensible tactics to avoid being mangled or snapped like an old stick. What’s the good life without a few interesting challenges, yes? Because no matter how creaky we are, we’re not doing without our wolfhound. Of course, wolfhounds are generally well-behaved. And they adore us. They don’t mean to harm us. Not anymore than we mean to step on ants. But...stuff happens. Some tips I’ve learned the hard way for our more aged wolfhound guardians :

### **Feet, Don’t Fail Me Now**

Keep moving those feet. No matter what. Most wolfhounds are gentle on a leash, especially if you’ve worked with them since they were a puppy. But, they do like to poke around in bushes and see what’s over.....there. You’re going along. No, you just are. It’s only for a few feet, but that turf or pavement will give your face a complete makeover if you’re not on your toes. It takes a little longer for some of us to get up to speed these days. So stay up to speed. When Oona or Oisín are chest deep in a boxwood fishing for God knows what it is they smell deep down in there, they may be a while. Or, they could dart off again in a millisecond. I keep on shuffling. Back and forth. Kind of like a racehorse at starting gate. Only with a little less pep.

### **Finding The Sweet Spot**

A leisurely lope for a wolfhound is a mad dash for us. Long legs. We don’t want to be a buzzkill by constantly reeling them in or making a lot of noise bouncing off curbs and trees. But we don’t want to pull too many G’s racing towards a heart attack, either. So we try to find a happy medium. “Medium” is a subjective thing, of course. For a wolfhound, it’s a dizzying clip. So I try to make it to the gym every day at the old folks hour. I ratchet the treadmill up until it starts to smoke. I try to keep it up for 30 minutes or until the lights dim and the paramedics show up. It’s great for my cardio, but what it’s really for is power walking. This is how I hit a wolfhound’s “medium” pace. Seems to keep my doctor happy, too.

## **Reach For The Sky, Pardner**

Strangely, after six decades, my tendons just aren't as loose and limber as they used to be. And my joints tell me to cut out whatever rash thing I'm doing to them. So, before I lash myself to two gigantic furry rockets, I stretch. Gently, for a long time. Stretching not only helps me keep up to speed without throwing gears and other parts, it prepares me for those brutal stops my wolfhounds make going back to smell some apparently irresistible speck they missed on the first pass. It helps me pivot without hearing those ugly snapping noises when they lurch to the side to inspect an important leaf. Stretching lets me clatter along with the best of them.

## **Padding the Account**

If nature hasn't blessed you like it has me with a few spare pounds as I've aged, remember, odds are, you're going to get tipped over, dragged off something or run into a tree or lamppost eventually out walking your gentle giant. There's no shame in stuffing your pockets with paper or wrapping your knees and elbows before heading out. Maybe a leather jacket like motorcycle riders use in case they go down on pavement. Armor is impractically heavy and I haven't found a rubber suit yet that breathes enough for sprinting after wolfhounds but a jumpsuit crammed with bubblewrap might just be the way to go. As long as the popping doesn't startle your hound into the next county.

## **A Few Do's and Don't's**

**DO** drink your milk and take your calcium supplements. Bones are your friend. Take good care of them.

**DO** file a flight plan. Let your spouse, significant other or heirs know where you're going. If your hound comes back alone, they'll know which ditch or ravine to search for you.

**DON'T** worry how you look hobbling along in your padded suit or what have you. Old? You're a seasoned veteran. They're wearing spandex. They don't look nearly as good as they imagine. And you're walking an Irish wolfhound, the king of dogs.

**DON'T** try roller skates. At first glance, the fluid motion of those little wheels might sound like just the thing to roll like the wind behind your wolfhound. When was the last time you saw them walk in a straight line? Ever. Can you say "crack the whip"? And "snap the wrists" and shatter the knees"? Just don't...

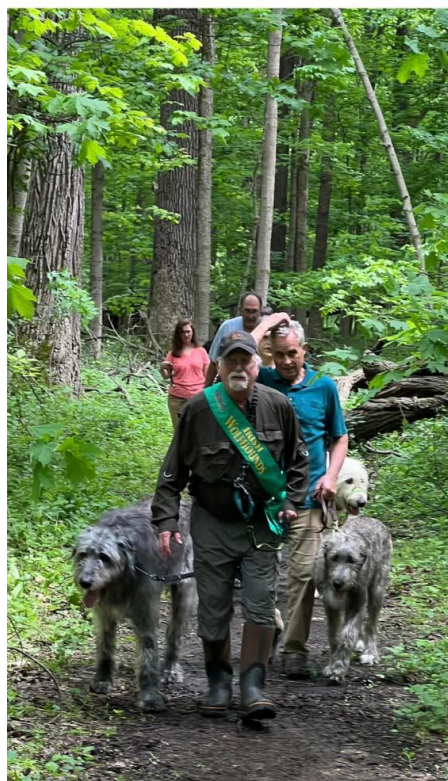
In short, there's plenty you can do keep on trucking with your hound and up the odds that you'll come back again, too. Happy trails!



## Quarterly Photos & Brags



### *See what GLIWA has been up to!* GLIWA'S ANNUAL PICNIC



It was a lovely day out enjoying everyone's company (dogs & humans). After lunch, our activities coordinator Mark Bettin led us all on a picturesque walk through the woods. We had a couple of potential new owners come out and learn about the breed as well! As usual, the dogs were lovely ambassadors.