



Faol Cu



The Newsletter of the Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club

Visit us on the web: www.pviwc.org

December 2014

NEWS!

Holiday Party: December 7, 2014
3:00.

188 West Lake Dr, Annapolis MD
21403.

Hosted by Dee & Gary Van Nest.
Please contact 410-263-6876 to
advise what you're bringing!

Welcome New Board Members Dan
Martin & Diane Reba!

Congratulations to Rob Maloy on
his election as vice president.
Rob's board position will be filled at
the January meeting.

2014 PVIWC Officers

President: Lisa McKinney

717-766-3125

Vice President: Diane Hartney

703-759-6316

Secretary: Susan Morfit

301-330-0008

Treasurer: Ce Hoffman

434-589-5294

Board Members

Carole Silverthorne: 540-338-8916

Linda King: 434-978-2873

Susan Montgomery: 410-446-3138

Rob Maloy: 410-984-7470

Anne Flanigan: 410-442-1852

Incoming 2015: Dan Martin & Diane
Reba

Board Member Bios

Dan Martin has been in Irish Wolfhounds since 1982 when after a year of working as a stable hand for Stoney Creek Thoroughbreds, Berne Smith offered one of her brood bitches to his family, Avoca. Already a 4H Canine Study club member, Dan was introduced to the Smiths through long time PVIWC members Anne Murphy and Miriam De Quoy as a way to continue his education. That same year Dan took George Alston's dog handling classes with his IW. And through the help of Berne, he won the Maryland State Fair for Fitting and Showing with an IW - Berne's Ch. Colleen of Nutstown. His love of showing Irish Wolfhounds was off and running.

For over 20 years, Dan Martin has been providing production services for many of the fundraisers, galas, concerts, and special events that dot the calendars' of life in Washington, DC. He is also one of the original members of the Keegan Theater of DC, touring American classics each fall in Ireland for 10 years (And sneaking off to show an IW or two while there). Dan looks forward to working with the board and officers of PVIWC. (editor's note— Dan also provides the audio for our show, for which we are very grateful!)



Dan Martin



Avoca of Eagle

Diane Reba

Originally from Minnesota, I am a retired Registered Nurse and Vietnam Veteran. Besides dogs, I am an avid gardener and reader of all sorts of books.

I began showing Golden Retrievers and had many Champions in the 1970s. In 1994, I got my first Irish Wolfhound from Ann Hathaway at Cypress Kennels. My second bitch (I only have bitches) was from Karon Volk (Ozols) at Karontara and now I have Roisin from Jocelyn Gagne at Starkeeper. I have only participated in conformation, but would like to begin lure coursing, too.

I also have Border Terriers. I have done conformation with them, and breed occasionally, and just began Earth Dog.

My Younger male BT, Robbie disappeared from our yard near Frederick, MD, 11/10/14. We strongly believe Robbie is “out there” and just needs to be found and brought home. Please join “Finding Robbie” on Facebook to help bring him home!



Board Member Biography - Lisa McKinney- President

I first knew I wanted an Irish Wolfhound when I was very young, probably first or second grade, when I spotted one in the World Book encyclopedia “D” book. My life took a couple turns and getting a Wolfhound simply was not an option. When I felt like I was getting close to my goal, Bill (then my fiancé, now my husband) and I, started visiting shows and doing internet research, to make sure we were making the right decision. I actually touched my first Wolfhound in 1998; looked into his eyes, felt my heart turn over, and I knew I would love this breed forever. Finally, in 2000 – after about 30 years, my first Wolfhound, “Michaleen” entered my life. Fourteen years later, I can’t imagine my life without one. Including Micky, Bill and I have had five Wolfhounds total. I have been incredibly fortunate to have a mentor and friend that has allowed me to “puppy sit” for several newborn litters, and even make bi-weekly visits, so I could watch her litters grow out from less than a day old, until they started going to their new homes at 12 weeks. The knowledge and joy gained from these visits is priceless and something I will never forget.

As I start my third term as PVIWC president, I find that I am even more in love with the breed today than I was in 1998. I hope and pray, that in my lifetime, we see significant improvements in the health and longevity of this amazing breed, through the efforts of good breeders and research funded by organizations like the IWF.

Thoughts From The President

As I write my final President's column for the year 2014, I find myself thinking of all of the wonderful people in our club. So many people, who otherwise would probably not have met, have been brought together by their mutual love of the amazing Irish Wolfhound. This is a group of people who do their best to strengthen and support each other through tremendous loss, and celebrate together, through each gain. We are, in so many ways, a family.

I also find my thoughts turning to the people in Texas who have witnessed, first hand, the horrors that seemingly heartless humans can perpetrate on helpless dogs. The things they have seen cannot be erased from their memories and my heart breaks for both the dogs and the people involved. But while this story is very sad, it also demonstrates some of the best in people. The rescue workers who have stepped up to help each and every dog, to the best of their ability. The national, and even international, outpouring of support, especially financial support, to try to bring these dogs back to the best health possible. The adopting and fostering families, who are spending incredible amounts of time and energy, to normalize these victims, as much as possible. The local, regional and national coordinators who have worked tirelessly to place the dogs and support those who have taken them in. All of those people are truly the best among us. As a community, we cannot thank these individuals enough for putting themselves on the front line, attempting to save so many of our beloved hounds.

As we enter the holiday season, where there is so much to be done and so little time to do it in, I just want to remind everyone to take some time for themselves, and their hounds, to enjoy the peace and happiness of the season.

[Lisa R. McKinney](#)

President

Rob and Van help move one of the rescues out of the transport van after a 24 hour trip from TX to VA. photo courtesy Susan Morfit



Maryland Irish Festival! By Lisa McKinney

Photo Courtesy of Rob & Sarah Maloy

One of the recurring invitations PVIWC receives is to the Maryland Irish Festival each November. This festival is large, has a constant supply of music, food and vendors. It never fails to provide the attendees with wonderful music and unique and interesting lessons about Ireland and the traditions passed down from “the homeland” to the Irish-Americans in the USA.

Traditionally, Anne Flanigan organizes PVIWC’s attendance and this year was no exception. Anne ensures we have dogs there, to greet the public and make friends, during the majority of the hours the festival is open, beginning with Friday evening, running through the entire weekend, until late Sunday evening.

We had numerous attendees this year, as is common. I would love to name all the attendees, but I’m certain that I would miss someone and cause some offense. As is very typical, the Wolfhounds were a huge hit with everyone coming to the festival, particularly the young (and young at heart).

I hope we get to see many of you at next year’s festival!!!

The festival being Veteran’s Day Weekend, we took advantage to honor some of our club’s attending vets, and the hounds they love. Anne Flanigan, Rob Maloy, Tom Hartney, Michael Quigley.

One of the Maloys’ hound enjoys some special attention.



EVENT ETIQUETTE By Lisa McKinney

Each year, many times a year, our club is invited to participate in events such as Celtic Festivals, parades, public rescue events and even special events, like “Meet the Breeds” at conformation shows.

I want to take a minute to remind everyone about some basic “good etiquette” we should all follow at these events.

We are the representatives of our club and our breed. When people see us with our hounds, it might be the first, or possibly even the only, time they meet an Irish Wolfhound and its human companion. Please make sure the impressions you and your hounds give are ones honoring the traditions of their Irish heritage and reputation for being gentle giants. Please do not let your dog jump on people, and if at all possible, avoid stepping on people and collisions with children.

Our Wolfhounds should be under our full control at all times. Allowing them to “run loose” with leads dragging, or outside of some form of containment, is completely unacceptable. We have no way of knowing how individuals will react to encountering such a large dog. In addition, if the uncontrolled dog approaches a dog that is not familiar to it, there is absolutely no way of knowing how either dog will react. The last thing any breed needs, especially a giant breed, is a dog fight in the public eye. With breed specific legislation being almost the norm, we do not want to find our wonderful hounds on such a list, based on a public dog fight. Even worse, an innocent bystander could be injured, perhaps even seriously. Even if no fight takes place, it leaves the impression that our dogs are uncontrollable – a reputation no breed needs, or wants, in this day and age. This doesn’t even take into consideration the legal ramifications if someone is injured, either by a bite, or simply an exuberant dog knocking them down or stepping on them.

If non-club-members arrive with their Wolfhounds, please be friendly and help guide them in regards to providing the public with accurate information about our breed. That said, please be respectful at all times regarding conversations. It is impolite to interrupt and contradict people unless a reasonable segue can be found where alternative information can be offered without direct contradiction.

Please keep a careful watch over your hound. They have no way to verbalize to us that they are tired, over-stimulated, or just ready for some down time. However, their body language can often tell us that they’re either ready for a break, or, ready to go home. Please familiarize yourself with the signs of stress in dogs and ensure that you respond accordingly, if your dog is exhibiting such behavior.

If we all keep these things in mind, act appropriately and make sure our dogs are good citizens, we will continue to be invited to these important events, year after year and our hounds will continue to enjoy the respect and admiration of the public, and the event committee members.

Please see our “FAQ” on the next page and keep these basics in mind when talking to the public!

Irish Wolfhound FAQs

Lifespan: 6-9 years on average.

Health/diseases: Heart disease, cancer- especially bone cancers, bloat/torsion are the major causes of death. There are some other problems that can occur, e.g., liver shunt in puppies, low thyroid and seizure disorders, but most IWs are very healthy. The problem is they often show no signs of illness, until they are suddenly, critically ill.

Feeding: Use a quality food. Adults eat about 4 cups of kibble a day. Adult IWs should eat twice a day.

Exercise: No FORCED exercise for puppies. Let them exercise themselves. They need adequate time and room to play as they want, even as adults. You really need a fenced yard, or you need to commit to several long walks/runs daily. They do fine in small houses or yards, if you can provide them a place to run & play regularly. They require regular exercise.

Shedding: Yes, some, year round but not as bad as a shorter-haired dog.

Colors: Any color from solid black to solid white, or brindle- black stripes on wheaten, red or grey, with grey brindle being most common. There are no colors valued more than others in the standard.

Weight/size/growth rate: Minimum is 32" & 120 lbs. for a male, 30" & 105 for a female. The average is about 35" & 170 lbs. but larger size isn't as important as good health, breeding & personality are. They weigh about a pound and a half at birth, and can weigh 100 lbs. by 9 months.

Disposition: calm, steady, sweet, friendly. If bored, puppies can be destructive; since they can reach so high, they may damage unexpected places. They are generally very good with kids- WITH CAUTION & SUPERVISION.

Cost (to buy, feed, vet): \$1800 and up to purchase. Double or triple the average dog at the vets. Plus higher than average cost for medicine, toys, beds, heartworm & flea treatment, bigger car...

Obedience/performance/etc.: Training has to be positive, sensible to the dog, consistent & patient. YOU MUST have a sense of humor. But IWs are very smart, able to do obedience if it isn't BORING or unpleasant. Lure coursing (running after a plastic lure on a system of strings & pulleys to simulate chasing a bunny), obedience, rally, therapy are common activities. Most are companions, first & foremost.

Are they good with other animals? MOST Wolfhounds can be trained to accept other animals inside the house; however, there are always exceptions. In addition, these dogs are sighthounds with strong hunting instincts, therefore outside, almost all other non-canines could be considered prey by your Wolfhound.

Purpose: To hunt wolves and other large prey. To keep the sofa from floating into space. Pets and companions above all else.

Braggs!

Ryan At The Library: Bill & Lisa McKinney



We are pleased to share that another one of our Wolfhounds is a reading companion. Each Thursday, during the school year, Ryan goes to a local library and allows children to read to him. Studies show that these types of reading programs significantly improve the reading skills of children who participate. We are very proud that Ryan, and two of our previous Wolfhounds, have been able to participate in these important programs.

Rose (Silver Thorne's Rosemary) is being examined by judge JoAnne Buehler at Catonsville Kennel Club's October show. Ms. Buehler was kind enough to award Rose Best of Breed and Rose received one point toward her championship. Now, if we can just find about nine other judges that like her....!

Judie Jeweler took this photo, and thanks so much Judie!



Corky (Corcaigh O'Laoghaire O'Ros CD RE CGC) had a great fall show season! At Catonsville KC, he was BOB for judge Thomas Kirstein on 10/10! At Rock Creek Kennel Club, 11/21, he was Best of Winners for judge Paula Hartinger, for 2 more points! He needs only one 3 point major to finish! While we attempt that, we're also working on his CDX!

Braggs continued

Van and Susan Morfit's Aiden has had a great fall, too! Susan reports: On a lark we entered him in IWADV in October, and, to our utter shock, he won his class, American Bred. He seemed to enjoy being in the ring, so we entered him in the Turkey Cluster in Howard County. Thinking the shows were the weekend following Thanksgiving, we missed the Friday show. On Saturday he took Best of Winners, a three point major. On Sunday, Aidan had his game face on and took Best of Breed against two Specials, for another 3 pt major! He didn't place in Group, but it was a great experience for him. Anyway, Aidan had a total of one point going into the Howard County shows! Did I mention that on Saturday he was being a stubborn, out of control, cranky monster? How he ever won Best of Winners is beyond my comprehension! Carnasserie Vandeventer's Fiery Aidan



PVIWCs Involvement with the "Texas 72" By Susan Morfit





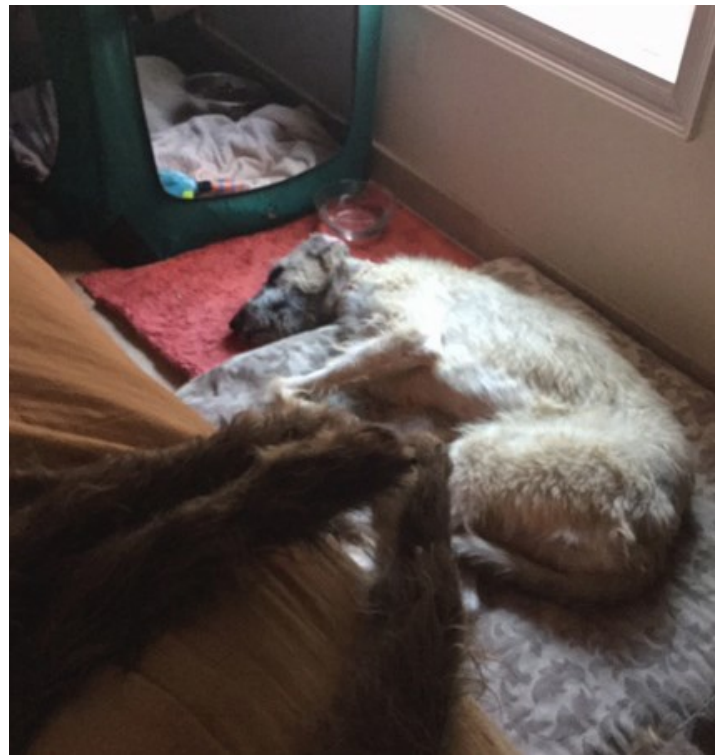
Van resting with Cameron (another rescue is behind them) as he did daily for 3 weeks



Cameron learning to accept leash and love. Aiden helping.



Cameron in his crate, watched over by Bebhionn.



Cameron comfortable enough to be out of the crate!

Now that you have seen some of the pictures (taken by Susan Morfit), you may have a better sense of the rescue process from the Club's perspective. Cameron weighed 78 pounds and the other hound taken by club members weighed 81. We took the two straight to Dr. Kara Scheopp's Peachtree Animal Hospital for evaluation, treatment, and observation. Both of the dogs are positive for heart worms, and the female has signs of some type of respiratory illness. Cameron is so feral that we are adding height to our fence to make it eight feet tall. Kara feels if he is spooked, he will jump the fence in fright. At the moment he doesn't have the muscle strength to do any jumping, but we want to be prepared when he does have the strength. He has gained nearly 20 pounds since he arrived at Kara's clinic, but he still looks like a nine month old puppy. Kara estimates he is somewhere between two and three years and the female, about five years old.. She spent two weeks at the clinic, but Cameron was there for three weeks. The Female was much more social, while Cameron was much less so. He has come a long way, but is still terrified of open spaces. He has started to explore our bedroom where his kennel is located. We are now working on getting him to stay on the bed with us. He is slowly beginning to think that's a cool place to be unless startled. So far, we have not heard any vocalizations from him, including a bark. He has started to chew on an antler, but that took over six weeks! The older dogs in our pack are very gentle with him. The only interaction this far has been smelling him when he is out of his kennel. Aidan usually follows Van and Cameron around the yard when he is out for potty breaks

Welcome New Members– Human & Canine!

Hi, my name is Regis and I live in Odenton, MD where I do in-home daycare. When I was eight I met an Irish Wolfhound - I turned to my mother and said "I'm going to have a dog like that one day". And now I do - dreams do come true! Darwin is six months old and he is everything I thought he would be. He joined my other dogs - a German Shepherd, a Maltese and a Goldendoodle. Four dogs and six daycare kids keep me busy, happy and laughing.



Welcomes, continued



Holiday Greetings! We are first time wolfhound owners and new members John and Denise Franchetti. Our pup Bronagh (named after St. Bronagh who was a nun in the 16th century) came from breeders Karon Volk Ozols & Linda Souza. Sire: GCH CH Carrickaneena Tyrconnell Dam: Karontara Tomorrow Is Another Day.

We share our home in Bel Air Md., with our other fur /feather kids : Khaki - miniature wolfhound wanna be, BB-rescued 5lb toy poodle and Peep-a nasty love bird!

The PVIW Club has been so helpful with finding a breeder, puppy sitter, (Thanks to Susan and Bill Montgomery) and answering all those questions! We are so looking forward to being a part of this great LOVE of the Irish Wolfhounds!

When we had to send her mother to the Rainbow Bridge in July, Rose became an Only Dog. It was very hard on her to be alone. She was well on her way to being the poster dog for separation anxiety when I saw a note on a bulletin board at work. It advertised a dog that had been in foster care for 6 months. She really needed a new forever home. I hemmed and hawed about it because she was described as being "Lab/Doberman/Rottie mix". Well, THAT made me a bit wary. I took another good look at the note and it hit me that the dog's name is Lily. Well, all our dogs are "botanicals": we've had Bud, Ivy, Pansy, Rosemary....you see where I'm going. We HAD to go meet her. Meet her we did and brought her home for a trial run on Oct 18th. She's not going anywhere!

She and Rose are best buds. Lily will put her front feet on Rose's shoulder and gnaw at Rose's throat. (I'm having to do less grooming in that area before shows now). They chase each other out the dog door, through the garage, and into the back yard. Then they reverse the process. This morning, Lily got up on our bed while Rose stood on the floor at the foot. Lily went from one side of the bed to the other, Rose did the same on the floor. Back and forth, back and forth. They seemed to think it was the best game ever -It's the only time they see eye to eye!

We're glad she's here.

