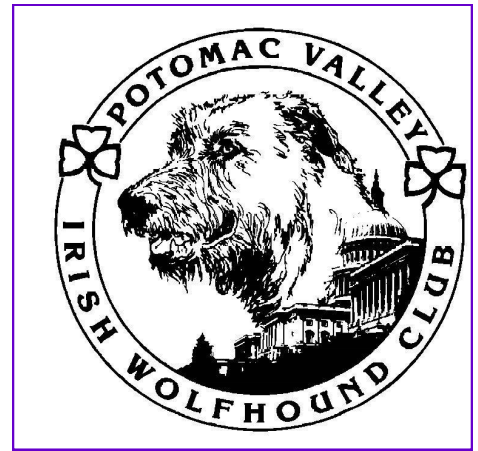




Faol Cu

November, 2013



The Newsletter of
The Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club

Visit us on the web: www.pviwc.org

Thoughts From The President

Wow, where does the time go? For many years my mother said this and, until a few years ago, I had no idea, what she meant. Time always seemed to drag, at least to me. Now, however, as I age, I find that I easily understand what she meant. It seems like just yesterday I was packing up trophies from the 2013 specialty show and here it is, I'm trying to get organized, and "drum up business" for the 2014 show!

One of my favorite things to do in my "column" is to brief you on our upcoming events. Hopefully this issue will come out before the 11/17 meeting, at which we will elect our 2014 officers. There were no nominations from the floor at the October meeting, so, per the bylaws, the slate produced by our nominating committee will be elected by a single ballot cast by the club secretary, Susan Morfit.

Speaking of bylaws, our bylaws committee, chaired by Rob Malloy, has submitted updated bylaws for review. These were

2012 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

Ann Flanigan: 410-442-1852

Rob Maloy: 410-984-7470

Carole Silverthorne: 540-338-8916

Susan Montgomery: 410-772-7139

Linda King: 434-978-2873

November 17 meeting: 1121 Deer Crossing La, Orange VA 22960
1:30pm

sent out by Susan during the month of October. These changes will be discussed at the November meeting and I anticipate a vote on approving them. Due to this important topic, I encourage you to attend the meeting and let your voice be heard on the proposed changes to the bylaws.

Quickly following on the heels of the November meeting is the December holiday party. Dee and Gary Van Nest have graciously volunteered to host the party again this year. If you've never been to one of these events, I highly recommend you try to make it this year. Dee and Gary's home is lovely and they are wonderful hosts. Plus, it's a chance to relax with your fellow club members and enjoy good food, good friends and, who knows, maybe even some conversation about dogs <LOL>.

Although it's just barely Thanksgiving season, and March seems far off, our annual specialty show will be on top of us before we have time to blink. Planning of the 2014 show is well underway and we need your help to continue this annual event. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have had to make a change in show chairs and Ce Hoffman has graciously stepped in to take over for Tammy, who reluctantly had to step down. We are always in need of volunteers for the many tasks related to the show, including, but not limited to, set up, tear down and judges hospitality. There are many other duties throughout the show that you might enjoy helping with, as well. Please reach out to our new show chair, Ce Hoffman (blairiw@gmail.com), to find out what needs done, or, to let her know what you can help with.

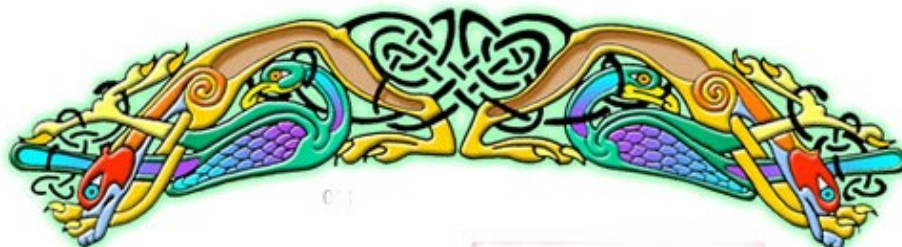
I always try to include, in my column, a friendly health reminder regarding our hounds. There have been many stories, and rumors, regarding various influenzas and viruses "floating" around out there, that can affect our hounds (and even ourselves). I just want to remind everyone to keep a diligent eye on your hounds, and human family members, watching for "cold like" symptoms. Please ensure you pursue these symptoms with the medical professionals available to you. Some of these "flus" are very dangerous, a few even deadly, so I encourage you to risk what you might feel is the possibility of being embarrassed, or appearing overly-protective, to ensure your hounds, and your own, health and safety.

Wishing everyone a healthy, safe and fun holiday season!

Lisa R. McKinney

President

Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club



Cancer Vaccine Shows Promise for Osteosarcoma

Canines enrolled in a University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine trial to test a vaccine to prevent the spread of osteosarcoma seem to be showing fantastic results!

The vaccine, recombinant *Listeria monocytogenes*, is administered in 3 shots over a series of weeks. It has been modified to express Her2/neu. Her2/neu is a growth factor receptor that is expressed to different degrees on cancer cells including canine osteosarcoma cells.

The *Listeria* bacteria induces a potent immune response and, as the bacteria also carries the Her2/neu protein, it will stimulate the patient's immune system to recognize and kill target cells that express Her2/neu.

Dogs entering the study must have had amputation of the affected limb, a course of radiation (4 doses of carboplatin), and pass a health test with no further signs of illness or cancer spread. After vaccination, dogs are monitored every 2 months at U Penn.

12 dogs have been enrolled in the study, with all receiving the vaccine. To date (early October), the first dog in the trial has survived 570 days post diagnosis, with other dogs having been diagnosed over 500 days ago. Early patients in the study are being revaccinated now. The average survival for osteosarcoma post amputation is around 300 days, so this allows significant increase.

However, most giant breeds aren't good candidates for amputation. The study is now moving to phase II, to determine whether palliative radiation followed by vaccination with ADXS31-164 can prolong overall survival in dogs that cannot undergo amputation. We hypothesize that combination radiation and immunotherapy may act together to kill the primary cancer cells and prevent tumor spread from the primary site. In this trial, all patients will receive palliative radiation (2 doses on 2 consecutive days) and then they will be randomized to receive either ADXS31-164 or a placebo. Dogs will receive either the ADXS31-164 vaccine or placebo every three weeks for a total of 8 times. Dogs will be evaluated every three weeks and assessed for lameness and pain, overall well-being and any evidence of tumor spread. This is a unique trial that combines two cancer treatment modalities (radiation and immune therapy) in an attempt to improve the outcome of large and giant breed dogs with osteosarcoma.



“Standard” OA treatment for IWs includes pamidronate, palliative radiation or cyber-knife radiation, NSAIDS, Opiates or opioids and often limb-sparing surgery.

60% of all IW patients live less than 1 year, and OA occurs in approximately 9% of the population of giant breeds

BYLAWS!

The proposed changes to the bylaws affecting membership categories will be discussed & hopefully voted on at the November meeting (11/17/13, Berne Smith's home). The changes proposed are:

d. Emeritus Membership. Longstanding active members with many years of excellent and devoted service to the Club may be granted lifetime emeritus membership by a vote of the active membership after nomination by the Board of Directors. Emeritus members are not required to pay dues and they are not considered in the calculation of the number required for a quorum. Emeritus members may be elected to Club offices, vote at general meetings, and serve on committees. When present, Emeritus members count towards reaching a quorum.

e. OOA Active Membership. Out of Area (OOA) Active Members is a voluntary class of membership for those members who wish to stay active but cannot (for geographical or health reasons) regularly attend meetings. OOA members are treated just like Emeritus members EXCEPT they still pay dues. Members are in this status for a minimum of 6 months. Notification to the club secretary is all that is required to move in and out of this class.

Also planned for discussion is moving the Annual meeting to January.

Please contact Rob Maloy (robertwmaloy@gmail.com) for a full copy or any further information.

Well, the only thing we can do is brag about our Irish Wolfhound puppy, Darby. She is the best ever. It's great she has our 2 year old lab, Belle, to rough house with and who taught her the "potty outside" lesson.

With our first outing being the Bark and Bash held at Quiet Waters, Darby passed with flying colors, not only with Corky and Kelly, but with every other adorable canine that walked by.

I wish we had become owners many years ago of the beloved Irish Wolfhound breed because they certainly steal your heart.

Attached is a picture to see how she controls our lives.

Take care, Sharon (Jones)



After a long and harrowing battle with parainfluenza and pneumonia, Campbell Morfit is finally well Here she is enjoying the fall weather! Go Campbell!



Pansy, AKA CH Silver Thorne's Heartsease , earned her Champion title on 12 Oct 2013!

The Maryland Irish Festival, November 8-10 at the Timonium Fairgrounds, was a huge success. Many club members and their hounds attended the festivities.



Brynley Dolman and Boromir (Judith Chante-loises guys) enjoyed the Highland games in VA!



Janet Queisser reports: Piper earned her agility MJP2 (the second Master Preferred Jumpers) title at Langley KC. It involved earning ten additional Q's (qualifying runs with a perfect score and under time) at the Masters level in the Jumpers With Weaves class. I believe she is the first Irish Wolfhound to earn this title.



We also attended the Quiet Waters Barkin Bash in October! New members, Dan & Sharon Jones brought puppy Darby, who joined the Jewelers for some fun!





Maggie went over the Rainbow Bridge on November 4. She was a beautiful young lady. Everyone loved her. She had the best temperament. We miss her so much, we can't begin to say how heavy our hearts are at this time. We will find peace from her joy and playful ways.

Our condolences to Kathy & Peter Blakney.

Christina Buckner lost Gavin suddenly in August. He will be missed.



Specialty Show!

Planning for the show is well underway! We will once again be at the Harford County Equestrian center, but at a different locale in the park, that is flatter and better for showing.

Once again, we will need lots of help! Set up and tear down (Saturday & Monday) are especially important and needed, as are various other tasks throughout the weekend. If you would like to volunteer or learn more, contact Ce Hoffman, our Show Chair. There are jobs for any skill, age or time level!

Stewards are needed for Obedience and Rally. Little to no experience is needed. You need to be able to stand a bit, take direction, lift up to 10 lbs. and possibly write or operate a stop-watch. Please let Jodie know if you can volunteer!

We also need an Obedience/Rally co-chair. While no experience is necessary, you must be at the show Sunday morning, and be able take over in case of emergency. Training will be provided. This should be a job with a nice title & little work, other than as support!

My Favorite Things, Part 2

By Janet Queisser

Over the years I have come to find certain products, concepts and training techniques that have enhanced my life with wolfhounds. This time are some things to consider when dealing with older dogs.

Many old dogs will develop weakness in their hindquarters. If a wolfhound is involved, getting them up and around can be a major task. I suggest something like the **Help 'Em Up Harness**. This device has a handle and consists of a wide, padded band that fits underneath and over the dog's hips. Narrow straps secure it on either side of the tail and it stays on the dog. Knowing how these conditions can quickly overwhelm our lives and that of our hounds, I recommend that you look into getting one before you actually need it.

Another Thing to help old dogs is a ramp. I have a **Pet Step Folding Ramp** that works very well for getting a hound in and out of our van. Telescoping type ramps that are designed especially for vehicles and are easily stowed are also available. The KVPet catalog has a good selection of portable ramps. Just remember that if you build a semi-permanent ramp to use at home: make sure it is not too steep, is anchored firmly to the ground and provides good, secure footing in either wet or dry weather.

While we are talking about older wolfhounds and ramps, I suggest teaching your young dogs (especially puppies!) how to use a ramp. An older dog with diminished rear end capability may find it difficult or stressful to navigate a ramp if he or she has never been exposed to one. However, if that hound acquired the skill as a youngster they will be more at ease at "ramping" when it becomes necessary for traveling.

The skill is this: on a verbal cue, such as "Ramp on," the hound walks up the ramp into the vehicle and likewise, waits in the vehicle for a similar cue to walk calmly down the ramp to exit.

IN our next issue, Janet will teach us how to easily train our hounds to use a ramp!



Pneumonia in the Irish Wolfhound :Key Fact Guide

The Irish Wolfhound Health Group has put together this Guide to Pneumonia in the Irish Wolfhound in response to a growing number of misdiagnoses and misunderstanding of the condition in the breed.

In America the drug of choice for wolfhounds is Rocephin (ceftriaxone), a 3rd generation cephalosporin, which is not licensed in the UK.

Wolfhounds are unique in their presentation of pneumonia. They may have a normal

temperature and their lungs may appear clear on x-rays.

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.
 - Dog may or may not be coughing.
 - Temperature may be very high – but a normal temperature does not necessarily preclude a diagnosis of pneumonia.
 - Their lungs may appear clear on x-ray.
-
- 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.
- antibiotics used – Ceporex, Baytril and Antirobe, Cefuroxime, Zithromax, Marbofloxacin and Trimethoprim sulfa,
- Drug treatment needs to continue for at least 4 weeks. (6 weeks is optimal)
 - 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.
 - You need to have a conversation about pneumonia with your Vet, before it happens.



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 Lab.

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 sight hounds 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. As pets and companions above all else.