



The Newsletter of the Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club

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# November 2011: The Health Issue

**Election News!** 

2011 PVIWC Officers

President: Christina Kallay

410-519-5744

Vice President: Van Morfit

301-330-0008

Secretary: Susan Morfit

301-330-0008

Treasurer: Gary Van Nest

410-263-6876

## **Board Members**

Al Jeweler, 410-266-8062

Gary Van Nest, 410-263-6786

Robert Brehl, 240-446-6015

Carole Silverthorne, 540-338-8916

Jodie Jeweler, 410-266-8062

Lisa McKinney, 717-766-3125

Elections were held November 20,2011.

Congratulations to the new officers & board members!

President: Christina Kallay

Vice President: Diane Hartney

Secretary: Susan Morfit

Treasurer: Gary Van Nest

Board:

Ann Flanigan

**Rob Maloy** 

Carole Silverthorne

Jodie Jeweler

Lisa McKinney

Thank you to the outgoing board members for your service!

PLEASE NOTE: PVIWC now has a Facebook page! "Like" it for info & updates on events & meetings!

## **Events**

## **PVIWC 2011-12**

December 11: Holiday party hosted by Christina Kallay

February 12 Meeting with speaker! Hosts: Morfit

March No Meeting: St. Patrick's Day Parades

March 3 Alexandria, VA, Saturday,

www.ballyshaners.org:

March 17 Gaithersburg, MD. http://www.hssg.org/

March ?? Manassas, VA, www.stpatsparade.net

Washington, D.C. March 11

www.dcstpatsparade.com

March 11 Baltimore, MD. <a href="http://www.irishparade.net/">http://www.irishparade.net/</a>

April 1-2 Specialty Show: Harford County Equestri-

an Ctr. Bel Air

May 1 Meeting: Hosts, Joe & Lynn O'Leary

August 12 Meeting: Hosts, Jess & Tony Fritz

September 23 Fun Match: Bay Ridge Marina

October 14 Meeting: Hosts, Jewelers

November 18 Meeting: Hosts needed

**December ??** Holiday party Date/place TBD

The board reminds all active members that attendance at one REGULAR monthly meeting per year is STRONGLY ENCOURAGED. Because members are not attending meetings, we have been unable to make a quorum or conduct business. The bylaws committee is considering changing the wording from "STRONGLY ENCOURAGED" to "REOUIRED" because of this. If you cannot attend meetings, please consider changing your status to "associate." Or better yet, PLEASE attend a monthly meeting!

We all join in wishing Dee Van Nest a speedy and complete recovery from surgery. We're thinking of you, Dee!

Irish Wolfhound Facts, excerpted from Irish Central, by James O'Shea.

- 1. He/she was originally a war dog used to drag men off horseback or off chariots.
- 2. He was also used as a hunting dog and a guard dog. They hunted wolves and elks when they were abundant in Ireland.
- 3. Oliver Cromwell saved the Irish wolfhound by refusing to allow the export of any more from Ireland after the numbers dwindled.

Read more: http://www.irishcentral.com/roots/ Oliver-Cromwell-saved-Irish-wolfhounds-from -extinction-133062208.html#ixzz1eMJiFwCT

When you crack open a brew at the end of a hard day or during the big game, do you feel bad that your dog can't share the experience? Well, a company in Arizona has introduced the world's first beer for dogs, Bowser Beer. But before you start a letter-writing campaign aimed at stopping this doggy vice of DUI (Dogs Under the Influence), rest assured that the product contains no alcohol, carbonation, or even hops (which, apparently, can be toxic to dogs). Instead, it's a tasty brew of all-natural, low-fat beef or chicken, malt barley, and glucosamine. According to the manufacturers, the barley offers B vitamins, and the glucosamine is for joint health. At \$20 for a six-pack, though, Bowser Beer's price is right up there with the elite microbrews. And for a few dollars more. you can even put your dog's picture on the label.

(c)- orvisnews.com

~ed.- Kelly says, YES, please! Or a Harp!







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

## Treating pneumonia

- URGENTLY- if there is any doubt, treat with the antibiotics first, and argue later do not take a wait and see attitude.
- Most Vets will want to administer an antibiotic intravenously, as it is important to hit it hard and fast.
- Fluids intravenously should be considered but care should be taken if your wolfhound has a heart condition.
- · Excenel is the drug recommended by wolfhound people who have had experience of pneumonia in the



~ed.- note that these symptoms may be bloat, too. If your dog displays them, please rush to the vets!





## UK. ~ed.- Rocephin is the drug of choice in the US. Excenel is not available.

· Other antibiotics have been used – Ceporex, Baytril and Antirobe, Cefuroxime, Zithromax,

Marbofloxacin and Trimethoprim sulfa, but there is a better chance of preventing a recurrence with Excenel.

- · Drug treatment needs to continue for at least 4 weeks.
- Steam and coupage can assist in moving the congestion from the lungs.
- · If your wolfhound has had pneumonia, it is more likely to have it again.

## **Convincing/alerting Vets**

· You need to have a conversation about pneumonia with your Vet, before it happens!

Websites for Traveling with Pets! Www.petvacations.com

Www.petswelcome.com— Www.takeyourpet.com

has a database for sites welcoming large dogs!

Www.dogfriendly.com

Identification of Genomic Regions Associated with Phenotypic Variation between Dog Breeds using Selection

Mapping

Amaury Vaysse1., Abhirami Ratnakumar2., Thomas Derrien1, Erik Axelsson2, Gerli Rosengren Pielberg2,

Snaevar Sigurdsson3, Tove Fall4, Eija H. Seppa" la et. al

## **Author Summary**

There are hundreds of dog breeds that exhibit massive differences in appearance and behavior sculpted by tightly controlled selective breeding. This large-scale natural experiment has provided an ideal resource that geneticists can use to search for genetic variants that control these differences. With this goal, we developed a high-density array that surveys variable sites at more than 170,000 positions in the dog genome and used it to analyze genetic variation in 46 breeds. We identify 44 chromosomal regions that are extremely variable between breeds and are likely to

control many of the traits that vary between them, including curly tails and sociality. Many other regions also bear the signature of strong artificial selection. We characterize one such region, known to associate with body size and ear type, in detail using "next-generation" sequencing technology to identify candidate mutations that may control these traits. Our results suggest that artificial selection has targeted genes involved in development and metabolism and that it may have increased the

incidence of disease in dog breeds. Knowledge of these regions will be of great importance for uncovering the genetic basis of variation between dog breeds and for finding mutations that cause disease.



### More Health News: http://jn.nutrition.org/content/136/10/2525.full

The article states that Taurine (not a dietary-critical supplement for dogs) deficiencies may be linked to dilated cardiomyopathy. Dr Tyrrell said supplementing IWs with Taurine would do no harm, and may help. He and Dr Dove (who spoke at the IWCA 2008 national Specialty) also advise giving ALL IWs 10 weeks of age or more Fish oil (omega 3/6/9) and Glucosamine/Chondroitin supplements daily.

> Susan and Bill Montgomery Welcome a New Addition!

> > Eirian's Annora, 7/24/2011

Already sitting, coming on command, fetching and chasing a lure. She is a barker, a howler and a crumb-snatcher! We may be exhausted for a while..



What do you get when you multiply 4 feet by 4 feet? I know what you are thinking, and in a way you are right. Elkhorn welcomes four Irish Wolfhound puppies (that is 16 feet!) born on November 17, 2011. Dam and puppies are doing well. We are over the moon with the litter. Stay tuned for more updates.

http://research.vet.upenn.edu/ClinicalStudies/CanineLymphoma/tabid/4518/articleType/ArticleView/ articleId/26/New-Bone-Cancer-Vaccine.aspx

## **New Bone Cancer Vaccine**

Evaluation of a recombinant Listeria monocytogenes vector expressing huHer-2/neu to stimulate anti-tumor immunity and prolong survival times in dogs with appendicular osteosarcoma

Osteosarcoma (bone cancer) is most commonly seen in large and giant breed dogs. It is an aggressive cancer with a guarded prognosis, even when treated with amputation and chemotherapy. The purpose of this study is to determine whether a recombinant L. moncytogenes vaccine can make the dog's own immune system attack the tumor and prolong survival in dogs with appendicular osteosarcoma.







## Growling for Guinness: The MP Irish Festival Goes to the Pogs

## A Blog by Furocious for Style Magazine



It's not all shamrocks and swinging kilts at Maryland's Irish Festival (www.irishfestival.com), although you'll see plenty of that, too. But tucked amid the wood carvings of

Celtic Knots and sterling

silver Claddaghs, you'll meet some pretty impressive four-legged hounds this weekend at the Timonium Fairgrounds.

FUROCIOUS admits to weak knees when it comes to Irish Wolfhounds.
There's something ancient and awesome about this dog, the tallest of all breeds at up to 35 inches high, which were originally bred to hunt wolves and Irish elk. I met my first Irish Wolfhound in a Severna

Park pet supply store last year and was impressed with its regal, yet approachable presence. At this weekend's Irish Festival, the Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club (www.pviwc.org) will share breed information and conduct meet-and-greets with their majestic hounds.

I met Rob Maloy and his two "Big Dogs of Ireland", Seamus and Boru, in the front hall of the Cow Palace Friday evening. At 170 and 175 pounds, the two dogs were calm, regal and quiet. The information that the Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound group provides tells us that while the breed is imposing and alert, they are not suspicious nor aggressive (perhaps NOT making them the best guard

dogs), they are great with children and – clearly – need room to roam

On the more petite scale, while still keeping it all very regal, are the adoptable Greyhounds. These sleek dogs are sweet, receptive and ready to meet new bipeds in the hope of a blissful future of wags and pets. My neigh-

bors, George and Deb, have a rescue greyhound named Gracie and I can attest to her gentle and discerning demeanor. These cuties being showcased at the Irish Festival are from Greyt Expectations Greyhound Rescue,(Inc., a non-profit, 501 (c)(3), greyhound adoption organization located in Lusby, Maryland (St. Mary's County). They had me at first 'woof.' You'll be able to pet the dogs, learn about the breed and adoption process and be sure to ask about their gorgeous collars, made by one of the volunteers at the rescue.



(www.greytexpectations.org).

No outing would be complete if it didn't involve beer...I mean, buying something for our dogs. So, naturally, we gravitated over to Mackenzie Couture Accessories from Maine (http://www.mackenziebelts.com/) where I was awestruck at the simply lush, gorgeous dog collars and leashes. Owner, Heather M. Jaccoma, personally designs these elegant doggie accoutrements. Her inspirations come in the form of everything from Tiffany designs to images from the Book of Kells to Victorian designs. She is particular about their authenticity and speaks authoritatively on each one of her memorable designs. Once seen, these woven ribbon collars are simply a fabulous necessity.



For Dugan, we chose the Saxon Knot, purple and green, colors seen together, she told me, centuries ago in the Book of Kells. For Barclay, a more formal collar in the striking blue Kenyon design, the images of which are evocative of the Knights of the Roundtable and King Arthur's court. The collars begin at \$25; ours were \$32 each. Matching leashes and other accessories, including those for humans, are also available. Good deeds are worth repeating - as it turns out, if you order online, and mention Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League, Inc. the MAGDRL will receive a percentage of your purchase.

So, while I wouldn't say the Maryland Irish Festival has gone to the dogs, the parts that have are an extra special treat. Pass the Guinness and bring me a dog! Have a great weekend, high-paw.



## **WARNING!**

The USDA is warning pet owners that chicken jerky treats from China may pose serious health risks!

Be safe— use only US or Canadian made treats, especially jerky or rawhide!

We had a great time at the Irish Festival. MANY club members attended, and we were very popular.

Heather also donated a gorgeous holiday collar to us, to raffle at the holiday party! You can see it on her website- it's reindeer on black.

We had so many people interested in our hounds that we gave away hundreds of flyers, pamphlets and club info cards!

And we had a MARVELOUS time sharing the hounds. Thanks to Ann F for once again coordinating this wonderful event!

Cant wait till next year!

When you go out with a wolfhound The people all stand in your way Asking the usual questions These are the things they all say.

Will you look at that pony, Look at the size of his feet: What have you done with his saddle? Tell me how much does he eat?

Why do you have a dog this size? He's the biggest that I've ever met. It must cost a fortune to feed him Who would want that as a pet?

Do you keep him outside or inside? Does he get to sleep on your bed? What size was he as a puppy? My dog is the size of his head.

So what do you say for an answer? I tell them, as sweet as I can: He's better behaved than your children -And cheaper to keep than your man!!!

~Fran Barnbrook (bribiba)







### CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF

Judah Dal Cais writes: I won this weather vane at a PVIWC raffle 3-4 years ago but never installed the item. It is a Black/Green metal Weather Vane with reindeer, dog, and moose cut outs. It could use a fresh coat of paint to make it new.

Please email if you want it. jdalcais@yahoo.com



## Brags!

Blair's Mysterious, CD, THD ("Teagan"), handled by Susan and Tom Hertz, received the TDI Exceptional Volunteer Achievement award for completing 350 therapy dog visits.

Kyna Morfit was Winner's bitch, Friday 11/25 at the Northeast Md KC show.

Audrey Wright's Sean was BoW!

Monday, at National Capital Kennel Club, Pansy (Silver Thorne's Heartsease) was Winner's bitch & BOS

At the same show, Jodie and Corky earned the first of 3 qualifying scores for his Rally Advanced title!

## Condolences:

Tom & Christa Moyle's Sarah Caitlin, "Caty" went to the rainbow bridge 11/28. They are in our thoughts.









# Signs, Causes and Treatments of Bloat Jodie Jeweler

Most dog owners have heard about bloat and may have heard about the symptoms to look forbut do you understand what you are looking for? What does "restless" REALLY mean? Could YOU recognize the signs in your dog? If you thought your dog was bloating, would you know what to do? The causes of bloat are as mysterious and varied as the symptoms. Do you understand the various and often conflicting information regarding this dangerous medical emergency?

Bloat (gastric dilation) is a potentially fatal occurrence, often occurring with torsion (volvulus). The stomach fills with gas or air, then often "flips," twisting on itself. Bloat & torsion are often called GDV (gastric dilation and volvulus). Damage to the stomach can occur in minutes. Torsion may involve only the stomach, the spleen only, or both organs. It is important to remember that a dog can have either bloat or torsion- OR both... they don't always "come together". A dog can have torsion which causes bloat, torsion only, bloat which leads to torsion, or bloat alone. Damage to the spleen, kidneys, liver, intestines, and heart are possible, as is death. The odds of survival for an otherwise healthy dog with bloat and torsion can be as low as 30%.

Older dogs may be more at risk than younger dogs, especially if they have a mass or other illness, but even very young puppies can bloat. Even dogs as young as a few weeks! Any dog could bloat, and it is not only giant breeds that are prone to bloating. Any deep chested dog is at risk. Breeds like Poodles, Boxers and even Labradors bloat.

We are told to watch for panting, restlessness, a distended abdomen and "muddy" gums as danger signs. It is important to be aware that by the time you SEE "muddy" gums, it may be too late! Look for other symptoms first!

So, what exactly IS "restlessness"? Some dogs may lie calmly for a while before getting up to move to another position. Dylan lay for as long as one-half hour before rolling over, and he never got up to pace. He was most comfortable lying flat on his side. Many dogs will not lie down, but some find the pressure more comfortable. Some may feel (and display) pain when they move, and therefore want to lie still. Dylan was happiest lying still. I mistakenly thought if he was comfortable lying down, he wasn't bloating. Other than panting, the only sign of distress was crying when he rolled over. Some dogs will lie very still, perhaps curled up more than usual or maybe even lying flat, when they normally don't. Anything out of the ordinary in your dog's behavior should be a sign of concern. Some dogs will pace, or wander in & out of the house or room.

Many breeds have such large rib cages that their entire stomach is within it! Unless she swallowed a basketball, you might not see or feel any distention in your dog. The lower abdomen (the soft part we all like to scratch when they roll on their backs) may not show any signs of bloating, excessive firmness or distention. Sometimes, you may hear a distinct hollow sound if you thump on their ribs or tummy, like a bass drum. Only an X-Ray can accurately diagnose bloat or torsion. On an X-Ray, the torsed stomach looks like a "double bubble"- almost like a twisted infinity symbol. Tenderness in the abdomen or even if the chest is thumped are occasionally seen, too.

Muddy gums are hard to describe. Imagine mixing blue (lack of oxygen) with the pretty, healthy pink of your dog's gums- that's muddy. When you press on healthy gums, they should go white for a second, then immediately turn pink againmuddy gums remain dark. If your dog has muddy gums, get him to the vet IMMEDIATELY! You might have only minutes to save his life. If your dog has naturally dark gums, look at his tongue. A blue, grey, purple or dark red tinge is a danger sign. Sadly, once you see these signs, your dog is critically ill.



Contrary to popular belief, bloat alone CAN kill your dog. And bloat alone is common. Your dog can also have torsion without bloat. And, again, disproving popular theory, your dog may be bloated or even experiencing torsion, and still be burping

Your dog may display other unusual signs, such as repeated retching but not vomiting; looking at. biting or chewing at his flanks, side or stomach, or constant pacing. Excessive drooling, or standing in strange postures can also be signals. Some dogs will hold their heads very high, while others drop them as low as they can. Some dogs may lie in positions they have never assumed before, or in strange places. Some dogs may feel best lying on cold concrete.

The causes of bloat are not fully understood, but many factors play a part. Stress seems to be a major factor. As a dog owner, you must be attuned to your dog for his or her personal stress indicators. For example, when my Irish Wolfhound, Dylan was stressed, he drew his third eyelid over his eyes. A stressed dog may pant excessively, which also can lead to aerophagia (swallowing air), another cause of bloat. Some dogs are excessively clingy or needy when stressed. Frequent yawning is also a sign of stress. Sweaty feet, in a dog that is not hot, is another sign of stress. Knowing what causes stress in your dog, and as much as possible, preventing it, is critical.

Many people believe feeding certain types of foods can lead to an increase risk of bloat. For instance, it is generally recommended that you not feed food with citric acid as a preservative. Many people feel that feeding the dog in raised feeders leads to bloat. There are probably as many who believe raised feeders help prevent bloat. Discuss this with your breeder and vet. Some people feel that feeding dry kibble can lead to bloat, but there is some evidence that dogs fed

a raw diet are more likely to bloat. This may be because more large breed dog owners feed raw diets, than small breed owners do. Dried beets. beet pulp or beet powder have been proven to cause foaming in the stomach, which can lead to excessive gas build up. Owners of bloat-prone breeds are usually advised to feed multiple small meals each day, rather than one large one. Eating too much or eating inappropriate things can also cause bloat or torsion.

No matter what you feed your dog, she should not exercise heavily within an hour after eating. Recent studies indicate that exercise BEFORE eating is good- at least 30 minutes before food. But don't feed before exercise.

A violent illness with vomiting can cause the stomach to begin swinging like a pendulum, leading to torsion, causing bloat. When Limerick bloated, it was secondary to a stomach upset. He began vomiting, which apparently caused the stomach to swing like a pendulum, until it finally flipped all the way over. Pain (which is stressful) can also cause bloat and torsion. Talk to your vet about the risks of bloat after surgeries.

If you notice unusual behavior, it is best to go to the vet to check, than take a chance with your dog's life! If your dog has been alone, or has been acting "off" for a while, don't take the time to call the vet, see if you should come in, get dressed and organized. Give the dog simethicone. Throw on a robe, grab your wallet & dog and rush to the vet. Call them on the way to tell them you are bringing in a potential bloat. If the emergency clinic is more than 10 minutes away, talk to your regular vet if you have a nervous dog, a bloat-prone breed, a dog with a family member who bloated, or an ill dog, about how to treat bloat yourself.

Normally, in a case of GDV, you have minutes not hours. If you THINK it's bloat, it is always safer to get to the vets, and find out you are mistaken. I keep simethicone (Gas-x) tablets every-



where, and at the first sign of possible bloat, I give my dog 2 pills. I then IMMEDIATELY head for the nearest vet. Talk to your vet about the proper dose and use of simethicone for your dog. But remember, simethicone is not a cure, only a delaying tactic. It may give you enough time to get to help before your dog's situation is critical. But it still doesn't allow you to dawdle- give it & GO! (Simethicone is safe for just about any dog, any age, in any health, but check with your vet first!)

There are new methods of "tacking" (gastropexy) the stomach to the abdomen wall to prevent torsion, but don't think this will prevent bloat. A tacked dog can still bloat. Tacking lessens the likelihood of torsion, but does not prevent it. Gastropexy can now be done via 3 small incisions on the dog's side. Tacking involves drawing stitches from the outer wall of the stomach to the wall of the abdomen. The stitches cause scar tissue to form, which is what actually hold the stomach in place. Many vets recommend keeping a dog which has been recently "tacked" calm for as long as 6 weeks.

When your dog has been diagnosed with bloat, your vet may try to insert a tube down his throat into his stomach to release the gas. Sometimes a needle inserted in the abdomen is used. There is also an acupressure point on the inner thigh that can help relieve the built up gas. If your dog also has torsion, surgery will be required. A long incision on the dog's stomach will allow the vet to "unflip" the stomach or spleen, and usually tack them into place.

After bloat, your vet may check for damage to the liver, spleen, kidneys or heart. Damage to the stomach or other organs is common and may lead to life-long after- effects. Arrhythmia is not uncommon after GDV, and can be fatal, but often goes away after a day or so. DIC (disseminated intravascular coagulation), a severe side effect, is also possible. If your dog had surgery, he will have a large incision and need to remain calm for a few weeks.

Bloat can be terrifying & dangerous, but with a bit of knowledge and a lot of caution and vigilance, you can save your dog's life. Just remember that any sign that your dog is "off" or not quite right is a reason to be concerned, and once your dog begins to bloat, you have a very limited amount of time to get him help.

Jo Jeweler

## All Breed Shows 2012:

**JANUARY** 

11-15 – Fredericksburg, VA – Closes on December 28th

19-22 – West Friendship, MD – Closes on January 4th

27-29 – Doswell, VA – Closes on January 11th FEBRUARY

18-19 – Glen Burnie, MD – Closes on February 1st MARCH

21-25 – Raleigh, NC – Closes on March 7th APRIL

7-8 – Shenandoah KC; Harrisonburg, VA – Closes on March 21st

21-23 – Timonium, MD – Closes on April 4th MAY

19-20 – Manassas, VA – Closes on May 2nd (PVIWC Supported Entry)

25-28 – Hampton, VA – Closes on May 9th JUNE

2-3 – Charlottesville, VA – Closes May 16th

Check out www.akc.org or www.infodog.com FMI.

Lurg Coursing!

SHOT is doing a JC/QC test and New Canine Ability Test on Jan 22 in Jamestown, VA. Email Diana Vreeken at dtchcdn@aol.com

