

Clhannworthy Irish Wolfhounds

SOME NOTES TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR NEW PUPPY

These notes were initially based on those supplied by Jean & Dave Malley who bred our bitch "Sabigail". The sections "Introducing a new puppy" and some "notes on other foods" are taken from Mary M^CBryde's excellent book¹ and are reproduced here with her permission. The "older hound" comments may be generally applied to house dogs other than wolfhounds with appropriate adjustments for their size. Remember that Puppies have periods of frantic activity punctuated by sleep.

We give you a free 6 weeks Pet Plan insurance (or similar) when you collect your puppy. You are advised to use this period to arrange long term insurance.

Collecting Your Puppy & Taking It Home

Taking your new puppy home can influence how he reacts to car journeys for the rest of his life, he will need reassurance and supervision, with a treat at the end of the trip. Ideally one person should drive and another supervise the puppy. If it is a long journey, have some water available and whatever the length of journey be prepared for him to be sick, urinate or defecate. We will try to avoid these problems, by not feeding him before he is due to be collected and ensuring, as far as possible that he has been exercised. Ideally once he has got used to the car, he will sleep for the majority of the journey and you can treat him with a feed when he arrives at his new home.

Remember your hound may take a few days to settle down, don't panic, be patient.

Start now as you mean to continue, be firm and let him know your rules in a kindly gentle way. Please remember he does not know what to expect from you, he has not learned your ways yet, you must educate him. Irish Wolfhounds are very sensitive and do not take kindly to heavy handed training, kindly firm handling is better, no smacking with newspapers or the like, it will just demoralise him and kill his spirit. Better that he wants to do it for you because he is happy with you, you work as a team

Do not give him a few days to settle in, quietly insist on the rules of the house now, from the beginning. Your dog will be guided rather than confused

The puppy needs a quiet place it can call it's own where it knows it is safe. You can call it out from this place, but avoid taking it out against its will. It is especially important that children learn this rule. Prepare his bed. A single mattress or a thick rug in a quiet area or a corner of the kitchen. Do not allow him to choose, and preferably not upstairs on your bed. He needs to know his position in the pack.

Show him where his water bowl is. Show him where the back door is, if possible leave it open for a while until he finds his way around. Show him round the garden.

Remember hounds are not as other dogs, they are of a more independent spirit. This is not to say that they do not like peoples company or other dogs on the contrary they do, they are very much people dogs and love you, but they do not hang on to your every word like a working dog or a retriever. Their role in life is very different, they are free thinking hunters, not waiting for your command.

You may train your hound to stay, sit etc, but this will only work whilst he can see you and you keep reminding him, once you are out of sight he will probably fulfil his curiosity and wander off and do his own thing, or maybe try to find you. You must never rely on him returning to you exactly when you say, he will have to think about it first. **HOUNDS ARE NOT TERRITORIAL, YOU CANNOT TRAIN THEM TO STAY WITHIN AN INVISIBLE BOUNDARY.**

Introducing A New Puppy

The introduction of a new Wolfhound puppy into a household often gives an older hound a new lease of life, providing that the older hound is not weak or infirm. Wolfhounds are, in the main, very tolerant of the antics of young puppies and will put up with a surprising amount of tail pulling and whisker tugging before giving the puppy a well deserved growl. The key to creating a successful relationship between the older Wolfhound and the new arrival is to 'enlist' your senior hound's help in rearing the puppy, and make absolutely certain that you do not give the puppy more attention than the adult. It is really important to reinforce the older hound's seniority in the family, and to teach the puppy respect for its elders. To this end you should, for example, always feed the older hound first, insist that he has priority at the water bucket over the puppy, and make the puppy give the older hound priority in passing through gates and doorways etc. Allow the older hound to chastise the puppy when he is being a real nuisance and support this in moderation. Give each one some special individual time alone with you, and so on. The new puppy needs to have a separate sleeping area that can be shut off from the adult hound, so that the puppy can be encouraged to get plenty of sleep and the older hound can escape from a puppy who is being a nuisance. Even when the two hounds are the best of friends, it is important that they are not allowed to play together unsupervised because an adult's strength and weight could very easily damage a puppy by accident. In fact, the puppy should not be allowed to play too much with the adult hound until the puppy has reached at least a year old and growth has stopped. After this point in the new hound's development you should be able to relax and enjoy watching two Irish Wolfhounds running and playing together, which is truly a memorable sight.

Welfare & Exercise

DO NOT GIVE STRUCTURED EXERCISE until at least 6 months of age, let puppy set his own pace of exercise. He will have frantic periods of activity followed by sleep. Take him out in the car for exercise in a safe place where he can run free. He needs lead training, but make this a game prior to 6 months. After six months start to introduce walking on a lead and gradually increase this.

At about 10 months he is having a 20 minute walk and a longer play in the park, gradually increasing until at 15 months he is having a couple of 45 minute walks plus the same free galloping daily. These are guide-lines only and you must use your judgement but best to ere on the side of caution **rather than risk possible damage to his fast growing limbs.**

From 15 months start to build up exercise. Your adult hound should get at least 2- 45 minute walks daily plus a good 30 minutes galloping in some safe open space, away from traffic or farm stock. Keep him fit with regular exercise, not a couch potato Monday to Friday and the park on Sundays, better a little every day.

JUMPING UP – It may look fantastic to have your wolfhound standing with his front paws on your shoulders looking down at you, but you must train him **NOT** to jump up. Think what the effect of 10 – 12 stone of wolfhound jumping up onto a child or elderly person would be and you can understand why. Start early, when puppy jumps up unto your leg, carefully put his front paws on the floor before petting and praising him.

CLIMBING STAIRS – This may be necessary to where you live, but once again can be a risk to fast growing limbs. Puppy can climb stairs, but carefully and with supervision especially coming down, when with the help of gravity he could build up a dangerous speed.

Feeding

Aged 10 weeks. he has four identical meals, evenly spaced throughout the day at 8am, 1pm, 6pm, & 10 to 11pm. A complete dry dog food (18 to 20 per cent protein) and any of the following; cooked minced (chopped) chicken or turkey, cooked minced lamb, canned tripe (you can use cooked fresh tripe – if you can stand the smell) or cooked minced beef and

offal mixture (do not feed straight beef mince, it is too rich). We have been feeding a mixture of canned tripe (3 parts) and canned Sardines (or Pilchards) in Tomato sauce (1 part). We use the fish, as we normally feed this to our adult hounds.

Preparation: Measure out the complete food into a clean bowl, it needs about 15 minutes soaking in approximately 3 times its own weight of warm water, after about 10 minutes mix in the fresh/canned meat, but make sure he will eat the complete food alone, this is the nourishing part of the diet which will help him to grow strongly. Feed immediately with the bowl on a slightly raised platform. Ideally the rim of the bowl should be at about the puppy's elbow height. This platform will need raising as the puppy grows. If the food does not disappear in a few minutes, pick up the bowl and throw away the remains. Reduce the amount in the next feeds slightly until the bowl is licked clean, then start slowly to increase the amounts again. (The amount of water can be significantly reduced as puppy grows)

Which food? – For our puppies we always feed James Wellbeloved (Lamb & Rice Adult Maintenance from 10 weeks) complete food which is designed to miss out ingredients to which some dogs may be allergic, this food uses mainly rice instead of wheat. We had lots of apparent skin allergy problems with previous dogs until we went to a wheat free diet. You may wish to use another food with which you are more familiar, all the major complete food brands are backed by animal nutritionists and are equally suitable, however, we strongly advise that you use the same food we have been feeding for at least the first few days and gradually change over at least a 5 day period.

Quantity: At 10 weeks old Puppy is eating about 120 to 150 grams of dry complete food with about 50 grams of the meat 4 times daily, he may not eat quite so much away from sibling competition. If this happens. reduce the amounts evenly: i.e. 20 grams less complete food 10 grams less meat until his appetite improves. As he grows. increase his food in a regular way (up to about 250 grams dry), keeping the proportions about the same, as and when his general appearance dictates that he needs more, that is, when he starts to look a bit thinner than he is now. It is important not to let him get too fat, because any excessive fat will only stress his joints and growth plates to a point where they may get permanently damaged. he needs to carry sufficient fat on his ribs to cover all of them except the last two to three, which should be easy to feel but not really visible. It is useful to note that at 10 weeks old our puppies are eating more than their mother, so do not expect massive increases in feed levels. We find that to maintain their weight, we feed about 20% less than we did with our previous complete food and less than the James Wellbeloved recommendation. This does of course depend on the individual hound and his lifestyle.

He may go off his food when teething (4 –5½ months). After teething you can stop fully soaking his complete food, use less cool water or gravy and mix in the meat, leaving it to soak without stirring which will provide some crunchy pieces.

At six months old, cut out his bedtime meal and add this quantity to the other 3. He needs three meals per day until around nine months. We continue to feed 3 meals for the rest of our hounds lives but the accepted wisdom is to cut out lunch and make breakfast and supper a bit bigger keeping him on two meals for life. (NB. Our present vet recommends 3 or even 4 meals per day)

We can only provide a rough guide to the quantity of food that your hound will need, because every hound differs in metabolic rate and quantity of exercise, so each hound must be treated as an individual. Try to keep your hound fit not fat. You should be able to find his ribs but not be able to see them. he should be well covered and not thin but should have a waistline.

Always provide fresh water, a raised bowl is best. Do not leave outside overnight. Rats urinate in water.

Never feed for at least one hour before or after exercise or excitement. Deep chested breeds are the most prone to BLOAT or GASTRIC TORSION. Your hound must be calm when fed. Bloat or Gastric Torsion is a killer, it is caused by the stomach swelling with gasses and it twists so that the gasses cannot escape blood supply is cut off and it causes shock which leads to death. Soaking food, feeding when calm and feeding from raised bowls are ways of avoiding this **dreadful condition, which is very hard to recognise**

Never feed biscuits or meal which can swell after eating unless you soak them. If not sure test a small amount in a cup of hot water. If it swells after about 30 minutes then you never feed this dry. This applies to biscuit type complete food as well as flake types. Mixer biscuit tends to be OK and does not need soaking.

Treats Do not feed tit-bits during the day which can spoil the appetite, Save treats for the evening when he has had his proper daily rations. Feed must be left down for 20 minutes only. If not eaten then remove it and do not offer him anything else until the next due meal, no tit-bits between feeds. Do not tempt your hound with expensive alternatives, this will only make him faddy. he must eat what you require him to eat. he will not starve himself. Try not to let your children or friends feed tit-bits. You will only be annoyed and the children upset and the hound confused and then difficult to train. The only exception to these recommendations is the use of tit bits for training rewards, we find that hard cheese and hard cooked liver bits are suitable.

Some Notes on other foods from Mary McBrydes' book

EGGS - *These are good sources of protein, iron, various B group vitamins, and vitamins A and D, and also most other nutrients, apart from carbohydrates. It should be noted, though, that raw egg— white, which is rich in protein, contains avidin which makes the B vitamin 'biotin' unavailable to dogs. Cooking destroys the biotin binding effect and makes whole eggs safe to feed.*

BONES - *Most Wolfhounds adore a bone whether it is fresh, old, or stinking, and most hounds can safely be given them without fear of digestive upsets. Only give uncooked beef, pork, or mutton shinbones; note that cooked bones are brittle and easily splinter into sharp, dagger-like pieces that can pierce the stomach or gut. Big beef shinbones should be sawn into three sections by your butcher, and two pieces can be popped into the freezer for another day They are suitable for Wolfhounds of all ages, giving hours of pleasure to adult hounds who will eventually reduce them to small stumps, though little puppies will find them hard work and you may have to throw the bones away when they get smelly Pork and mutton bones can be sawn in half and are really only suitable for puppies up to around four or five months old. After this age the Wolfhound can too easily break up these smaller bones and swallow large lumps of bone which may cause indigestion.*

It is essential that your Wolfound is taught good manners with regard to chewing bones right from infancy A bone is an important possession to dogs and they have a strong desire to guard it, so you must teach your puppy to give up its bone upon the command 'Give', and reward the pup with a titbit when you are obeyed. On no account must any growling be tolerated, even in an eight-week-old puppy; it is not funny and should be stopped at once. However, never try taking the hound's bone away without using your command word first, as this may lead the hound to briefly forget good manners and make a snatch for the bone. It is also wise to ensure that children understand that they must leave the hound in peace when chewing its bone. Alternatively, place the hound who is busy with a bone in a separate area, if the children are too young to be reliable.

FRUIT - *I think that all Wolfhounds adore fruit, and they eat it with great enthusiasm. Apples are great favourites, whether of the eating or cooking varieties, and I have seen my hounds standing full height, balanced on their hind legs, to reach a particularly high branch with*

apples on it. Indeed, it is quite a race to see whether it is the humans or the hounds who will get most apples each year. Hounds seem to be able to eat quite a large number daily with no more than the occasional touch of loose faeces. Bananas are a passion for many of my hounds, thanks to my father's habit of having sliced bananas on his breakfast cereal, which he usually shares with the house-dogs, who wait with drooling jaws as he peels and slices the bananas each morning.

Gooseberries are also relished by my hounds who, if they can get into the fruit cage, proceed to pick them off the very thorny bushes with great delicacy, wrinkling up their noses and lips to avoid getting pricked and plucking the berries with their front teeth. Blackberries are treated in the same way and, if you should go blackberry picking with your hounds, then you may as well forget about all the lower berries as the Wolfhounds will be sure to get all the ripe ones first. Strawberries and raspberries are favourites, and draw a rapt audience if you are busy hulling a batch and cutting out the bad parts (which the hounds will happily eat). Cherries, damsons and plums are also popular, but do try to ensure that your hound does not eat the stones. I recently helped out with a bitch who had a serious bloat due to her stomach being overloaded with plum-stones, the fruit having fallen from the orchard trees overnight. Thankfully she survived without surgery but for the next two days her faeces were composed of over 50 per cent plum-stones. The only fruits that Wolfhounds seem less interested in are peaches, and the citrus fruits, but I am sure that someone has a Wolfhound that adores even these.

Training

Puppies in general will chew everything in sight, especially when they are teething. Wolfhound puppies, because of their size can very quickly destroy an entire 3 piece suite. Make sure they have plenty of toys etc which they are allowed to chew, if you catch him chewing the furniture, scold him, give him one of his toys as a substitute and praise him when he chews this. Oil of Bitter Apple, obtainable from your vet can be sprayed onto precious items, dogs don't like its odour and stay away from it.

It is important to socialise your puppy. Take him to training classes as soon as possible, even if you only stay for half an hour, it will get him used to mixing with other dogs. It is important that your hound is familiar with small dogs, this is why training classes are important, he is more likely to meet small dogs there and get used to them and not mistake them for some small furry creature which is to be hunted!!! Your puppy is used to being with other dogs, so is likely to miss their company

No Tugs of war – your puppy's play is a learning experience for it and also involves competitions which establish, for the puppy, its place in the pack. From the puppies point of view, your family is the pack and he needs to know where he is in the pecking order. He will try to get as high as he can in this order, but will be happy in his proper place, **after all the humans**, as long as the results of the games/competitions clearly show him this. Tug of war is one such game and one which, from the puppies point of view, the human can hardly ever win. Children and most adults will tire of the game much sooner than a puppy and let them have the trophy. This can make puppy feel he is above his opponent in the pecking order and therefore entitled to discipline them, ie growl and nip them if they don't do what puppy wants. We well remember a miniature wire haired dachshund owned by an elderly relative who was totally doted on and given pride of place. As the dachs was always fed first and allowed to have its own way in everything, it believed it was pack leader and would discipline (growl and nip) its owner when it didn't get it's own way. With a miniature dachshund this is annoying, with a wolfhound it could be lethal!

Don't play rough games – There is an element of establishing pecking order here which must be remembered, but the main point is that puppies grow into adult hounds. A game that was energetic, but controllable, with a 4 month old puppy can be totally destructive with an adult.

Your hound will not make allowances for his size, he will carry on being himself for as long as he lives and continue wanting to play the games he enjoys.

Grooming

Use a bristle brush or Mason Pearson type cushioned brush for daily brushing. A rubber "Zoom Groom" is ideal for getting rid of dead coat at moulting time. Aim for daily grooming and you might end up brushing 3 or 4 times a week. Start early with puppy and get him used to it. Make sure he lets you groom his beard and front legs as this helps to establish your "leader of the pack" position.

Health

The normal temperature of a dog² older than 35 days is 101.5°F or 38.6°C. It is not wise, or helpful, for an inexperienced owner to take a dog's temperature unless requested to do so by a vet – thermometers can be broken in the rectum so easily! Furthermore, readings need skilled interpretation, as any form of excitement can cause the temperature to rise by 2 – 3° F (1 – 2°C) when the dog is in normal health.

Teething begins around four months old and lasts up to five and a half months old. He may go off his food during this time. Keep a thermometer handy and check his temperature when this happens (caution, see above). If it is normal (101.5-102°F) then don't worry — he just has sore gums. If it is raised, call the vet.

Do not give additives, he has enough goodness in his complete food, you will do more harm than good. Wolfhounds need to grow slowly, do not try to force great size on him, his genes have already decided how tall he will be and only in cases of starvation will this be altered. Too high protein will do more harm and can cause growth plate problems in the legs

Your puppy has been wormed at the appropriate times and will need to be wormed again in about 3 months

You will find enclosed a copy of the Liver shunt Test result (results should ideally be under 30).

Bursers or fluid on the joints – these are a common problem with heavy boned dogs and is one of the main reasons for providing them with soft bedding. Bursers are usually caused by crashing down, not lying gently down. Water on the joint most commonly on the elbows & pelvis is for protection and should **never be removed**, they can look very unsightly like an orange or worse, unless this becomes painful and causes lameness, do nothing, it eventually goes away anyway, use of a good homeopathic treatment when they appear usually helps. Please ring us if you have this problem or Hilary Jupp tel: 01825 764097 for a supply of homeopathic treatment to help reduce the swelling. On no account have them removed this usually ends up with skin grafts which do not always work anyway

Breeder's Responsibilities

As responsible breeders we abide by the Kennel Club and Wolfhound Club codes of conduct both reproduced below. We have nurtured your puppy through its first 2 – 3 months of life and have formed an attachment to him. We have placed him in your safekeeping after doing all we could to ensure he was going into safe hands. ***Should you, for any reason in the future, find yourself unable to keep him, we will take him back and either keep him ourselves or place him in a good home.***

The Irish Wolfhound Club Recommended Code Of Conduct For Members

At the request of Members, a Code of Conduct has been drawn up by the Committee, on the assumption that owners and breeders of Irish Wolfhounds are responsible and reputable people. This code was officially adopted by the Club at a General Meeting on July 14th 1990. All involved in breeding, owning or exhibiting Wolfhounds should consider themselves the custodians of the breed, and wish to continue improving it.

1. Breed for quality, adhering to the Club Standard, never solely for financial gain.
2. It is strongly recommended that the registration documents of puppies sold as pets are endorsed "Progeny not for Registration". This restriction can be rescinded by the breeder should it be wished at a later stage, but must be explained carefully to the prospective buyer before a sale, and confirmed in writing.
3. When selling overseas, sell only if the buyer is known or recommended by some person who is, and residing preferably in countries having similar standards of animal welfare as the United Kingdom.
4. Never sell to a dealer
5. Sell only to carefully vetted or recommended homes, giving detailed instructions on general management and most important, a diet sheet which carries further information on feeding beyond puppy stage. Prospective owners should also be made aware of the problems of owning a large hunting hound and given guidance on training and exercise
6. Encourage buyers to keep in touch throughout the life of the hound, encourage them to become associate members of the club even if not interested in showing ,also to insure their hounds.
7. Be prepared to take back any hound whose home may no longer be able to cope with it, if necessary to buy it back on a reasonable basis, or contact The Irish Wolfhound Rescue Trust.
8. Never breed or keep more hounds than can be looked after personally, with individual attention either by you or a good kennel assistant. The practice of placing bitches out on breeding terms is strongly discouraged.
9. Breed only from a bitch that has physically matured- eg:- 2 years old. It is generally agreed that 3 litters in a lifetime is sufficient for any bitch.
10. It is strongly recommended that all litters are screened for Portosystemic Shunt (Liver Shunt), that only stock clear of the condition is sold and that affected hounds are never used for breeding".
11. Allow your males to be used for stud only when satisfied with the good intentions of the owner of the bitch and totally satisfied that the resulting progeny should improve on their parents - not just for the stud fee; be certain that both dog and bitch in question have something to offer in this direction. And be prepared to assist the owner of the bitch in finding suitable homes for any puppies sired by your dog.
12. Do not allow puppies to leave their dam too early. eight weeks is soon enough-provided they are going to an experienced owner. To a first time Wolfhound owner, ten weeks is a better age.
13. It is the duty of all Irish Wolfhound owners to keep their hounds under control at all times. To keep them, well exercised and in good health, and endeavour to further promote the image of the breed and its equable temperament.

The Kennel Club General Code Of Ethics

Registered Owners of all Kennel Club Registered dogs accept the jurisdiction of the Kennel Club and undertake to abide by this general code of ethics.

1. Owners will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if and when required.
2. Owners will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.
3. Owners will ensure that their dogs will wear properly tagged collars and shall be kept fully leashed or under effective control when away from home.
4. Owners shall clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere where their dogs are being exhibited.
5. Owners will agree without reservation that any Veterinary Surgeon performing an operation on any of their dogs, which alters the natural conformation of the animal may report such operation to the Kennel Club.
6. Owners agree not to breed from a bitch in any way which is deleterious to the bitch or breed.
7. Owners agree only to sell dogs where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life and will help with the rehoming of the dog if the initial circumstances change.
8. Owners will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing dogs in a new home.
9. Owners will not sell any dog to commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly allow dogs to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind.
10. Owners will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed not falsely advertise dogs nor mislead any person regarding the quality of the dog.
11. Owners will ensure that all relevant Kennel Club documents are provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a dog, including a copy of this code.

Useful references

Irish Wolfhound Club – Secretary David Malley – tel: 01704 823532
website: www.irishwolfhounds.btinternet.co.uk

Irish Wolfhound Society – Secretary – Elizabeth Murray – tel: 01 302 722166
website: www.irishwolfhoundsociety.co.uk

Irish Wolfhound Rescue Trust – Caroline Sheppard – tel: 01553 - 813440

For everything you ever wanted to know about wolfhounds, try Hilary Jupp's website
www.irishwolfhounds.org

The Kennel Club – 4A Alton House Office Park, Gatehouse Way,
Gatehouse Industrial Estate, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP19 8XU
Tel: 01296 390617 Fax: 01296 486725
Website: www.the-kennel-club.org.uk

If you are interested in your dog's pedigree try: www.IWPedigrees.com (although due to computer hackers this site has been restricted to breeders by subscription)

We recommend you join the Irish Wolfhound Club as they have annual "fun" events for wolfhound owners who are not interested in showing, as well as a championship show.

If you are interested in showing, then you need to know when shows are held and where to get entry forms etc. To do this you can take one of the two main dog papers or visit their websites:

Dog World - www.dogworld.co.uk

Our Dogs - www.ourdogs.co.uk

If you would like any Wolfhound related items, Christmas cards, prints, mugs etc try:-
www.irishwolfhoundshop.co.uk

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¹ The Magnificent Irish Wolfhound by Mary M^CBryde ISBN 1-86054-088-0 Published by Ringpress Books Ltd

² Book of the Bitch by J.M. Evans & Kay White ISBN 1 86054 023 6 Published by Ringpress Books Ltd
(A good source for these books is on the internet at www.amazon.com)