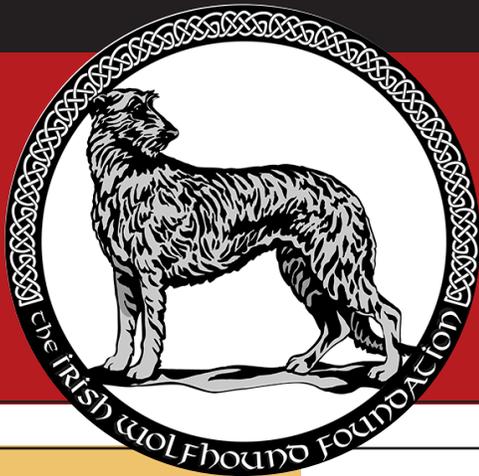


# Irish Wolfhound Foundation



# Focus

Fall 2020

## The Irish Wolfhound Foundation, Inc.

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## Focus

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## Looking Back and Looking Forward

### Looking Back.....THE HEART

The IWF supported two important projects TO COMPLETION this last year.

*"Pedigree Analysis of Atrial Fibrillation in Irish Wolfhounds Supports a High Inheritability With A Dominant Mode of Inheritance"* was published in *Canine Genetics and Epidemiology*. The Lead author was Dr. Samantha Fousse from UC Davis but the data was from your beloved hounds.

Many thanks to owners and hounds participating in the Lifetime Cardiac Study and the LifeCycle11 study who provided the data points for this publication. The "extra" tube of blood your hounds donated to UC Davis is vital to ongoing research looking for genes marking atrial fibrillation. This paper documented what we have all known intuitively, heart disease in the IW is inherited and documenting the mode of inheritance is very important to future breeding programs and the health of our hounds.

*"Echocardiographic and Electrocardiographic Evaluation of North American Irish Wolfhounds"* was published in the *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine.* This was the ongoing EKG-Echo study participants in IWF Heart clinics contributed to. This paper described unique characteristics of heart disease in North American Irish Wolfhounds. Because it documented atrial fibrillation is a diagnostic marker of cardiomyopathy this data validates the use of the less expensive and more easily available EKG as a screening test for IW heart disease. The hound in normal sinus rhythm has only a .2% chance of cardiomyopathy being found on echocardiogram.

Remember the incidence of afib increases with age and hounds need EKGs yearly -especially after age 5 which is the mean age of onset of atrial fibrillation.

Your hound should also have auscultation by a cardiologist when young to rule out valvular disease which is rare but does occur and is not detected by the EKG

### Looking Forward.....And Why this is Special

The AKC Canine Health Foundation is funding a grant proposal to investigate the Genetic Basis of Early

Onset Osteosarcoma in the Irish Wolfhound. The IWF and the IWCA are providing support via their donor directed funds.

Osteosarcoma kills 20% of our hounds with no improvement in that statistic since 1986.

There appears to be a special group of hounds that develop OSA at a very young age and these hounds are the focus of this research. A genetic test to identify these hounds before breeding would be helpful. This research-the first genetic osteosarcoma study involving only IWs - is being led by Dr Susannah Sample and the Comparative Genetics Research Lab Team at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. There have been many calls for blood and funding to help our hounds with OSA and only minimal steps forward thus far. However looking at a more defined problem and with better technology improves chances of meaningful results.

Included but not entirely covered by the CHF grant is the creation of a state of the art IW Genome. The IWF and the IWCA will help support this with additional funding. This high quality DNA code for the IW will be used for the osteosarcoma study and then made available for the wider canine research community.

### This Is A Really Big Deal

Genetic studies in dogs are often dependent on the use of a reference genome- when researchers look for genetic mutations that associate with disease they need a map to serve as a baseline for DNA code. When the first dog reference genome was created in 2005 a boxer named Tasha was used.

At the time researchers felt this reference assembled from a single dog was sufficient to reflect the DNA from any dog in any breed. Over time this has proven problematic. An Irish Wolfhound is not a Boxer just as a laborador is not a chihuahua.

While use of the boxer genome has worked for many studies it has created roadblocks for others. A high quality IW genome will maximize the chance of finding mutations associated with early onset osteosarcoma in the Irish wolfhound.

LOOKING BACK (Continued on page 4)

# Bleeding Disorders in Irish Wolfhounds

The focus of this study is the hound that survives surgery, such as a spay, with no apparently problems and then, suddenly, in about 24 hours, starts to bleed heavily. This is often fatal since it is unexpected and the bleeding is difficult to control. This phenomena, which is fairly common in greyhounds, has been studied and, in that breed, and also in deerhounds, appears to be sometimes related to a condition known as hyperfibrinolysis. The problem does not show up in traditional clotting tests because clots form perfectly well. Unfortunately, before true healing can take place, the clots dissolve prematurely, a process known as fibrolysis. (1)

There are drugs that prevent this phenomena if given before surgery and prophylactic use of those drugs is often recommended for greyhounds undergoing elective surgery. Recently it has also been recommended for Scottish Deerhounds and Irish Wolfhounds. (2) The preventative, aminocaproic acid, is safe and effective, however, there are other potential reasons for delayed bleeding and a study has not been done to determine if hyperfibrinolysis is a problem in our breed.

In early 2019 the Irish Wolfhound Foundation was contacted by Daniel J. Fletcher, PhD, DVM, DACVECC of Cornell University, a specialist in critical care and an Irish Wolfhound owner. He had become aware of concerns among Irish Wolfhound owners about post-operative bleeding problems, some of them fatal. He had questions about how common this was and whether the bleeding was indeed due to hyperfibrinolysis. Dr. Fletcher had worked on development of a test for hyperfibrinolysis using thromboelastography (TEG). He had also used this device for characterizing the response to various preventative drugs. The TEG assays have to be run on whole blood within 30 minutes of collection, but the device is small and transportable. (3, 4) In fact a novel point of care device (VCM-Vet) has become available that simplifies and standardizes TEG testing. (5)

After reviewing Dr. Fletcher's published work the IWF agreed that the first step was to do a survey and get a better idea of the prevalence of the problem and then design a study.

A survey was designed by Dr. Fletcher with IWF input and distributed via email lists and Facebook. He got a total of 100 responses from IW owners. Here are the preliminary results.

1. 47 respondees reported having one or more Irish Wolfhounds that experienced unexplained bleeding, with a total of 51 affected dogs. and 53 reported not seeing unexplained bleeding.

2. Of the 51 dogs with unexplained bleeding, 29 were within 1 week of surgery.

3. Of the 51 dogs with unexplained bleeding, 23 died.

4. Of the 29 surgical bleeds, 19 were spay/neuter surgeries.

It is to be expected that there are some biases to this data because people who had not experienced the problem were less likely to participate in the survey. Also dogs that have minor symptoms may not have been noted as having "abnormal" bleeding. This would account for the seemingly high mortality rate.

Nevertheless, it is obvious that a problem exists. Whether or not it is hyperfibrinolysis as seen in greyhounds is another question. Based on the results of the survey a study was proposed by Dr. Fletcher and funded by the IWF.

Blood samples were collected from 27 Irish Wolfhounds, mostly at the Irish Wolfhound Association of New England show in summer of 2019 by Dr Fletcher and Elizabeth Rozanski, DVM, DACVIM, DACVECC, Associate Professor, Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine and tested for TEG. Additional samples were taken from 27 control dogs of other breeds, age and sex matched at Cornell. In addition to the TEG testing that was done immediately upon collection, blood samples were tested for other factors that could influence clotting or dissolution of clots. Data collection was nearly complete when the pandemic shut down the majority of work at Cornell and Tufts. As a consequence analysis of the results is just getting underway again. It is hoped that a publication will be ready later this year or early next year. Dr. Fletcher had planned to talk at the 2020 IWCA National and has agreed to come in 2021.

Thanks to Dr. Fletcher and Dr. Rozanski for their work and to IWANE for the assistance in collecting samples.

References:

1. Lara-García a, Couto CG, Iazbik MC, Brooks MB. Postoperative bleeding in retired racing greyhounds. J Vet Intern Med [Internet]. 2008;22(3):525–33. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18466249>

2. <https://www.iwclubofamerica.org/post-operative-bleeding-followup>

3. Fletcher DJ, Rozanski EA, Brainard BM, de Laforcade AM, Brooks MB. Assessment of the relationships among coagulopathy, hyperfibrinolysis, plasma lactate, and protein C in dogs with spontaneous hemoperitoneum. J Vet Emerg Crit Care. 2016;26(1).

4. Fletcher DJ, Blackstock KJ, Epstein K, Brainard BM. Evaluation of tranexamic acid and  $\alpha$ -aminocaproic acid concentrations required to inhibit fibrinolysis in plasma of dogs and humans. Am J Vet Res. 2014;75:731–8.

<https://vcmvvet.com/about>

## The Best Time to Neuter / Spay

Neuter/spay before 1 year has become a common recommendation for pet owners but there may be dangers associated with early castration especially in large or giant breed dogs. Recent publications have reported a mild increase in longevity for altered dogs but also noted increased joint disease and cancer in this castrated population.

### Special Risk for Irish Wolfhounds?

Cancer kills over 30% of all IWs and it is concerning that a study of records of 40,000 dogs from the Veterinary Medical Database found neutered males and females more likely to die of cancer than intact dogs. This data was not breed specific.

Certain cancers are reported to be more likely in neutered than

intact dogs and these include the major killers of our hounds: osteosarcoma, lymphoma, and hemangiosarcoma. Most of the reported studies offer no useful clinical information that is breed specific or age specific to help decide the safest time to neuter.

### IWs Included in New Publication

A recent publication from UC Davis noted there were major breed differences in the risk for joint disease and certain cancers associated with age at castration.

"Assisting Decision-Making on Age of Neutering for 35 Breeds of Dogs: Associated Joint Disorders, Cancers, and Urinary Incontinence" utilized the extensive UC Davis veterinary hospital data base.

# Health Review

The first requirement for understanding the health of a breed is a vigorous and ongoing health data collection. The framework for this for the Irish Wolfhound in North America is the Life Cycle11 Study. This is sponsored and supported by the Irish Wolfhound Foundation. ALL hounds of ANY age are invited to participate.

## More Owners Help

There has been a slow but steady increase in participation.

186 owners responded to follow up requests in 2016. In the first six months of 2020 after electronic responses were encouraged, there have been 167 returns so hope for more than 300 follow ups for 2020 seems realistic.

Total entered hounds are 743 with 609 owners responding at least once to a follow up request.

Best scenario -1000 more hounds enter to provide ongoing meaningful data for the overall health of Irish Wolfhounds.

## Health Problems

These are health problems hounds are LIVING with- not cause of death statistics.

This report is based on 609 owner responses from 2016 to present.

Irish Wolfhounds remain a robust breed with 58% of responding owners reporting NO health problems for 2019-2020. This is compared to 77% reporting NO problems for 2016-2018. It is presently unclear if health problems are increasing or the data is coming from a broader population and aging hounds.

Data is needed on many more hounds but one strength of the report is the consistency of the reported health problems. When data is examined yearly there has been little change in the top ten reported problems for the past 4 years.

## IW Top Ten

1. More hounds are reported to be living with HEART DISEASE than any other problem. This has been the number one reported health problem since 2016 and reflects the prevalence in our breed and the benefits of treatment.

2. is PNEUMONIA - second place since 2016. Again reflects the prevalence and the success of treatment.

3. ALLERGIES -holding the number 3 slot for the last 3 years and showing increasing number of affected hounds each year as well as prev-

alence in males.

The remaining top ten slots are filled by

4. Living with weak and failing rears
5. Living with osteosarcoma
6. OCD and elbow dysplasia
7. Chronic diarrhea or “ mushy pudding”

poop

8. Bloat survivors
9. Difficulty urinating
10. Kidney disease

Other significant health problems owners and hounds are living with include Lymphoma, Megaesophagus, and seizures.

There appears to be an increase in hounds with allergies, digestive difficulties, elbow dysplasia and males with difficulty urinating. Although these problems are not killers they affect the robustness of the breed and need to be followed and many more data points collected to document if these are increasing threats and need investigation.

## Life Span and Cause of Death

There has been little change in life span when Lifetime Cardiac Study (LCS).data (2000-2015) and LifeCycle11Study (LCS11) data (2016-first 6 months of 2020) data are compared.

In the LCS data mean life span was 89 months (7.41years) and LCS11 data 91 months (7.58 years) but at least there has been no decrease in lifespan.

Combined data has 1,011 hounds with reported cause and age at death.(COD- cause of death)

## Top Ten COD from 2000-2019

1. Osteosarcoma killed 20.3% of our hounds with mean age at death 7.16 years. There has been little improvement in this statistic in over 30 years.

2. Heart disease 12.8% mean age at death 7.58 years

3. Rear weakness 11.2% mean age at death 9.25 years

4. Cancer- other with mean age death 7.91 years

5. Bloat- mean age at death 6.58 years

6. Pneumonia mean age at death 7.08 years

7. Lymphoma mean age at death 6.42 years

8. Sudden death mean age at death 7.25 years

9. Hemangiosarcoma mean age at death 8.08 years



10. Infections other than pneumonia mean age at death 6.25 years.

## LifeCycle11 Data

### Top Ten COD 2016-June 2020

1. Osteosarcoma killed 21 % of our hounds with mean age at death 6.67 years.

2. Heart reported deaths 16.8% - mean age at death 7.92 years

3. Rear weakness 11.4% -mean age death 8.83 years

4. Cancer- other – mean age death 8.08 years

5. Hemangiosarcoma- mean age death 8.08 years

6. Sudden death -mean age death 7.5 years

7. Pneumonia (8.41 years ) and lymphoma (7.33 years) tied

8. Bloat- mean age 5.5 years

9. Megaesophagus (8.75 years) and trauma (8 years) tied

10. Infections other than pneumonia- mean age 5.25 years.

Cancer remains the main killer of IWs with a continued preponderance of osteosarcoma.

Heart disease and rear weakness follow. There is little change in causes of death in many years except for an early drop in bloat deaths attributed to better diagnostics and surgical care. The increase in hemangiosarcoma may correlate with the availability of ultrasound for diagnosis. It appears supported research efforts are targeting the correct problems at this time.

Included here is the MOST RECENT data from January 2019- June 2020 for the top ten causes of death

HEALTHY REVIEW (Continued on page 5)

They offer evidence based information on breed specific differences in vulnerability to neutering and suggest guidelines for neutering ages to avoid long term health risks of castration.

Joint disease included hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia and cranial cruciate ligament tears. Cancers included lymphoma, hemangiosarcoma, osteosarcoma and mast cell tumors as these have been associated previously with castration.

All of the above diseases plus mammary tumors and urinary incontinence in bitches were examined in animals neutered <6 months, 6-11 months, 12-<24months, 2-8 years or intact. Disease was tracked until age 11 or the last recorded data.

ONLY 35 breeds were in this analysis. The IW did not have large

numbers in the database but was included because of great size and high incidence of the cancers. Great Danes were also included as size and late maturation might lead to increased joint disease.

## Results for IWs

Vulnerability to joint disorders associated with neutering is generally related to body size. Small dog breeds do not appear to have an increased risk while in breeds of larger size there were differences among the breeds. However the giant breeds IW and Great Dane showed NO increase in the studied joint diseases with neutering at any age.

NEUTER/SPAY (Continued on page 8)

# Satellite Cardiac Clinics

## Why Bother?

Most adult heart disease in the Irish Wolfhound is inherited. The first sign is usually atrial fibrillation. Atrial fibrillation can be diagnosed by a simple EKG rhythm strip. Another heart rhythm problem called VPCs increase the chance of sudden death and this is also found on EKG.

Heart disease is treatable. For the sake of each hound -and for future hounds-and for breeding programs- a yearly EKG is beneficial.

The IWF has considered plans to increase the availability of EKGs for all hounds-especially those that do not usually come to shows.

## And Then Came COVID.....

All scheduled heart clinics along with our National and Regional Specialties- CANCELLED.

It is harder to see your vet. You cannot go in with your hound to get an EKG done locally.

Life is chaotic and often money very tight.

## IW People Step Forward

And then long time breeder- owners Donna and David Smith stepped forward and began planning a cardiac clinic at their home during Covid times.

A friend of theirs who is a nurse volunteered to do the EKGs. The old Burdick EKG machine (which has churned out an estimated 3000 IrishWolfhound EKGs) was mailed to them.

Everyone was encouraged to participate in

the LifeCycle11 study and iPads provided for sign up (or follow up if the hound was already entered).

The clinic was outside and social distancing followed and masks required.

The tracings were returned with the EKG machine and results provided to owners by email.

Twelve Hounds had EKGs, data was provided for the LCS11 and owners, AND a good time had by all.

## The New Tupperware Party?

Many IW people are or know a nurse or vet or tech or Doctor- or even just a person willing to learn a few basic EKG facts.

EKG machines are less expensive and some regional clubs might wish to have their own machine to loan to members for satellite clinics.

There is an extra EKG machine that can be mailed upon request for these clinics.

It is assumed no one wants to catch this virus and all will adhere to social distancing/masking/ and small crowd sizes.

The IWF will support these clinics with advice,equipment,and EKG interpretation with the hope that all hounds participating will join the LCS11 study.

The IWCA is offering support via contacts with regional clubs.

A informal clinic has been held at Gretchen and Bob Bernardi's (Midwest for many years now -the last one this August.

Ellen and Jim Kroll have arranged for an

EKG clinic during their annual get together (Northwest) and Carole Silverthorne (East coast) planned a clinic at the end of August.

GLIWA has offered an EKG clinic at their fun match and hope to offer a clinic this year.

So clinics from the east coast to the west coast are underway.

The satellite clinics -unless someone knows a veterinary cardiologist very well- will provide only screening EKGs and recommend referral to a cardiologist if the EKG is abnormal.

The EKG-Echo study recently published in the Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine provides evidence that the EKG is an adequate screening test for IW cardiomyopathy. These satellite clinics could provide testing for many IWs unable to be easily screened during these difficult times.

## EKG-ECHO Clinic in OCTOBER

The IWF sponsored a cardiac clinic with EKGs and echocardiograms the first weekend in October in PA.( which made us all miss Delaware Valley even more).

Drs Tyrrell and Rosenthal planned to do their thing masked and sadly without owners in the testing area to provide the testing with safety for all.

It is hoped the regular schedule of cardiac screening also offering auscultation by a cardiologist and echocardiograms will be available for the National and regional specialties next year.

## Looking back (Continued from page 1)

An IW bitch has already donated blood and sequencing is ready to begin. A small skin biopsy is growing her fibroblasts to assure an adequate back up supply of DNA.

## Again Your Help Is Needed

Covid has temporarily closed many research labs including U of Wisconsin. If blood samples are waiting and ready to go as soon as Covid is stabilized this research will be closer to results. The lab IS able to receive blood samples.

Samples are needed from any IW who developed osteosarcoma before age 5 years. Blood samples are also needed from any IW over 10 years that has not developed osteosarcoma.

If either or both parents can donate a blood sample it is of exceptional value. Samples from affected dogs and parents allow analysis of trios(both parents and affected offspring). This analysis method is a very powerful way to find a genetic mutation.

The team will sequence the entire genome of each enrolled hound mapped to the newly created Irish Wolfhound Reference Genome.

There are many reasons why this study

may be a real step forward in controlling the misery caused by osteosarcoma in young IWs –

**Please** -if you know of a hound or have a hound that could help consider joining this study.The blood samples can be drawn locally. All hound identifiers will remain confidential. Any costs associated with participation will be covered.

**CONTACT** the Comparative Genetics Research Lab at genetics@vetmed.wisc.edu.

## A First Step in Genetic test Development

The genetics of Osteosarcoma is undoubtedly chaotic. A first step in the untangling is to document the inheritance of the problem in the breed. Based on limited data in the Scottish Deerhound, inheritance is assumed to be autosomal dominant.

Using data points from the LCS and the LCS11 the inheritance of atrial fibrillation in the IrishWolfhound has been documented. The same type of inheritance is suspected for osteosarcoma and this is being investigated now at the University of Wisconsin, again using data points from the LCS and LCS11. Great thanks to all the hounds and owners who helped with this data collection.

## Another Approach

There is little chance to eliminate the threat of osteosarcoma in Irish Wolfhounds.

Some advances have been made in treatment but it remains fatal and continues to kill 20% of our hounds.

What if there were a simple blood test to warn of the early onset of osteosarcoma?

Researchers at the University of Minnesota Animal Cancer Care and ResearchProgram(ACCR) led by Dr Jaime Modiano are working towards this goal.

The ACCR program has made great progress in building this test for hemangiosarcoma. They now want to develop and validate this test for osteosarcoma.

They will need funding and support. The research team has many publications and presentations documenting progress in this approach. Enough preliminary work shows this is not a pie in the sky approach to OSA. This blood test will lead to increased focus on prevention and earlier treatment. And if your hound would test positive at two years you might reconsider a potentially heart breaking breeding. This ties in with documenting the inheritance .... All in all there seems to be some progress.

# Irish Wolfhound Foundation – Rescue Grant Report

The reimbursement costs listed below are shared funds between the IWCA & the IWF.

## Rescue Reimbursements from 1/1/2020 thru 9/23/2020

Date	IW	Amount	State
January 7, 2020	Female	\$1,566.71	TX
March 4, 2020	Female	\$611.44	CA
June 5, 2020	Female	\$1,093.66	CA
June 5, 2020	Female	\$821.15	CA
July 13, 2020	Male	\$943.55	MI
August 27, 2020	Male	\$367.85	MN
September 15, 2020	Female	\$4,700.00	TX

Total Reimbursements as of September 23, 2020 - \$10,104.36

The remaining IWs still alive today from the 2014 seizure in Houston, TX are broken down as follows:

## RMIWA 5, Mary Ryan 4, PVIWC 6, and SCIWC 18

After inquiring about the TX 72 count for this report, Mary Ryan's owners sent an update on their hounds. Here are the highlights of their comments along with Mary's reply.

[I think Minnie is aging backwards! She is more active this year than ever. She is still very particular about where she goes. My bed, the kitchen & the sofa are it inside the house! She rips around

outside and loves riding in the car.]

[Devlin will always be my shy sweet boy. Health wise, he has had two small growths removed from his mouth, both benign. His heart & joints are healthy. He was eight in June. He does not like being outside, but will tolerate the van and walks in the park. He has taught us so very much in his 6 yrs. with us and has matured into a lovely dog.]

[Rags and Grady experience some stiffness if we have not walked and played/ran regularly; nothing that a little Rimadyl and CBD does not fix. Eating, drinking & as charming as ever. Both, in September, were approximately 12 years old.]

**Mary Ryan's reply** – I am so happy and proud of you ladies and how far you have advanced these iws. It is wonderful how love, attention and good food has brought out the best in these hounds. It takes time and patience but is well worth the effort. I am sure your husbands deserve credit also. Thank you for bringing such a wonderful transformation in these great dogs. Sincerely, Mary Ryan

**Rest in peace (Heather Hanchett Burns), you will live in our hearts forever. We will never forget you!**

Jean A. Minnier, IWCA & IW Foundation – Rescue Chair

## COVID Help

Unemployment continues to be high. Restrictions from COVID will continue with no end in sight.

If you are having difficulty finding funds for food or a vet bill please do not suffer alone or feel you must give up your hound.

Funds are available from the IWF to help.

Contact [drdentino@cloud.com](mailto:drdentino@cloud.com). Each request will be confidential and handled on an individual basis.

## The Irish Wolfhound Foundation, Inc.

### Treasurer's Report

Total Cash Assets @ 09/30/20 = \$438,842.71

#### Category Funds:

\$122,068.15 = General Endowment

\$ 29,934.72 = Rescue Endowment

\$286,839.84 = General Fund

#### Disbursements - 01/01/20-09/30/20

\$15,846.56 = Health Research

\$ 9,283.21 = Rescue

\$ 2,506.38 = General

#### Donations - 01/01/20-09/30/20

\$17,060.18 = General (including Memberships)

\$11,010.00 = Health Research

\$2,046.47 = Rescue

\$100.00 = Rescue Endowment

## Healthy Review (Continued from page 3)

1. Osteosarcoma
2. Heart
3. Rear Weakness
4. Cancer- other
5. Pneumonia and Lymphoma tied
6. Hemangiosarcoma
7. Renal failure
8. Bloat
9. Sudden Death
10. Megaesophagus

Numbers in some of these categories are small and need further data points for validity.

### Please Help Future Hounds

How can we know what to be concerned about if we only have rumors for information? It is assumed our puppies are healthy but there is little data to support this- again relying on rumors does not push us forward and help our hounds.

It is easy now to participate with your valued health information.

Enter ALL your hounds. Ask friends to enter ALL their hounds. Enter puppies with their new owners before they take the puppy home. It can all be done online and participants will get a yearly reminder for follow-up

### If Necessary-Skip the EKG and DNA

The incidence of heart disease increases with age in IWs. Afib is usually the first sign and is found on an EKG rhythm strip.

It is inherited and treatable.

For the sake of your hound and future hounds a yearly EKG is beneficial.

(The incidence of heart disease is low in youngsters so yearly EKGs do not need to start until 2 years.)

There are many health problems in many breeds dogs.

Research is expensive and difficult.

A DNA collection with associated health data is invaluable in attracting researchers to help solve problems in our breed- now and for the future.

Even if you do not wish to provide the blood sample or get a yearly EKG please consider participation with your hound's valuable health data. EVERYONE can do this and EACH entry is helpful.

### Easy Peasy

Go to the IWF website and click research studies

Click IWF LifeCycle11 Study

Click Study Entry and enter your hound.

Please help.

Thank you.

*The Irish Wolfhound Foundation gratefully acknowledges contributions from the following supporters*

May 2019 to Sept 2020

Frances Abrams	James and Ginie Cabaniss	Patricia Feeney	Jacqueline Hudson
Mary Adams	Theresa Caesar	Gayle Fikentscher	Stephen Hughes
Beverly Alba	Jude Callender	John Fitzgerald	Angela Hunter-Knight
John Allen	Candy Canzoneri	Estelle Flynn	Michael Hussey
Rochelle Anderson	Donna Caporale	Brian Foresman	Chris and Bob Illingworth
Amy Andre	Karen Catov-Goodell	Patricia Fostvedt-Oxendale	Irish Wolfhound Club of America
Coleen Armstrong	Mary Chakey-Christian	Suzanne Freisian	IMO Members lost in 2019-
Celeste Atkinson	Giny Chapin	Jack Freund	Alice Rajec, Jill Bryson, Paul
Gerry Ault DVM	Cathy Charles	Carol Gabriel	Seyour, Donna Drake, Dee Van
<i>IMO Cliff</i>	Beth Chastain	IMO Quincyann- Taken from	Nest
Marti and Dan Austin	Deborah Chastain	me much too soon	Irish Wolfhound Association of
IMO Lorraine Garland	Mary Christian	IMO Nevin	the Delaware Valley
Linda Bagdon	IMO Donna Drake and Jour-	Guylaine Gagnon	CathieJo Jacobson
IMO Inara and Flynn	ney, Jill Bryson, Steve Hughes,	Beth Gallagher	Rebecca January
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Karen Bell	Robin Coen	Gillian Ghazal	Betty and Roger Johnson
Patty Berkovitz	Sue Cole	IMO Neala, Caden, and Lir	Christina Kelley-Furst
Chris Krowzack Bernstein	Mary Conroy	Susa Gilson	Beth Kelly
Mark Berry	Sharon Cooke	Eva Giordano	IMO Flynn
David Berzins	Elaine Covert	Jeri and Jimmy Glynn	Stephen Kelly
IMO Marigny	Louise Cox	Nancy S Goodman	Ree Kenerley
Angie Bixler	Debra Cree	Nina Gottsch	Cheryl Kennedy on behalf of
Bob and Adele Blanchard	Elissa Culp	Marcella Grassi	IWAWC 'Rescue Fund'
IMO Rooney and IHO	Connor Dalton	Julia Green	IMO Donna Drake
Mary O'Malley	Betsy Daly	Debbie Greene	Cindy Kieler
Susan Bleakley	Heather and Michael Daly	Renae Grizzle	Casey Kilcullen-Steiner
George Boles	IMO Mary Crosby	With thanks to Mary Ellen and	Linda King
Joelyn Brenneman	Christine Davis	Frances, for Badger	IMO Audrey Rajac, Jay Kistler
David Bristow	In loving memory of Jody Gil-	Heather Haines	and Dee Van Nest
Hugh Broadbent	bert, her hounds, and all	Kathryn Haran	Alice Kneavel-Craley
Donna S Brown	she did for rescue	Patricia Harreschou	IMO Ch Wildisle Castlekeeper's
IMO Solo and IHO	Laura Demmons	Cathy Haskins	Quest
Frances Abrams	Mariellen Dentino	William Haskins	Kneller Family Foundation
Jill Bryson	IMO Jill and Woopie Bryson	Sadie and Donald Heller	Patricia Krieger
Phyllis Buck	Andrea Dormady	Joseph Hendricks	Ellen Kroll
IHO Jill Bryson	Michael Dorcik	Edna Henley	IMO SBIS CH August Salsa
Christina Buckner	Ted Drake	Amber Hennessy	Teresa Kuntz
Joanne Buehner-Brown	IMO Donna Drake, The dogs	AJ Henry	IHO J Plunkett and IMO Della
Sascha Buntjer	(Ruby, Seamus, PJ) and I miss	Andrea Hermann	Garrett and Donna Drake
Robin Burchett	you terribly	Karen Hess	Gail Lankford
Ann Burke	Kathleen Dykstra	IHO Liam and Finnegan	IMO Donna Adele Drake
Marne Burke	IMO Woopie and Jill Bryson	celebrating Lizzie Cirito's	Margaret LaRosa
IHO Joseph Johnson with	Karen Eberl	marriage	IMO Amelia
thanks	Jessica Eby	Maura High	Nancy Latton
Eleanor Burkley	Betsy Elliott	Jo Hollick Mack	Steve and Karen LeVan
Lisa Burr	Shelley Empson	Cathy Leanne Howard	IMO Audrey Rajec, Lis-
Frances S Butler	Judy Erskine	IMO Gabriels Highgate Nevan,	more Stoneybrook Revival
Anne Buttion	M K Farah	A marvelous boy who was so	"Queenie", Lismore Ophella
	Randall Fater	very, very special	"Ophie" and Mimic and IHO
			Steve and Faith Marsman

Vickie Lewis	Pam Murphy	Alex Riva	IMO Steve Hughes... Lover of ALL wolfhounds
Brigitte Lins-Tennert	Carol Myers	Joe Roland	Pamela Sticht
Maria Lubera	IMO Ryan	IMO Anne Tweer	Harold Stiffelman
Per Lundstrom	Mary Myl	Wanda Roland	Frankie Stoffer
Tracey A Luty	Sheila Nasch	Cherry Rolle	Donna Stottlemyer
Toni Maat	Tamisine Neal	Lynne Rosebrock	Christina Strelova
Victoria Madden	Ken Neff	Leslie Rothermal	Donna Sula
Bill and Margaret Managan	Casey Nesbitt	IMO Sneakerfoot Furgusen	Sarah Sullivan
Sarii Mansfield	Network For Good	Sara Runciman	Susque-Nango Kennel Club Inc
IMO Max, an elder statesman	Ronni Nienstedt	Laurie Rutherford	IMO Taliesin's Raphadella
Scott Marchand	Mary O'Brien	Mary Ryan	Drew Swonder
Virgina Marconi	IMO Margaret O'Brien	Leslye Sandberg	Susan Tank
Susan Marshall	Monnica O'Connor	Anke Sauerwein	IMO Donna Drake
Cynthia S Martin	Joseph O'Leary	Linda Savage	The Brevity
Silvia Martin	Kimberlee Oliver	Julie Schaeffer	Mari Thomas
Carla Martinez	Mary O'Malley	IMO Morigan Bridget Ghost	Megan Thompson
Susan Marvin	IMO Heather Hanchett Burns	Ashley Schaffter	Stacey Thompson
Douglas Marx	Jennifer Orr	Kimberly A Schaffter	Beverly Lynn Tillman
Sherry Mayo	Sue Orr	Jane and Alan Schluter	Donna Tomson
Deirdre McCarthy	IMO all Tobi-Tor hounds	Ellen Schmidt	Laura Gilbert Trainer
Belle McCluskey	Denise Orbals	Gabi Schneidman	IMO Mary O'Brien
Gordon McDonald	IMO Wish	IMO Andy of Eagle	Jeff Traylor
Lisa McKinney	Donita Osborne	Debbie Sharpe	Kellie Tripp
In Loving Memory of Ryan McKinney	Karen Ozols	Lambirth Poynter Shea	Kathie Upton
Wanda McLain	Thomas Pare	Susan Z Shebelsky	Brian Valante
Liz McMahan	IMO Brenna Rose Gelert	Denise Shorey	Peter R Van Brunt
Ellen McMichael	Jeanne Patterson	Mary Ellen Shriver	Anne Varney
Ricardo Medina	Carolyn Paz	IMO Coleraine, Rosslare, Erin, Etna "Aoifie"	Diana Vreeken
Darryl Meeks	Elizabeth Pearson	Carole Silverthorne	Laurie Wageman
Laurie Mendiones	Mary Perry	Anne Simpson	David Walker
Melissa Meyer	IMO Stu Dykstra, Woopie and Donegal and In Loving Memory of Friend, Mentor, and Lover of Irish Wolfhounds Jill Bryson	Angelina Sliva	Marcia Walsh
David Milne	Karla Petermann	Connie Smalley	Briget Wandruff
Terry Minar	Kristen Peters	David and Donna Smith	Maggie Weidinger
Jean and Harry Minnier	John Peyton	Karla Smith	Stephen Weir
IMO Heather Burns	Sheila Peyton	IMO my good friend Jill Bryson	Kathy Welling
Erin Mitchell Herman	Helen Philpott	Thomas Smith	Karri Wheeler
Susan Montgomery	Donna Pitt	Kathleen Sneider	Carmen Wiley
Joan Moore	Jeanie Pitzenberger	Judy and David Snyder	Jill Williams
IMO Angus Collins	Cindy Pohl	Southern Idaho Sighthound Field Association	Sue Williams
Michael Moore	Tom and Lani Powers	IMO Jill Bryson	Colleen Wilson
Van and Susan Morfit	IMO Steve Hughes	Linda Souza	IMO Aaron Guidotti
Douglas Morgan	Rose Mary Pries	Jennifer Speckert	Laura Winegardner
Claire Morrison	Carolyn Purvis	Dane and Audrey St Clair	Howard Wittells
Richard Morrison	Ginger Quinn	IMO Charlie, Quill and Anie... Gone but not Forgotten	Anne Worthmann
IHO my wife Ann Sury and the Texas 72	IMO Dee Van Nest, with love	St Patrick's Episcopal Day School	Mary Wrewel
Scott Mortenson	Ginger Quinn and Linda King	Thank You Mary O'Malley & her lws visits to the school	Audrey Wright
In Loving Memory of Cugein's Caoimhe of Cheniff	IMO Anne Tweer	Jane and Dick Staudt	Pamela Wyers Griffen
Mount Ararat Foundation	Christina Rappel	Carol Steele	Kathi Yorke
Michael Muffley	Denise Ratzlaff	Cynthia Steele	Your Cause LLC-Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program
Phillip Munro	Debra Redlinger	Stephan, Kvanvig, Stone and Trainor	Carla Zayac
Nancy Murphy	Beth Renstrom	Rosemary Stephenson	Cathryn Zega
	Pat Riley Hersch		

### Change Service Requested



Photo by Mary O' Malley

**Dr Tyrrell and Dr Rosenthal hard at work at the recent IWF sponsored Cardiac Clinic in PA.”**

## Neuter/Spay (Continued from page 3)

In this data base 7% of intact males and 0% females had joint disease and there was no joint disease seen in neutered animals. Certainly the IW incidence of female joint disease is not 0. Because there are published reports documenting the damage of removing gonadal hormones before growth is complete. Neuter age for both the giant breeds is recommended well past 1 year even if increase in joint disease was not shown.

Intact IW males had a cancer incidence of 8% and females 21%.

Neutering males at 1 year was associated with a cancer increase to 25% which WAS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT. There was no increase noted in spayed females.

In this small population there were no mammary cancers.

The suggested guideline for MALES given the increased occurrence of cancers at 1-2 years is TO NEUTER BEYOND 2 YEARS.

Given the large body size and physiology of late musculoskeletal development neutering FEMALES is recommended WELL BE-

YOND ONE YEAR..

The study population was only 30 intact males/19 neutered males and 21 intact bitches/16 spayed bitches for a total of 86 hounds. This was the smallest population for any breed included in this study. Larger IW data sets report a more equal and higher incidence of cancers.

There is a definite association of cancers associated with early neuter age and much of this is associated with breed. Unfortunately IWs seem to be one of those breeds. Although to neuter or not and when to do so are personal decisions all data so far suggests it is safest to neuter after 2 years in males and probably also in females. The number of hounds included was small and results could easily change with larger numbers.

Great Danes are the “other” giant breed and 353 were included in the data set. The incidence of cancer was 6% in males and 3% in females. There was no increase in cancers or joint disease with neutering.

Recommended neuter age was well beyond one year because of large body size.

## Help the Hounds

**There are a number of ways you can help us help Irish Wolfhounds:**

**Donate** - We are grateful for donations of any size.

**Join** - Membership in the IWF is a great way to support everything we do.

**Gift a Membership** - How about giving your vet the gift of membership?

**Include the IWF in Your Estate Planning** - consult your tax advisor for guidance.

**Enter Studies** - Larger studies give us better data which leads to more reliable conclusions.

**Bring Your Hound to Screening Clinics** - This not only supplies us with more data, it helps your hound!

**Shop** our extensive selection of logo items.

**Go to [www.irishwolfhoundfoundation.org](http://www.irishwolfhoundfoundation.org) and click on the Help The Hounds Tab**

**Many thanks in advance to our generous donors!**