A Holiday wish for your happiness...

Good Health,

Good Friends,

Good Cheer

May you enjoy all the best there is Throughout the coming New Year!
In the following series, we will address frequently asked questions in regard to deciphering the causes of genetic diseases that affect Irish Wolfhounds and other dog breeds. Each issue will cover two to three topics.

1) What is the genome?

The genome refers to the complete genetic information present in any individual, be it dog, human, plant, virus, bacteria, etc. In most species, the information is encoded in DNA. In dogs, for example, the genome refers to the dog’s entire DNA, whether it codes for a gene or not (see below).

This information is encoded in “nucleotides” or “base pairs”, which come in 4 types, abbreviated by letters: A, T, G, and C. The order of the base pairs will determine the final product, similar to an architectural plan. The architectural plan determines what the final product will look like (the house) and the daily functions within (electricity feeding the lights, heater, air conditioning, etc). Each live cell in the body contains this complete architectural plan. The human genome contains about 3.2 billion base pairs and the dog genome contains about 18% less. But here comes the really interesting thing: There are only about 19,000 genes in the dog genome; each gene coding for an item: hair length, bone growth, digestive enzymes, liver enzymes, brain processes, etc. If you think of the nucleotides as glass beads (four colors representing the four letters) in the dog genome, the chain of beads would stretch from Miami, Florida to Seattle, Washington, and the genes would be sitting about a city block apart from each other. The base pairs in between do not necessarily code for anything but we make use of this information for finding genes that cause diseases.

2) Why am I asked to submit blood samples instead of cheek swabs for certain diseases?

Both blood samples and cheek swabs are used to collect DNA. The difference is in the quality and especially quantity of DNA that can be obtained. Cheek swabs allow collection of a few cells from the inside of the dog’s cheek. Therefore, the amount of DNA is smaller. Contamination is a common problem with cheek swabs: if it is a nursing puppy and it wasn’t removed from its mother for at least 4 hours, there is a possibility that the mother’s cells are also on the swabs. Adult dogs that have just been fed before the sample was obtained may contaminate the swabs with bits of DNA from whatever meat was in the food or the food particles may make it difficult to extract the DNA. Cheek swab samples are useful if only a single test needs to be run. Cheek swabs are easy to collect and can be shipped in a regular envelope by mail. Blood samples allow for extraction of much more DNA; the quality is much better; there is no risk of contamination from the mother or food; and there is enough DNA to run multiple tests or to do a new genetic study. The downside is that blood samples generally need to be taken at the vet’s office and they must be shipped in special containers.
A Word From the President

As president of this fine organization I am pleased to be able to report on another great year. The IWF is moving positively forward in its mission of health, education, and rescue. The IWF has a few new studies that will be starting up after the first of the year, and will be reported on later next spring. One in particular is an osteosarcoma study being done by the Broad Institute. Funding for this grant will be a group effort between the IWF, the Irish Wolfhound Club of America, participating regional IW clubs and individual donations. The IWF will administer the funding and the grant itself; this concept was in part the reason that the Foundation was formed years ago with the 501 (c)(3) tax status that allows all donations to be tax deductible. With that said, funding for this grant is still needed, and I would like to encourage all to support this study through earmarked donations to the IWF.

I would like to thank everyone that has previously donated to the IWF and those who will in the future. The funding of such grants mentioned above depends on it, in turn the health and welfare of our breed benefits from your kindness through your donations. Every penny counts!

Another broken record – Please thank your volunteers! Be it folks that serve on the Board of Directors of our clubs, Show Chairs, and all others that help run the many events throughout the year that you participate in. It’s a small gesture that goes a long way. If you don’t already, please consider volunteering, help is always needed to produce all the fine events we have nationwide.

On behalf of the Irish Wolfhound Foundation I would like to wish everyone, hounds too, a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a great New Year.

Best Regards,
Doug Marx

The Irish Wolfhound Foundation, Inc.

Treasurer’s Report

Balances are as of 11/30/11

$135,255.09 - Regular account
(includes Research, Rescue, Education, and General/Unrestricted)

$90,062.33 - General/Unrestricted Endowment Fund

$17,942.64 - Rescue Endowment Fund

Disbursements 01/01/11 - 11/30/11 =
$23,523.74 - primarily Research progress expenses

Receipts 01/01/11 - 11/30/11 = $36,016.48 - Regular Account
(Donations, Gift Shop proceeds, Auction)

$62,090.00 - General Endowment donations and Bequests

$2,000.00 - Rescue Endowment donations

Happy New Year!

Photos by Ben Carter

This eye catching snow sculpture is the work of Sue Condzella.

Snow Dogs

Happy Holidays
The **Irish Wolfhound Foundation** is sponsoring heart testing on, May 2 & 3 2012 at the 2012 IWCA National Specialty. Tests offered include EKG’s, echocardiograms, and blood pressure screening. There will be a limit of 25 hounds per day, and **pre registration is required**. To get an appointment scheduled, please contact Frances Abrams at frances.abrams@att.net, by **April 16, 2012**. All paperwork and payments must be received by Frances before your appointment will be confirmed. Owners will pay only $125 per hound, with the balance of the cost being paid by the IWF. All data collected will be used by the Foundation to supply ongoing heart studies. Additional donations to the Foundation are much appreciated and wisely used to fund our mission of Health, Education, & Rescue.

### Hearts Tested at Del Val

We tested 33 dogs in one day, and we were busy most of the day. Happily 25 of those were normal but it is important for people to note that as their dogs get older they are more prone to atrial fibrillation which is relatively rare in young Irish Wolfhounds. Unfortunately despite good intentions we were unable to test at Locust Grove but we are planning to offer testing in St. Louis. We will be charging more starting with that show. At $125/dog it will still be a bargain compared to the cost of going having it done at a cardiologist’s office. Thanks to everyone who participated and to everyone who continues to have their hounds tested. Heart disease is treatable.

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**Irish Wolfhound Delaware Valley Echo Clinic 2011 Morgantown PA**

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**Give the Gift That Keeps on Giving....**

An IWF Donation is a great gift idea for “the hard to buy for”. Designate it In Honor Of or In Memory Of that special person or hound. Remember your generosity is tax deductible! Use the donation form on page 8.
This year the IWADV participated in our 2nd annual Leprechaun Toss. Brought back by popular demand, much fun was had by all who joined in. We raised over $300.00 this time around with half of the money going to the IW Foundation. It was a close call at the end of the toss so we had a tie breaker take place between Margaret LaRosa and Mark Berry. Thanks to the help of Joe Roland’s pitching arm, Margaret was our big winner! Thank you to everyone who participated. We look forward to next year’s Leprechaun Toss! Submitted by Brenda Skalski

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**Sweet Potatoe Dog Chews**

1. Using uniform sized sweet potatoes cut the sweet potatoes lengthwise in uniform slices (no smaller than ¼”).
2. Place the slices on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
3. Bake in a preheated oven at 250 degrees for three hours, turning half way through.
4. Cool completely on a wire rack

Like the name implies, you will have no trouble getting your dog to try this sweet treat. You can keep the Sweet Potatoe Dog Chews in the refrigerator for up to 3 weeks or they can be frozen up to 4 months.
There are many ways in which people make real and lasting impacts on the world of the Irish Wolfhound. Some contribute through their breeding programs, producing dogs that enrich our lives and leave genetic legacies. Some make their marks in the various areas of competition—the show ring, the coursing field, other areas of performance. Some are less visible and their contributions, however large, can go unnoticed, unappreciated by most in our little world. Such a person is Anne Janis. Because she has worked tirelessly and selflessly in support of the health of our breed, Locust Grove honored her at its 2011 week-end.

Early in 1995, several wolfhound fanciers—Sam Ewing, Pam Paloma and Jacky Karpinski—were sitting around talking dogs, and a young dog suddenly went into a grand mal seizure. And there it all began.

People were contacted at the University of Pennsylvania and it was agreed that the university team, headed by Dr. Betsy Dayrell-Hart, a veterinary neurologist, would take on the study of epilepsy in the Irish Wolfhound. Upon request, Anne, aided by several researchers, prepared a questionnaire, to help determine the extent of the problem. Mailed in the fall of 1995, the results showed conclusively that epilepsy was a big enough problem to continue.

The project was handed over to Margret Casal, Dr. Med.Vet., who was finishing her Ph.D. and Anne agreed to do the data and blood collection until she was finished with her degree. Anne had already been providing pedigrees to the university and helping the project in other ways, but the latest addition to her workload was large and lasted nearly two years.

The research team grew along with the study itself: a web site was created and Anne created a report on the IW Seizure Study which was available without cost to breeders and owners of affected hounds, even to those who were not part of the study. All of this needed funding, so several people helped in various ways—sponsoring raffles, advertising in catalogs, offering support to owners—including Deirdre McCarthy, Kathy Cumings, Dawn Fincher, Anne Devletian, Charlotte Collins and others. Due to their efforts, the study was able to donate over $128,000 to the university to help fund the study.

Fourteen years after that first conversation among friends, gene sequencing began and blood sampling and data collection continue. The Irish Wolfhound Studies, renamed to include other disorders on which Dr. Casal & Anne were working, combined with the Irish Wolfhound Foundation and she was given a position on its board and on the research committee.

Anne continues to work for the health of Irish Wolfhounds by developing questionnaires for PCD & recurring pneumonia which are on the Irish Wolfhound Foundation web site and other tasks needed by the IW Foundation research committee and she provides risk analysis, separate from the studies, for those breeders who choose to use it.

There is no way that we can ever repay Anne for her dedication but we hope that these words will remind her of our gratitude:

It Is With Heartfelt Gratitude and Admiration that Locust Grove Irish Wolfhound Association Honors
Anne Janis
For Her Tireless Contribution To The Health And Welfare of Irish Wolfhounds Here and Around the World.
Her Work and Dedication, Combined with Her Willingness To Share Her Knowledge, Have Been of Enormous Benefit To Breeders, All Admirers of the Breed and the Dogs We Love.

Thank You, Anne, from All of Us.
October 15, 2011

Gretchen Bernardi
berwyck@ezl.com
The Irish Wolfhound Foundation gratefully acknowledges contributions from the following supporters:

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(SUPPORTERS Continued on Page 8)

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Focus
537 Hack man Rd.
Lititz, PA 17543

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You Can Count on US ---- Can We Count on You?

With your donations the IWF is taking steps to insure your hounds will have a healthier future.

Please use my contribution for the following:

___Research     ___Education     ___Rescue     ___Wherever it’s needed most

Name:___________________________________________________________
Address:________________________________________________________
City/State/zip:___________________________________________________
Country:________________________________________________________
Email:___________________________________________________________

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Mail to: The Irish Wolfhound Foundation, Inc.
David Milne, Treasurer— 150 Creek Rd— Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

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