Include the Foundation in your annual giving program. With your help, we will continue to build on health studies, and to offer programs that inform, educate, and inspire the caretakers of the breed. Include the Foundation in your planned giving. Your bequest or other donation will help us establish a self-perpetuating source of income designated for Irish Wolfhound health research, education, and rescue. Participate in the health programs and studies sponsored by the Foundation, showing your commitment to a healthy future for our hounds. Get involved! The membership form is on the back page.
Cardiomyopathy in Irish Wolfhounds

by William D. Tyrrell, Jr., DVM, DACVIM (Cardiology)

The most common form of heart disease in the Irish Wolfhound (IWH) is dilatative type cardiomyopathy (DCM). Greater than 99% of IWH with DCM will have concurrent atrial fibrillation, an arrhythmia affecting the top chambers of the heart called the atria. The IWH with DCM typically has a higher survival rate than in other dogs.

The IWH affected with atrial fibrillation is typically exercise intolerant. One may also note that their IWH will not lie down on their side (lateral recumbency) and will sit or lie upright, indicating that the IWH is in atrial fibrillation. You will often hear the atrial fibrillation sound (FAT), a continuous low-frequency sound, when auscultating the IWH. Another sign is that the left ventricle’s systolic function or pumping ability is usually not affected, and the left ventricle is only mildly to moderately enlarged. Furthermore, the left ventricle’s systolic function or pumping ability is usually not severely depressed as in other canine breeds with DCM. Right-sided congestive heart failure (fluid in the chest or belly) can uncommonly occur very late in the stage of DCM.

Treatment is dependent on the stage of the disease. Early detection and early medical intervention has been shown to prolong the lives of IWH for years. Your IWH should be examined at least yearly by an appropriate veterinarian. For IWH younger than 15 years of age, twice yearly examinations are recommended. If your IWH is known to be affected with cardiomyopathy or if you own an Irish Wolfhound, your veterinarian can evaluate it with a veterinary cardiologist, if possible, to provide better care and management of your dog.

IWF Sponsors another Successful Clinic

This is a summary of the results from the eye clinic on April 30, 2014, performed at the Irish Wolfhound National Specialty, at Purina Farms, Missouri submitted by Ben Johnson, DVM, Diplomate, ACVO from Animal Eye Associates of St Louis Missouri.

32 total dogs were examined: 21 females, 8 males, and 3 unidentified.

12 females, 2 years of age or younger were examined, all normal.

8 females, 3 through 7 years of age were examined, 6 were normal and 2 had abnormalities noted.

1 female, was examined over 7 years of age that had abnormalities noted.

32 total dogs were examined: 21 females, 8 males, and 3 unidentified.

12 females, 2 years of age or younger were examined, all normal.

8 females, 3 through 7 years of age were examined, 6 were normal and 2 had abnormalities noted.

1 female, was examined over 7 years of age that had abnormalities noted.

IWF sponsors another successful clinic (Continued on page 4)
IWF Supports New Heart Research

IWF Health Research Committee member Dr. Janice Bright is studying a new combination of drugs to treat arrhythmia and heart failure, potentially enhancing quality of life for affected dogs. Given the prevalence of heart disease in our breed, the IWF is supporting this study via a directed donation to the Canine Health Foundation. More information on the study can be found on the Canine Health Foundation website. We look forward to hearing the results of this study.

New Osteosarcoma Study at U Penn

Dr. Nicola Mason, BVetMed, PhD at the University of Pennsylvania has started a new clinical trial for osteosarcoma patients which, unlike her first study, does NOT require amputation or diagnosis by biopsy. Criteria for inclusion include “dogs with suspected early OSA based on breed, clinical signs and radiographs.” Dogs should be otherwise healthy and not have received any treatment for their osteosarcoma prior to entering the study. A link to full details is available on the IWF website www.iwfoundation.org in the News section.

Why do we need the Foundation?

The Irish Wolfhound Foundation exists today due to the vision of the IWCA Board of Directors. They foresaw the desirability of creating a separate, tax-exempt, self-governing entity whose primary mission was to promote the health and welfare of the Irish Wolfhound. As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, the Foundation is able to raise and allocate funds for IW health research, education, and rescue, while providing tax advantages to benefactors. In 2002 the IWF incorporated The IWCA Riverlawn and Research Funds and a generous bequest from the late Phillippa Crowe, one of the Foundation’s leading proponents and its first president, to serve as its financial cornerstone.

Clinic (Continued from page 3)

| 2 males, 3 through 7 years of age were examined, 1 was normal and 1 had an abnormality. |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 3 dogs, did not have their sex identified, all 3 were 3 through 7 years of age, 2 were normal, 1 had an abnormality noted. |
| Of the abnormalities noted only 1 dog had what Dr. Johnson considered to be a significant genetic problem. A 4 year old female had bilateral posterior subcapsular incipient cataract formation. |
| 5 other dogs had minor abnormalities. |
| * 4 year old dog of unidentified sex had multiple pigmented tags along the pupillary margin of both eyes emanating from the posterior iris/significance unknown |
| * 4 year old female had 2 iris cysts right eye only |
| * 4 year old female had prominent iris to iris sheet persistent pupillary membranes both eyes and a linear area of retinal degeneration right eye only. The persistent pupillary membranes have been present since birth. The significance of the linear retinal lesion is unknown. The lesion is either a degenerated retinal fold/retinal dysplasia or old inflammatory lesion. |
| * 3 year old male had two overlapping circular inactive choio-retinal scars right eye only. The appearance of the lesion was most typical for a previous inflammatory lesion of the retina. |
| 2 year old male dog had a single tissue tag along the left pupil margin, possible collapsed iris cyst |

IW Foundation Rescue Grant Report

From January 1st, 2014 through May 16th, 2014, we have had 2 Rescue Grant requests.

1. Spay costs for a female hound - $450.00
2. Neuter costs for a male hound - $305.00

Again, these costs were shared with the Irish Wolfhound Club of America Rescue Fund.

Thank you!
Jean A. Minnier
IWF Foundation & IWCA – Rescue Chair

The Irish Wolfhound Foundation, Inc. Treasurer’s Report

Balances are as of 4/07/14

$168,684.15 General Fund
$95,524.81 General Endowment Fund
$23,552.99 Rescue Endowment Fund
2014 Disbursement total $6,554.00
2014 Receipts total $40,435.50

IWF Research Committee Members

Mariellen Dentino, MD, Chairman
Janice M. Bright, BSN, MS, DVM, DACVIM
Margret Casal, Dr. Med Vet, PhD, Diplomate EUCAR
Anne Ians, MS
Nathaniel B. Sutter, PhD
Alice Timmerman, DVM
William D. Tyrrell Jr., DVM, DACVIM
Frances Abrams, PhD, Administrative Coordinator Frances.abrams@att.net

The Irish Wolfhound Foundation

The purpose of the Foundation is to promote the appreciation, knowledge, and understanding of Irish Wolfhounds by raising and allocating funds for research, education, and rescue.

Spring/Summer 2014

Just a quick note of thanks to all that worked on the 2014 National Specialty, another successful event! This year headed up by Show Chair Linda Souza along with all her hard working committees, a job well done! As always, I also would like to thank the IWCA for including the Foundation in its fundraising efforts through the live and silent auction, as most know the IWF receives 40% of the proceeds of this event. The auction committee headed up by Lisa Tethoires did a wonderful job to create a fun evening for all; kudos to those that donated items as well as all the bidders.

Have a great summer!

Regards,
Doug Marx – IWF President
The heart is a pump. It takes blood from the body, sends it to the lungs, and returns it to the body. Like most pumps, it has a controller, in this case a series of electric impulses from the nervous system. This controller makes sure that both sides of the heart pump simultaneously so that the two chambers can act as a single unit. This is a good way to check to see if a murmur is benign.

The familiar x-ray is a good tool for looking at the size and shape of the heart. It is a totally non-invasive procedure that is encouraged to be with the hound throughout the examination. Echo clinics at national and regional all-breed shows may also be excellent, if offered by a board certified cardiologist. These clinics on site are picked for their experience and interest in the breed. The owner is given a diary or asked to take notes of the dog's activities throughout the time the Holter is on the dog. There may be an event button on the recorder that the owner can push to signal specific occurrences. The dog is also encouraged to be with the hound throughout the examination. Echo clinics at all-breed shows may also be excellent, if offered by a board certified cardiologist.

By analyzing these reflected sound waves, the ultrasound machine is able to create images of the heart that can be displayed on the monitor. This allows the veterinarian to see a picture of the heart muscle, the heart valves, the great arteries in action and to see the blood flowing through the heart. Key dimensions can be directly measured, including the diameter of the heart, the thickness of the heart muscle and the configuration of the valves. 

Leakage and turbulence around valves can be detected, and this is a good way to check to see if a murmur is benign.

Alcohol and ultrasound gel are applied to the fur on each side of the chest with the direction of flow shown on the monitor. The examiner performs a probe that is about the size of a screwdriver handle, around the chest and looks at the image on the screen, snapping stills at the peak of expansion (diastole) and contraction (systole) of the heart and looking at the heart chambers and major blood vessels.

An echo should be done by a board certified cardiologist, preferably one who has experience with Irish Wolfhounds. While the procedure may appear simple in concept, getting a good image depends on the orientation and location of the probe and the timing of measurements. You know your dog best but if it is easily upset by strangers or sensitive to being strapped tight you may want to try it during the examination. An important thing to ask when you schedule the appointment is whether they do echoes standing or lying down (many wolfhounds are more comfortable standing). Ask the practice how many echoes they do and how often they see Irish Wolfhounds.

The EKG electrocardiogram is another non-invasive test. This is a test of the electrical system, however, rather than a picture of the heart. Four electrodes are attached to the four limbs of the dog, and a little alcohol or gel is added to get good conductance through these. Then the electrical potential between each combination of electrodes is measured for a period of time to get a tracing of the electrical signal over time. This can also be done either standing or lying on the side. A holter monitor will hold an Irish Wolfhound still while they are standing, as they feel comfortable in that position.

The EKG provides a quantitative measure of the length of time each part of the pump cycle is taking as well as how well the "wiring" is working. If electrical pulses are not properly coordinated or come out of sequence, the heart may be bigger but not providing good pumping action. While this is often a subtle problem, it is an echo the owner or anyone on the EKG team may look uncoordinated. Some of these faults in the electrical system lead to the structural faults seen in echoes.

Electrical faults may be persistent or intermittent. In Irish Wolfhounds, by far, the most common continuous fault is atrial fibrillation. An intermittent fault that sometimes shows up to a ventricular premature contraction (VPC). The latter may not show up in the relatively short recording (usually less than a minute) of an EKG. Under certain conditions, a cardiologist may suggest a longer recording or a 24-hour monitoring with a device called a Holter monitor.

The Holter monitor is a device that is attached to the dog for 24 hours. It records an EKG on a continuous strip of paper that can be fed into the computer and examined. The dog must lie still sometimes in an uncomfortable position and usually in an uncomfortable place. Radiographs can be stressful for the dog. Some veterinarians, seeing an Irish Wolfhound heart for the first time, and knowing the tendency of the breed to cardiomyopathy, will assume that the heart is dilated just because it is so much larger than they are used to seeing.

Some laboratories offer blood tests that are good predictors of heart disease in humans. The Irish Wolfhound norms for these tests are not yet established, but it is being researched. If proven to be accurate for our dogs, these tests could be less expensive than the echocardiography exam and perhaps give an earlier indication of risk of failing.

The Irish Wolfhound Foundation offers clinics at many national and regional club events. These clinics are also providing data for research, so the cardiologists are picked for their experience and interest in Irish Wolfhounds. The Foundation is encouraged to be with the hound throughout the examination. Echo clinics at all-breed shows may also be excellent, if offered by a board certified cardiologist.
The Irish Wolfhound Foundation, Inc.

Focus
537 Hack man Rd.
Lititz, PA 17543

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

---

2014-2015 IWF Membership

Member name(s) and address:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name(s):</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Street Address:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal Code:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country (if outside US):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone (optional):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please supply us with your email address so we can spend less money on postage and more on our mission in future:


Payment information (US dollars only, please):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dues donation:</th>
<th>$20.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Additional tax-deductible donation:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total enclosed:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please complete and return to:

The Irish Wolfhound Foundation
David Milne, Treasurer
150 Creek Rd
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865


Thank you for helping to fund IW research, education and rescue!