

A huge thank you to the Irish Wolfhound Association of New England for inviting me to judge their specialty show. As always, it is a great honor. The show committee took excellent care of me. The weather was fairly decent even though it became quite hot for the hounds and I did my best to keep them in the shade except for gaiting and awarding placements.

I thought the exhibits were overall of very high quality, no horrible bites, decent ears (a few were flat with thicker leathers), good spring of rib and all well ribbed back, no flat or hare feet. There were a few soft coats and of course, straight fronts continue to be a problem in our breed.

IWANE Specialty July 30-31, 2017

Puppy Dog 6-9

Both of these puppies were nice, had good outlines, moved soundly. Very similar in type....were litter brothers

1st- #5 Spicemate's Patrick Better weight, better condition than the second place boy. Excellent top line flowing to well angled croup, good tail set. Nicely balanced masculine head, good ear.

2nd-#7 Spicemate's Diablo Could have used a little more substance

Puppy Dog 9-12

Again, two youngsters very similar in type...litter brothers.

1st-#9 Carrickaneena Dearhair The movement was outstanding on this young male, good reach and drive, moved soundly coming and going with no wasted action. Would have liked a little darker eye but it complimented his coat color.

2nd-#11 Carrickaneena Ogilvy Mochroi This puppy had a better underline than my first place boy but wasn't moving quite as well on the day. Nicely balanced front to rear, moderately angled with a good bend of stifle with matching return of upper arm. Good coat, bite a little under.

12-15 month Dog

1st-#15 Blackwater Happy Days of O'Lugh Masculine youngster showing great promise. Was a handful for his handler on the day and wasn't cooperative on the move. Top line did slope on the move but could have been due to his lack of experience in the ring and with his surroundings. Substantial in bone, good curves, well muscled, great head with good planes of the skull.

15-18 month Dog

1st -#17 Taliesin's Davan of Findaway This boy was obviously hitting a growth stage on the day which caused him to be high in the rear and straighter (yet balanced) front and rear.

Another young male showing great promise, substantial bone, masculine correct head, correct planes of the skull, nice ear, good ear, harsh coat, well muscled throughout.

Novice Dog

Both dogs in this class were sidewinding on the move today.

1st-#21 Starkeeper Haydn Highest Honor Lovely young hound with great size and bone. Well muscled throughout, good head, incisors a bit level. Well arched, strong neck fitting into a scapula with good layback. Correct underline and top line, strong, broad hindquarters.

2nd-#19 Coleraine's Cathbhadh Incubator Jones Another nice young male. Didn't have the substance and scope of the first place boy. He had a beautiful head with nicely rosed ears and proper planes of the skull, good depth of chest, balanced.

Bred-By-Exhibitor Dog- This was an outstanding class with 3 superior quality exhibits, any of which I'd have been proud to have bred!

1st-#25 Can. Ch. Taliesin's Rhionganedd Dark brindle male. Correctly proportioned masculine head, dark eye proper ear set. Well muscled throughout and was fit. Balanced shoulder to rear angulation with good length of upper arm that set under with a long, strong second thigh. Well ribbed back, good spring of rib with strong loin. His movement and condition won him this class on the day. He converged perfectly both coming and going with no wasted action. He covered ground easily and effortlessly with balanced reach and drive. You could tell he could hunt all day at this pace with no issue. Coat was crisp and harsh. Correct top line with strong loin, correct underline with proper tuck up. Was awarded Winners Dog later in the day.

2nd-#29 O'Lugh's Single Malt Scotch Curvy boy, well muscled in great condition. Wonderful broad hindquarters. Powerhouse on the move, not quit as clean as my first place dog on the day coming towards you. Hard first and second thigh, well bent. Masculine head, nice ear, dark eye. Awarded Reserve Winners Dog.

3rd-#27 Lismore Puck Curvy wheaten boy with good, short, harsh coat. I loved his dark pigment and dark nicely rosed ear. Not quit as mature or finished looking as 1st and 2nd on the day.

American Bred Dog

1st-#35 Inishkeens Heart of Olden Glory Lovely typical mature hound. Balanced without being overdone. I loved this boy's strong, arched neck. You rarely see Irish Wolfhounds with the proper arch to their neck any longer. The base of the neck was broad and fit properly into the shoulder. Movement clean coming and going, didn't use himself though.

2nd-#33 Tartan Terror of Fitzwick Quality dog, Balanced throughout. Good top line, tail set and croup. Would have liked a tad more bone.

3rd-#31 Taliesin's Roibhilin Aengus Gumbo I would have liked a bit more length of stifle with this boy, lovely head, nice return of upper arm. Well muscled, nice deep chest.

4th-#37 Warwick Quill of Aerie His front movement was not very good in the pastern area, he was paddling, most likely due to his straight upper arm. Lovely hound otherwise.

Open Dog

1st-#39 Jadis Charlie Chaplin Won this class on his movement. Nice masculine head, flat ear, he had a strong neck but had been overgroomed, giving him the appearance of a weak neck which it was not. Well muscled throughout with a proper tail set flowing off of a properly angled croup. Strong loin, good underline.

2nd-#41 Kellykerry Barbancourt of Aerie Front movement coming towards you was not this boys best attribute. However, he was nicely muscled, had a good strong wide pelvis, correct top and underline. Another great neck that broadened properly where it attached to his shoulder. Rear movement was strong.

3rd-#45 Aisling Oengus Would have liked more angulation front and rear and a better ear. Nice coat, good bone, moved cleanly coming and going.

Winners Dog #25

Reserve Winners Dog #29

Puppy Bitch 6-9

1st #6 Spicemate's Erin O'Saoirse Excellent bone for a girl her age. Lovely head, correct planes of the skull, great ear shape and placement, good top line and underline. Balanced and moved cleanly coming and going with excellent reach and drive from the side. Well ribbed back with proper length of loin.

Puppy Bitch 9-12

1st- #12 Howling Hall Witness For The Prosecution Powerful, curvy, well muscled. Nice length of neck that flowed into a nicely laid back scapula with good return of upper arm. Good width to the chest. Her head was feminine yet still had good width and strength throughout. She had very little stop, planes of the skull were correct and she had a correct scissors bite. Loved the amount of bone and substance for a youngster of her age. Later awarded her Best Puppy

2nd#8 Howling Hall The Lion In Winter Very similar in type to the first place girl (litter mates), just not quite using herself on the move like her sister. Another exquisite, high quality bitch.

3rd- #10 Pocahontasgardens Renesmee This girl was of excellent quality. To be critical I'd like to have seen a little more length of leg underneath. She was balanced front to rear and moved nicely, clean coming and going.

4th- #14 Mythic's Phinney Branwen would have liked to have seen a little more length and strength to this girls neck. Great short harsh coat, good bone, lovely head, dark eye with good expression.

12-15 month Bitch

1st-#18 Blackwater Vidalia Lovely, curvy feminine bitch, good layback of scapula with good return of upper arm, good width of chest and flex to her pastern, balanced with a rear of equal angulation. Well ribbed back, proper length of loin. Excellent bone and substance.

2nd-#22 Bribiba's Bumblebee Would have liked to have seen a little better return of upper arm. Good underline and top line, harsh coat, beautiful ears properly placed. Nicely muscled, proper tail set, properly angled croup.

15-18 month Bitch

1st-#30 Macarena Roan Inish Strong, tall, curvy bitch, never losing her femininity. Moved easily and powerfully from the side and single tracked going away. Good width and depth of chest, well ribbed back, strong loin, wonderfully bend of stifle, well muscled through out.

2nd- #24 Taliesin's Druid Duinn Eostar Another excellent quality bitch. Balanced front and rear, a little more moderate than my first place bitch. Harsh coat, nice strong loin, good underline and top line. Clean moving with no wasted effort.

3rd-#38 Kellykerry Eabha of Warwick Again, another quality bitch with good length of leg underneath. Not quite the substance as the two higher placements and was sidwinding on the move today.

4th-#36 Taliesin's Dairine Wasn't moving cleanly on the down and back today and her rise seemed to start too early instead of over the loin. I suspect she was going through a growth stage. Beautiful head, proper planes of the skull, lovely rosed correctly placed ear and strong arched neck fitting properly into her shoulder.

Novice Bitch

1st-#46 Gilda of Aerie Beautifully built bitch, well muscled, good underline and topline sloping to a well made and properly angled croup. Lovely curvy rear end, low hocks, good bend of stifle. Our standard calls for a well arched neck, this she has, gradually broadening to a thick base, blending into a well laid scapula. Would have like a little better return of upper arm. Powerful ground covering movement.

2nd-#54 Starkeeper Granuaile's Galleon Another high quality bitch. Similar style to the first place girl, a little less substance.

3rd-#56 Redtops Elyssa Extremely lovely bitch, well muscled, good top line flowing to a properly angled croup, good tail set. Excellent bend of stifle, low hock, drove well with her rear on the move.

4th-#50 Lismore June Cleaver Quality red wheaten bitch. Good bone, substance, head and underline. Good forechest. Moving a bit high in the rear on the day.

Bred-by-Exhibitor Bitch

1st-#62 Lismore Gracie Allen This bitch's movement won her the class on the day. Ultimately she was awarded best gait later in the show. She didn't place a foot wrong. She converged without paddling or flipping her pasterns nor brushing her hocks coming and going. Her side movement was easy and effortless with excellent reach and drive, no wasted motion, her feet stayed close to the ground with very little lift. Beautiful feminine shape, good planes of the skull, good bite, nicely placed rose ear, long strong neck, good topline flowing to a lovely sweeping rear with well bent stifles. Good length of upper arm, good underline. She also was awarded Reserve Winners bitch.

2nd-#64 Starkeeper Nuala O' Ard Rhi Outstanding quality bitch. She was curvy, had really good bone, substance and size to her with just a bit less return of upper arm than the first place girl. Moved easy and effortlessly. In hard condition, well muscled throughout.

3rd-#66 O'Lugh's Stella Artois Similar again in quality to my first two placements. Rise started a bit early on her top line. Balanced angles front and rear. Lovely feminine head with no weakness, good planes of the skull, lovely rosed and well placed ear.

4th-#68 Aisling Maude Again, another quality bitch, good coat, balanced front to rear angulation. Moved nicely, good underline and topline. Nice forechest and properly angled croup with good tail set.

American Bred Bitch

1st-#72 Spicemate's Blizzard This bitch had everything just where it needed to be. Beautifully constructed, good bone, good coat, lovely ear. Beautifully sound mover, balanced angulation front and rear. She was so good I forgave the fact that she was so grossly overweight.

2nd-#70 Aine of Warwick This girl wasn't as clean on the move as the first place girl and her top line didn't hold on the move. Good bone and substance throughout, lovely bend of stifle, good tail set and carriage.

3rd-#74 Dun Myrica Gella of Eagle Would have liked a better ear and better bite. Nice bone, good length of leg underneath.

Open Bitch

1st-#78 O'Lugh Giddy Up of Aerie This black bitch was perfectly balanced fore and aft and held her curves and top line on the move. Nice strong loin, beautiful head, correct planes of the skull, good eye shape, set and color. Strong feminine head, long strong neck blending into a well angled scapula. Forearm well set under. Good breadth of deep chest. Strong low hocks. Broad rear and long second thigh. Excellent bone and substance throughout. Well deserved Winners bitch and then Best of Winners later in the day.

2nd-#86 Lismore Lovey Wentworth Howell This bitch had a tremendous length of second thigh and a good return of upper arm. To be a bit critical I would have liked her front and rear assembly to have been just a tad more in balance. She has excellent bone and substance throughout, strong top line and correct underline. Moved easy and effortlessly

3rd-#84 Jadis Khaleesi Moon of My Life Would have liked a better ear and a bit more rise over the loin. Nice bone, lovely feminine head.

4th-#82 Marblehead's Intermezzo At Howling Hall Lovely feminine head, good ear. Nicely balanced, overweight.

Winners Bitch-#78

Reserver Winners Bitch-#62

Veteran Dogs

1st-#51 Can. Ch. Blackwing's Starkeeper Tegann 7 year old red boy in excellent shape and condition. Moved with great elasticity while single tracking on the down and back. Good strong neck, deep chest. Well muscled throughout.

2nd-#47 Ch. Taliesin's Realteolai of Wideview, RN 6 year old wheaten also in excellent shape and condition. Held his outline on the move and was in prime condition.

Veteran Bitches

1st-#94 Ch. Carrickaneena Greenore, CGC 7 1/2 year old girl still in her prime. Moved along with great strength and single tracked on the down and back. Holding her top line firm on the move with strength over the loin. Beautiful head, correct planes of the skull, dark pigment, properly rosed and placed ear. Arched powerful neck blending into a well constructed shoulder with good return of upper arm. Excellent width and breadth of chest, good bone.

2nd-#90 Ch. O'Lugh Juno of Blackwater 7 year old dark bitch, beautifully balanced front and rear, good bone, beautiful underline. Similar in quality to my first place girl, just didn't use herself on the move today, I suspect the heat was an issue for her.

3rd-#96 Can. Am. Ch. Glenamadda Starkeeper Clodagh 7 1/2 year old girl in excellent muscle and holding her shape well. To be critical I would have liked little more length of leg underneath. Good coat, balanced shoulder assembly with rear.

4th-#100 Taliesin's Damhsoir 6 1/2 year old holding her age well, balanced throughout.

Best of Breed #106 GCH. Lismore Stoneybrook Roxie Hart Super Curvy mature black bitch who didn't let the heat affect her on the day. She moved easy and effortlessly around the ring, converging on the down and back. Topline strong with rise over the loin, wide deep chest, good underline. Excellent bone and substance. Beautifully balanced front to rear assembly, super harsh coat, low powerful hocks. Beautiful eye and expression. Long strong powerfully arched neck. There was no denying her this win on the day.

Best of Winners #78 O'Lugh Giddy Up of Aerie

Best of Opposite Sex #55 Ch. Hound Hill Vanderbilt of Aerie Curvy masculine wheaten male who was the perfect compliment to the Best of Breed Bitch on the day. Beautifully balanced, well muscled with good substance, covered ground with little effort. Excellent spring of rib, good top line, broad croup.

Select Dog #53 Ch. Sovngarde Dire Wolf well muscled throughout, good bone, masculine head, good underline and good topline.

Select Bitch #104 Can. Am. GCH Starkeeper's Rena's Rogue This girl in my opinion was equal in quality to my Best of Breed, she just didn't use herself on the day like my Breed winner did. Beautifully strong, typical Irish Wolfhound bitch. Moderately balanced fore and aft, beautiful head and expression, moved soundly and cleanly.

Best Puppy #12 Howling Hall Witness For The Prosecution

Awards of Merit #'s 108 GCH Carrickaneena Anna Liffey, 94 Ch. Carrickaneena Greenore, CGC, 57 Ch. Carrickaneena Eoghan Ruadh All three AOMs were very typical and on another day could be BOB winners. One of them was my Veteran bitch which made me happy to see such strength in our veterans. The other two were her offspring.