



March 2017



PATRON: TRUDIE SUMNER

Welcome

We're at the end of March already, and although it's not quite time to pack away the winter parka, there's enough blue in the sky and blossom on the trees to make us believe that spring is definitely here. It's a great time to emerge from hibernation, hit the refresh button and enjoy some long, healthy walks in the fresh air with your Wolfhounds

Our Longevity Recognition Programme is now up and running, and includes an online gallery together with our register of veterans and super-veterans. It's very straightforward to include your Wolfhound in this programme – see [here](#) for further details and forms.

We have started adding papers to our online library and have plenty more to add in the coming months.

In our last issue, we launched our Puppy Buyer's Guide [available to download here](#) and we were hoping

to have our updated Breed Guide Booklet ready for this issue. We are not quite there yet with this one. It's something that we want to make sure contains the very latest information and is absolutely right in every way before we release it. We are busy rechecking our sources and research information and this has proved a lengthier process than we anticipated. We're in the final scrutiny stage and hope to release it in the very near future.

We have now finalised details of our 2017 seminar and have four tremendously knowledgeable speakers who will be speaking under the umbrella theme of 'Breeding for the Future'. We're very excited about this and have included more information and details of how to book your tickets in this issue.

We have updated our Liver Shunt Testing Guide and sample submission form, including new 2017 prices. The form is available [here](#)

In this issue, we have a topical article on the dangers that some of our

Easter treats can pose to our Wolfhounds; we have information on titre testing; we have an update from the Breed Health Co-ordinator; we have a piece on the Irish Wolfhound feature on BBC TVs 'The One Show'; we have a Dentition Study report, we have details of our seminar and we have new heart testing dates. Phew!

Our accounts for 2016 have now been audited and approved. We have included a financial report in this newsletter and our accounts have been published on our website.

We love to hear your feedback on any article included in this or previous editions. If you have any ideas for articles for future editions, contact Linda Forret (linda.forret@gmail.com) or let us know on our Facebook group.

Happy Easter everyone!

The One Show - My 15 minutes of fame!

by **Maura Lyons**

A few months ago, I heard people saying they had been contacted by a producer of 'The One Show', who wanted to make a film about Irish Wolfhounds. One of those people was Linda Forret and she must have spoken to him about the Irish Wolfhound Database IWDB.org. The producer was intrigued and she gave him my number.

A couple of weeks after that I received a phone call from Johnny Muir, a producer of BBC's The One Show based in Northern Ireland. He wanted to make a film about wolfhounds, their history and their future. He had obviously done some online research and mentioned issues around genetic diversity and genetic bottlenecks. I spoke to him at some length about what we now know about population genetics and how we could utilize the tools of the IWDB.org to help us develop our breeding strategies, keeping health and longevity at the forefront of our decision-making processes.

He asked if I would be available to film in Dublin towards the end of January, and of course, I said yes! That day came and I was collected from my house by a taxi and dropped off at Edinburgh airport in time for my late morning flight. Just a few hours later I was being dropped off at Malahide Castle just outside Dublin in preparation for filming and by now, my nerves had started to manifest

themselves, and I had an overgenerous amount of butterflies in my tummy! But it was exciting too, and I was very pleased to meet Tracey Carroll, Elizabeth McHale and Eddie Bourke, all Facebook friends for some time, and their beautiful hounds. But I was sorry I didn't get to meet Elizabeth Murphy, who had done some filming of her IW archive.

to do with lights and sound and the difficulties of filming for TV. Johnny told me where to stand and then filming started. I spent about 30 minutes explaining all about population genetics and gene pools and genetic diversity. We spoke about the popular sire syndrome and inbreeding depression. The inevitable side effects of breeding within closed registries was discussed, and how breeding towards a breed standard, and how judges and breeders interpret that breed standard can have an effect on the entire population was mentioned too.

Then we shifted to a scene sitting in front of a laptop and we used IWDB.org, with Eddie's dog Shannon as an example, to show what information could be found in relation to a specific dog and how that information could be interpreted. That took about 20 minutes, and then all too quickly it was over. The filming team, Tracey, Eddie and all the dogs had to be at a vet clinic for the next section of film and they were already late. My taxi back to the airport was waiting for me, and about 2 and a half hours after I arrived, I was making my way home again.

At that point the team didn't know when it was going to be shown on air, so I just had to wait and see. During



Glenys Gwilliam with her granddaughters Imogen and Jasmine, and Gypsy

Johnny explained what Jennie, the presenter, was going to ask me about and what he wanted me to say. I found it rather funny that we had this beautiful castle as a backdrop to film against but instead we were in a modern meeting room with no character, I guess that has something

mid-March, I got a phone call to let me know the film was to be shown on St Patrick's Day, and that the One Show studio in London was looking for a wolfhound to be a guest in the studio. Glenys Gwilliam was asked and thankfully, was available with the beautiful Dukesarum Gypsy, bred and owned by our IWHG patron Trudie Sumner. Glenys turned it into a family affair and was accompanied by her daughter Laura and granddaughters, Imogen and Jasmine. It looks like they all took the bright lights in their stride but the star of the show, winning over One Show guest Jennifer Hudson, and presenter Michael Ball, who looked absolutely smitten, was definitely Gypsy, a wonderful ambassador for the breed.

Sitting at home waiting for the wolfhound film was nerve-wracking, but even before



Jennifer Hudson with Gypsy

it was finished I was getting texts, and messages and phone calls from people saying they had seen it and

loved it! In no small part that was due to some fantastic shots of Tracey, Liz and Eddie's wolfhounds running free (and fast), Shannon, Mr Darcy, Ceili, Faolcu and Seodin chasing one another through the fields at Farmleigh House. As wolfhound owners, I think we take that scene for granted but for the general public, it really is a special and memorable sight.

If you didn't manage to catch the Irish Wolfhound feature on The One Show, you can [watch it on YouTube.](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjLfKb889I4&feature=youtu.be>

The Irish Wolfhound Community Raffle

By **Gary Bogart**

The Irish Wolfhound Community's latest raffle was drawn at Crufts on Thursday 9th March 2017. The raffle raised a truly wonderful £1318.68 (£1276.90 after costs); the amount to be shared equally between the Irish Wolfhound Rescue Trust and the Irish Wolfhound Health Group.



There were some terrific prizes on offer including a bronze Irish Wolfhound statue; Mary McBride's book, 'The Magnificent Irish Wolfhound'; a beautiful dog coat; original Wolfhound drawings; personalised embroidery; a framed painting and many other super items.

The IWHG would like to thank those people who very generously donated

items to the raffle and everyone who supported the raffle by purchasing tickets. A further big thank you to Mandy Addington, whose energy, determination and unflinching support make these fund-raising events so successful.



Kennel Club Breed Health Co-ordinator (BHC) March 2017 Update

by **Rebecca Peek**

This is the first in a new series of regular updates from our BHC, Rebecca Peek. The Kennel Club requires that every breed has a Breed Health Coordinator – the BHC is the liaison between the breed and the Kennel Club's Health Department and is responsible for communicating new developments from the KC relating to the breed's health and reporting back to the KC on an annual basis. The Kennel Club introduced BHCs in 2009 as the result of the backlash after the 'Pedigree Dogs Exposed' TV programme in 2008 and subsequent welfare papers – the Kennel Club has since upped its game on health issues and expects each breed to be doing the same.

Irish Wolfhound owners and breeders were already ahead of the game and had been addressing health issues within the breed and instigating research for many years. In 2004 the IWHG was formed as a result of the breed bodies coming together to work unitedly on health issues and to liaise with the KC on breed specific issues. Updates are usually posted to the IWHG website and also communicated directly to the breed bodies, but the Newsletter gives us an opportunity to spread the word to a wider audience. We will be posting

updates as they arise. This edition covers the latest on Breed Watch.

Breed Watch Update – The KC launched Breed Watch in 2009 as 'part of its ongoing work to ensure that pedigree dogs lead happy, healthy lives' - Fit for Function, Fit for Life. It identifies, monitors and raises awareness of conformational health issues affecting breeds at dog shows. If you go to our website, under News or KC Matters you will find links to the latest Breed Watch Booklet and also a direct link to the KC Breed Watch web pages

<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/news.html>

Breed Watch serves as an 'early warning system' to identify points of concern for individual breeds. Its primary purpose is to enable anyone involved in the world of dogs, but in particular dog show judges, to find out about any breed specific conformational issues which may lead to health problems. These conditions are known as a 'point(s) of concern'.

Prior to 2014 data was gathered from a combination of health surveys, veterinary advice, a meeting of Kennel Club Group judges, feedback from judges at shows or consultation

with individual breed club(s)/councils via the breed health co-ordinators. From 2014 greater emphasis has been placed on feedback from judges reporting on and monitoring the points of concern when judging at championship shows.

Breeds are separated into 3 Categories:

1. Breeds with no current points of concern reported
2. Breeds with Breed Watch points of concern
3. Breeds where some dogs have visible conditions or exaggerations that can cause pain or discomfort (previously known as High Profile)

Irish Wolfhounds are currently Category 2, with one point of concern 'misplaced lower canine teeth'. Interestingly, this concern was added without consultation with the breed and was not considered to be seen that often at shows – although under European FCI rules this was a breed point that was identified as needing to be monitored and penalised. It refers to lower canine teeth going

straight up into the hard palate as a result of misalignment and/or narrow lower jaw, (which is not specified, but is in some other breeds).

When a point of concern is identified, judges have guidelines which must be followed and include penalising dogs demonstrating the condition and reporting back on the number of incidences. It was as a result of this that the Dentition Survey was instigated because an Irish Wolfhound puppy's jaw and dental development can be very slow and go through many different phases and may be penalised unfairly before reaching adulthood.

Misalignment in a puppy is not necessarily an indication that the final alignment of the teeth will turn out that way. The Dentition Study update appears in this edition ([here](#)) and the latest findings suggest that this is the case and warrant further review and discussion with the Kennel Club.

When a point of concern has been raised, it is monitored annually through the judge's reports by the Breed Standards and Conformation Sub-Group of the KC Dog Health Group. If the specific concern is no longer reported as prevalent in the breed it will be reviewed and may be removed.

The Judges Health Monitoring Annual Breed Summary for 2016 has now been made available and can be seen [below](#). The information shows what

conditions judges have reported as present in the breed in 2016 and the percentage of dogs that displayed the condition(s). Also provided is the health score which judges have given for the entire entry seen. The scale used for judges' health score is:

1. Absolutely no concern whatsoever
2. There is a very slight concern
3. There is one feature that distinctly needs watching
4. There are two or three features that need watching
5. There is a general concern about several issues affecting the breed
6. There is a strong concern about many of the issues affecting the breed
7. Action needs to be taken immediately in relation to the issues affecting the breed

You will see that the majority of judges scored the breed as 1. Absolutely no concern whatsoever. And the percentage of the condition being monitored 'misplaced lower canines' showed just over a 1.5% incidence. This, coupled with our Dentition Survey, encourages us to ask the Kennel Club to review the condition's status and definition.

However, three new conditions were reported:

aggressive temperament 0.1% +/-, Overweight at just over 2.5%, and a new dental condition, 'misplaced upper canines' at 2.4% and showing a greater incidence than misplaced lower canines.

We should point out that we do not know what 'misplaced upper canines' is or looks like and will be referring back to the Kennel Club for further explanation as this may be a misuse of terminology – perhaps the condition is actually misplaced incisors, which is seen occasionally.

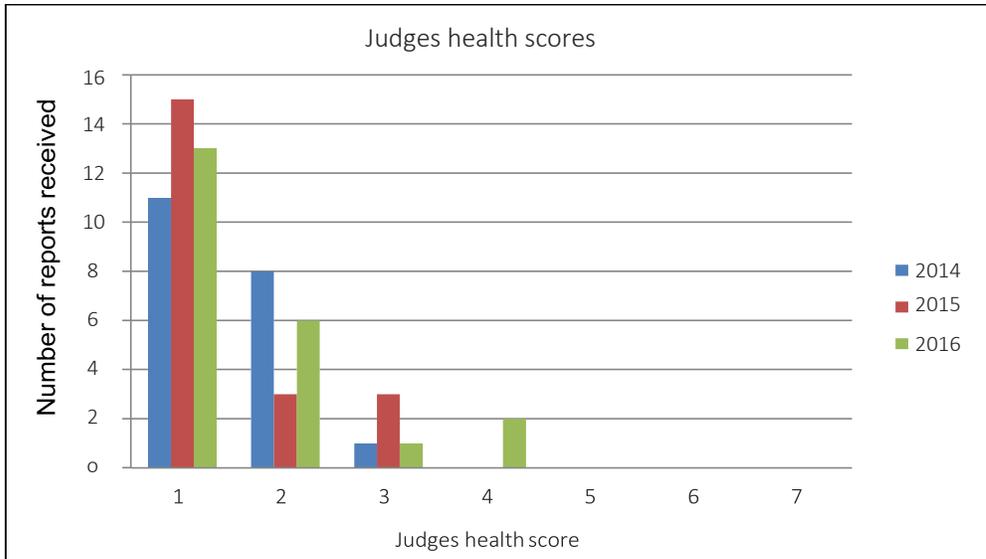
We will also be requesting further explanation of how the data has been derived and analysed as the 'Total Number of Dogs Shown' in a given year (914 over 22 shows in 2016) is not the total number of individual dogs. Many dogs are repeatedly shown throughout the year and it is possible that they have been counted several times.

So, are the incidences seen simply repeats of a few dogs or a single dog rather than several different cases? We will also want clarification of what happens to new conditions reported – at what stage does a condition merit further regular monitoring and appear as a point of concern?

We will keep you posted.

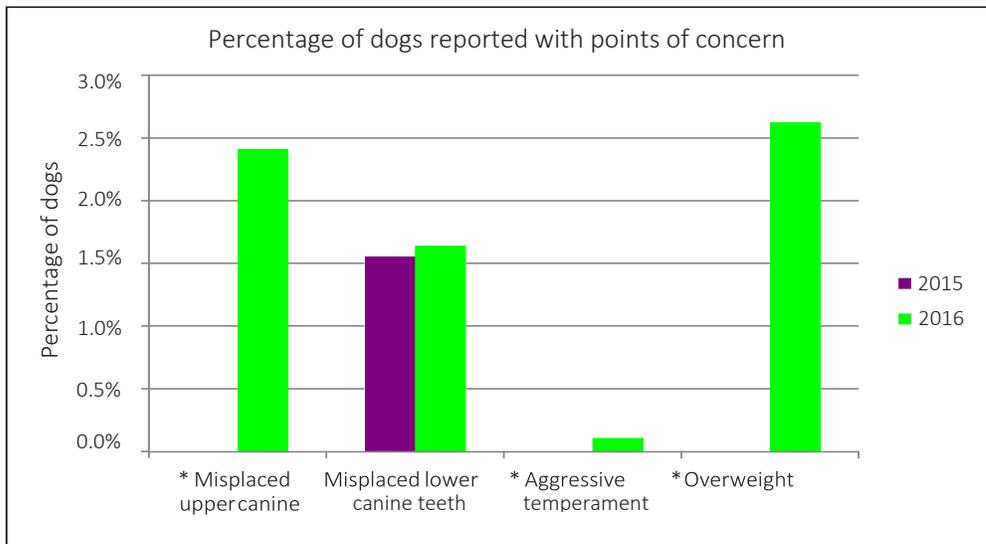
FIT FOR FUNCTION BREED WATCH

Irish Wolfhound - 2016



Breed Watch Points of Concern

Misplaced lower canine teeth



| Information/Commentary | Numbers |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Total Dogs shown in 2015 | 773 |
| Total Dogs shown in 2016 | 914 |
| Judges Reports Received | 22 |
| Average Dogs Shown | 41.55 |
| Newly Reported Issues by Judges | Misplaced upper canine teeth Overweight Aggressive temperament |

Titre Testing - An Overview -

By **Alison Messenger**

In recent years, there seems to be more and more people that are concerned about annual vaccinations for their dogs, feeling that yearly boosters are unnecessary. Titre testing is used to see if the dog actually needs vaccinating or has sufficient protection.

Titre testing measures the existence and levels of antibodies to disease in the blood. Antibodies occur when an antigen (i.e. a virus or bacteria) provokes a response from the immune system, which can come from vaccine or natural exposure. Titres can accurately assess protection from what we normally vaccinate for - parvo virus, distemper and hepatitis. This will enable the vet to judge whether a vaccination is necessary or not. All animals can be titre tested. The blood sample is diluted, the ratio indicating how many times the blood can be diluted before no antibodies can be detected, so the higher the dilution the more protection the dog has i.e. if

the blood is diluted 1000 times (1:1000) it would be classed as a

ClientCorrespondence_8901fa81f264ef68dd46e4e278c8fca
Lab Services Limited
Unit 8 Mowat Ind. Est. Sandown Rd Watford WD24 7UY Tel: 01923 252800 Fax: 01923 252900

Mr Nitzan The Veterinary Surgeon
Medivet Hockley
92 Main Road
HOCKLEY
Essex
SS5 4RL

Owner name: Declan
Animal name: Canine
Species: Canine
Breed: / /
Age: Not stated
Sex: / /
Sample date: 11/01/2017
Received date: 16/01/2017

Lab Number 582406

SEROLOGY

| VaccCheck | Test | Result |
|-----------|---|--------|
| 4 | Infectious Canine Hepatitis (ICH): ImmunoComb score | |
| 6 | Canine Parvovirus (CPV): ImmunoComb score | |
| 5 | Canine Distemper Virus (CDV): ImmunoComb score | |

ImmunoComb score 0-1 (Negative)
No detectable antibodies to ICH, CPV or CDV.
Revaccination is recommended.

ImmunoComb scores 2-6 (Positive)
Consistent with protective level of antibodies
to ICH, CPV or CDV. Revaccination is not needed.

Please note interpretation of results is in
agreement with WSAVA Guidelines for the Vaccination of Dogs
and manufacturer. Cats, 2016 and recommendations from test
violetta Ratajczak MSc
16/01/2017

For a list of our accredited tests and methods
please see
http://www.ukas.org/testing/schedules/actual/4484testing
205single.pdf

{ Report date 16/01/2017 Final report on 16/01/2017
-<< End of Lab Data >>

page 1

strong titre and 1:2 would be very weak.

All vets can do it, although some prefer to vaccinate annually. There are 2 types of test, both done by a vet and both by taking blood. One is sent to a laboratory and the other is done in-house at the surgery where you can get the results within about 30

minutes. Fewer vets do it "in house" although numbers appear to be growing.

It would appear that insurance companies will not pay out if the animal has any problems that would have been covered by vaccinating, but it should not affect other claims, but, as always check with your insurance company.

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health has issued guidelines for boarding kennels and local authorities regarding titre testing, these can be found on

www.facebook.com/vaccichcekuk.

Titre testing has been added to the Model Licensing Conditions for Boarding Establishments. It is at the kennel's discretion and you will need to provide a vet's certificate to prove that the testing has been done and the animal is considered to be protected against the stipulated diseases.

Many thanks to Mandy Addington (Wolvebrigg IWS) for generously sharing the results of her dogs' tests and to Elizabeth Halliday (Kalunda Rhodesian Ridgebacks) for her time and help.

IWHG Seminar 2017 -

by **Linda Forret**



We are delighted to announce that we have now finalised details of our 2017 Seminar.

‘Breeding for the Future’ is the theme for the next of our biennial seminars, to be held this year back at our popular venue in St Peter’s Hall, Balsall Common. The date will be Saturday, 11 November 2017, and registration will begin at 9:00 am for a 9:30 am start, with a finish around 4:00pm. The venue is fairly central, and there is parking there too.

The closest railway station is Berkswell Station on the Coventry – Birmingham International- Birmingham New Street. St Peter’s Hall is about a 20-minute walk from the station.

We have four exciting speakers lined up for you this year talking on aspects of fertility and genetics amongst others

- **Dr Tom Lewis** (Quantitative Geneticist, Kennel Club)
- **Dr Cathryn Mellersh** (Head of Canine Genetics, AHT)
- **Dr Mike Starkey** (Head of Molecular Oncology, AHT)
- **Dr Régine Vandamme** (Veterinarian and Breeder ‘of First Avenue’ Irish Wolfhounds)

and we have **Philippa Robinson**, the Founder of the Karlton Index, who will chair the day on our behalf.

Following the presentations by our speakers, we would like to introduce some group discussion among our delegates.

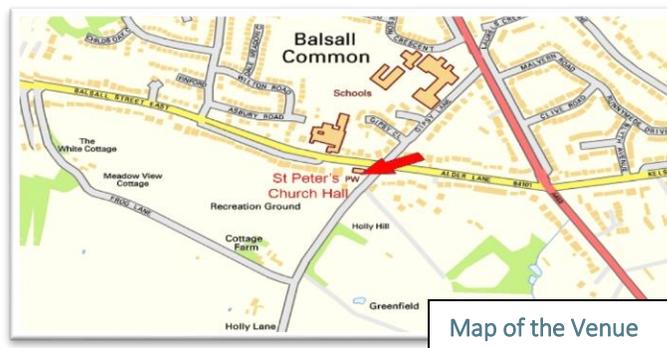
As always, we will be having a raffle in aid of our funds, and of course lunch will be included in the cost of your

ticket – a real bargain at only £20 for the full day.

To make sure you do not miss this opportunity, you can email me lindaforret@gmail.com or telephone 01383 860043 or 07918 088737.

Payment can be made by PayPal paypal.me/lindaIWHG or by cheque made payable to Irish Wolfhound Health Group

If you have any enquiries or special dietary requirements, please contact me.



Dangers to Wolfhounds at Easter

by Gary Bogart

Chocolate

Chocolate is toxic to dogs. Chocolate poisoning is particularly common at Easter time, when many of us are indulging ourselves with chocolate eggs and cakes. Chocolate contains a chemical called theobromine, a naturally occurring stimulant found in the cocoa bean. Theobromine is used medicinally as a diuretic, heart stimulant, blood vessel dilator, and a smooth muscle relaxant.

Dogs cannot metabolise, or break down, theobromine as well as humans can and this makes them more sensitive to its effects. Even comparatively small amounts of chocolate can adversely affect your dog.

One problem with a dog eating a small piece of chocolate, is that it often turns to a craving for more. This can lead to your dog acquiring a taste for chocolate and looking for opportunities to steal any chocolate that is left around.

Larger amounts of chocolate, particularly dark chocolate, that has a higher concentration of theobromine,

can bring about severe heart and nervous system changes in some dogs leading to coma and death. Small doses can cause nasty gastrointestinal upsets.

How much is too much?

It is not easy to give a simple answer to this question.



Different types of chocolate have varying amounts of theobromine in them; generally, the more cocoa solids contained in a product, the more theobromine will be present and the more dangerous the item is for your dog. Generally speaking, the darker the chocolate the more theobromine it contains.

Baking chocolate and gourmet dark chocolate are highly concentrated and contain 4.5 -16mg of

theobromine per gram, while common milk chocolate only contains about 1.5-2 mg per gram. White chocolate poses very little risk of chocolate poisoning with only a negligible amount mg of theobromine per gram of chocolate (that said, dogs can still get sick from all that fat and sugar). To put this in perspective, a wolfhound weighing 66 kg would only need to eat 85 grams of baking chocolate, or 760 grams of milk chocolate, to potentially show signs of poisoning.

The health and age of your dog must also be considered. If your dog is older and not in great shape, their reaction to eating an Easter Egg is going to be different from a young, healthy dog of the same weight.

What are the signs of chocolate poisoning?

- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Hyperactivity
- Muscle twitching
- Increased heart rate and blood pressure
- Excessive panting

Toxic doses of theobromine are reported to be as low as 20 mg/kg, where agitation, hyperactivity and

gastrointestinal signs (such as drooling, vomiting, and diarrhoea - all which may smell chocolatey) can be seen.

At doses over 40 mg/kg, cardiac signs can be seen, and include a racing heart rate, high blood pressure, or even heart arrhythmias.

At doses of more than 60 mg/kg, neurologic signs can be seen, including tremors, twitching, and even seizures. Fatalities have been seen at around 200 mg/kg or when complications occur.

Hot Cross Buns

We may look at grapes, raisins, currants and sultanas as being healthy fruits, but to dogs they are all toxic. All types of grape or raisin type product (including grape juice, bagels, etc.) can result in poisoning. Even



organic, pesticide-free, grapes grown in home gardens can result in toxicity. At this time of year, it is important to keep those lovely hot cross buns well away from your dogs and remember that grapes, raisins, and currants are common in cookies (oatmeal raisin) and cereal (raisin bran).

How much is too much?

It is not known exactly what makes these foods toxic, nor exactly the number of grapes, raisins, or currants that must be eaten before a dog shows signs of toxicity. It appears that not all dogs are susceptible, and there are currently no ways to predict which dogs are and which are not.

Some dogs have eaten large quantities of raisins without affect, while others have become ill after eating very small amounts

What are the signs of raisin or currant poisoning?

- stomach problems
- vomiting
- diarrhoea
- dehydration, despite drinking water
- straining to urinate or not passing much urine
- kidney failure (which can develop several days later).

Kidney failure is an expensive condition to treat, and can have long-term consequences for your hound

Don't take a risk – take all necessary steps to prevent your dog eating any raisins, grapes or currants.

If you think that your dog may have eaten something that it shouldn't, consult your local veterinary practice immediately.

It is easier for a veterinarian to care for a poisoned dog if it is treated sooner rather than later. If you are in any doubt, do not wait for your dog to become unwell before calling for advice.

| Type of Chocolate | Amount of Theobromine |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cooking or baking chocolate | 16mg per gram |
| Dark chocolate | 5.5mg per gram |
| Milk chocolate | 2.4mg per gram |
| White chocolate | 0.01mg per gram |

Dentition Study Update

by **Caroline Sheppard**

The initial purpose of the study was to establish the approximate age at which Irish Wolfhounds reached dental maturity.

The Kennel Club's "Breed Watch" initiative and an apparent rise in canine orthodontal referrals (especially for very young puppies) were also matters which the breed bodies felt warranted further investigation.

The prolonged growth period of an Irish Wolfhound's skeleton is well documented and a 5-6 month old puppy cannot be considered mature in any respect. Therefore, it would be logical to assume that the jaws and teeth of a 5-6 month old pup might be similarly immature.

Unsurprisingly, the information gathered from the survey so far, appears to confirm this.

The IWHG has pictorial and anecdotal evidence which suggests the following conclusions might be drawn: -

(a) Due to the rapid growth of the skull, the occlusion of a baby

puppy's teeth often has little bearing on how the permanent teeth will occlude. The removal of misaligned deciduous lower canine teeth in a puppy of less than 5 months of age under a



general anaesthetic is therefore best avoided. It is important to bear in mind that canine orthodontists are rarely trained to recognise individual breed differences. A "one size fits all" surgical intervention is inappropriate and potentially detrimental to the welfare of our breed.

(b) The permanent lower canines are not fully "flared" in very young puppies – so are still essentially "work in progress" - just as the rest of the puppy is still growing

and changing. Therefore, shortening of the canines at 5-6 months, to prevent the tips from growing into the soft palate or gum, is almost always unnecessary – and should certainly not be performed before the hound has finished growing and the teeth are fully erupted. A possible exception to this is puppies with "parrot mouths" where the jaw, rather than the alignment of the teeth is the problem. Surgical intervention may be required in severe cases, if the puppy is showing signs of obvious discomfort and/or difficulty eating.

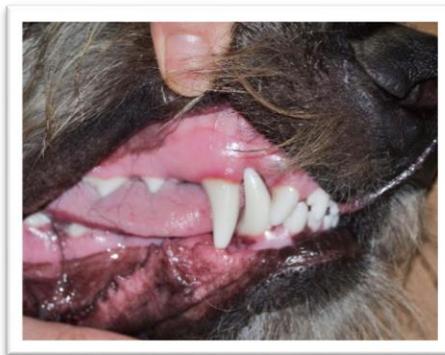
(c) Puppies whose mouths show a perfect occlusion at 6 months, can go on to develop a level, or even undershot bite, as the lower jaw often continues to grow after the upper has finished. Therefore, judges remarking upon and reporting back to the KC on adolescent hounds with misaligned canines or speculating on how a growing puppy's mouth can be deemed "incorrect" could be considered as misleading. It would be far better for the judge to be encouraged to ask the exhibitor to

complete the IWHG dentition questionnaire, so that any potential anomalies with individual hounds could be monitored!



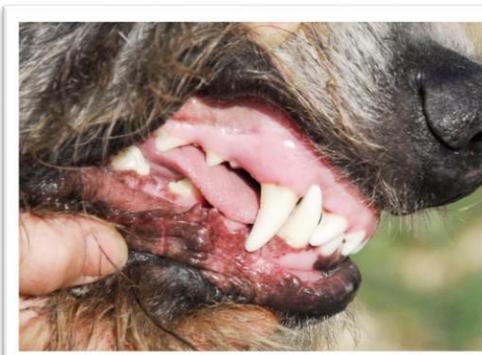
6 months
Lower canine indenting gum line

We are liaising with a canine orthodontist, who has an interest in the differential growth rates in giant breeds, when compared to what is



8 months
Lower canine now pressing outside gum

would not expect a judge (especially a breed judge) to remark upon a 6 month old puppy having “lumps” at the carpal joints, neither should we



17 months
Lower and upper canines occlude correctly

(d) The jaws and teeth of young Wolfhounds can continue to alter, due to normal growth, until 18 months of age, although 12-14 months is more usual.

(e) Injury, illness, some medication, certain gum disorders – especially gingival hyperplasia - and even intubation during an operation, can all affect the alignment and appearance of the teeth. Thus, a Wolfhound with a perfect mouth at 3 years old, may still be subject to some alterations of the gums and teeth, caused by factors other than genetic predisposition

considered to be “the norm”. We hope that our findings will provide a useful addition to his research

The KC Breed Watch point regarding misplaced lower canines, does not take into account the extended growth period of the Irish Wolfhound. The evidence suggests that there is a fair chance that many mouth faults could eventually right themselves, as a puppy grows. It would therefore be a great shame if otherwise promising puppies were not being shown, simply because they were undergoing a normal growth phase, during which their mouths were less than perfect.

The IWHG will be encouraging those running educational and judging seminars, to take note of these findings and bear them in mind when advising up and coming judges. We

expect a judge to remark upon the position of lower canines in immature hounds.

We will be suggesting a change to the current Kennel Club guidelines regarding this Breed Watch point for Irish Wolfhounds, so that young and immature hounds are exempt.

Please visit the IWHG website to take part in the Dentition Survey.

<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/about-the-study.html>

We are particularly keen to receive information and photos which illustrate the development of puppies’ mouths and teeth, from 3 months to 18 months.

Alternatively, please email

Caroline Sheppard at
goldswift.sighthounds@gmail.com

Regional Heart Testing

Dates and Locations

The cost is £45 per for each wolfhound under 8 years. This is for a three-part non-invasive screening, carried out by a qualified veterinary cardiologist, comprising of a stethoscope examination, an ECG, and an ultrasound scan.

Wolfhounds aged 8 years or over, are subsidised by the Irish Wolfhound Health Group and there is no cost to the owner.

Wolfhounds that have been rescued by the IW Rescue Trust are subsidised by the Trust and there is no cost to the owner.

| Day | Date | Region | Location |
|----------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Sunday | 30 th April | North East | Snaith, East Yorkshire |
| Monday | 1 st May | West Midlands | Great Witley |
| Sunday | 7 th May | Scotland | South Ayrshire |
| Sunday | 14 th May | South East | Milford, Surrey |
| Saturday | 8 th July | Midlands | Nottingham University |
| Sunday | 9 th July | Wales | Bridgend |
| Sunday | 20 th August | North East | Morpeth, Northumberland |
| Sunday | 17 th September | North West | Crosby, Liverpool |
| Sunday | 8 th October | South East | Milford, Surrey |
| Sunday | 22 nd October | North East | Thirsk |
| Saturday | 28 th October | South East | Fawkham, Kent |
| Sunday | 29 th October | South/Central | Salisbury, Wiltshire |
| Monday | 30 th October | South/Central | Salisbury, Wiltshire |
| Saturday | 25 th November | Lisburn | Northern Ireland |
| Sunday | 26 th November | Dublin | Ireland |

The Irish Wolfhound Health Group apologise for the delay in publishing a session in the South West. There will be a session in this region in the later part of 2017. Your patience is very much appreciated. All previous attendees will be contacted once a session has been confirmed and we shall also publish details on our website.

Booking forms are available on the IWHG website <http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/>

or by contacting Wendy Heather wychwoodgrooming@btinternet.com

Telephone: 01993 868118

Liver shunt

by **Maura Lyons**

The IWHG has recently updated the Liver Shunt guide with new prices for 2017. We now have an updated pricing structure from IDEXX for those who are screening litters of pups from the UK. The prices are £8.70 + VAT per puppy for a single bile test and if a double bile is required this is £21.80+VAT per puppy.

It is important to check if your vets use IDEXX, if they do not, ask if they would consider opening an account as they have a great relationship with the Wolfhound world. But don't panic if they use a different laboratory as this test is available from any veterinary practice and can be undertaken by their chosen laboratory. It is extremely important that puppies are tested for liver shunt before leaving the breeder to go to their new homes. If you are a breeder with a litter of puppies the

new guide can be found here <http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/files/Livershunt-SSF.pdf>

The guide includes information about what liver shunt is and how to test for it. There is also information about the AHT DNA storage program. The AHT collect DNA via a blood sample, and because the vet cannot take blood only for research purposes the easiest time to get the necessary sample is whilst the puppies are also giving blood for their liver shunt tests. The submission form for an entire litter is included. On our liver shunt webpage, there is also information about research being carried out by Dr Frank van Steenbeek at the University of Utrecht. He requires DNA samples (via a cheek swab) from affected puppies and their sire and dam, so if you have an affected puppy please do consider

helping. You will be helping the future of the whole breed.

If you are a breeder and you have an affected puppy, euthanasia is not the only option available. In the UK, we are lucky to have exceptional surgeons very experienced in correcting single intrahepatic shunts in wolfhounds and the success rate is good. After successful surgery, the prognosis is excellent, and the pup should go on to lead a normal life. However, it is an expensive operation and contingencies should be made before breeding to ensure that surgery is a viable option. Please contact the IWHG for details of experienced surgeons.

All details are on the following page... <http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/liver-shunt.html>

Liver shunt - A personal experience

by **Wendy Heather**

The Irish Wolfhound Health Group website contains a wealth of information about Liver Shunt, from screening to treatment. The information provided is factual, scientifically based and hugely informative for both owners and breeders.

Despite this wealth of supportive information, nothing prepares you when you receive the results of an abnormal Bile Acid test. After a re-test you are left with big decisions to make, which are both emotional and financially impacting. The advice is to always be guided by your veterinarian, however I would urge

everyone to consider a referral to discuss your options with a veterinarian specialist in soft tissue surgery.

With the specialist, an ultra-sound can be performed that will determine the location and extent of the shunt within the liver. It will also show you the size of the liver *Continued/*

and how other vessels are functioning; it is from this scan that a specialist will be able to provide you with the options available.

Luckily within the UK we have had some great success stories from Irish Wolfhounds that have been operated on. The majority have been operated on in a timely manner and with few or no other secondary issues diagnosed at the time of the operation. The timescale for making the decision to operate on the shunt is short; with the liver not functioning normally the toxins will build up and impact on other organs.



'Nimbus'
an example of successful corrective shunt procedure

The choices to be made are emotional and can make you feel isolated: making the decision to operate on a young puppy is not an easy one. The aftercare for such a large operation is high maintenance and there may be medication required alongside a specialist diet.

Despite this it is comforting to know that there are owners and breeders who are supportive, knowledgeable and willing to share their experiences of liver shunt.

New Quid on the Block

by Gary Bogart

A new 12-sided one pound coin entered circulation on 28th March 2017. The 'old' round pound coin, which was introduced more than thirty years ago, will cease to be legal tender on October 15th 2017.

The Bank of England estimate that there are £1.3 billion worth of coins stored in saving jars and piggy banks across the UK, and the old £1 coin accounts for nearly a third of that. That's an incredible £433,333,333.

Of course, not all of that money will be in the IWHG loose change tins!



But some of it will and if the tins are not returned before the deadline, this money will be lost. We are urging you to bring your loose change tins back to the IWHG during the summer, and we will replace them with brand-new ones.

Many of you may also have 'forgotten' £1 coins in your old coat pockets or lost behind sofa cushions. Of course, many banks will accept these coins in bags of £20, but maybe it might be more rewarding to drop some of them in to our collection tins and help our research into the health of Irish Wolfhound

Financial Report

for year ending 31 December 2016

The accounts for the year to 31st December 2016 have now been approved and published on our website [\[here\]](#),
At the end of 2016 the balance sheet stood at £24,359 (2015: £28,642).

This comprised:

- the **Project Development Fund** with a balance of £6,185 (2015: £25,968)
- the **Osteosarcoma Fund** with a balance of £10,576 (2015: £2,014)
- the **Pneumonia Fund** with a balance of £3,000 (2015: £nil)
- the **Heart Testing Scanner Fund** with a balance of £4,000 (2015: £nil)
- the **Administration Account** with a balance of £598 (2015: £660)

As stated in the 2015 report, £8,000 was allocated from the Project Development Fund to the Osteosarcoma Fund for AHT breed specific DNA profiling project, with

actual costs coming to £7,424 leaving a balance of £576. Also, as stated in the 2015 report, £10,000 was allocated within the Osteosarcoma Fund for Nottingham Veterinary School's long term research project, consisting of the £2,014 Osteosarcoma Fund opening balance plus £7,986 transferred from the Project Development Fund, and remains in the Osteosarcoma Fund at the end of 2016.

£3,000 was reallocated from the Project Development Fund into a specific Pneumonia Fund to provide ongoing support to the principle investigator, Dr. Angela Bodey.

£3,000 was also identified in the 2015 report for reallocation from the Project Development Fund to a specific Heart Testing Scanner Fund for potential repairs and renewals to the mobile scanner for the regional heart testing scheme – this has been done, plus an additional £1,000 in 2016 to bring the Heart Testing Scanner Fund total to £4,000.

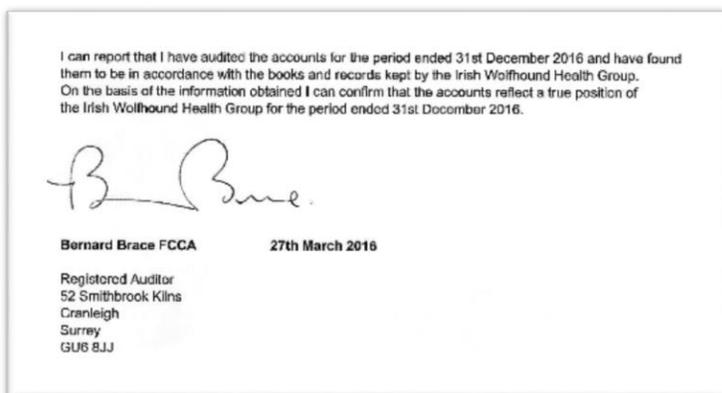
As committed in last year's report, £1,000 was paid out of the Project Development Fund to the AHT Give A Dog A Genome project and £1,000 has been ring fenced within the Project Development Fund as a contingency.

Regional Heart Testing made an overall loss of £125, which the Group considers acceptable. £1,000 was allocated from the Project Development Fund during the year to subsidise free of charge super veteran heart testing sessions in 2016.

The funding priorities identified for the Project Development Fund for 2017 are as follows:

Allowance for Super-Veteran subsidies 2017 - set aside £1,000

We would like to thank our fundraisers, donators and supporters for helping generate donations in excess of £5,000 in 2016, a fantastic achievement which will help support current and future breed research projects.



IWHG

March 2017



We'd love to hear your feedback on any of the articles or information in this newsletter.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/IWhealthgroup/>

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