



September 2017

IWHG



Newsletter

PATRON: TRUDIE SUMNER

Welcome

to the Autumn edition of our newsletter.

Our most important event of the year, our seminar, **'Breeding for the Future'** will take place in November. We have assembled a fabulous panel of specialists, each with extensive knowledge, experience and expertise. This is definitely the must-go-to event of 2017.

More information on this exciting event is [here](#).

Alongside the seminar, we have our 'Monster Raffle' which has been organised by Marion Finney.

The prizes on offer are absolutely stunning and we are bowled over by the tremendous generosity of our donors. Tickets, costing only £2.00 each, are available from today. Further details and

photographs can be found [here](#).

We are always looking to learn more about the health of our hounds and came across a wonderful, well-researched article on longevity in Deerhounds. Much of this article is applicable to Wolfhounds and we have, with full permission, reprinted the article [here](#).

What else is new in this edition?

We have been busy updating our forms and have introduced an easier way for you to complete our Veteran Survey. More news on this [here](#).

We have also taken on board suggestions from Dr Mike Starkey (AHT) regarding our DNA storage submission forms. You can now receive an email acknowledgement that your samples have been received.

We have an informative and timely article on Lungworm, written by Alison following a recent case of lungworm in the breed, now happily resolved. It has been endemic in the south of the UK for some time but now seems to be spreading northwards, possibly due to the mild weather. Lungworm infection can cause very serious health problems and this is something that all dog owners should be aware of. Alison's article is [here](#).

We have also managed to squeeze in

- a [mid-term report](#) on our heart testing scheme,
- a [funding update](#),
- an [update](#) from the KC Breed Health Co-ordinator
- and news on our [pneumonia survey](#).

Phew!

IWHG Seminar 2017

by **Linda Forret (Secretary)**

The remit of the Irish Wolfhound Health Group is to protect our breed now, and into the future. This is a massive responsibility, and covers a whole host of subjects, from the heart screening programme, which can monitor the condition of your hound's heart health annually, to facilitating research - in collaboration with outside bodies like the Animal Health Trust and Nottingham University.

We take our undertakings very seriously, and are always looking for ways to share knowledge and advice about the health and welfare of Irish Wolfhounds. with owners, breeders, veterinary surgeons - indeed anyone who has an interest in the breed,

However, it is certainly not a one-way street. Perhaps it could best be described as a busy junction, as we also learn from owners and researchers, relying on both to inform our thinking, and to help us keep our information as accurate and up to date as we possibly can.

One of the ways that we have found very exciting and useful is to facilitate a meeting between those dedicated to living with the breed, and those researchers who need our support to help answer some of the elusive questions about why the breed is more prone to some conditions, like bloat, osteosarcoma and heart disease for example, than other breeds. They can explain directly to

you what information they need, and why.

It is your opportunity to find out how you can help piece together the



Genetic/DNA jigsaw, and hear the latest update about their research so far.

We have historically arranged these seminars in alternate years, focusing on different aspects each time. The seminars provide an excellent opportunity not only to hear directly from the experts, but to be able to discuss and ask questions of them too. It is also a very social day, giving people the chance to meet each other and informally discuss a wide range of topics, as well as enjoying the (now expected!) wonderful buffet lunches that some of our dedicated supporters organise for us.

This year we are concentrating on genetics - how they produced the dogs we have today and the impact on them, and also the impact that this will have on the next and all our subsequent generations. We need to understand, now, the steps that we

can take to improve the future prospects of the breed, and just as importantly, the things to look out for and avoid - the clock is ticking!

There is still time for you to book a place at this year's seminar, at a cost of only £20, including lunch. It will be held at St Peter's Church Hall, Balsall Common, near Coventry, on Saturday, 11 November. The day will start at 9am with coffee and registration, and should finish around 4pm.

Anyone interested is welcome to attend this seminar.

To make sure you do not miss this opportunity, email me

lindaforret@gmail.com

or telephone 01383 860043 or 07918 088737.

Payment can be made by PayPal paypal.me/lindaIWHG

Or by sending a cheque, made payable to **Irish Wolfhound Health Group** to

Linda Forret, Moss Cottage East, Aberdour. KY3 ORX.

You will see elsewhere in this newsletter that we will also be drawing the tickets to find the winners of our super-duper raffle that afternoon, so you really need to make sure that you buy your tickets, (£2 each) - and be there to see which of the lovely prizes you might have won!

I would really recommend this event to all, and encourage you to put it in your diary! Looking forward to seeing you all there.



Irish Wolfhound Health Group

Seminar

Saturday 11th November 2017

Breeding for the Future

Speakers

- 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*



Chair

- Philippa Robinson, MSc, FRSA
Founder of The Karlton Index

Start 9:30am
Finish 4:00pm

St Peter's Church and Hall
Holly Lane, Balsall Common
Coventry CV7 7EA

email linda.forret@gmail.com to book your place
—— www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk ——

Lungworm

by Alison Messenger

Angiostrongylus Vasorum (lungworm) is carried by slugs and snails - even ingesting the slime can infect your dog. Spring and autumn seem to be the most active times. It can be carried by frogs and spread by foxes, as well as when dogs defecate.

There are many signs that MAY indicate the presence of lungworm including:

- lethargy,
- seizures,
- breathing issues,
- poor blood clotting,
- weight loss,
- poor appetite,
- sickness and diarrhea.

After a dog ingests lungworm larvae, it moves to the gut wall, entering the blood stream and lymphatic system, reaching the right side of the heart where it reaches adulthood.

It then releases eggs, hatching in the blood, which then go to the lungs,

rupturing the lung wall, entering the air pockets (alveoli) in lungs.

They then work their way to the top causing the dog to cough, bringing up the lungworm, swallowing and passing on to the digestive tract. Worms exit the body in faeces completing the circle and ready to go again!

Your vet can check for lungworm, or a worm count kit can be purchased and you can collect and send a sample yourself. The poo is sent off and is screened for worms. Worm count kit are a reasonably priced and fast way of checking if your dog has worms.

Treatment is usually successful, but lungworm can be fatal if not treated.

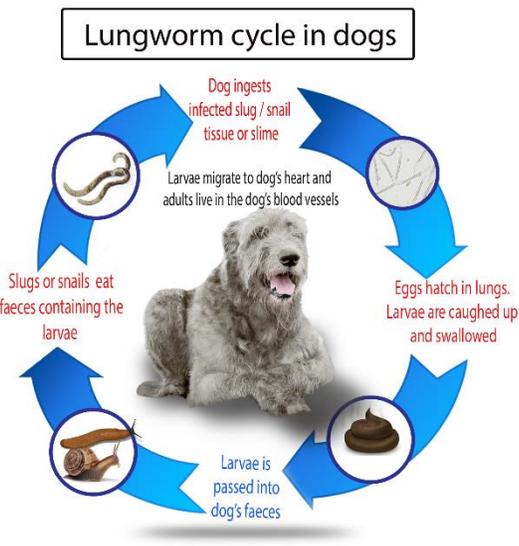
Not all wormers are effective against lungworm and it is recommended to treat on a monthly basis rather than the usual three months.

Natural products can be used, but it is recommended that you initially overlap with a conventional product to ensure existing worms are killed.

It would appear that the most popular treatments are Advocate or Milbemax- Verm-X. Or Four Seasons anti-parasitic tincture for the more natural route (alongside a conventional treatment).

There is no evidence that lungworm can be passed on to humans, unlike some other parasites.

Sources:
www.myitchydog.co.uk
www.lungworm.co.uk



Regular poo-picking, not leaving water bowls, toys and bones out at night (when the pests are more active) can help reduce the risk of dogs picking up lungworm.

Funding Update

By **Steven Ritchie (Treasurer)**

Thank you to all our fundraisers for another excellent few months of fundraising. We can't stress enough how much we appreciate all our fundraisers and no matter how big or small, every donation makes a difference.

Special thanks go out to **Helen Ward**

www.facebook.com/PoshCollars/

for her donation of £400 from the sale of her beautiful Posh Collars and to **Mandy Addington** for the sum of £300 from the sale of Irish Wolfhound Community Merchandise.

www.irishwolfhoundcommunity.co.uk/our-merchandise/

The way you use your time and talents to raise funds and donate to the IWHG, the Irish Wolfhound Rescue Trust and PAWS is hugely appreciated.



Irish Wolfhound Community Merchandise

It's been another excellent quarter for Easyfundraising donations which totalled £517. With the festive season just around the corner, what better time to sign up to Easyfundraising and let your Christmas shopping help raise funds for the IWHG. And the great thing is the donations cost you absolutely nothing!

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/iwhg/

£72 was donated from loose change tins in the quarter, so thank you to everyone who continues to fill their coin tins. If you don't have a tin, please contact Wendy Heather and she'll get one to you. And don't forget, if have a tin that's been around for a while and might contain old pound coins, return it soon so that we can get them banked whilst they're still legal tender - you can always bring them to the Seminar on the 11th November.

Thank you to everyone who gives by monthly direct debit, which is a great way to donate on a regular basis for the ongoing benefit of our breed.

Standing Order forms can be downloaded from our website, [here](#).

Finally, we'd like to thank you all for donating directly to the IWHG. Every penny we receive goes direct to where it's intended and needed most, immediately benefiting the projects and research aimed at improving the health of our hounds.



Handmade with Love
By Helen@poshcollars

Longevity in Scottish Deerhounds

By **Barbara Heidenreich and Richard Hawkins (www.fernhill.com)**

To place longevity and cause of death in Deerhounds in perspective, it is useful to review life expectancy in other breeds and varieties first. Data collected from 9,248 individuals in a European study showed a life expectancy of 10.0 years. The mean age attained in various breeds differed, but dogs of mixed breeding tended unexpectedly not to differ from purebreds overall in their life expectancy, or in their cause of death (*Eichelberg H, Seine R. 1996*)

In a British study of the cause of death of 3,000 dogs (*Michell AR. 1999*), the mean age at death (all breeds, all causes) was 11 years one month, but in dogs dying of natural causes it was 12 years eight months. Only 8 per cent of dogs lived beyond 15, and 64 per cent of dogs died of disease or were euthanised as a result of disease. Nearly 16 percent of deaths were attributed to cancer, twice as many as to heart disease. Neutered females lived longer than males or intact females, but among dogs dying of natural causes entire females lived slightly longer. In neutered males the importance of cancer as a cause of death was similar to heart disease. There was no correlation between longevity and cardiovascular parameters (heart rate, systolic, diastolic, pulse and mean arterial pressure, or the combination of heart rate and pulse pressure).

There is significant research that indicates in domestic dogs that large

body size is accompanied by shorter life span (*Li Y, Deeb B, Pendergrass W, Wolf N. 1996*). Michell's results also include breed differences in lifespan, susceptibility to cancer, road accidents and behavioral problems as a cause of euthanasia (*Michell AR. 1999*)

Mortality surveys in Scottish Deerhounds have been undertaken in the United Kingdom over the past



Nelungaloo Fair Dinkum at 11.5 years

fifteen years. A 1993 survey included a sample size of 79 hounds: 33 males, 39 females, 7 unknown, (*Cassels KAH, Morgan VM, Morgan BL. 1993*). Updated in 1996 by a sample size of 213 hounds: 83 males, 124 females, 6 unknown, (*Morgan VM, Morgan BL, Cassels KAH. 1996*). This was again updated in July 2001 with a sample size of 412 hounds: 161 males, 247 females, 4 unknown (Brian and Vivienne Morgan, personal communication).

The (UK) Kennel Club/British Small Animal Veterinary Association Scientific Committee, Purebred Dog

Health Survey also supplies some breed specific information: sample size 442 live Deerhounds; 287 deaths: median age 8 years and 8 months, minimum 2 months, maximum 16 years & 9 months:

(<http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/item/549>)

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/16402/deerhound.pdf>

In North America, information on mortality and longevity was collected in 1987 from one US breed longevity study of 149 live Deerhounds: 67 males, and 82 females; 81 deaths: 46 males, 35 females. The average male age was 5.4 years; the average female age 6.7; youngest death reported 1 year, maximum age 13 years; 35% of females lived to age 8

or beyond, 19% of males lived to age 8 or beyond (*Nissen D. 1987*). An extensive breed survey of health problems was undertaken in the 1990s by Dr. John Dillberger and published in 2000. The results of this influential survey enabled Dr. Dillberger to calculate the "true" lifespan of a Deerhound male as 8.4 years and for a female as 8.9 years. The average ages at death derived from the survey data were for dogs: 7.25 years, and for bitches: 8.42 years.

Using a similar methodology, a "true" average lifespan for UK Deerhounds

(Morgan VM, Morgan BL, Cassels KAH. 1996) was found to be 7.6 years for the British male deerhound and 9.5 years for British bitches. Using average age at death, more recent data July 2001 (Brian and Vivienne Morgan, personal communication) found dogs lived on average 7.25 years and females 8.42 years.

Many Deerhounds do live to enjoy double digit years, but the pattern in litter longevity as shown by the breed club surveys, is that a few die young, most live to between six to nine years and a very few continue on to enjoy life beyond twelve and occasionally up to fourteen years of age.

Early in 2007, in an effort to approach the issue of longevity in Deerhounds from simply an anecdotal perspective, we placed a call for information on

Deerhound males that lived beyond 10 years, and Deerhound females beyond the age of 11 years, in the Scottish Deerhound Club of America breed magazine, *The Claymore* and on the Internet Deerhound Discussion-List. We asked a series of questions on age of parents and siblings as well as husbandry of the

geriatric. The comments provided by the owners, and the patterns observed in the information provided for 12 males and 25 females passing the age criteria are incorporated in the discussion below with reference to the specific factors: genes, gender & size, exercise, food & water, and temperament. These appear to be the key factors that help determine longevity in dogs and Deerhounds in particular.

Genes

The genes a Deerhound is born with clearly influence the individual's longevity. Scientific research or review predicts a significant hereditary influence in the three principle health problems in Deerhounds: dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM), osteosarcoma (bone cancer), and gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV also known as "bloat" and/or "torsion"). Avoiding some or all of these health issues in an individual's genetic makeup dramatically increases the chances of longevity. Improved medical intervention in responding to these health issues increases longevity as well. Several individuals (10%) in the 2007 survey were alive simply because of expensive and effective medical intervention.



Ch. Fernhill's Electra F.Ch 11.5 years

To capitalize on the genetic predisposition of longevity requires a breeder to have an exhaustive knowledge of the cause of death and age at death of individual dogs and their siblings in any extended pedigree. This is only possible with absolute breeder honesty and a willingness to share information. Using breeding stock with proven long-lived antecedents (that also contain the other qualities the breeder is seeking!)

is certainly a key to increasing longevity. The likelihood of a Deerhound living a long life seems to be much higher if one or both parents have lived well beyond the breed average.

We are very grateful to Herbert Orschiedt of Germany for providing the following striking example (age at death in brackets):

- Sire: Ardkinglas Haydn (12.3)
- Dam: Ardkinglas Zamora (14)
- Offspring of Haydn x Zamora
- Quodlibet Canmore (14.1)
- Quodlibet Caledonia (13.9)
- Quodlibet Catriona (13)
- Quodlibet Christie (13)
- Offspring of Quodlibet Caledonia
- Quodlibet Ellentari (13)
- Quodlibet Elbereth (11.5)
- Quodlibet Ellen Douglas (11)
- Quodlibet Eleanor (11.6)
- Quodlibet Emrys (13)

The recent and growing ability to screen, prior to breeding, for heritable diseases such as DCM (with a possibility of a blood test soon being available), cystinuria, and Factor VII, and our increased understanding of GVD from the research of L.T. Glickman & N.W. Glickman and many others, should make a major impact on longevity in this breed and others. It is anticipated in the future that there may be genetic tests for osteosarcoma, DCM, aneurysm, PSS (liver shunt), dwarfism, Addison's disease and epilepsy (*communication at SDCA 2007 Health Seminar, April 26, 2007 from Betty Stephenson, DVM*).

Gender and size

Gender and size are two factors that influence longevity that are related.

Males tend to be larger and heavier, and they do not live as long as bitches. There is research to indicate that life spans are inversely correlated to the frame sizes of the breeds (*Li Y, Deeb B, Pendergrass W, Wolf N. 1996*). Survey data for Deerhounds also confirms that bitches live longer than dogs. Maintaining a lean body weight in both males and females also appears to contribute to a longer life. While there were a few large (34' – 35" high, 115 - 120 pound) males and large (32" – 33" high, 90 – 95 pound) females that lived well beyond the breed average, the majority (89%) of the male and female Deerhounds contributing to the 2007 "longevity survey" were between 70 – 90 pounds and between 29-30 inches in height, irrespective of gender.

Exercise

Deerhounds love to vegetate as they get older. In many very old dogs, loss of muscle tone and probably the occurrence of some arthritis in the hindquarters cause the inability to easily get up and down from a lying position which signals that the end is near. Self-motivation to exercise seems to be totally absent in the aging Deerhound, so all Deerhounds, especially the sedentary older ones, require long walks and preferably some free running on a daily basis. This does not mean a quick jaunt around a city block. It means, according to the 2007 survey response, a lifetime of dedicated daily exercise that ensures fitness and/or access to running space and the motivation to use it. For some owners it is a mutual fitness regime; for others it is having free access to sufficient space populated with squirrels, rabbits or some other active companionship (youngsters or another higher energy breed were suggested) that will motivate an old Deerhound to run.

The dedication of owners, who described in the 2007 survey taking several hours a day to exercise their old dogs, was very impressive. Many of these old Deerhounds had former lure or live coursing careers. Failing hindquarters can sometimes be assisted with chiropractics or arthritis medication. Maintaining long-term muscle tone in the rear seems the most effective way of postponing the time when the rear legs no longer function and quality of life is reduced to the point where euthanasia becomes a sad but necessary recourse.

To capitalize on the genetic predisposition of longevity requires a breeder to have an exhaustive knowledge of the cause of death and age at death of individual dogs and their siblings in any extended pedigree.

Food and Water

Research has suggested that feeding of dry dog foods that list oils or fats among the first four label ingredients can predispose a high-risk dog to a 2.4-fold increased risk of GDV (*Raghavan M, Glickman NW, Glickman LT 2006*). The addition of canned dog food, raw meats, and other table scraps in a usual diet consisting primarily of dry dog food significantly decreases the possibility of bloat (*Glickman LT, Glickman NW, Schellenberg DB, Simpson K, Lantz GC. 1997*). Poor quality, adulterated, badly stored and stale feed can contain mycotoxins and pathogens which can kill quickly with

hepatitis or nephritis-like symptoms, or slowly, if internal tumors develop. Some high fat or spicy products can precipitate pancreatitis. All survey respondents had a twice a day feeding regime, or one prepared meal with free feeding the rest of the day. All participants in the survey mixed with at least one meal some raw and/or cooked "extras" such as poultry, and table scraps. Clean, fresh water, free of chemicals and bacteria was also considered to be important.

Temperament

A happy content dog based on both the individual dog's intrinsic temperament and also how stress free and content the home life is, seems to contribute to a longer life. Deerhounds with a fearful temperament are more prone to GDV. Most of the respondents in the 2007 survey commented on the outgoing temperament of their old dogs and the dog's enjoyment of social situations. Most of the owners described their long lived individuals as "easy", "happy", "funny", and only three of the thirty seven individuals were described by their owners as the "worrying type", "reserved". These three individuals all had GDV-bloat (and survived) sometime between the ages of four and eight years of age.

Other Factors

It was striking that a number of the respondents to the 2007 longevity survey commented on not "over vetting" their dogs and letting them live a "natural life". Clearly the dogs were not neglected, but neither were they rushed to the vet for every sniffle. A "wait and see" approach

seems to have been developed by many owners in caring for their pet. While the survey neglected to specifically request information on neutering, about one third of the respondents had neutered/spayed their dogs after the age of six. It is not evident from the data that neutering has contributed to longevity but it is well known that early neutering in the large breeds precipitates life threatening health issues (Sanborn 2007). Many owners felt that “change”, “youngsters” and “walkies” stimulated their dogs and this assisted in their enjoyment in life and will to live.

Conclusion

More than one long-term breeder has observed that Deerhounds have a small black cloud hovering over their heads. There seems also to be a very large element of luck in owning a twelve-year-old Deerhound. There are however, many factors affecting longevity that are within the control of Deerhound breeders as a result of their decisions which influence the genetic makeup of individual dogs or litters. Likewise, the husbandry decisions Deerhound owners make can also affect longevity.

Acknowledgements: Our sincere thanks to: Heidi Groebli, Ellen Pilling, Diane Murray, Christie Biehl, Lyn Robb, Carmen Rasmussen, Mary Ann Rose, Heather Smith, Maryann Yuran, Terri Campbell, Herbert Orschiedt, Jeanne Case, Lynn Kiaer, Susan Trow and the many people on the Internet Deerhound Discussion-List who contributed to this chapter through a very comprehensive longevity discussion in April 2005.

This article was published in the Scottish Deerhound Club of America newsletter, The Claymore May-June 2007:15 – 18. . An expanded and updated chapter “Longevity in Deerhounds” will appear in a forthcoming book, The Scottish Deerhound: Its History, Care and Preservation. (Redvodana Publishing LLC 2018)

Photo credits:

- (1) Nelungaloo Fair Dinkum at 11 and a half years age, photo by Barbara Wickli.
- (2) Ch. Fernhill's Electra at Fitzhugh F.Ch. still lure coursing competitively at 11 and a half years age, photo by Dan Gauss.

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The IWHG Veteran Study

by **Maura Lyons**

An investigation of Environmental Factors Which May Affect Longevity

The IWHG launched the Veteran study some time ago in order to investigate the environmental factors which may affect whether or not a hound lives well past the 'average' lifespan. It is currently accepted that the Irish Wolfhound has an average lifespan of around 7 years and yet almost all of us know of or have owned hounds that have lived well beyond that age. Another article in this Newsletter discusses genetic and environmental factors affecting longevity in Deerhounds, and we have been supportive of the Longevity Research conducted by Pernille Monberg and Edita Beresova (www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/longevity-study.html)

where they are trying to establish a familial link in the potential for longevity.

Heritability

Although this study is still ongoing they have found that there is a strong element of heritability in the potential for longevity, this potential increasing exponentially according to the number of long lived hounds in a four-generation pedigree.



The IWHG Veteran Survey is designed to specifically look at environmental factors, things like feeding and exercise regimes, temperament, housing conditions, breeding and neuter status, etc. and decipher whether these have any influence over longevity.

Online Survey

To date, we have received very few completed surveys, despite knowing that many owners have indeed owned wolfhounds reaching into double figures. We believe that this lack of response is partly because the survey was only available as a paper version and so to aid completion of as many surveys as possible, we have now converted the IWHG Veteran Survey into an online version so there are no excuses not to let us know all about your lovely veterans!

You can find it by clicking [here](#)

Or by going through our webpage

www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/veteran-study.html

Please fill it in if you have had a wolfhound that lived to over 7 years of age. I know there are lots and lots of owners who have experienced life with an older hound so please let us know about them.

Once we get to around 1000 dogs we will analyse your answers to see if there is any correlation between any of the environmental factors and wolfhound longevity.

Thank you.

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

by **Rebecca Peek (Breed Health Co-ordinator and Chairman)**

The summer continued to be a very busy time for the KC BHCs, so this Newsletter I'm focussing on just one aspect of particular interest!

The Large and Giant Breeds Working Group held its second meeting in July at the Kennel Club Building in London. It was a stimulating and thought-provoking meeting as Dr Dan O'Neill of Vetcompass attended and there was a lot of debate around how Vetcompass could help us, numerically smaller breeds, make the most of the data that is available.

VetCompass - The Veterinary Companion Animal Surveillance System - is the brain child of Dr O'Neill and is a not-for-profit research project

(www.rvc.ac.uk/vetcompass/about).

It's a collaboration between The Royal Veterinary College (RVC) and the University of Sydney and aims 'to investigate the range and frequency of companion animal health problems and identify important risk factors for the most common disorders'.

It's focused on improving companion animal health by providing evidence based data direct from primary care

veterinary practices – that's yours and my general practice vets. The database comprises data collected live from veterinary practices that have signed up to VetCompass and have compatible computer systems.

To increase the numbers, more vets need to sign up to VetCompass and we could all help here by asking our vets if they are already signed up

So far 20% of veterinary practices in the UK are signed up to VetCompass, representing 7 million animals, approximately 3.5 million of these are dogs. This sounds like a lot, but actually is a relatively small representation of the canine population.

Data collected is taken directly from the vets' computers and gives crucial evidence-based (factual) information about breeds and what conditions they present with, how they are treated and outcomes. From this, studies can be developed analysing data specific to individual breeds.

Every study undertaken must meet the criteria that it will have a welfare benefit to animals and that no financial profit will be made. However, for a breed-specific study to be feasible and produce robust information over 1,000 dogs of the breed would be required. As you might expect, most of the breeds represented in the Large and Giants Breeds Working Group fall well short of this number. Those that meet the criteria are, for example, Rottweilers. Irish Wolfhounds currently only have 77 on the database and Deerhounds only 72.

Obviously, to increase the numbers, more vets need to sign up to VetCompass and we could all help here by asking our vets if they are already signed up to it and if not ask if they would consider signing up to it. Usually the limiting factor is the computer system each practice has, so the practice would need to contact VetCompass and discuss whether their system is compatible.

We discussed the possibility that although it may be difficult to group together the numerically smaller breeds, as we are quite diverse, condition-specific studies might be possible and may yield useful

information relating to the large and giant breeds.

A few studies are coming to completion on conditions of interest to the group, in particular a study on cardiomyopathy, a study of lymphoma and a study through out of hours practice for bloat/gastric dilatation and volvulus syndrome (GDV). When projects are published as a scientific paper, these are shown on the VetCompass website, available

here:

www.rvc.ac.uk/vetcompass/projects?filter=15724.

Many of the publications are open access.

Importantly, we asked if external researchers are able to have access to the database. Dr O'Neill informed the group that this is possible and many of the current projects are external to the Royal Veterinary College. This is of particular interest to us as we have several studies

ongoing that may benefit from being able to tap into breed specific info, once the number of practices involved increase. So ask your vet if they've signed up yet!

Next job on the BHC list is submitting the breed's Annual Health Report and attending the KC's Breed Health Symposium next week – I will be reporting back on those in the next Newsletter.

All Change Please

by **IWHG**

Are any of you old enough to remember back in 1983, when the pound coin replaced the pound note?

Well, in two weeks' time the round pound coin will be replaced by a new 12-sided version. From midnight on October 15th the 'old' round pound will cease to be legal tender.

This means that shops will no longer accept them as payment for goods and services.

After October the 16th you will still be able to take your old pound coins to a bank and exchange them. But this is only a temporary measure and arrangements vary from bank to

bank. The Royal Mint "encourage you to spend, bank or donate your round £1 coins before October 15."

It is a good idea to check pockets, purses handbags (and look behind



the sofa too) to see if there are any that you may have lost or forgotten about.

The Bank of England estimate that there are still almost £500 million of these pound coins in circulation and it will help us tremendously if a few of these come our way!

If you find a couple, why not buy a raffle ticket? You may be lucky enough to win a stay in one of those wonderful cottages on offer.

If you have an IWHG Loose Change Tin, there's a fair chance that it contains some of these round pounds and it would be very helpful if you would contact Wendy to make arrangements to return it.

wychwoodgrooming@btinternet.com

Or, if you are attending the seminar on the 11th November you can pass it in then.

IWHG Raffle 2017

by **Marian Finney**

It's nearly 3 years since the IWHG held its Monster Raffle at Crufts 2015. And it was a superb success.

We had a huge array of wonderful prizes all donated by friends and supporters of the Group. The raffle raised the staggering amount of £2,032.

So once again the IWHG has decided to hold a Monster Raffle in conjunction with the Group's upcoming seminar on November 11th,

where the draw for the raffle will take place. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Again, our friends and supporters have turned up trumps with a staggering selection of wonderful prizes.

Tickets, only £2 each, are on sale from September 30th

To purchase tickets by PayPal, probably the most convenient method for everyone, please go to:

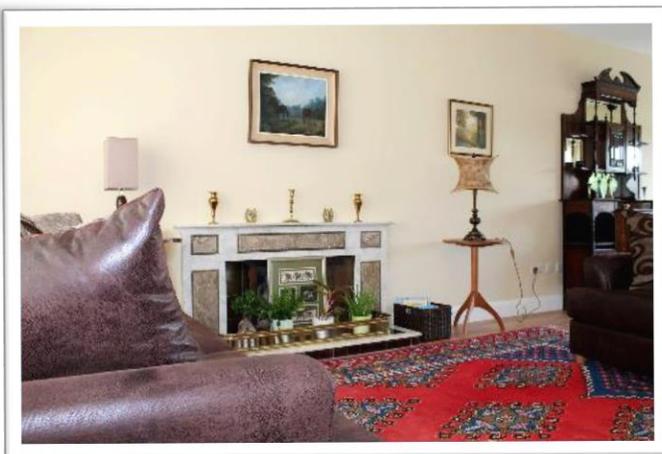
<https://paypal.me/lindalIWHG>

Or, if you wish to purchase by bank transfer, contact Steven Ritchie (ritchiesteven@outlook.com) for details,

or myself, Marion Finney, by email iwhg17@gmail.com or through Facebook.

A little information on the prizes to whet your interest

1st We have all dreamed of living the life of superstars, so why not try and win that dream? Our top prize, donated by Trudie Sumner, is a weekend for 4 people, self-catering in one of her luxurious homes - a choice either of a cottage in Wiltshire or a house in Grasmere.



2nd Ireland is the homeland of Irish Wolfhounds, so why not try to win a self-catering weekend for you and up to 7 friends in one of Fingal's most picturesque villages. A short car drive gets you into the centre of Dublin and many other wonderful and historic places. You might even get the opportunity to hug a Wolfhound or two on your trip!!!!

More Raffle prizes!

3rd This prize might not get you to Tuscany but you can dream about it when you are sipping some fantastic wine from vineyard Il Palagio Tuscany, Italy



4th A self-catering weekend winter/spring break in Bonny Scotland for up to 4 people in Aberdour, Fife. Available to enjoy Sept 1st to Feb 28th 2018.

5th To keep your dog happy and cosy lazing in front of the fire for the coming winter, a giant Knuffelwuff dog bed (Wolfhound size).



6th Every dog needs a made to measure cool coat in its wardrobe, so this is a prize which will be much appreciated by your canine friend.

And Even More Prizes!

7th Everyone has something to celebrate - a big show win or a birthday - so what's nicer than a delicious cake to add to the festivities. Master baker Julie Amoo will be happy to bake it for you.

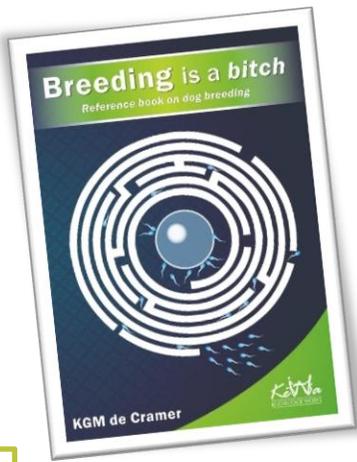


Image is for illustrative purposes only and actual product will differ

8th To keep you dog looking in top condition for the show ring or at home, we have a hamper of grooming tools.

9th The dog owner must look smartly dressed too. So, to add to your wardrobe we have an IWGH zipped up hoodie and bum bag.

10th Interesting reading for anyone thinking of breeding a litter or just for general information. A book "Breeding is a Bitch" author, Dr Kurt de Kramer, South Africa.



11th At times every owner needs to relax, and what's better than a nice relaxing bath? We have some beautiful Woodlands bath treats for you to enjoy.



12th To make your dinner table even more special for your guests, a classy set of four Irish Wolfhound table mats



The IWHG would again like to thank its amazing generous friends for donating such a wonderful list of prizes.

We only hold our Group raffles occasionally but when do, we go big!

Please dig deep in your pockets to support this raffle. Remember every penny you donate is used for research and the welfare of our most beloved Irish Wolfhounds.

Please note some prizes will be presented in voucher form. Full terms and conditions are on our website, [here](#)

Prizes must to be collected from the seminar or from myself, or arrangements made by the winner for collection

Additional photos and further details of all prizes are on our Facebook Group

Good luck everyone!!

Irish Wolfhound Health Group
Patron Mrs T Sumner

RAFFLE

All proceeds raised by this raffle will be donated to research into the health of Irish Wolfhounds

- A luxury weekend for two. Choice of a cottage in Wiltshire or house in Grasmere** (3 stars) donated by Mrs T Sumner
- A weekend for 8 people in a lovely country house near Dublin** (3 stars) donated by The Finney Family
- A superb case of red and white wine from Ill Palagio** (3 stars) donated by Mrs T Sumner
- 3 nights for 4 people in a delightful holiday apartment Aberdour, Scotland** (3 stars) donated by Linda Forret
- A Knuffelwuff giant, luxury dog bed** (3 stars) donated by Jackie Wilkinson
- A hand-crafted cool coat for your dog** (3 stars) donated by Steven Ritchie
- A made-to-order celebration cake** (3 stars) donated by Chris and Julie Amoo
- A beautiful set of bath time treats** (3 stars) donated by Rebecca Peak
- IWHG zipped hoodie and bum bag** (3 stars) donated by Rebecca Peak
- Book 'Breeding is a Bitch'** (3 stars) donated by Dr Kurt de Kramer
- A complete grooming hamper** (3 stars) donated by Wendy Heather
- A classic set of 4 tapestry table mats** (3 stars) donated by IWHG

Tickets can be purchased through PayPal
<https://paypal.me/lindaIWHG> (preferred method)
 or by bank transfer (contact Steven Ritchie for details)
 or from Marion Finney (iwhgraffle17@gmail.com or via Facebook)

TICKETS £2.00 EACH ON SALE NOW

The draw will take place on 11th November 2017 at the IWHG Seminar, CV7 7EA
Registered under The Gambling Act 2005 with Sefton MBC

Full terms and conditions are on our website www.iwealthgroup.co.uk

Pneumonia Surveys

By **Miranda Brace**

Apparently there have been posts on social media from owners whose dogs have, or have had, pneumonia.

Please may we remind people that we have a survey on this very topic on the website.

[IWHG Pneumonia Survey](#)

Research depends on feedback about cases and cannot proceed without it. Not all cases of respiratory disease present in the same way, nor do they uniformly respond to the same treatment.

We are trying to establish the very best treatment protocol for treating pneumonia - and related problems - and to do this we need to know how each individual dog

responded to the prescribed drug or drugs, how long the course of treatment was for and the outcome.

Unfortunately, Wolfhounds seem to have delicate lungs as, for instance, they suffer far more from kennel cough than some other breeds and it

We are trying to establish the very best treatment protocol for treating pneumonia and related problems

can and often does, lead to pneumonia. Some other breeds just clear their throats for a few days and that is it for them. Given that we have that susceptibility, we need to make sure that every owner is aware of that and that they

have the ability to spot the signs and to know the best possible treatment and make sure their vet is also aware of it.

To do this we need every owner who has experienced this to fill in the survey.

The fewer surveys we have, the longer time it will take to reach any valid conclusions. Even if the case of respiratory disease was some time ago and the details are hazy, please fill in whatever you can recall as even small details will help.

Anne Wilson, who has done such sterling work for the HG, is giving up as the contact for surveys as her increasingly busy life means that she cannot fit it in. We thank her for her work to date.

The new online contact will be:

mirandabraehead@gmail.com



Regional Heart Testing, Mid-Term Update

by **Wendy Heather (Heart Testing Co-Ordinator)**

We are now over half way through the heart testing sessions for 2017, 11 sessions have been completed with a total of 150 hounds screened as part of the regional scheme.

Within this total, the scheme has screened 9 super veteran hounds who are aged 8 years and over. The Irish Wolfhound Health Group has been able to offer to cover the cost of the screening fee for super veterans, however we are always very grateful for those individuals who continue to submit payment to the group.

The number of hounds that each cardiologist can screen in one session varies, however on

average each session is fully booked with 15 hounds in attendance. The Milford session in the South East with cardiologist Sheena Milne is always very popular and books up quickly. Sheena is able to accommodate 11 hounds per session.

There are 10 sessions remaining for 2017 and dates are currently being organised for 2018. The cost for 2017 is £45 per hound aged under 8 years. Those aged 8 years and over will continued to be paid for by the Health Group.

Hounds rescued through the Irish Wolfhound Rescue Trust are able to have one screening

per year paid for by the Rescue Trust no matter what their age. Donations are always welcome to ensure that the scheme can continue to run to cover cardiologist costs and equipment maintenance.

For 2018 we hope to provide additional venues to cover those areas where the demand is at its greatest. We are always grateful for suggestions and offers for help at the sessions. Please do not hesitate to email me or talk to me at shows if you have any suggestions for the scheme and its future.

| DATE | SESSION | REGION | CARDIOLOGIST | HOUNDS TESTED |
|----------------------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 19/03/2017 | Milford | SOUTH EAST | Sheena Milne | 11 |
| 01/04/2017 | Nottingham | MIDLANDS | Angela Bodey | 14 |
| 02/04/2017 | Wisbech | EAST ANGLIA | Angela Bodey | 18 |
| 30/04/2017 | Snaith | NORTH EAST | Angela Bodey | 14 |
| 01/05/2017 | Gt Witley | WEST MIDLANDS | Angela Bodey | 15 |
| 07/05/2017 | Maybole | W SCOTLAND | Serena Brownlie | 8 |
| 14/05/2017 | Milford | SOUTH EAST | Sheena Milne | 13 |
| 08/07/2017 | Nottingham | MIDLANDS | Angela Bodey | 16 |
| 09/07/2017 | Bridgend | WALES | Angela Bodey | 13 |
| 20/08/2017 | Morpeth | NORTH BORDERS | Angela Body | 13 |
| 17/09/2017 | Crosby | NORTH WEST | Angela Bodey | 15 |
| TOTAL HOUNDS TESTED | | | | 150 |

Remaining heart testing sessions in 2017

| DATE | SESSION | REGION | CARDIOLOGIST | |
|------------|------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 08/10/2017 | Milford | SOUTH EAST | Sheena Milne | FULLY BOOKED |
| 15/10/2017 | Thirsk | NORTH EAST | Angela Bodey | LIMITED SPACES |
| 28/10/2017 | Fawkham | SOUTH EAST | Angela Bodey | FULLY BOOKED |
| 29/10/2017 | Salisbury | SOUTH/CENTRAL | Angela Bodey | |
| 30/10/2017 | Salisbury | SOUTH/ CENTRAL | Angela Bodey | |
| 18/11/2017 | Nottingham | MIDLANDS | Angela Bodey | FULLY BOOKED |
| 19/11/2017 | Axminster | SOUTH WEST | Angela Bodey | |
| 20/11/2017 | Hereford | WELSH BORDERS | Angela Bodey | |
| 25/11/2017 | Lisburn | NORTHERN IRELAND | Serena Brownlie | |
| 26/11/2017 | Dublin | IRELAND | Serena Brownlie | |

Please note that the session at Thirsk is now on 15th October 2017

Booking forms are available on the IWHG website

www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/

or by contacting Wendy Heather

wychwoodgrooming@btinternet.com



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

Join the discussion

