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*Magazine of the  
Irish Wolfhound Club  
of  
Victoria Inc.*

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THE IRISH WOLFHOUND CLUB OF VICTORIA (INC)

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Victorian club website

<http://irishwolfhoundsvictoria.com/>



## EDITOR'S NOTES

Summer is almost over and we are almost ready for the new season. Australia suffered a catastrophic fire season this summer with huge devastation to the environment as well as wildlife and companion animals. The Club has donated \$1000 from our rescue fund to Vets for Compassion to help them deal with the ongoing tragedy of such extensive loss of wildlife and companion animals.

As an Editor I am always on the look out for any new news, research or studies in to health issues of the Irish Wolfhound. If you find anything of interest or you would like to see anything in particular discussed or printed in CU please email me the details.

The month of May 2020 is shaping up to be a very busy month for the Club (see page 4). We hope to see as many of you as possible at some of these events. We are in need of volunteers at the Dog Lovers Show (you get a free ticket!) to help us out on the stand and we would also love to see a big turnout at the Koroit Irish Festival (also a free ticket) with your dogs in the parade on the Saturday. Contact me if you can help out at either event.

As always, health and happiness to you and your hounds.

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### **Cover Image:**

***Photograph of Houndswood Bracken by Paul Harris. Photograph reproduced with permission.***

# Upcoming Events 2020

*Here is a brief list of events for the Club for 2020 the we will either be hosting or attending. This list is not everything that we will be involved with but it is a start.*

## **Dog Lovers Show, Friday 1 May - Sunday 3 May**

The Club once more has a stand at the Dog Lovers Show and we will be calling on volunteers to come along and help us out. More details to come.

## **Koroit Irish Festival, Friday 1 May - Sunday 3 May**

On the same weekend as the Dog Lovers Show but we can make it work. We have been invited to come back in 2020. We want more dogs and people marching in the parade in 2020.

## **Championship Show, Sunday 31 May 2020**

Our Championship conformation show to be held at Bulla Exhibition Centre.

## **Gathering of the Hounds, Sunday 31 May 2020**

A Gathering of the Hounds is to be held after the Championship Show with a BBQ, raffle and some fun and games for everyone with prizes on offer for everyone (not just the show dogs!)





# Upcoming Events 2020

## Three key strategies to reduce genetic disorders in dogs

1/2/2016

By Carol Beuchat PhD

<https://www.instituteofcaninebiology.org/blog/three-key-strategies-to-reduce-genetic-disorders-in-dogs>

In many breeds, dodging genetic disorders is becoming a significant problem because troublesome recessive mutations can be widespread in the population. The need to avoid producing dogs that are homozygous for a particular mutation drives the search for the gene and subsequent development of a genetic test. In many cases, these efforts are funded by breeders who believe that "identify-and-eliminate" is the best strategy for dealing with the problem. (See Managing genetic disorders: "Just eliminate the bad gene".)

Unfortunately, because there can be dozens or even hundreds of disease-causing mutations in every dog, there will always be another genetic problem waiting in the wings to suddenly pop up in a breed. If we had tests for all the mutations found in purebred dogs, both the ones we know about and the ones that have not yet been identified, it would become impossible to breed if breeders wanted to avoid every risk.

You can appreciate the futility of this search-and-destroy strategy when you see that even now, the number of known disorders in dogs outstrips the available tests. This is genetic whack-a-mole, and it will be no more successful in eliminating genetic disorders in dogs than the strategy of trying to rid your yard of moles by shooting just the ones that stick their heads out of a hole.



Claiming that a dog is "health tested" and therefore a good candidate for breeding is wholly misleading when there might be 5 available tests for a breed, but there are also dozens of known disorders without tests and more appearing every day (What does "health tested" really mean?).

We are trying to eliminate lung cancer without giving up cigarettes. We can spend millions on research and testing to battle genetic diseases in dogs, but we cannot win this fight unless we change the breeding strategies that produce the problems in the first place. Most genetic disorders in dogs are caused by recessive mutations that have been lurking harmlessly in the gene pool for hundreds of generations. They suddenly become a problem because of the way we breed purebred dogs, by inbreeding in a closed gene pool. The level of inbreeding in a closed population will increase relentlessly, and as homozygosity increases so will the expression of disease-causing mutations. This is not just predictable, but inevitable.

In an ideal world, studbooks would be open to the introduction of new dogs that could benefit the gene pool, and there are a few kennel clubs that are now permitting and even encouraging this. But whether the gene pool is open or closed, producing healthy animals requires a healthy gene pool, and for this breeders need to practice sound strategies for genetic management. In an open gene pool, this will prevent the development of problems, and in a closed one it will reduce the incidence of genetic disorders and the rate of genetic decline.

Here are three basic principles of sound genetic management that breeders can adopt to reduce the frequency of genetic disorders in their breed.

## **1) Increase the number of breeding animals**

Smaller populations become inbred more quickly, so the simplest way to reduce the rate that inbreeding is to maintain a larger population of breeding animals. The easiest way to do this without producing an oversupply of puppies is to increase the number of different sires being used in breeding. Instead of a few individuals producing most of the next generation, limit the number of breedings per individual and make use of more dogs.

## **2) Eliminate popular sires**

Popular sires are a double whammy on the gene pool. Not only do they reduce the number of male dogs contributing to the next generation by doing more than their fair share of breeding (see #1 above), they also distribute dozens or even hundreds of copies of their mutations (and ALL dogs have mutations!) in the puppies that they produce. The pups might all be healthy because they got only one copy of a mutation, but a generation or two down the road, those mutations will start showing up in pairs and suddenly breeders will find themselves dealing with a new genetic disease that seemingly came out of nowhere. In fact, the new genetic problem is the completely predictable result of a breeding strategy that creates many copies of a particular dog's mutations. Blaming the dog ("We didn't have this awful problem until Fido introduced it to the breed!") is only an effort to deflect responsibility, because every breeder that used him as a sire participated in creating the resulting genetic problem. (For more about this, read *The pox of popular sires*.)

## **3) Use strategic outcrossing to reduce inbreeding**

In many breeds, there are genetically-distinct subpopulations of dogs. They might represent bench versus field lines, color or coat varieties, geographic areas, size, or some other factor. Because they carry genes that will be less common in other groups, they can be used to reduce the level of inbreeding in a litter of puppies. The number of loci that are homozygous (with two copies of the same allele) will be reduced, and therefore the risk of expressing a recessive mutation will be less. An outcross every now and then can be sufficient to reset the inbreeding to a healthier level.

By the way, you will hear some breeders claim that outcrossing will introduce new genetic disorders to your dogs. But if you understand how recessive genes work and you practice good genetic management, those new mutations are no different than the ones already in your lines - they won't cause any problems unless you create puppies that inherit two copies in the same one. New mutations will have low frequencies in the population, and sound genetic management will keep it that way. (See *Using inbreeding to manage inbreeding*.)



# Genetic Disorders in Dogs

## Three key strategies to reduce genetic disorders

Every dog - in fact, every animal - has mutations that could potentially cause disease, and don't let anybody try to claim that their dogs are any different. The key to producing healthier dogs is breeding in a way that reduces the chance that an animal will inherit two copies of the same mutation. Doing the available DNA tests for a breed then producing a litter with an inbreeding coefficient of 20% is self-defeating and just asking for trouble.

Money to identify mutations, develop tests, and screen potential breeding stock is all for naught if we are using breeding strategies that are specifically designed to increase homozygosity of the genes for desirable traits, because homozygosity of mutations will necessarily increase as well. You cannot do one without the other.

If we're serious about reducing genetic disorders in dogs, the things we must do are simple and clear. It is responsible breeders, not researchers and DNA tests, that will reduce the burden of genetic disease in dogs.





One of our members, Eve Costa stayed at Bumble's Barn in Scotland run by Irish Wolfhound breeders Fran and Bill Barnbrook of Bribiba Irish Wolfhounds.

This is what Eve had to say about her stay:

***“What a wonderful time myself and a friend had in Bumble's Barn! It was an amazing little B&B with everything that you needed in one cute and cosy space in the beautiful setting that is country Scotland. Not only did we enjoy the beautiful scenery but we got to meet Bumble himself along with all of the Bribiba Irish Wolfhounds that were at home and of course we met the wonderful hosts themselves Fran and Bill Barnbrook.***

***I highly recommend a stay at Bumble's Barn where you can relax and enjoy not only Scotland but be in the presence of magnificent Irish Wolfhounds. What more could you ask for?”***



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bumblesbarn.co.uk/](http://bumblesbarn.co.uk/)

*Inside, the barn has everything you need to make your stay comfortable. Outside is a private garden with 7 foot high fencing to keep your pet safe. It has its own entrance and parking on the street or private driveway. We are half way between Edinburgh and Glasgow and 3 minutes drive from the railway station. Also on the bus route to Falkirk. Pets are free and very welcome. Facing the barn is a very large fishing loch and we have beautiful forest and country walks on the doorstep.*

# Bumble's Barn

## Is Bigger Better?

### “Of Great Size and Commanding Appearance”

BY MANDY TYLER

*Sighthound Review*, Mon, 09/09/2019 - 4:00pm. Reprinted with permission of the author as well as [www.sighthoundreview.com](http://www.sighthoundreview.com)

I have finally come to an age where I can employ these two significant words: “Years ago.” As the story unfolds, I was walking to my ring and found myself behind two gentlemen amiably talking.

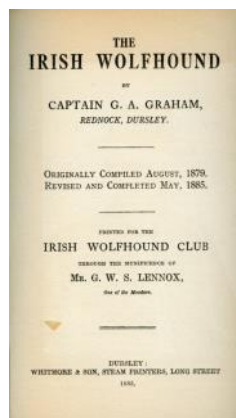
One of the gentlemen said he was off to finish his Terrier assignment and asked his comrade where he was off to next. “I’m set to judge the Draft Horses next,” he replied. I chuckled to myself until to my horror the draft-horse judge stood directly in the middle of the Irish Wolfhound ring. As if to make a mockery of any self respecting wolf-killer, this gentleman proceeded to award every would-be draft horse in the ring in a systematically size-befitting order.

Every good, red-blooded American is keenly aware and takes great pride in knowing that “bigger is better” in this country. In some categories of life it has been a very close shave as to that particular project’s undoing. In the cattle industry the trend towards bigger dairy cows and bigger beef cattle made for animals that were so unsound that they were dangerously unthrifty. Breeding bulls could not stand on their very tall and very straight hind legs to service a cow. Cows so huge did not have the proper structure nature intended to maintain their weight and height, and could not calve without major complications. Because this is an industry fueled by economics, the trend reversed in short order and the folly of their greedy thinking went safely, at least so far, into the history books.

There is a significant quote about the history of a breed and potentially a warning to breeders, judges and enthusiasts: *“History: It is the backbone of the purebred world. Without a knowledge of history, an exhibitor can only show a dog that looks similar to another dog. Without history, a judge can only evaluate shapes in a ring, never a breed.”* - Cindee Byer, *AKC Gazette*, March 2008.

Without this history, without a serviceable knowledge of the breed, Irish Wolfhounds become a generic big dog. To judge Irish Wolfhounds based solely on their size is a disservice of gigantic proportions, no pun intended.

**“To judge Irish Wolfhounds based solely on their size is a disservice of gigantic proportions, no pun intended”.**



**Left: The frontispiece of Capt. Graham's seminal work "The Irish Wolfhound," compiled and completed between 1879 and 1885.**

**Right: Capt. George A. Graham (1833-1900), credited with preserving the Irish Wolfhound breed.**

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*"An all-round sound dog of medium height is far preferable to an overgrown, badly-shaped, crooked-legged giant, for size, though most important, cannot in any way make up for unsoundness."* - **Captain George Graham, founder of The Irish Wolfhound Club in 1885.**

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More and more the ring is full of animals that couldn't catch a couch, let alone a wolf. Recently lamenting to a friend in arms about this mess, this lack of "wolf killer," he suggested that perhaps we could start out our hunting dogs on fainting goats\*. Funny and true. The desire is certainly there, but these structurally unsound dogs could not carry through on their intention.

"This is more important than height at shoulder. Our standard says 'It is desired to firmly establish a race that shall average 32 to 34 inches in dogs showing the requisite power, activity, courage and symmetry.' This aim has been achieved and most hounds 36 inches or over have not been either symmetrical or sound." This quote was written in 1962 by Mrs. Florence Nagle, Sulhamstead Kennels, and is still, quite unfortunately, true today.

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*"In my opinion there is a tendency to get them too heavy and overladen with fat; after all, what is the object of having them all square and fat, like a Smithfield prize ox; if they were galloped in that condition they would die of heart failure, and to me it spoils their beauty of outline....."*

*I can never forget that our breed is a galloping and hunting dog."*

- Florence Nagle, 1930, the matriarch of the breed in England, with involvement spanning from 1913 until 1988.

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Florence Nagle with four of her Sulhamstead Irish Wolfhounds in the 1920s. From "Mission Accomplished - The life and times of Florence Nagle," by Ferelith Somerfield.

Although many people have been alarmed about this turn of events, there are just as many touting the need for more size. Too often we hear the "All things being equal, put up the bigger dog" mentoring. After watching these people judge I fear they only heard the latter half of that statement. Alarming, I have seen more judges sizing up their entry at a coat pocket or a hem length. Put up the better dog!

# Is Bigger Better?

In interpreting the opening line of the standard, “Of great size and commanding appearance” doesn’t necessarily mean that we are comparing each Wolfhound to one another. Every Wolfhound is of great size and commanding appearance when compared to nearly any other breed. They are awesome, they are magnificent, they are huge and above all they should be a hound capable of catching a wolf and then killing it.

Soft curves, balance and symmetry—the essence of an Irish Wolfhound—should never take a back seat to sheer size. It’s the all-elusive marriage of size and rough-coated Greyhound-like type we all are striving for.

I’ve bred some very big champions, and I am certainly not advocating breeding smaller Wolfhounds, but I think if we are looking to breed rough-coated Great Danes or Wire-Coated Mastiffs the future looks bright ...

*\*Fainting goats have a genetic mutation that causes them to “faint” and fall over when highly stressed*

*“The Irish Wolfhound is a galloping sight hound, not a prize-fed porker that any self-respecting wolf would immediately gobble up. Without exercise to keep the ligaments and tendons taut the dog loses control over his hind legs and can only shuffle about and that, to me, is a travesty of what I consider a Wolfhound should be.”*

**- Florence Nagle, 1934.**

*“Novice breeders are apt to think that size is the most important thing at which to aim. This is not so; type and conformation come first, all things being equal. Of course, a good big one will beat a good small one, but it is quite wrong to put a big hound of poor conformation or unsound over a really well-made smaller hound, provided that the latter is 32 inches tall (30 inches if a bitch). In my long experience in the breed since 1913, the few hounds of 37 inches or over have not been really good hounds, and would not have stood an earthly chance in a variety class.”*

**- Florence Nagle, 1957.**

*“I have seen practically every dog and bitch in the breed since 1913 and I particularly want to emphasize how important correct conformation is. Without this no hound will be sound or a good mover ... This is more important than height at the shoulder. Our standard says ‘It is desired to firmly establish a race that shall average 32 to 34 inches in dogs showing the requisite power, activity, courage and symmetry.’ This aim has been achieved and most hounds 36" or over have not been either symmetrical or sound.”*

**- Florence Nagle, 1962.**

*“Judges don’t always read the standard far enough down. It does call for ‘great size and commanding appearance’ but also says ‘It is desired to firmly establish a race that shall average 32 to 34 inches in dogs showing the requisite power, activity, courage and symmetry.’*

**- Florence Nagle, 1980.**





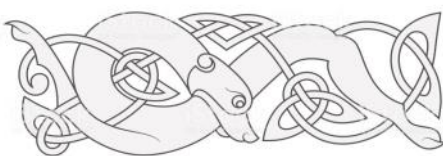
*Mrs. Nagle in the 1980s with her last two champion Irish Wolfhounds, Ch. Seplecur Meg of Sulhamstead and Ch. Lainston Laodamia of Sulhamsted. From the cover of the book "Mission Accomplished - The life and times of Florence Nagle," by Ferelith Somerfield.*

*ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Mandy Tyler, together with her daughter Chandler Tyler and son Carson Collier, breeds the Kerryarc Irish Wolfhounds in Oregon (previously in California). Their many champions include several Specialty BIS winner, including twice BIS at the Irish Wolfhound Club of America National Specialty. This article was written several years ago but has never previously been published.*



**From the AKC standard for Irish Wolfhound: "...in general type he is a rough-coated, Greyhound-like breed; very muscular, strong though gracefully built; movements easy and active."**

# Is Bigger Better?



## **Gunnarr, his Irish Wolfhound Sámr, in the Icelandic Njáls saga, the Old Irish roots of that tale, and the heroic nature of the Irish Wolfhound as seen through the eyes of Dark Age Europeans.**

**WILLIAM SAYERS**

Njáls saga, like the other sagas of Icelanders, is anonymous. There are, however, many theories about the saga's authorship. The oldest idea, attested in the early 17th century, is that Sæmundr fróði wrote the work. Other suggested authors include Sæmundr's sons, Jón Loftsson, Snorri Sturluson, Einarr Gilsson, Brandr Jónsson and Þorvarðr Þórarinnsson.

The saga is now believed to have been composed in the period from 1270 to 1290. Among written sources which the author likely used are Laxdæla saga, Eyrbyggja saga and Ljósvetninga saga as well as the lost sagas Brjáns saga and Gauks saga Trandilssonar. The author must, however, have derived the bulk of the material in the saga from oral tradition which he manipulated for his own artistic purposes. Opinions on the historicity of the saga have varied greatly, ranging from pure fiction to nearly verbatim truth to any number of nuanced views. It can be regarded as certain that Njáll and Gunnarr were real historical people and their fateful deaths are referred to in other sources. Gabriel Turville-Petre said, "It was not the author's purpose to write a work of history, but rather to use a historical subject for an epic in prose".

As envious rancour toward Gunnarr Hámundarson swells to its fatal climax in Njáls saga, Gunnarr makes a visit to the Dales in the west of Iceland. He has just left the Althing after a settlement concerning the failed expedition against him by the two Þorgeirrs has been brokered to his advantage by his friend and counsel, Njáll. He visits his brother-in-law, the powerful and influential Óláfr pái, a descendant through his mother Melkorka of the Irish king, Myrkjartan (OIr. Muirchertach).

The saga continues and when they parted, Olaf said:

*"I want to give you three gifts: a gold bracelet, a cloak that once belonged to King Myrkjartan of Ireland, and a dog I was given in Ireland. He is a big animal, and will make as good a comrade-in-arms as a powerful man. He has human intelligence, and he will bark at every man he recognizes as your enemy, but never at your friends; he can tell from a man's face whether he means you well or not. He would lay down his life rather than fail you. His name is Samr". Then he said to the dog: "Go with Gunnar and serve him as well as you can".*

*The dog went to Gunnar at once and lay down at his feet. Olaf warned Gunnar to be on his guard, and said that there were many who were envious of him — “since you are now considered the most outstanding person in the land”. Gunnar thanked him for his gifts and good advice, and rode back home. He stayed there for a while, and everything was quiet.*

Although it is less the historicity of the gift of the hound than its symbolic reach and significance that interests us, it is worth noting something of the status of such large dogs that the Norse would have met in ninth- and tenth-century Ireland. Even in the prehistoric period, the aristocracy in Ireland appear to have bred dogs for size, and the remains of animals as large as modern Alsations have been found at sites likely to have been residences of the upper classes.

Symmachus, in the latter half of the fourth century, mentions Irish dogs imported to Rome for combat in the arenas and early tradition had that St. Patrick escaped from Ireland on a ship bound for Gaul with a cargo of dogs. Dogs seem to have had an assigned, if difficult to determine, role in pre-Christian religion, and Anne Ross claims their association with votive wells. In other times Hounds were also associated with the healing arts. An example being the recognizable form of a Deerhound or Wolfhound in the early bronze figurine from the Lydney Park site in Gloucestershire.

Old Irish epic literature makes reference to the *árchú*, literally ‘slaughter hound’ or ‘war hound’ but the use of dogs in war is not assured and this may simply be a literary motif and part of the descriptive vocabulary.

In the later period, the existence of a variety of types and sizes points to specific hunting, guarding and companionship functions. Breeds suggested by the archaeological evidence after AD 500 include wolf- and deer-hounds, sheepdogs, large terriers, spaniels and lapdogs. There appears to have been a homonym or semantic extension of *árchú* designating the watchdog’. Some dogs would have had several duties: tracking, capture of game and fugitives, and the defence of property. Those whose size, strength or training made them most suitable for guarding farmsteads were highly valued. According to early Irish law tracts, the fine for the death or destruction of such an animal was between five and ten cows plus replacement with a dog of comparable worth.



Cú 'hound' (at times with overtones of 'wolf') is a frequent component of Irish personal names and references martial qualities. Its most celebrated bearer was Cú Chulainn, the paramount Ulster champion, who won this name after killing the smith Culann's ferocious guard dog, then agreeing to take its place until a replacement had grown to maturity. In later life Cú Chulainn also became the guard for all of Ulster in the epic Táin Bó Cúailnge (The Cattle-raid of Cooley). Which describes the nature of the hound whose life he replaced. However in taking the hound's reasonableness, Cú Chulainn also created a taboo for himself, he must not eat the flesh of a hound, or he will be brought low. Dog flesh, normally proscribed, may have been eaten in warriors' cultic ceremonies. According to Cormac's Gnomology dog flesh was also one of the substances on which the filid or poet/seer might chew in order to receive supernatural inspiration and vision. Regarding Cú Chulainn compelled to eat the roasted dog meat he is offered within the Táin Bó Cúailnge; this is the first in the concatenated circumstances that bring Cú Chulainn down.



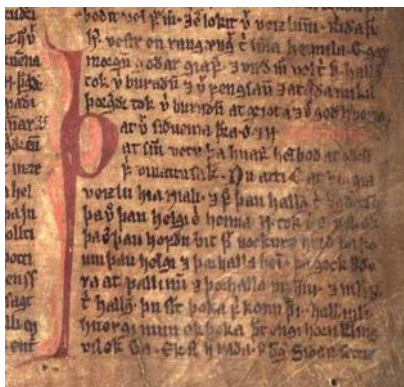
In the discussion of the role of canines in the early Irish economy, we find that the explicit areas to be guarded, according to the legal tracts, were: dwelling house, sheep-fold, calf-pen and cow-shed. Hounds were employed by the aire échta or 'lord of vengeance', the designated enforcer of legal claims according to the Irish law tracts. Thus in Njáls saga we have the ironic reversal of such a tracking hound being made the guard dog of a man who will shortly be condemned to outlawry.

As a sample, the Dál Cais, the people to which King Brian belonged, are described with the following simile in the Irish account that deals with the same events at the Battle of Clontarf as the chapters in Njáls saga: "They were ... the terrible, nimble wolf-hounds of victorious

Banba [a traditional name of Ireland] for strength and for firmness. The story of the smith Culann's dog, part of the Boyhood Deeds of Cú Chulainn, also has a marginal reference to other fabled hounds, all ferocious. There is a traditional relationship between Irish heroes and hounds, and is mirrored in the relationship between Gunnarr, his Irish Wolfhound Sámr.

In another Ulster cycle tale, Scéla Mucce Meic Dathó (The Tale of Mac Dathó's Pig) the hound Ailbe guards the entire province of Ulster and is sought by the rival hosts of Ulster and Connacht.<sup>12</sup> The hound is killed in the battle that followed the confrontation of opponents in the banquet hall over the champion's portion, after electing to side with the Ulstermen. It is not, however, the tales of the Ulster cycle, centered on Cú Chulainn, Conchobar, Fergus, and their opponents Ailill and Medb, but those of the Fenian cycle centered on Finn mac Cumhail that are of greatest relevance in our consideration of Gunnarr's dog. These, too, are the dogs of another era, dogs of story, as illustrated in the scene when Patrick first spies the huge survivors of an earlier age and then goes on to have them recount the deeds of Finn:





*“Just then Patrick was chanting the Lord's order of the canon (i.e., Mass), and lauded the Creator, and pronounced a benediction on the rath where Finn mac Cumail had been, the rath of Drum Derg. The clerics saw Cailte and his band draw near them; and fear fell upon them before the tall men with their huge wolf-dogs that accompanied them, for they were not people of one epoch or of one time with the clergy.”*

Finn, the leader of a hunting and war band that is on the margin of Irish society while also its defender on the geographical frontier against supernatural and foreign forces, among which are the Lochlannaig 'Scandinavians,' has two fine dogs, Bran and Sceolang. Their names mean 'raven' and 'messenger'. On the name Bran, Gunnarr's, Irish Wolfhound, Sámr also bears the same name, as Sámr in old Norse means Black, or dark, or like a raven.

The similarities between the Sámr and Bran can be seen in their attributed intelligence, although in the Irish Story there is a supernatural reason given for the Hounds cunning. Bran's mother had been enchanted while pregnant and turned into a bitch by a rival; after giving birth she is restored to human form, but the offspring remain canine. Human and canine qualities are blurred, as the anthropomorphic and zoomorphic are elsewhere merged in the Finn cycle. In Njall's Saga, Gunnar does not seem surprised by Sámr's qualities, and in fact all the people who are part of the saga understand the actions of the hound, and it is taken as a natural attribute of the Irish Wolfhound. Sámr's intelligence and particularly his ability to detect treason would become pivotal in Gunnar's eventual demise.

There are many similarities between the Finn cycle and the story of Gunnar in Njall's Saga. The Author of the Saga used the connection to the Hound Samr to reinforce Gunnar's nobility, which with the loss of the Hound's life, shortly followed by his own, creates a high tragedy in the Saga filled with treason, falsehood, and murder.

Both Finn and Gunnar are warriors, full of martial prowess, and proud men. Both are exiled and neither will leave the countryside they love. This inability to accept change within both stories creates outlaws of them both, and at the end, they both lose their beloved hounds and mourn this loss as the greatest they suffer. The Howl of Wolfhound Sámr freezing the blood of Gunnar's attackers, whilst simultaneously casting Gunnar into despair for he knows the great hound has died, adds a poignancy to the closing of the chapter, and fuels Njall's desire for revenge.

The Irish Wolfhound invokes wonder within us. I for one consider myself lucky, as did those in the past to be wonderstruck by the Irish Wolfhounds in my life.



# Gunnarr and Samr

# The Legend of Gelert, Faithful Hound

April 25, 2017 [National Purebred Dog Day®](https://nationalpurebreddogday.com/legend-gelert-faithful-hound/)  
<https://nationalpurebreddogday.com/legend-gelert-faithful-hound/>

One of the most famous Irish Wolfhound legends is beyond sad, but was it true?

At the left is the marker for the final resting place for “Gelert,” the faithful Irish Wolfhound of Welsh Prince, Llewelyn the Great. His story, as written on the tombstone (seen further below) reads:

***“In the 13th century Llewelyn, prince of North Wales, had a palace at Beddgelert. One day he went hunting without Gelert, ‘The Faithful Hound’, who was unaccountably absent.***

***On Llewelyn’s return the truant, stained and smeared with blood, joyfully sprang to meet his master. The prince alarmed hastened to find his son, and saw the infant’s cot empty, the bedclothes and floor covered with blood.***

***The frantic father plunged his sword into the hound’s side, thinking it had killed his heir. The dog’s dying yell was answered by a child’s cry.***

***Llewelyn searched and discovered his boy unharmed, but nearby lay the body of a mighty wolf which Gelert had slain. The prince filled with remorse is said never to have smiled again. He buried Gelert here.”***

Llywelyn was struck with remorse (damn right!), carried the body of his faithful dog beyond the castle and buried him where everyone could see the final resting place of this brave dog and know the truth of his brave fight with the wolf. To this day, a cairn of stones marks the place, and the Welsh name, “Beddgelert” means “The grave of Gelert”. The grave attracts thousands of visitors annually.

It’s rumored, however, that the stones are actually less than 200 years old, and that in 1793, an enterprising landlord named David Pritchard knew the story of the brave dog and adapted it to fit the village (thereby benefitting his trade at his inn). He apparently invented the name “Gelert,” and introduced the name Llywelyn into the story to validate it. In the end, we don’t know if the story is folk tale, legend or history, but because it rings true of the breed, we like to think it’s valid.

This entry was posted in [Irish Wolfhound](#) and tagged [Gelert](#), [Irish Wolfhound](#), [legend](#), [myth](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#).





## The Legend of Gelert

# **MERCHANDISE!!**

The Irish Wolfhound Club of Victoria Inc. is proud to present a whole new line of products which proudly proclaim our new club logo on a range of goods .

From smart vests, bags and blankets. Water bottles, logo embroidered caps and chairs, we are sure that you will find a suitable Irish Wolfhound themed item to fill a space in the Christmas gift line-up.

More items can be found on the  
Facebook page at:

[https://www.facebook.com/  
groups/482408791826194/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/482408791826194/)





# Club Merchandise

# Club Merchandise





# Club Merchandise



# Club Merchandise

\$9.95.



\$16.95







# Club Merchandise

**MINUTES FOR COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE IRISH WOLFHOUND CLUB OF VICTORIA Inc. SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2020, AT 'HOUNDWOOD', 801 MELTON ROAD, GISBORNE SOUTH, VIC at 10 am.**

**AGENDA:**

1. **Opening: 10.11 am**
2. **Attendance:** K. O'Brien, E. Costa, T. Costa, C. Costa, L. Knell, S. Roach, C. Roach, P. Harris
3. **Apologies:** A. Clare, N. Fraser
4. **New Members:** Stephen and Jennifer Quinn  
**Motion:** That the new member(s) be accepted: E. Costa, Seconded: L. Knell  
**Carried**
5. **Minutes of the Committee Meeting held 24 November 2019**  
**Motion:** That the minutes be accepted: C. Roach, Seconded: L. Knell  
**Carried**
6. **Business Arising from the Minutes**
  1. Champ Show – The Champ Show in 2020 is to be at Bulla Exhibition Centre, Bulla on Sunday 31 May 2020. Waiting on confirmation of judge. To start at 10 am. Morning tea to be provided to be organised by C. Roach. Present for judge, Gold Class movie tickets? Present for Steward yet to be decided. BBQ/Gathering at 12 noon after the show. S. Roach to contact Chris and Stefan Biesiekierski about trophies. L. Knell to contact Yvonne Dunbar about a company that are willing to supply dog food bags as prizes. Other possible prizes put forward – a photographic portrait of the Best In Show Dog by photographer Simone Panepinto, engraved vases. C. Roach to be the ticket writer for the show. L. Knell to supply calico bags to be used as show bags for exhibitors with some club merchandise to go in the bags amongst other items of choice. Items to be confirmed closer to the date.
  2. Raffle on Facebook – To be done on Facebook. L. Knell and C. Costa to look into the procedure. 1st prize – portrait by Lesley Rosochodski, 2nd prize – Coffee table book to be designed and put together by P. Harris with the help of Simone Panepinto, 3rd prize Club merchandise.
  3. Bunnings BBQ - Most Bunnings stores use a lottery system and draw out a 'winner', or only accept local organisations. L. Knell to look into Sunbury and Melton as they are close by to Gisborne.

4. Trophy retrieval from L. Van Nunspeet – K. O'Brien sent this letter to the new CE at Dogs Victoria, awaiting a reply.
5. Coffee table book – P. Harris is liaising with Simone Panepinto to produce a copy of this book for sale.
6. Storage of Club documents - K. O'Brien has a portable hard drive on which to store the documents and A. Clare will organise a Dropbox.
7. Dog Lovers Show – K. O'Brien to draw up a roster closer to the date. We have a smaller stand than last year so a maximum of 3 dogs on the stand each day. K. O'Brien to put a call out to members and Facebook members to help on the stand. C. Costa and P. Harris to organise posters. C. Costa to draw up a poster advertising the Champ Show. L. Knell to provide tins to raise revenue for rescue. K. O'Brien to ask Lesley Rosochodski to attend again and offer a raffle prize of a pet portrait.
8. Koroit Irish Festival – Sue and Ron Issacs are kindly making a banner promoting the Club and will be attending with their two dogs. K. O'Brien to put a call out to members and Facebook members to also attend. The organisers will provide us with free tickets and free caravan site if needed.
9. Other Celtic festivals – S. Roach has suggested the Scot's Day Out in Bendigo as a possible event to parade Irish Wolfhounds. He has done so in the past and has asked some members to attend this year on Saturday 29 February. Also suggested was the Portarlinton Festival on the long weekend in June, which is a huge festival. S. Roach to put a call out to members to attend with their dogs.

## 7. Correspondence

### Inwards:

1. Email – Dogs Vic - Non-Member's Levy December 2019
2. Email - Dogs Vic- Kestrel Orr – Booking date and venues for 2020 and 2021 Champ Shows
3. Email - Consumer Affairs – Annual Statement

**Motion:** That the correspondence be accepted: L. Knell, Seconded: S. Roach

**Carried**

### Outwards:

1. Email – Dogs Vic - Non-Member's Levy December 2019 -submitted and paid
2. Email – Dogs Vic – Kestrel Orr- Confirmation of date for 2020
3. Email - Consumer Affairs – Annual Statement Lodged with Consumer Affairs

4. Mail – Dogs Vic – Documents required by Dogs Vic for Annual Statement sent via mail

**Motion:** That the correspondence be accepted: L. Knell, Seconded: S. Roach

**Carried**

**8. Business arising from the Correspondence**

**9. Financial report**

**Motion:** That the financial report be accepted: C. Roach, Seconded: L. Knell

**Carried**

**10. Accounts**

**Motion:** That the accounts be accepted: C. Roach, Seconded: L. Knell

**Carried**

**11. Reports**

1. **Rescue report** – A 5-year-old purebred Irish Wolfhound named Rorschach was rehomed to Club members after K. O'Brien was contacted by the owners. He is doing very well and is settling into his new home. Another Irish Wolfhound named Richard (6 months old) is being 'fostered' by Paul Harris temporarily until another foster career can take over. Richard's owner made contact via the Facebook page, and due to a tragic family circumstance had to leave the country for a few months. It is hoped that Richard's owner can take him back in a few month's time when personal matters settle.

2. **General Fundraising** –

3. **Magazine** –

4. **Website** – Up to date at present.

**Motion:** That the reports be accepted: P. Harris, Seconded: C. Costa

**Carried**

**12. Motions on Notice**

None to report



- 13. General Business:**
- 1. Giant Dogs Picnic Funday** – The Newfoundland Club of Victoria Inc. have a Giant Dogs Picnic Funday on Sunday 19 April 2020 that we and all members are invited to attend. K. O'Brien to advertise to members and Facebook members.
  - 2. Donation from rescue fund for fires** – K. O'Brien to choose where to allocate \$1000 from our rescue fund to aid animals affected by the fires over the last few months.
- 14. Date & location of Next Meeting:**
- Date: Sunday 19 April  
Time: 10 am  
Location: Houndswood, 801 Melton Road, Gisborne South, Vic
- 15. Close of Meeting : 12.13 pm**

Irish Wolfhound Club of Victoria Incorporated  
Incorporation Number: A0028643M  
General Account  
Balance Sheet as of 31/08/2019

2018/2019		2019/2020	
\$	ASSETS	\$	
4,874.13	General Account	4,493.68	15/02/2020
3,323.84	Rescue Fund	3,373.84	15/02/2020
-	Term Deposit	-	
<hr/> 8,197.97		<hr/> 7,867.52	
	<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
	Unearned Income		
34.00	Creditors (unpresented cheques)	34.00	
7,481.64	Retained Income	8,163.97	
682.33	Excess Payments over Reciepts	- 330.45	
<hr/> 8,197.97		<hr/> 7,867.52	
<hr/> -		<hr/> -	

**Irish Wolfhound Club of Victoria Incorporated**  
**Incorporation Number: A0028643M**  
**General Account**  
Profit & Loss Statement 23/11/2019

2018/2019		2019/2020
\$	INCOME	\$
1,027.00	Membership Subscriptions	911.49
537.00	Championship Show	-
175.50	VCA Insurance Levy	272.00
845.13	Merchandise Sales	150.83
970.40	Raffles	-
480.00	Donations	77.50
-	Rescue Fund Donations	50.00
<b>4,035.03</b>		<b>1,461.82</b>
	<b>EXPENSES</b>	
397.00	CU Magazine	204.20
839.15	Championship Show	454.20
-	Club Merchandise	253.67
-	VCA - Room hire	-
-	VCA - Breed Header	-
333.00	VCA - Affiliation	333.00
72.00	VCA - Insurance/Levy	384.00
-	Website	-
130.60	Dept Justice/Corp Affairs	59.20
800.00	Rescue Fund Exp	-
780.95	Other Misc Items	104.00
<b>3,352.70</b>		<b>1,792.27</b>
<b>682.33</b>	<b>NET PROFIT/LOSS</b>	<b>- 330.45</b>

# FINANCIAL REPORT

