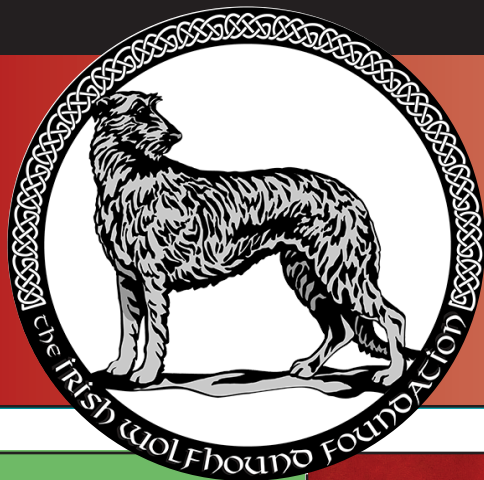


# THE Irish Wolfhound Foundation



# Focus

Winter 2011

## *The Irish Wolfhound Foundation, Inc.*

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The Irish Wolfhound  
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full amount allowed by law.

### *Focus*

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*A Holiday wish for  
your happiness...*

*Good Health,  
Good Friends,  
Good Cheer*

*May you  
enjoy all the  
best there is*

*Throughout the  
coming New Year!*



*Photo by Mary O'Malley*

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# Genetics FAQs

Magret Casal, Dr. med vet, PhD, Dipl. ECAR

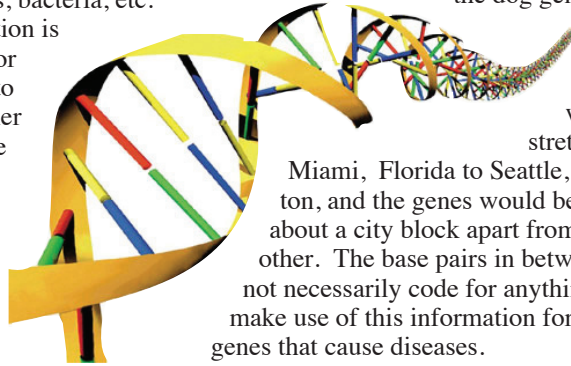
In the following series, we will address frequently asked questions in regard to deciphering the causes of genetic diseases that affect Irish Wolfhounds and other dog breeds. Each issue will cover two to three topics.

## 1) What is the genome?

The genome refers to the complete genetic information present in any individual, be it dog, human, plant, virus, bacteria, etc. In most species, the information is encoded in DNA. In dogs, for example, the genome refers to the dog's entire DNA, whether it codes for a gene or not (see below).

This information is encoded in "nucleotides" or "base pairs", which come in 4 types, abbreviated by letters: A, T, G, and C. The order of the base pairs will determine the final product, similar to an architectural plan. The architectural plan determines what the final product will look like (the house) and the daily functions within (electricity feeding the lights, heater, air conditioning, etc). Each live cell in the body contains this complete architectural plan. The human

genome contains about 3.2 billion base pairs and the dog genome contains about 18% less. But here comes the really interesting thing: There are only about 19,000 genes in the dog genome; each gene coding for an item: hair length, bone growth, digestive enzymes, liver enzymes, brain processes, etc. If you think of the nucleotides as glass beads (four colors representing the four letters) in



the dog genome, the chain of beads would stretch from

Miami, Florida to Seattle, Washington, and the genes would be sitting about a city block apart from each other. The base pairs in between do not necessarily code for anything but we make use of this information for finding genes that cause diseases.

## 2) Why am I asked to submit blood samples instead of cheek swabs for certain diseases?

Both blood samples and cheek swabs are used to collect DNA. The difference is in the quality and especially quantity of DNA that can be obtained. Cheek swabs allow collection of a few cells from the

inside of the dog's cheek. Therefore, the amount of DNA is smaller. Contamination is a common problem with cheek swabs: if it is a nursing puppy and it wasn't removed from its mother for at least 4 hours, there is a possibility that the mother's cells are also on the swabs. Adult dogs that have just been fed before the sample was obtained may contaminate the swabs with bits of DNA from whatever meat was in the food or the food particles may make it difficult to extract the DNA. Cheek swab samples are useful if only a single test needs to be run. Cheek swabs are easy to collect and can be shipped in a regular envelope by mail. Blood samples allow for extraction of much more DNA; the quality is much better; there is no risk of contamination from the mother or food; and there is enough DNA to run multiple tests or to do a new genetic study. The downside is that blood samples generally need to be taken at the vet's office and they must be shipped in special containers.

# Epilepsy in the Irish Wolfhound – An Update

Ninety-six related Irish wolfhounds were chosen several years ago for an initial genome scan. Of these dogs, 30 were affected with idiopathic epilepsy and the rest were clinically normal. Initial scan results were inconclusive but in the meantime, more

sophisticated methods have been developed to examine data. We are currently in the process of reevaluating our data using these new methods with the help of several of the same biostatisticians that developed these computer programs. Our hope is to identify

the least number possible of an additional set of the original dogs to be scanned and to ultimately locate a gene or genes that are linked to epilepsy. We hope to have these results available by the end of the year. Submitted by Margret Casal, Dr. med. vet, PhD, Dipl. ECAR on Spet. 9, 2011



from  
The Irish Wolfhound  
Foundation, Inc.

# Snow Dogs



Photos by Ben Carter

This eye catching snow sculpture is the work of Sue Condzella.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Irish Wolfhound Foundation, Inc.

## Treasurer's Report

Balances are as of 11/30/11

**\$135,255.09 - Regular account**

(includes Research, Rescue, Education, and General/Unrestricted)

**\$90,062.33 - General/Unrestricted Endowment Fund**

**\$17,942.64 - Rescue Endowment Fund**

Disbursements 01/01/11 - 11/30/11 =

**\$23,523.74 - primarily Research progress expenses**

Receipts 01/01/11 - 11/30/11 = **\$36,016.48 - Regular Account**

(Donations, Gift Shop proceeds, Auction)

**\$62,090.00 - General Endowment donations and Bequests**

**\$2,000.00 - Rescue Endowment donations**

# A Word From the President

As president of this fine organization I am pleased to be able to report on another great year. The IWF is moving positively forward in its mission of health, education, and rescue. The IWF has a few new studies that will be starting up after the first of the year, and will be reported on later next spring. One in particular is an osteosarcoma study being done by the Broad Institute. Funding for this grant will be a group effort between the IWF, the Irish Wolfhound Club of America, participating regional IW clubs and individual donations. The IWF will administer the funding and the grant itself; this concept was in part the reason that the Foundation was formed years ago with the 501 (c)(3) tax status that allows all donations to be tax deductible. With that said, funding for this grant is still needed, and I would like to encourage all to support this study through earmarked donations to the IWF.

I would like to thank everyone that has previously donated to the IWF and those who will in the future. The funding of such grants mentioned above depends on it, in turn the health and welfare of our breed benefits from your kindness through your donations. Every penny counts!

Another broken record – Please thank your volunteers! Be it folks that serve on the Board of Directors of our clubs, Show Chairs, and all others that help run the many events throughout the year that you participate in. It's a small gesture that goes a long way. If you don't already, please consider volunteering, help is always needed to produce all the fine events we have nationwide.

On behalf of the Irish Wolfhound Foundation I would like to wish everyone, hounds too, a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a great New Year.

Best Regards,  
Doug Marx



*Happy Holidays*



# Irish Wolfhound Foundation will Sponsor Health Testing in May

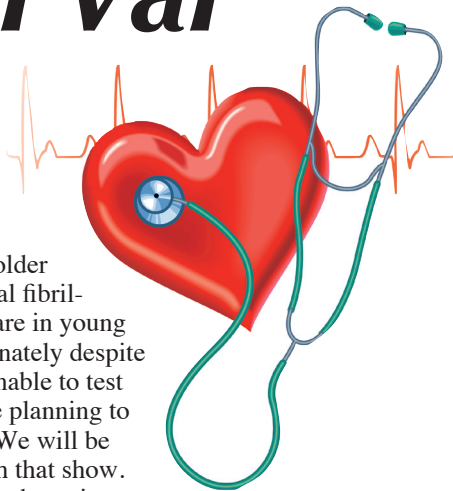


The **Irish Wolfhound Foundation** is sponsoring heart testing on, May 2 & 3 2012 at the 2012 IWCA National Specialty. Tests offered include EKG's, echocardiograms, and blood pressure screening. There will be a limit of 25 hounds per day, and **pre registration is required**. To get an appointment scheduled, please contact Frances Abrams at frances.abrams@att.net, by **April 16, 2012**. All paperwork and payments must be received by Frances before your

appointment will be confirmed. Owners will pay only \$125 per hound, with the balance of the cost being paid by the IWF. All data collected will be used by the Foundation to supply ongoing heart studies. Additional donations to the Foundation are much appreciated and wisely used to fund our mission of Health, Education, & Rescue.

## Hearts Tested at Del Val

We tested 33 dogs in one day, and we were busy most of the day. Happily 25 of those were normal but it is important for people to note that as their dogs get older they are more prone to atrial fibrillation which is relatively rare in young Irish Wolfhounds. Unfortunately despite good intentions we were unable to test at Locust Grove but we are planning to offer testing in St. Louis. We will be charging more starting with that show. At \$125/dog it will still be a bargain compared to the cost of going having it done at a cardiologist's office. Thanks to everyone who participated and to everyone who continues to have their hounds tested. Heart disease is treatable.



Age	Male	Female	Totals
<2	1	0	
2-3 years	3	8	
3-4 years	1	3	
4-5 years	2	3	
5-6 years	3	2	
7-8 years	0	2	
>8 years	0	1	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>33</b>
Normals	11	14	25
Lone AF	1	1	2
DCM	0	3	3
VPCs	0	2	2
Congenital	0	1	1
MR/AI-- incidental findings			12

**Irish Wolfhound Delaware Valley Echo Clinic 2011 Morgantown PA**

## Give the Gift That Keeps on Giving...

An IWF Donation is a great gift idea for "the hard to buy for".  
Designate it In Honor Of or In Memory Of that special person or hound.  
Remember your generosity is tax deductible!  
Use the donation form on page 8.





# 2nd annual Leprechaun Toss



This year the IWADV participated in our 2nd annual Leprechaun Toss. Brought back by popular demand, much fun was had by all who joined in. We raised over \$300.00 this time around with half of the money going to the IW Foundation. It was a close call at the end of the toss so we had a tie breaker take place between Margaret LaRosa and Mark Berry. Thanks to the help of Joe Roland's pitching arm, Margaret was our big winner! Thank you to everyone who participated. We look forward to next year's Leprechaun Toss! *Submitted by Brenda Skalski*



*Photos by Mary O'Malley*



## Sweet Potato Dog Chews

1. Using uniform sized sweet potatoes cut the sweet potatoes lengthwise in uniform slices (no smaller than  $\frac{1}{4}$  ").
2. Place the slices on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
3. Bake in a preheated oven at 250 degrees for three hours, turning half way through.
4. Cool completely on a wire rack

Like the name implies, you will have no trouble getting your dog to try this sweet treat. You can keep the Sweet Potato Dog Chews in the refrigerator for up to 3 weeks or they can be frozen up to 4 months.

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



# Locust Grove Honors Anne Janis

There are many ways in which people make real and lasting impacts on the world of the Irish Wolfhound. Some contribute through their breeding programs, producing dogs that enrich our lives and leave genetic legacies. Some make their marks in the various areas of competition—the show ring, the coursing field, other areas of performance. Some are less visible and their contributions, however large, can go unnoticed, unappreciated by most in our little world. Such a person is Anne Janis. Because she has worked tirelessly and selflessly in support of the health of our breed, Locust Grove honored her at its 2011 week-end.

Early in 1995, several wolfhound fanciers— Sam Ewing, Pam Paloma and Jacky Karpinski— were sitting around talking dogs, and a young dog suddenly went into a grand mal seizure. And there it all began.

People were contacted at the University of Pennsylvania and it was agreed that the university team, headed by Dr. Betsy Dayrell-Hart, a veterinary neurologist, would take on the study of epilepsy in the Irish Wolfhound. Upon request, Anne, aided by several researchers, prepared a questionnaire, to help determine the extent of the problem. Mailed in the fall of 1995, the results showed conclusively that epilepsy was a big enough problem to continue.

The project was handed over to Margret Casal, Dr. Med.Vet., who was finishing her Ph.D. and Anne agreed to do the data and blood collection until she was finished with her degree. Anne had already been providing pedigrees to the university and helping the project in other ways, but the latest addition to her workload was large and lasted nearly two years.

The research team grew along with the study itself: a web site was created and Anne created a report on the IW Seizure Study which was available without cost to breeders and owners of affected hounds, even to those who were not part of the study. All of this needed funding, so several people helped in various ways—sponsoring raffles, advertising in catalogs, offering support to owners—including Deirdre McCarthy, Kathy Cumings, Dawn Fincher, Anne Devletian, Charlotte Collins and others. Due to their efforts, the study was able to donate over \$128,000 to the university to help fund the study.

Because of all of this effort, Dr. Casal's peer-reviewed paper on Epilepsy in the Irish Wolfhound was published in the January/February, 2006 issue of the Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine. SNP chips were run and Professor Paula Henthorn took a sabbatical to read them and the resulting information was sent to Dr. Bustamante to run bioinformatics.

Fourteen years after that first conversation among friends, gene sequencing began and blood sampling and data collection continue. The Irish Wolfhound Studies, renamed to include other disorders on which Dr. Casal & Anne were working, combined with the Irish Wolfhound Foundation and she was given a position on its board and on the research committee.

Anne continues to work for the health of Irish Wolfhounds by developing questionnaires for PCD & recurring pneumonia which



*Photo by Mary O'Malley*  
Pictured is Gretchen Bernardi honoring Anne Janis in October at Locust Grove.

are on the Irish Wolfhound Foundation web site and other tasks needed by the IW Foundation research committee and she provides risk analysis, separate from the studies, for those breeders who choose to us it.

There is no way that we can ever repay Anne for her dedication but we hope that these words will remind her of our gratitude:

**It Is With Heartfelt Gratitude and  
Admiration that Locust Grove Irish  
Wolfhound Association Honors**

**Anne Janis  
For Her Tireless Contribution To The  
Health And Welfare of Irish Wolfhounds  
Here and Around the World.  
Her Work and Dedication, Combined with Her Willingness To Share  
Her Knowledge, Have Been of Enormous Benefit To Breeders,  
All Admirers of the Breed and the Dogs We Love.**

*Thank You, Anne, from All of Us.  
October 15, 2011*

Gretchen Bernardi  
berwyck@ezl.com



## The Irish Wolfhound Foundation gratefully acknowledges contributions from the following supporters

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The Irish Wolfhound Foundation, Inc.

*Focus*

537 Hack man Rd.

Lititz, PA 17543

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



Photo by Mary O' Malley

**THE Irish Wolfhound Foundation**



**You Can Count on US ---- Can We Count on You?**

**With your donations the IWF is taking steps to insure your hounds will have a healthier future.**

Please use my contribution for the following:

Research     Education     Rescue     Wherever it's needed most

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

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**David Milne, Treasurer— 150 Creek Rd— Phillipsburg, NJ 08865**

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