

**Irish Wolfhound Association of the Garden State  
Specialty October 30 & 31, 2005  
Sweepstakes Critique  
Lois J. Thomasson**

It was a great pleasure to be asked to judge the Sweepstakes at the IWAGS Specialty. The show committee, officers, and members are to be commended for the lovely venue, good food, and hospitality. I had an excellent ring Stewart that kept things moving, and the exhibitors accepted their placements in a sporting manner. The worth of critiques is sometimes called into question when the points on the same dog are described by three different breeder-judges as excellent, average and poor, but fanciers seem to enjoy reading the judges' comments and I can only apologize as I am afraid my complete notes were left behind on the aircraft when I asked to change my seat on one stage of the flight home.

The premise of a specialty show dedicated to the Veteran Irish Wolfhound is a grand one, and I was delighted to see the quality and condition of these wonderful Seniors shown to me. I would like to compliment their owners for I know it is no easy task to keep them healthy, happy and fit.

**VETERAN DOGS 6-8 YEARS BRONZE**

1<sup>ST</sup> Ch. Redtops Phantom of the Opera (Wortman)

A lovely hound of excellent shape and make, good head and expression, good hindquarters, still stepping out with enthusiasm, holding his topline on the move.

**Best Veteran in Sweepstakes**

**VETERAN DOG 8-9 YEARS SILVER**

1<sup>ST</sup> Can. Ch. Aotearoa Mangu Mumu (Daley)

Another nice dog, good head and ears, bodied up with good topline and hindquarters, correct hard coat.

**VETERAN BITCHES 6-8 YEARS BRONZE**

This was a class of lovely quality bitches.

1<sup>ST</sup> Ch. O'Lugh's Touched by An Angel (Sula)

Powerful, well-bodied up bitch with strong neck, good head, ears and expression, well-arched loin, who showed her strength on the move.

**Best of Opposite Sex to Best Veteran in Sweepstakes**

**VETERAN BITCHES 8-9 SILVER**

1<sup>ST</sup> Ch. R Noble Anam Cara (Roland)

A quality wheaten of excellent type, lovely head and expression, beautifully bodied up with good hindquarters, sound on the move using her hocks.

## VETERAN BITCHES 9 YEARS AND OVER GOLD

1<sup>ST</sup> Blair's Copper (Hoffman & Conner)

A very typical, sweet bitch, lovely head and expression, nearly ten years old and still holding her topline on the move. I am sure that I was not the only one watching with a lump in my throat when she and her ten and a half year old kennel mate went around the ring.

## PUPPY DOGS 6-9 MONTHS

This class contained a nice group of six month old puppies, obviously litter brothers, whom were very much alike and will in all likelihood be placed differently each time depending on how they are behaving.

1<sup>ST</sup> Carrickaneena Duchas Cu Fleadh (Mascia, Flanagan, and Murphy)

A very mature youngster for his seven months. A pleasing head and expression, dark eye, a bit forward in the shoulder but nice return on his upper arm. Good size. I would like a bit more range to him, but moved out strongly and was the easy winner.

## PUPPY DOGS 9-12 MONTHS

1<sup>ST</sup> Arntara Brave Heart O'Brandywhine (Twee and Marx)

Only nine months but a very tall, well-made youngster. Nice head on well-set neck, good length of bones, nice range and balance to his large frame which with time he needs to grow into. The kind of "raw bone" puppy I like to see at this stage.

## 12-15 MONTHS DOGS

1<sup>ST</sup> Pitlochry's Ypsilon (Benjamin and Marx)

The lone entry, still learning the routine and how to behave on the move. A tall, well-made youngster with good bone, just needs to body up.

## 15-18 MONTHS DOGS

1<sup>ST</sup> Erinwood Rainier (Paloma)

Very handsome and mature for his age of seventeen months. Masculine head with gentle expression. Beautifully bodied up with depth of chest, good front assembly, and strong rearquarters which he made good use of. At this stage head and shoulders above the rest, and I was happy later to see him place Winners Dog in the conformation judging.

**Best in Sweepstakes**

## PUPPY BITCHES 6-9 MONTHS

1<sup>ST</sup> Rosslare's Jane of Ballyhara (Forman)

Only six months but beautifully balanced with a lovely head and sweet expression. Good topline, nice length of bones, excellent head carriage, the look of the classic sighthound. She had a remarkable presence and bearing for her very young age, and moved out with self-assurance and a free, easy stride.

**Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Sweepstakes.**

#### PUPPY BITCHES 9-12 MONTHS

1<sup>ST</sup> Glenamadda Starkeeper U R Zada (Prokopenko and Gagne)

This girl had it all, from her strong head and neck, good front assembly, well-sprung ribs to her powerful loin and quarters. In the end it was between her and the 6-9 winner, both different, both lovely. The older puppy workmanlike; the younger, a timeless classic. I could have taken either home in a heartbeat.

#### 12-15 MONTHS BITCHES

1<sup>ST</sup> Aotearoa Suro Mango Keely (Lee)

The lone entry, nice shape and make. Good head and ears, well bodied up with first-rate hindquarters.

#### 15-18 MONTHS BITCHES

Again, a class of lovely bitches, all of whom had something to offer.

1<sup>ST</sup> Erinwood's Solo Right Out Loud (Owens)

A powerful but feminine, well-made bitch. Good head on a strong neck, excellent topline and sound quarters. Strong on the move, which won her the class over several of her siblings.

It is said that the state of the breed can be determined by the quality of its puppies and veterans, and at IWAGS I found it very promising.