IWHG

winter Winter Edition

Patron: Trudie Sumner

Find us on

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter.

We all hope that 2021 will be a better, more normal year for us all – whatever that normal is ! It is difficult to look back on 2020 without some sadness – many of our followers and IW community have been affected by Covid-19 in some way. People have lost their jobs, their lives disrupted and some have succumbed to the disease.

As we were unable to have our usual round of dog shows last year it has been a welcome distraction to either take part or just watch the on-line version. We are sure you will all agree that Practical Aid for Wolfhounds (PAWS) have done a brilliant job. Getting those all-important pictures of our hounds particularly when handling a baby puppy and getting down to ground level for those important shots isn't that easy for some of us !! Well done the PAWS team.

We have a very interesting article from Pernille Monberg on Joint ill. Not a very common condition but understanding the signs and treatment for this condition is important for us all.

There have been fewer litters during the pandemic than we would normally expect. For puppies that have been born during this time it is vitally important to ensure that they are socialised as much as possible. Tips on how to do that can be found on a download at the end of the Newsletter.

Dog thefts appear to be on the rise all over the country and although we haven't heard of any Irish Wolfhounds being stolen we must all be vigilant.

Wendy Heather has been working with our cardiologists to get some dates in the diary for 2021. More on this later in the Newsletter.

As you are all aware the IWHG is involved with or coordinating various different research projects in Irish Wolfhounds, many are still ongoing and need your help. Take a look at those listed at the end of the Newsletter and if you can please contribute.

Thank you.

We hope you enjoy reading this Edition.

IWHG

In This Issue

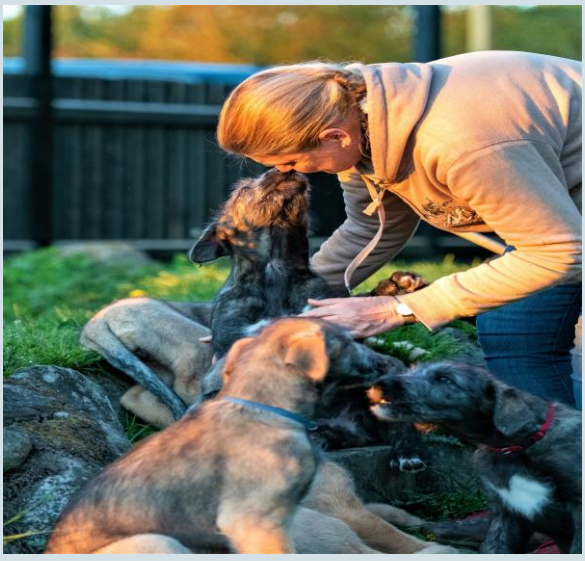
Optimising the process of building adaptive immunity in puppies by Pernille Monberg Mag. Scient

The immune system consists of two entities, which work closely together. All mammals are born with a general immune defence; the innate immune system which is nonspecific.

It is designed for frontline protection against pathogens entering the body through punctures or abrasions, of mucus membranes and skin. It is not particularly effective in fighting the more systemic infections.

For this purpose we have the adaptive, specialised immune system: All newborn mammals need an infusion of maternal antibodies through the colostrum, which the mother produces prior to the actual milk.

These important antibodies are developed by her and activated by specific pathogens, which she has encountered in her environment, including the vaccines given to her.



The amount and quality of the colostrum is the key to a healthy start in life: It contains important building blocks for the digestive system – and subsequently the adaptive immune system. The colostrum is packed with nutrients and immune cells, such as lymphocytes, and a number of antibodies; among them are large Y-shaped proteins called immunoglobulins; IgA, IgG, and IgM, which are essential components of the adaptive immune system.

They fight viruses, bacteria and fungi, which can cause infections. The newborn is only able to absorb the immunoglobulins during the first 24 – 36 hours after birth, during this time the permeability of the neonatal intestine allows absorption of these relatively large proteins. Once the intestine closes off for the larger proteins, the chance is lost forever. However, the colostrum also contains a vast number of essential nutrients, proteins and growth hormones which can be utilized after the initial 24-36 hour period.

What is the connection between colostrum and Joint ill

In this paper I will concentrate on a specific problem which I have encountered in immune-compromised puppies known as; *Joint ill, Navel ill, septic arthritis or Suppurative Polyarthritis,* henceforth referred to as Joint ill.

It is a condition which is primarily described in livestock such as sheep, pigs, cattle and horses. It is a bacterial infection, commonly caused by strains of *Streptococci*, *e-coli* and a number of *Salmonellae,* which affect young individuals, with slight variations for time of onset.

The original understanding was that, the infection was contracted through the newly severed umbilical cord, hence the term “Navel ill” However, it has later been determined that the infections can enter through the docking of tails in lambs, other lesions and may also enter the infant orally. Joint ill is only sporadically recorded in dogs.

The veterinarians, with whom I have conferred, tell me they have seen less than a handful of cases in puppies during the course of their professional lives. I have included 3 examples of Joint ill, which have occurred in my own kennel over the course of 45 years.

For various reasons these 3 puppies were deprived of access to sufficient colostrum at birth. I have chosen to address Joint ill as an example of what can occur in immune compromised dogs, based on my own observations. A compromised adaptive immune system can leave the individual open for a wide array of infections.

In my time as a breeder, I have noted that there is a significant variation in how long the colostrum flows, before it is replaced by the milk. In some bitches it can be as little as 10-12 hours, while others keep the colostrum flowing for the first couple of days.

Litter size and adaptive immunity

In a breed like the Irish wolfhound, where bitches may have 10 or 12 puppies, receiving the immunity boost from the colostrum may be a challenge for the tail end of the litter. In my kennel, I have seen varying litter sizes from 1 puppy to a litter of 16. In large litters, the average time between each puppy born is 1 -1½ hours and even longer towards the end of the delivery.

Most bitches take a 2-3 hour break about half way through delivery, in order to recuperate for the rest of the ordeal. In short, whelping may last 18 -20 hours or more. I have sometimes found myself wondering, if there was any colostrum available for the last born puppies in these large litters.

Out of curiosity, I asked Per Arne Flatberg, of the Irish Wolfhound Database (IWDB) and Irish Wolfhound Longevity Study Database to do a preliminary calculation to see, if there could be a possible correlation between litter size (availability of nutrients) and lifespan (general robustness).

The calculation was done on 11,245 Irish Wolfhounds in the Irish Wolfhound Longevity study (IWLS) database. Excluded are dogs which have died within the 1st year of life. The mean average lifespan in the entire dataset was 87.64 months (7½ years).

It appears that litters consisting of 2-4 puppies live an average of 2-3 months longer than the average 7½ years in the dataset, while dogs from litters with 10 or more puppies live an average of 1-3 months shorter than 7½ in the entire dataset.

A variation of 3-6 months may not seem like much, however, seen in relation to a population which has a mean average lifespan of 7½ years, it could prove significant. This observation needs more detailed investigation, before any final conclusions are drawn.

Veterinarian and gastroenterologist William E. Julien is behind extensive research on colostrum. He points to yet another challenge for the newborn. He and his team have found that, about 30% of mothers in all mammalian species do not produce enough – if any colostrum. (Personal correspondence 2019 – 21).

Julien mentions another interesting factor, which plays a role in how well the suckling thrives generally - and in this case, specifically in the Joint ill cases:

"Contrary to popular belief, the posterior glands do not produce more milk than the anterior ones, they produce less, ergo the expression "sucking hind teat". Although they appear to be bigger, which they are, as they sometimes actually are joined together, and the puppies latch on to them for what appears to be dear life, their persistence when put here is really a function of frustration. The anterior glands, closer to the heart are also snuggled up against the rib cage, which influences their structure. In some work we did, I milked over 50 sows, which is no fun. Sows are anatomically almost identical to dogs and this is always the end result. We have also milked bitches and the same thing was observed." (W.E. Julien, 2021, personal correspondence)

I asked Julien; "It is interesting that the anterior glands produce better colostrum than the posterior glands, is the colostrum simply more diluted in the posterior glands?" To which he replied:

"No, actually it is missing some key components. There are 8 proteins that are involved in neonatal innate immunity. For some reason, these posterior glands do not synthesize them as well as the anterior glands.

This is true in all mammals that have multiple glands. In pigs, the old adage "sucking hind teat, has real meaning. Piglets that are socially forced to use these glands never do as well as their litter mates, who are more aggressive and win the fight for the anterior spigots at the bar."(ibid)

The quality of colostrum is a determining factor for the building of a healthy gut-biome and necessary immunity. If raising large litters, it may be prudent to apply a rotation of the puppies at the 'milk bar' to ensure equal access to the best colostrum and subsequently the regular milk.

If a bitch has an emergency C-section and perhaps emergency spay, this can influence the availability of sufficient colostrum, the following milk production and finally it can impair the general maternal care. I never allow veterinarians to spay the bitch, in connection with a C-section, out of convenience – even though the question is almost inevitably posed by the surgeon.

Colostrum replacement

Some experienced breeders keep frozen dog plasma in case a bitch dies or fails to produce sufficient colostrum. The plasma contains important antibodies and essential nutrients, which can be administered orally as a colostrum replacer.

A study done on calves shows that, although the plasma does not completely compare to actual maternal colostrum, it is better than nothing. (D. Priestly et.al. 2013). Canine plasma is the best available alternative for dogs, in case the bitch dies or fails to produce colostrum. It is a good idea to keep a portion in the freezer in preparation for an upcoming litter.

In the later years we have seen a variety of commercial colostrum products appear on the market. Although they may have numerous beneficial components for building a healthy gut lining and environment for the gut-biome, these products can never replace the essential colostrum needed for newborn puppies. The commercial colostrum products are made from bovine colostrum, and therefore lack the specific antibodies needed for neonatal puppies.

Three cases of Joint ill

Failure in getting sufficient colostrum is a major key to many serious infections in young puppies; Joint ill being one of them.

It is my impression that few breeders are familiar with Joint ill in puppies, or may have lost puppies, without realizing what they were dealing with. I have experienced 3 cases of Joint ill in my kennel; two cases were neonatal puppies between 5 and 7 days of age and one was about 9 weeks old.

Schubert:
My first case was from a litter delivered by C-section. The bitch had delivered her first litter of 8 puppies in a record time of 5½ hours; she was chosen as a good candidate for a costly frozen semen adventure. On her due date, she had complete inertia. She was fully dilated but failed to have contractions and ended up having an emergency C-section performed by an inexperienced vet. It was a holiday and she was the only one on call.

While she was stitching up the incision, an extra puppy, Schubert, slid out through the birth canal and landed on a pile of soaked towels on the floor. The little guy had a rough start; we struggled to get him going, but succeeded at last. He was slow to suckle, but finally caught on, and seemed to pick up.

At the age of about 8 or 9 weeks, Schubert came in from the yard on 3 legs. He had, what felt like a haematoma above the left hip-joint. This time all the trusted veterinarians were on summer holiday. My sister's horse vet was on call; she X-rayed him and concluded that it looked like a haematoma. He was put on NSAIDs for 3 days.

On the 4th day he developed a high fever and was considerably worse, his left elbow and paw were also swollen. He was put on Amoxicillin/clavulanic acid, which dropped his temperature back to normal in a day, but the swelling persisted a bit longer. He simply had a wandering infection. This was the first time I ever heard of Joint ill.

Because the infection had been untreated for several days, the initial damage to the joints seemed significant. He had a recovery time of almost a year. I made padded braces for his forelimbs, which he wore in the daytime as support.


Schubert wearing his leg brace


Schubert - Secondary damage from Joint ill


Schubert - Almost a full recovery

Mozart:
6 years later I experienced Joint ill for the second time – in spite of the first experience, I didn't realise right away, what I was dealing with.

A very young puppy out of a litter of 14 (16 born) became listless, dehydrated and was running a fever at about the age or 5-7 days. I rushed to the veterinarian, where we discovered that he had swelling of stifle and hock joint. He was also put on Amoxicillin/Clavulanic acid and the condition was resolved within a few days.

I thought nothing more of it. He grew normally and moved soundly, so much so that a delegation of UK breeders, visiting when the litter was close to 8 weeks, picked this puppy as their favourite mover in the entire litter. He went to his new home, where he turned up painfully lame on a hind leg just a few months after his arrival. X-rays showed that his hip joint was severely degenerated.

Irish Wolfhounds go through explosive growth during their first 6-7 months of life, my only explanation is that he must have been able to manage without problems until his increasing bodyweight became too much for the compromised joint. Sadly he was put to sleep.

Gideon:
Another 4 years went by and a puppy of 4 or 5 days old seemed listless; he was dehydrated and had a slightly elevated temperature. He was rehydrated and picked up a bit, but temperature remained elevated. I discovered that his stifle joint was draining pus from two puncture like wounds. It was swollen, keeping him from standing up and pushing while suckling like his littermates. This time I knew what I was dealing with, I consulted my veterinarian who prescribed Clavamox immediately. The puppy picked up within 24 hours, still reluctant to use his hind leg. I had learned from experience that successful healing of joint injuries of any kind is heavily dependent on keeping inflammation down.

Wolfhounds are generally sensitive to Non Steroid Anti Inflammatory drugs NSAIDs, so using this as a long term treatment of a neonatal puppy was completely out of the question. I chose to use a homeopathic remedy called Traumeel, which has amazing anti-nflammatory properties.
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4231442/

I used it in the form of a gel, which I rubbed on the stifle joint 2-3 times a day. He seemed to recover, although the left stifle joint remained significantly thicker (hard – not soft swelling) than in the unaffected right leg. Gideon seemed to get better, and was able to live a normal life with the rest of the litter for the first 8 weeks. As he grew heavier, however; his stifle joint started to give him problems. He was kept separate from his rambunctious siblings, to avoid further trauma and inflammation of the joint.

He was put on turmeric paste, rosehip powder and a continued topical treatment with Traumeel gel. We X-rayed him at 12 weeks.

It did not look good, but Gideon seemed to thrive in spite of a slight limp.

He was X-rayed again at about 4½ -5 months and finally at 6 months

X-rays were sent to one of our leading orthopaedic surgeons. His first reaction to the X-rays was; 'shoot the dog' - but luckily he went back and took a second look, called me, and asked if he could see the dog.

He was quite amazed that Gideon had no pain. His limping was purely mechanical; the bowed femur had shortened his leg in comparison to the other leg. The orthopaedic surgeon also gave me some very useful advice. “Don't ‘wrap him in cotton wool’, he needs to be challenged on varied surfaces and terrain, take him on the walks with the other dogs, he can most likely manage it by now, if you start him out carefully” he said.

I had clearly been too protective of him. He soon managed normal activity levels, such as the hour long walks in the woods, while spending home time romping and playing like the others. I am convinced that keeping inflammation down helped him cope while undergoing the most explosive growth.

His last X-ray was taken at the age of 2½ years and shows a persisting osteoarthritis in the stifle joint, however it appears that a ‘capsule’ of scar tissue surrounding the joint has given it an added stability.

Gideon has recovered from joint ill and is completely pain free but has a mechanical limp; his left femur is bowed, so practically his hind leg is shorter.

To sum up; as many breeders strive at breeding for healthier and more robust dogs, there is now a huge understanding of the importance of genetics. However, in the dog world there is a tendency to forget or downplay the importance of management – especially the fact that in many cases genetics and environment are factors working in unison, when bringing certain defects or diseases to expression.

Although Joint ill is an opportunistic infection, which is expressed if lack of colostrum causes the puppy to be immune-compromised, there may be an underlying genetic predisposition in the bitch, for the amount and quality of the colostrum she produces. Nonetheless, early management and care for the bitch and her newborn may play a much larger role in the future health and robustness of the puppies than commonly understood.

References:

Farm health online (no author provided)
https://www.farmhealthonline.com/disease-management/sheep-diseases/joint-ill-sheep/
(Accessed, 02-02-2021)

Grierson, James
INFECTIVE ARTHRITIS: DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES
The website for the veterinary profession
https://www.vettimes.co.uk
Published online 2011, September 5, (accessed 15-02-2021)

Hurley ,Walter L. [1,*] and Peter K. Theil[2]
"Perspectives on Immunoglobulins in Colostrum and Milk"
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3257684/
Published online 2011 Apr 14. (Accessed, 20-02-2021)

IWDB (Irish Wolfhound Database)
https://iwdb.org/

IWLS DB (Irish Wolfhound Longevity Study Database)
No open access

Julien, W.E
Private conversation on Joint Ill and Colostrum
February, 2021

Priestley,D. ,* J. H. Bittar ,* L. Ibarbia ,* C. A. Risco ,* and K. N. Galvão *†1 *
"Effect of feeding maternal colostrum or plasma-derived or colostrums-derived replacer on passive transfer of immunity, health, and performance of pre-weaning heifer calves."
© American Dairy Science Association®, Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, and † D. H. Barron Reproductive and Perinatal Biology Research Program, University of Florida, Gainesville 32610
Published online 2013 (accessed 15-02-2021)

Kumpanart Soontornvipart (Chulalongkorn University)

Septic Arthritis in Dogs: A Retrospective Study of 20 Cases (2000-2002)

Published online September 2003 (Accessed 12-02-2021)

Acta Veterinaria Brno 72(3):405-413

Heart Screening Update - Wendy Heather

The Irish Wolfhound Health Group are hoping to restart heart screening sessions from late Spring 2021. Provisional dates will be announced shortly and we hope that as the Covid-19 restrictions begin to relax we can resume our heart screening in line with government guidelines.

For 2021, we are pleased to announce that the two hound per owner limit has been relaxed. Hounds aged eight years and over will still be subsidised by the Health Group for their first screen in 2021. We are delighted that the Irish Wolfhound Club have agreed to cover half the fee for a second screen of hounds aged eight years and over.

Bookings will continue to be done online through the Irish Wolfhound Health Group website.

This includes payments to be completed via bank transfers after receipt of invoice.

A price increase to £75.00 per hound aged under eight years of age has been set for 2021.

Heart Screening Bookings - If you wish to be informed when sessions open for booking or to be added to the cancellation list of a fully booked session please contact Anne Vaudin - hearttestbooking@iwhealthgroup.co.uk

Bookings are ONLY accepted using our online booking form which you can access via the IWHG website.

Private Screenings - If you wish your wolfhound to be screened before sessions recommence please click here for a list of cardiologists who are members of the Veterinary Cardiovascular Society and can provide screening privately.

Treasurers Report - Steven Ritchie

2020 was a very unusual year and we would like to say an extra special thank you to our fundraisers who once again did an amazing job in difficult circumstances.

Mandy Addington and members of the Irish Wolfhound Community group raised the magnificent sum of **£1,000** in January 2020 from the sale of Christmas cards and 2020 calendars and **£560** from the February 2020 raffle, and a further **£1,350** in December 2020 from the sale of Christmas cards and 2021 calendars, so a huge thank you for these fantastic donations.

In 2020 easy-fundraising raised **£672** from those of you who have signed up on the easy-fundraising website and clicked on the donation button when shopping online. With more online shopping at the moment, this is a great opportunity for more of us to raise funds for the IWHG and its simple, easy and free to do - just click on the following link to sign up https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/iwhg/

We would also like to thank once again those who give by standing order, we are very grateful for your regular monthly giving.

In the first quarter of 2021 Mandy Addington made a further donation of **£1,010** from the Irish Wolfhound Community March 2021 raffle, another amazing achievement.

We also received some generous personal donations in the early part of 2021 which we are very thankful for.

We know these are difficult times and we would like to express our gratitude to everyone who raises funds for the group - no matter how big or small - as every penny is very much appreciated.

How Can You Contribute to Health Research in Irish Wolfhounds?

Dr Maura Lyons, PhD, IWHG Research Co-ordinator

The IWHG is involved with or coordinating various different research projects in Irish Wolfhounds, many are still ongoing and need your help. This is a list of the current projects. Take a read through the following list and see if you and your hound can help contribute to research helping to maintain and improve the health status of the breed.

Nottingham University Osteosarcoma Longitudinal Project – Dr Mark Dunning

We have around 900 wolfhounds recruited for this study and currently NVS have said they don't need any further swabs. For those dogs already swabbed for this project **please remember to complete the health update surveys annually.**

http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/nottingham-university.html

For anyone who has experienced bone cancer in their dogs in the past, whether the dog was swabbed or not, there is a Treatment Survey to determine which treatments are offered by primary care vets and which are most successful. There are also two further surveys, one for wolfhound owners who have decided to amputate for reasons other than osteosarcoma and also owners who have never experienced either amputation or osteosarcoma.

Survey 1 – please complete this survey if you have experience of amputation in your wolfhound but it was for a reason other than bone cancer: http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/IW-amputation

Survey 2 – Please complete this survey if you have never experienced either bone cancer/osteosarcoma or amputation in your wolfhound: http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/canine_amputation1

If your swabbed wolfhound gets a confirmed diagnosis of bone cancer

Whilst it is hoped that no wolfhound ever suffers from bone cancer again, if your dog is swabbed and gets a confirmed diagnosis of bone cancer, please get in touch with Mark to see how you can help. This is a large project with many angles and full details can be found on the webpage link above.

Nottingham Heart Disease Research – Prof. Malcolm Cobb and Dr Serena Brownlie-Sykes

By taking part in the IWHG Regional Heart Testing scheme you are contributing to this ongoing project, possibly the longest running veterinary research project ever! The results of your wolfhound's heart screening are recorded in the database and used by the team at Nottingham University to unravel the specifics of wolfhound heart disease. To book a slot and contribute to this valuable research whilst also looking after your own dogs heart please find a session closest to you and get in touch with Anne Vaudin. http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/dates-and-locations-.html

Nottingham Pneumonia Study – Dr Angela Bodey & Dr Mark Dunning

If your wolfhound has ever experienced pneumonia or any other type of respiratory disease or any type of nasal disease (snotty nose) we are collecting case studies so that our researchers may evaluate the most effective treatments and devise a recommended treatment protocol. We are very aware that wolfhounds are still dying of pneumonia, so please do all you can to help out, if you experience pneumonia with your wolfhound fill out the survey and let Angela know what treatment your dog received and what the outcome was. Please see all details and fill out the survey; http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/pneumonia.html

FCE "Puppy Paralysis" Research – Caroline Sheppard

Irish Wolfhounds appear to suffer from a unique form of FCE, one which affects them in puppyhood, which is why this condition is also known as puppy paralysis. It is hoped that by studying the experience of wolfhounds affected by FCE, this research could determine what causes it and the most appropriate treatment for a favourable outcome. Ellen Kroll has written a comprehensive article about FCE which is available on our webpage. If your wolfhound has experienced any form of puppy paralysis or FCE please fill out the survey.
www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/puppy-paralysis.html

Livershunt/Epilepsy & PRA Reporting Survey – Dr Maura Lyons

This is a simple form to record incidences of Liver shunt, Epilepsy and PRA. This enables the IWHG to monitor the prevalence of these diseases within the IW population. If you have experienced these conditions in your wolfhound, please fill out the survey with your experiences. http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/liver-shunt.html

Dentition Survey – Caroline Sheppard

Caroline has been collecting examples of jaw growth in wolfhound puppies in order to provide evidence concerning the eventual alignment of teeth in the adult wolfhound. The IW is on the KC Breed Watch list for instances of misaligned canines, the IWHG feel that if this is seen in a growing puppy there is every chance the condition could correct itself – either if left or with some targeted therapy. If you have experienced puppies with teeth issues, please contact Caroline to share your experiences. http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/about-the-study.html

Veteran Survey – Caroline Sheppard

The IWHG would like to hear about your veteran wolfhounds. If you have a wolfhound that has lived to over 7 years then please fill out the questionnaire. It includes details about lifestyle and environment in order to see if there is a correlation between any of these factors and longevity in wolfhounds. You can find the details and a link to the survey on the webpage:
http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/iwhg-veteran-study.html

NVS Bloat Incidence Survey – Matthew Keane

Study investigating the factors influencing bloating and the development and outcome of GDV in Irish Wolfhounds in the UK. This project is based on owner reported incidences of bloat and GDV in their wolfhounds and comparison to dogs unaffected by bloating. Please complete the survey here…
http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/health-surveys.html

Megaesophagus (ME) In Puppies –

Although it is not believed that this condition is particularly common in the breed in comparison to other issues which affect our puppies i.e. Livershunt and FCE, there is sufficient interest to have generated an opportunity for research with Professor Jared Jaffey at Midwestern University College of Veterinary Medicine. It would be appreciated if anyone who has experienced ME in a puppy could contact Prof. Jaffey and provide details in order that an indication of frequency might be obtained. If anyone has an affected puppy being managed by diet, and would be prepared to submit a blood sample for the ongoing genetic research, again please contact Prof Jaffey and he will send instructions to your vet regarding preparation of the sample.
Contact details are Jared Jaffey DVM, MS, DACVIM (SAIM),
Assistant Professor, Midwestern University College of Veterinary Medicine. Email : jjaffe@midwestern.edu

BetterBred Genetic Diversity Project – Dr Maura Lyons

This project is designed to establish the genetic diversity of our breed, which in turn could help us maintain genetic diversity in the future by identifying dogs that carry less common genes, and avoiding future bottlenecks.
We believe this could be a very important project given that we know our breed has a limited gene pool, but to what extent is unclear. The diversity test when complete, will offer a breeder one more tool in their quest to breed healthy typical sound hounds.

If you would like to add your dog to the study, If you would like to add your dog to the programme, the price of a test is currently held at $50 and can be obtained HERE.

Congenital Blindness Survey – Jean Timmins

From time to time we hear of a puppy who was blind or had some degree of sight loss from birth. It does not appear to be something that is particularly common, but we would really appreciate hearing from anyone who has experienced congenital blindness in puppies, and hear what diagnosis they were given and also how they and the hound coped living with the condition to allow a full and active life.
http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/health-surveys.html

Quick Links to Surveys -

PNEUMONIA
PUPPY PARALYSIS - Fibrocartilaginous embolism (FCE)
BONE CANCER TREATMENT – (Osteosarcoma)
BLOAT - Gastric Dilatation/Volvulus (GDV)
DENTITION
LIVERSHUNT/PRA/EPILEPSY
VETERAN

THANK YOU!

To stay in touch with everything health-wise: Please sign up for notifications of announcements on our website here, http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/home.html

Publications & Guides

DOWNLOAD FROM THE WEBSITE HERE

Guide to Buying an Irish Wolfhound Puppy
Breed Guide - Introducing your new Irish Wolfhound
Guide to anaesthesia
Neutering factsheet
Bloat (gastric dilatation volvulus, GDV)
Puppy paralysis (fibrocartilaginous embolism, FCE)
Heart disease (dilated cardiomyopathy, atrial fibrillation)
Megaesophagus
Pneumonia for owners
Pneumonia for vets
Progressive retinal atrophy (PRA)
Dentition Guide
Heart Testing Sessions Current Dates and Locations Available here
Heart Test Booking Form to book a session – click here
Livershunt Testing Forms

Useful Downloads

Covid-19 and Dogs

https://www.bluecross.org.uk/pet-advice/coronavirus-and-dogs

Socialising dogs during lockdown

How to socialise new puppies during the coronavirus pandemic - RSPCA

The Irish Wolfhound Database is a free to use database of all Irish Wolfhounds of which its estimated around 98% of all hounds ever registered are in the database. The database is valuable to breeders but also of great importance to researchers that have projects involving the Wolfhound, providing them with a huge resource and pool of information to use and support their work.

How can you help?

You can help by entering cause and age of death for all of the Wolfhounds you have owned and which you have accurate information for.

Email information directly here

Contacts ..

Chair	Jean Timmins	chairman@iwhealthgroup.co.uk
Secretary :	Wendy Reeves	secretary@iwhealthgroup.co.uk
Treasurer :	Steven Ritchie	treasurer@iwhealthgroup.co.uk

Research Co-ordinator:
Maura Lyons
researchcoordinator@iwhealthgroup.co.uk

Heart Test Co-ordinator:
: Wendy Heather
hearttestcoordinator@iwhealthgroup.co.uk

Heart Test Booking:
Anne Vaudin
hearttestbooking@iwhealthgroup.co.uk

Consultant Veterinary Surgeon:
Ian Finney MRCVS

Health Group Website

Find us on facebook
Irish Wolfhound Health Group
Join the discussion

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

IWHG

Any views, thoughts, and opinions expressed in the text herein belong solely to the author, and not necessarily to members of the IW Heath Group.