

# **Irish Wolfhound Association of New England**

## **Specialty Show, 2013**

### **Judge's Critique**

Judge Donna Brown

It was a great pleasure for me to judge the 2013 IWANE Specialty. The Show Chair, Jodi Burnham, and her committee did an excellent job, attending to all the details that help make the show a pleasant experience for the judge, hounds, exhibitors, and spectators. Judges' Hospitality Chairs Dick and Jane Staudt were exceptional at keeping me comfortable, fed, entertained, and conveyed to wherever I needed to be, with great warmth and humor. Many thanks to my very capable and efficient Chief Ring Steward, Marc Campbell, and Assistant Ring Stewards Robert Ireland and Tom Reilley, kept the ring procedure flowing smoothly and were so pleasant to work with. Good ring stewards can make such a difference to a judge and to the entire show!

The hounds and exhibitors coped well with the hot conditions, though the heat did take a toll on some of the hounds. I was impressed with the overall quality of the hounds, and also with the fact that almost all of them were in good condition and weight. Many were in exceptional condition as far as musculature. Temperaments were also very good, and even though some puppies and youngsters might have been less than fully cooperative, they were only misbehaving, none gave me the impression that they were truly shy.

I did see some lovely upper arms, but many short and upright ones. More disturbing were a few upright pasterns, almost to the point of knuckling over. Movement was generally good, but a few showed an almost deerhound-like lift in front. In fact, there were a few whose shape, size and bone were more reminiscent of a deerhound than a wolfhound, something breeders might want to note for the future. Just a word about feet, although I was pleased to see some good round feet, feet can be too small and toes too truncated for the size of the hound.

My winners embodied the strong, graceful, powerfully moving hounds that the Standard describes. Thank you so much for allowing me the privilege of evaluating your hounds.

**Puppy Dog 6-9. This was a really nice class.**

1. This is a tall, shapely, long-legged hound with lovely long neck that sets well into his withers. He has a lot of maturing to do, but has good spring of rib for his age, an adequate upper arm, good spring of rib, and a good topline. Lovely head with well-rosed ears and nice dark eyes. He has good width between his hipbones, and a strong powerful rear.
2. This puppy is another tall long-legged fellow with a lovely shape and outline, also a beautiful head and expression, lovely dark eyes, very nice ears, nice curve to hindquarters. He moved soundly and well, and has good tail set and carriage. Littermate to #3 and #4.
3. This was also a very nice puppy. He moved soundly and well, has good ears, dark eyes, good bone, hard coat, good rib spring. Another to watch for in the future.
4. This was another puppy with good bone, lovely shape, lovely ears, good long neck, good ribspring, and a nice croup. He was perhaps a bit less mature than his brothers at this point, but also one to watch for in the future.

## **Puppy Dog 9-12**

1. He had lovely movement with lots of scope, reach and drive. He had good width of rear, Good coat texture, and lovely ears. His eyes could be a bit darker.
2. At this point, this puppy does not have the maturity of # 1. Although he has a good temperament, he was not as cooperative today as his owner might prefer. He has a very hard, crisp coat. His eyes could be darker.

## **Novice Dog**

1. This is a strikingly handsome black dog with lots of presence. He has a good shape and strong movement. I like the way his neck flows into his withers. He has a pleasing topline, and nice ears, though his eyes could be a little darker. He has good width over the loin, very nice return of upper arm, and good feet. He has muscular curved hindquarters. He just needs to settle into himself a bit.
2. This hound also needs time to settle into himself, but he has strong hindquarters, good tail set and carriage, and true movement in front.

## **Bred-by Dog**

1. This handsome substantial hound has excellent bone and substance, a truly commanding appearance with plenty of masculinity, along with good shape, depth, and breadth, and powerful movement.
2. This hound has a lovely shape with exceptionally good upper arm and front assembly, beautiful movement, good ribspring, and strong hindquarters.
3. This hound has great presence, and incredible muscle throughout. He feels like a rock under your hand. He has a pleasing shape and lovely athletic movement, holding his shape well on the move. He is a very promising hound.
4. This very handsome hound also has great presence, and phenomenal condition. He has a very deep chest, and very tight feet, though he is a bit straight in the pastern, and I might prefer slightly darker eyes and more frequently rosed ears.

## **American Bred Dogs**

1. He has an excellent shoulder and upper arm assembly, and a lovely shape which he kept on the move, showing great athleticism and power. He also has nicely rosed ears.
2. This hound also has a lovely shape which he kept on the move. Although his movement was correct and athletic, today he did not have quite the smoothness of #1, and his eyes could be a little darker.
3. He has a nice shape which he kept on the move, and he moved soundly with good strong hindquarters. He does not have quite as good a front assembly as #1, and his slightly large and flat ears are not his fortune.
4. He is in good condition, masculine, has a lovely head and expression, and good ears. However he was not cooperating on the move, and had a little more lift in front than we might prefer.

## **Open Dog**

This was a very tough decision between 1 & 2. Both were typical, strong, shapely, masculine hounds with lovely shapes they kept on the move. Both were in terrific condition.

1. He is not exaggerated anywhere, very balanced, with lovely, powerful correct movement,

looking every inch a wolf-hunting hound. He has type, curves, and soundness. Today he was just a little more harmonious in his movement.

2. He has just a little more width and substance than #1, and is also typical, strong, shapely, and masculine, and moved very well.

3. This hound is slightly straighter in front than the first two, especially in upper arm, though he had strength and athleticism and was very handsome. Ears were a tad flat.

4. This boy was shapely, handsome, and good moving, however his chances for a higher placement were spoiled today by his exuberant tail carriage. Perhaps with maturity will come a more temperate view of life which may be reflected in a more seemly tail carriage. However, it was nice to see such a happy and enthusiastic hound, especially on a very warm day.

### **Veteran Dog.**

It was a great pleasure to see such high-quality older gentlemen in such fine condition.

1. This very handsome, masculine fellow has beautiful type, lovely movement, and is in very good condition.

2. This hound pushed #1 hard. He is also in excellent muscle and condition, and has a lovely shape which he held well on the move. He has a particularly good front assembly, with well set shoulders and good length and set of upper arm. He has a good underline as well.

3. This hound is also very handsome, with good muscle and condition for his age.

4. He has a lovely head, ears, and expression, and a very nice upper arm.

### **Veteran Bitch**

1. She is a magnificent bitch who exudes quality, type, and strength. She has a gorgeous shape which she holds on the move. She has great bone, a correct topline and underline, and good shoulders and upper arm. She also has an exquisite head, expression, ears and eyes. It was a pleasure to see such a quality bitch.

2. This lovely bitch pushed the winner hard. She has excellent muscular development, especially in the hindquarters, and is in overall excellent condition. She has a very appealing head and expression.

3. This beautiful bitch is also in excellent condition, which is a credit to her owner. She has

good bone and shape and strong hindquarters.

4. She is a very balanced bitch of the right shape. She has beautiful tiny little rose ears, and lovely dark eyes.

### **Puppy Bitch 6-9.**

Very nice class.

1. She is a beautiful shapely puppy, with a lovely long neck flowing into her withers, strong hindquarters, and powerful, smooth, elastic movement. What a scopey, seductive puppy!

2. She also has a lovely shape, and good shoulders. She has lovely flowing movement when she settles, although she is not cooperating with her handler as much as she might have today.

3. Another shapely puppy, with good length and strength of hindquarters. She has a beautiful head and expression and good ears, a long neck and good length of body. She is a large scopey girl who will take some time to mature, but a future star.

4. This puppy has a very strong second thigh and hindquarters, and a good overall shape.

### **Puppy Bitch 9-12.**

Two beautiful puppies!

1. Best Puppy. She is curvey, with smooth flowing lines, scopey, reachy, elastic movement, and strong hindquarters. She has a lovely head and expression.

2. This puppy has extremely good movement, a good front assembly, nice neck, good head and expression. She is a bit less mature than #1, but both are really high quality puppies.

### **15-18 month Bitches**

1. She has a lovely front, long strong neck, well set shoulder, very good movement, correct topline, and good power in the hindquarters. She has flowing lines, and a beautiful head and expression.

2. This youngster moved well, has a beautiful front assembly, and a good coat. She is a little upright in the pasterns and has slightly flat ears.

## **Novice Bitch**

1. She is a beautiful bitch, with lovely lines, and moved beautifully and athletically. She has a lovely upper arm and shoulder, and good breadth across the hindquarters.
2. This bitch is strong and very muscular, with a long neck, and good breadth in the hindquarters, and she has nice ears. She is a little more upright in the upper arm than #1.
3. This bitch is smaller than some, but she is very typey, with lovely little ears. She moved athletically and held her correct shape on the move.
4. Right now she looks a bit less mature than those above, she has not developed her full musculature yet, but she moved well. She has a nice shape, and lovely rose ears, just needs a little more time to mature.

## **Bred-By Exhibitor Bitch**

1. This is a strong, striking, upstanding bitch, with powerful correct movement. She has a lovely head with dark eyes.
2. This is a truly beautiful bitch, a bit taller than #1, with a long strong neck that flows beautifully into her withers. Her shape, topline, and underline are wonderful. She has a beautiful head and expression. Her movement was also powerful and correct, but #1 out-moved her just a bit today in terms of fluidity and power.
3. This bitch was extremely strong and athletic, with wonderful hindquarters and condition. She has very good shoulders and ribspring, and moved very well. She has a gorgeous head and neck.
4. This bitch was in terrific condition and had excellent muscle development. She moved very well, holding her moderate shape on the move. She had beautiful high set rosed ears. She was not quite as mature looking as those above her today.

## **American Bred Bitch**

1. This was a stunning bitch, beautiful shape and curves which she kept on the move, lovely upper arm, plenty of bone and substance, beautiful head and expression. She has good coat, and lots of muscle.
2. She moved very well, great condition, good shape and topline. Her front was just a little

straighter than #1.

3. She had a nice shape, good movement, lovely ears and expression. She could use a little more bone, especially in the forelegs.

4. She is a lovely bitch, but just let down a little in movement today.

## **Open Bitch**

1. What an outstanding bitch. She has a lovely upper arm, has powerful, athletic movement, and holds her beautiful shape well on the move. She is not finished maturing yet.

2. She is a curvey, muscular, beautiful bitch. She has very good movement, a beautiful front, and lovely head and ears. She pressed #1 hard for the win.

3. This bitch was in good condition, and moved very well. She has a good head and lovely ears.

4. This bitch was not quite as rangey or long-legged as those above her, but has good bone and substance. She moved well and kept her shape on the move, and Has lovely rosed ears.

WB and BOB was the American bred. She has exquisite type, bone, great size, presence, and powerful, harmonious movement.

RWB the Open Bitch, she was outstanding, extremely athletic, and looks like she could hunt wolves all day long.

BOS. This magnificent wheaten dog has power, muscle, shape, condition, and the most lovely head and expression.

Select Dog- excellent curvy muscular rear end, good bone and shape, and tight feet.

Select Bitch- the Veteran Bitch, who is so worthy, but unfortunately the heat of the day affected her.

AOM - this bitch has such a pleasing shape, great curves, lovely movement, and a beautiful neck and head.

AOM - What a stallion of a hound! He has a excellent hindquarters, and tremendous bone and substance. He is shapely and moves very well, with great power.