



**Owner obligations and responsibilities** In the partnership with the chosen breeder, care and obligations include providing quality food, access to clean water, a clean environment, access to safe, sustainable exercise so that the dog can properly develop physically, (wolfhounds are a galloping breed), veterinary care, and a willingness to communicate with the breeder in good times and in bad. ([www.iwclubofamerica.org/puppy-exercise](http://www.iwclubofamerica.org/puppy-exercise))

**Key Relationships: Owner, Breeder, Veterinarian** Your breeder and your vet are your first calls in a health emergency. Asking if you need to see a vet is a question for your vet and the breeder. Don't wait for your Facebook community to tell you what to do!

**New owner directives:** Learn how to care for an Irish Wolfhound throughout its lifetime with input from the breeder, your veterinarian and a supportive IW Community. Care is based on aging and health issues.

**Health Issues:** Keep up to date and know when to be concerned. Learn the pros and cons of spaying, neutering, and pursue the possibility of breeding with caution. A responsible breeder may sell a companion dog with a limited AKC registration, meaning it shall not be used in a breeding program.

**Companion Dog versus a Show Dog** Most puppies from well-bred litters go to companion homes. Correct structure and muscle make for a happier, healthy Irish Wolfhound, especially as they age. To have a show dog, it must be healthy, have excellent conformation, move soundly and have a good personality. However, the same traits should be found in the entire litter. Responsible breeders actively breed for quality and longevity in their lines.

**Transitions: Puppy to Youngster to Adult** Ask the breeder what you can expect in terms of size, temperament, behavior and the physical changes that will occur throughout the dog's lifetime. First and foremost, no matter the age or size of your puppy, a sound temperament is required to live the happiest of lives.

**The Irish Wolfhound Club of America (IWCA):**

Recognized as the only national Irish Wolfhound breed club by the American Kennel Club (AKC), the Irish Wolfhound Club of America is the Parent Club of the Irish Wolfhound. Join others who love the breed and enjoy the supportive resources available on the website and in the club magazine, *Harp & Hound*.

([www.iwclubofamerica.org/iwca-membership](http://www.iwclubofamerica.org/iwca-membership))

## FIND A RESPONSIBLE BREEDER

Finding a responsible breeder takes effort and patience. What is a responsible breeder? A responsible breeder produces dogs that meet the standard of the breed with good conformation, good health and a sound temperament while retaining qualities and traits that are unique to the breed. Because Irish Wolfhounds date back centuries, a responsible breeder always has the hundred plus year-old breed standard as a guide. ([www.iwclubofamerica.org/breed-standard](http://www.iwclubofamerica.org/breed-standard)) These breeders know their pedigrees and ancestors, and they are skilled at applying this knowledge in their breeding programs. The partnership between you, the owner, and the breeder will be for the lifetime of the puppy. As puppies are living creatures, they are a product of both genetics and environment. It is for that reason a responsible breeder will not be able to guarantee a perfect future for your puppy. What they will do is offer you a warranty against certain health conditions and most

importantly, use

healthy and sound sires and dams for breeding. They will do everything they can to produce a healthy, emotionally sound, well-bred puppy. Responsible



breeders will stand behind every dog they breed; they will support you and they will take back their dog at any point in its lifetime **without hesitation.**



# IRISH WOLFHOUND

## Puppy Buyer's Guide



**YOU** have decided to bring an **Irish Wolfhound** into your life and home: You have made a thorough assessment of your current and future lifestyle and determined that there are the resources, the time, and the proper and safe environment in which to raise a puppy to a thriving adult.

**Now, what comes next?**

<https://www.iwclubofamerica.org/finding-irish-wolfhound-puppy>



## USE THE IWCA WEBSITE AS A FIRST STEP RESOURCE:

[HTTPS://WWW.IWCLUBOFAMERICA.ORG/HOME](https://www.iwclubofamerica.org/home)

### \* BREEDER DIRECTORY AND CONTACTS DIRECTORY

REACH OUT TO THESE VOLUNTEERS IN YOUR REGION TO  
ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BREED AND  
DETERMINE IF THERE ARE BREEDERS NEAR YOU.

### \*IRISH WOLFHOUND EVENTS

FIND OUT WHAT SPECIALTY SHOWS (JUST FOR IRISH  
WOLFHOUNDS) ARE COMING UP. ATTENDING ONE OF  
THESE EVENTS IS A GREAT WAY TO MEET PEOPLE AND  
THEIR HOUNDS.

### \*LOCAL IRISH WOLFHOUND CLUBS

CONTACTING THE LOCAL CLUB THAT IS CLOSEST TO YOU  
IS ANOTHER STRONG MOVE TO GET YOU CONNECTED  
WITH PEOPLE AND ACTIVITIES IN YOUR AREA. ST  
PATRICK'S DAY PARADES, CLUB SPECIALTY SHOWS AND  
OTHER EVENTS LIKE RENAISSANCE FAIRS PROVIDE  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO MEET THE BREED AND  
THEIR OWNERS.



### **PREPARE TO INTERVIEW AND BE INTERVIEWED!**

Prepare questions for the breeder and be prepared to be interviewed by the breeder. A responsible breeder will show you where the dogs spend their time and introduce you to the sire and dam. If the sire is not owned by the breeder, they will show you photos, health records and contact information for the sire's owner. They will have bred with a purpose, knowing the strengths and weaknesses of the sire and dam. A responsible breeder may attend Irish Wolfhound specialty shows to have their dogs evaluated by breeder-judges. They will have a thorough knowledge of the Irish Wolfhound Standard of Excellence. Because they do not have puppies available all year, they will keep a waiting list for potential buyers. Be prepared for the breeder to ask about your family's lifestyle, why you want a dog and your care plans for the puppy.



# A Discussion with Breeders:

**Breeder obligations and responsibilities** include health testing of the sire and dam, and raising a healthy, socialized litter that has had its first examinations, vaccines and liver shunt tests. No puppy will be homed before 10 weeks. Accepting the return of a dog at any time in the dog's lifetime for whatever reason is absolute. 24/7 availability.

**\*\*LIVER SHUNT TESTING OF EACH PUPPY IN A LITTER IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BREEDER\*\***

([www.iwclubofamerica.org/pss](http://www.iwclubofamerica.org/pss))

### **\*Topics to cover with the breeder:**

Tell me about health and longevity in your breeding program.

How long have you been breeding Irish Wolfhounds?

What is your experience with this breed?

Do you show your dogs at the IWCA National Specialty or at local specialties? Are you a member of the IWCA or a Local Club?

Can we visit the adult dogs and the mother of the puppies?

What requirements do you have for potential puppy owners?

Do you provide a health guarantee or warranty and a contract?

How do you socialize your puppies?

When will we be able to take the puppy home? IWCA recommends that puppies are not placed until 10 weeks of age to allow for proper socialization and the suggested health testing (liver shunt) and initial health exam.

What is proper age-appropriate exercise for a puppy? ([www.iwclubofamerica.org/puppy-exercise](http://www.iwclubofamerica.org/puppy-exercise))

What will be supplied with the puppy?

How much does the puppy cost?

What kind of support does the breeder offer once the puppy is placed?

Do we receive all health history and information, feeding instructions, etc. in a packet?

### **\*Questions the breeder might ask you:**

How did you become interested in the breed?

Where did you learn about wolfhounds?

What is the primary reason you wish to own an Irish Wolfhound?

Do you own your home/residence or rent?

Do you have a fenced-in yard?

If you work away from your home, how many hours a day will your dog be left alone?

Where will your dog sleep (inside/outside/ both)?

What is your past history with dogs?

Are you aware that the companion dog may be sold under a limited AKC registration?

Are you on any other breeder's waiting list?

Do you prefer a dog or a bitch?

Have you ever trained a dog?

Is anyone in your family allergic to dogs or dog hair?

What would you do with your dog if you had a family or dramatic life change: divorce, birth of a child, job loss, or relocation?

Do you have access to a good 24/7 veterinary hospital? Do they have wolfhounds or sighthounds in their practice?

Are you considering pet insurance or a health emergency fund?

Do you know anyone with wolfhounds? Will they be a reference?

