

2025 IWADV Judge's Critique Ellen Kroll, August Irish Wolfhounds

Two days of remarkable sportsmanship and comradery! We had a few challenges with 80-degree temps in October and even some "attack" pumpkins in certain areas of the ring, but there were enough smiles and laughter to keep us going. Hospitality from this club started the moment we arrived at the hotel with a huge box of goodies in our room and Giny Chapin waiting for us to make sure we had guest passes to the famous Longwood Gardens the next day. It just got better as the weekend progressed. My stewards, Chet and Shari were an absolute delight. Lisa, show secretary, took care of all the details, so I could simply focus on judging. Doug as show chair was both ever present, yet invisible as his crew kept it all running. Our entry was plentiful and gave me the room to select hounds that demonstrated my vision of the Irish Wolfhound. My humble thanks for being treated as Queen for my assignment.

Now to the hounds: A few physical characteristics were so consistently demonstrated that they deserve mention.

Jaws and bites: Over 90% of this entry showed width of jaw, large teeth, and a scissors bite. I did not see one misplaced canine even in youngsters. A few dogs had a level bite that resulted in worn down incisors. When I commented on this, a few breeders told me they had worked together to select these qualities over the last several years. Congratulations!

Shoulder, upper arm (humerus), and pasterns. Only a few dogs showed even moderate layback, equal length of scapula to humerus and spring to the pastern. It only gets more difficult for the dog if you have a flat, long hare foot. In my experience, these dogs break down easily and age quickly as the structural combination is very hard on a running hound.

Rear-quarters: At least 50% of the entry had lovely wide muscling in the rear-quarters with fullness across the upper thigh and well-developed quadriceps all the way to the belly. Most of those possessed hard conditioned muscle due to good management and quality genetics. When a 4-year-old has soft flabby muscle in those inner thighs, a critical element is missing. And when an 8-year-old is firm with plenty of muscle tissue, it is a BIG advantage.

DOGS

9-12 This class all had quite straight angulation in the front.

1. (9) **PINEHURST O'LUGH DIRE STRAITS**, HP720157/07 Best layback in class, flat fill but not hollow. Nice balanced head, med size ear set well. Longer loin. Hock size excellent, good cat feet. Elastic gait
2. (7) **VIKING KING IONMHAIN NORMAN**, HP724935/01, Level plane to head, would like more length in muzzle. Upright scapula, but equal length of scapula to humerus. Toes out, flat fill, great bone, good topline on the move, but lacks enthusiasm.
3. (15) **MACCAURA RIVERSONG LITTLE BIT O SOUL**, HP722430/05, Less substance but not wispy. More bone in rear, bone tapers on front leg. Straighter in both humerus and upper arm, but equal lengths. Has not dropped chest depth yet. Nice balance in head, soft expression.
4. (11) **MACCAURA RIVERSONG JALO HENKI**, HP722430/04, Lighter substance, longer loin. Loses topline in movement. Overly long in second stifle and not as heavily muscled. Good bone. More hollow in fill. Shorter muzzle than back skull. Nice rosed ears and good coat

12-18 mo dogs (2) 1 Absent

1. (19) **CARNASSERIE LINDENHALL ZEPHYR**, HP709554/02, Large substantial boy. Incredible bone. Appears balanced front to rear, but has a bit more angulation behind. Proportion is a bit off. Appears too long or short on leg. Sometimes difficult to determine which in 4 minutes! Good balance in head proportions, folded ears. Croup is good with a good tail set. Did not move out today as I feel is possible.
2. (17) **R NOBLE RAI FEARTAIGH'S AMERICAN SPIRIT**, HP709903/02, Not as substantial as #1, but has very good bone. Thinner muscling in thigh. Nice head with parallel planes. More prominent brow bone than I care for, Hollow feel in chest fill. Still moves well and without effort.

Novice Dogs (2) 1 absent

1. (83) **JETHRO TULL BOOTLEG OF AERIE**, HP696260/02. Good bite and ears rosed. Layback of shoulder moderate. Equal lengths to scapula/humerus. Cup feel to fill in chest. Hare feet. Flared pelvis with ok tail set. Broad upper thigh huge hocks. Open side gait. Paddles a bit on return.
2. (23) **HALLOWED HELLTOPAY**, HP598589/04. Great bone, hocks are low and excellent size. Substantial body. Coat is long and a bit fluffy. Head is pleasing with good ear set.

Prominent occiput. Shorter upright scapula. Toes in in front. Longer loin. Flared pelvis. Rear quarters are broad and drives well. Flat topline and underline. Shorter on leg than I prefer.

Bred By Class (1) 1 absent

1. (27) **O'LUGH'S LIBATIONS**, HP686734/05. Big and heavily boned with substance. Stands over a lot of ground. Head is balanced. Front structure is rather straight but not forward set. Picks up pasterns too much in front movement. Equal and good length to humerus/scapula. Longer in loin, rather flat topline in movement and a higher tail set than I prefer. Open side gait, but is straighter in angulation behind at this stage.

American Bred (6) 1 absent. Very tough class to place.

1. (37) **HALLOWED CRAZY HORSE**, HP598589/09, . Obvious pick from beginning. Great bone, big hocks. A little short on leg with a higher tail set. Up and back showed a narrowness behind and pasterns flipped on return. Head is balanced with a dark eye. Black with softer coat.
2. (33) **TALIESIN'S BEUL-AITHRIS OF SCEOLAN FITB**, HP664208/03. Good texture coat. Folded ears. Parallel planes to head and good fill in chest. Needs more layback. Front leg bone very large while less so in the rear quarters. Restricted in rear movement, but side gait was smooth and easy.
3. (39) **EIRIAN ONCE IN A BLUE MOON**, HP688257/05. Old type head with good sweep to rear quarters. Good bone size. Head is pleasant but not quite parallel planes. Straighter in scapula/humerus and too long in loin.
4. (85) **EIRIAN PADRAIC LUCIAN MALACHI**, HP660721/05. Tough choice between 3 and 4. This dog had nice easy movement in side gait. Straight humerus and scapula which left the neck too short even though powerful. Fill is flat. Average bone and substance. High tail set. Good condition.

Open dogs (4) 1 absent

1. (43) **CARRICKANEENA BRENNAN ON THE MOOR**, HP680602/05. Medium size and bone. Balanced head with flat ear. All entries could have more front angulation. Good coat, feet are round and sprung. Good muscle tone and longer in loin.
2. (45) **CASTLEKEEPER MAGNUS DIVINIS**, HP644143/03. Broader back skull than muzzle. Good set to ears, folded. Front fill is hollow and restricted front extension. Thin coat at this time. Straight pastern, high tail set. Rear muscle condition exceptionally good.
3. (41) **STARKEEPER WIZARD AULFYNN**, HP672883/02. Nice bone front and rear. Longer loin. Head is very balanced with good ear set. High tail set. Topline is a bit humpy on the move with steeper croup. Front fill is hollow.

4. (87) **ROSSLARE'S CEARNACH O'BELTANE BN RI BCAT CGC**. Wheaten/ great pigment. Needs more muscle everywhere. Gorgeous rose ears. Medium bone, upright front structure.

Winner's Dog #83 **JETHRO TULL BOOTLEG OF AERIE**. More consistent side gait

Reserve Winner's Dog #19 **CARNASSERIE LINDENHALL ZEPHYR**. Shorter on leg, prefer proportions on WD

Females

9–12-month bitches (1) 4 absent

1. (6) **LISMORE STONEYBROOK KARMA**, HP725209/01. Immature stage medium bone. Over angulated in rear compared to front angles. Pelvis has flare. Excellent head. Not forward set, but lacks fill. Flips her pasterns a bit on the move.

12–18-month bitches (3) 1 AB 2 handlers chose to leave ring voluntarily.

1. (16) **CUALAINN LAOISE FOR ARD RHI**, HP715134/06. Medium size, balanced body substance, but more angulated behind. Adequate fill. Head has excellent proportions and planes. Easy movement while maintaining shape.
2. (18) **ALBOROCK PARANOID AT SOUTHSIDE**, HP703083/06. Average size, balanced front to rear, fill of chest has good shape, no tapering of bone. Better layback than most, powerful stride but flattened in topline a bit. Level planes to the head, ear set good with nice expression.
3. (124) **MACCAURA'S RHIA AT TEMAIR**, HP709782/01. Leggy, head has nice ear set and level planes. Front a bit forward set. She drops her topline on the move, even with strong stride. Did not figure out what caused the drop topline issue.

Novice Bitches (4) 2 Absent

1. (28) **ROSSLARE'S AISLING HEALER OF HEARTS**, HP716887/02. Medium size balanced with excellent head, high set ears, and very little stop. Carries topline in motion, strong trot. Shoulder blades could be further set back but not forward set. Strong neck and ample fill.
2. (128) **GEMINI'S MIDNIGHT BOOTY CALL**, HP686633/03. Good proportions, medium size. Over angulated behind. Long second thigh with low hocks. Long in loin, drops her topline a bit too much on the move. Larger ears, front set forward, but pasterns OK.

3. (32) **LISMORE MIMI**, HP684220/02. Uses herself well, but pacing persists thru exhibition. Forward set front, Depth of chest ample. Neck and chest are appealing. Lower on leg. Strong thighs with low hocks. Beautiful head with level planes. No balanced front to rear. Coat ready to strip?
4. (30) **ROCKHART NIGHTWINGS FIRE AWAYAT WARWICK**, HP682677/04. Owner was injured and dog had a bad experience in the ring previously. With a bit of time, she allowed me to evaluate her. Great bone and substance. Front straighter angle, fill adequate. Too much rear angulation for what she has in front. So glad she could relax and do her job.

Bred by Bitches (6) 2 Absent

1. (36) **MUSE LISMORE OF AERIE**, HP645936/01. Straighter in front than behind. Great bone and large hocks. She uses what she has so well. Coat in great form. Croup shape is nearly perfect, with sweep across a wide thigh and great muscling. Would improve her feet and wish she had a touch more leg.
2. (40) **O'LUGH BLACKWATER JUNIPER**, HP686734/02. Wheaten with dark pigment and dark eye. Would prefer more layback. Holds her topline on the move. Good size. Bone is commensurate with size, tail set OK. Well balanced with free easy movement.
3. (42) **NEW GIRL IN TOWN AT R NOBLE**, HP560993/01. Black and 7 years old. Looks like a youngster. Old style head with no stop and a dark enough eye on a black. Forward set a bit. Great thigh and rear. Took a few bobbled steps but pulled out of it.
4. (38) **WYVERN'S WINTER SOLSTICE**, HP667127/03. Massive bone and substance. Moderate angulation. A bit too long in body. Strength of neck impressive but could use more angulation in front quarters. Head is a bit square with a heavy brow bone. Exudes power. Held topline on the move. Front reach restricted.

Am Bred Bitches (5) 3 absent

1. (56) **HOUND HILL VERA OF AERIE**, HP624378/02. Good bone and hock size. Gait is open. Steeper shoulder blade than idea. Shorter in neck length. Well-muscled thighs. Softer coat.
2. (48) **ELITE OF AERIE**, HP695719/01. Average size and bone. Head is matching muzzle and back skull with soft expression. Flatter topline on the move. Moderate angulation behind.
3. (132) **JIF BOOTLEG OF AERIE**, HP696260/03, 11/28/23. Good bone and hock size. Lots of daylight under her. Head is balanced. Front is just too straight. L shape where neck joins topline, front angulation limits reach. Topline goes flatter in the move. Pasterns are too straight.

4. (50) **HOPS-N-HOUNDS FAILINIS STILL NO APOLOGYS SCATHACH**, HP695995/02. Less size and substance than others in this class. Neck is not flared at base leading to a flat topline. Her proportions are not balanced enough with too much length in loin. She moves with a lightness, but the structure lacks the required power.

Open bitches (10) 5 absent

1. (136) **JELLO SHOT O'LUGH WITH AERIE**, HP624108/03, 04/02/21. Great bone and substance, medium shoulder angulation, equal length of humerus to scapula, good size to hocks. Holds topline in movement. Pasterns are OK. Has a pleasing head with equal muzzle to back skull. Tapers a bit in bone in front. Demonstrates reach and drive on the move.
2. (82) **J.P. WENDLE BOOTLEG OF AERIE**, HP696260/01. Good proportions, still young and developing. Topline flattens a bit on the move. Good rear drive, but does not extend in front fully. Front angulation is less than #1. Good bone, overall size, and hock circumference. Croup is well angulated with great breadth and strength across hindquarters. Easy gait.
3. (78) **TALIESIN'S BAINTIGHEARN**, HP664208/05. Old type with lovely head and great coat. Moderate in angulation but balanced. Exceptional condition. Medium shoulder angulation but good length to bones. Tiny rosed ears. Uses her front with good reach, flat shaped fill. Hocks are substantial.
4. (86) **CAREDIG MARGURITE**, HP675720/01. Drops in her croup in movement. Good Bone substance and hock size. Flips pastern some from steeper should angulation.

Winner's Bitch # 136 **JELLO SHOT O'LUGH WITH AERIE**

Reserve Winners Bitch # 82 **J.P. WENDLE BOOTLEG OF AERIE**

Veteran DOGS (4) 1 AB

1. (55) **GCH R NOBLE NASCH**, HP560993/10. Front is more upright than desired, but equal lengths of scapula/humerus. Parallel planes to head with tiny rosed ears. Great proportions to body. Nice open side gait despite front structure.
2. (53) **GCH GLADSTONE'S CAN'T WAIT TO BE KING**, HP575553/12. Massive bone and height. Rather soft coat. Starts out well, but drops head down and begins to lumber. This gives him a downward appearance.
3. (51) **CH LONNKYLE PINING FOR THE FJORDS**, HP601971/02. This dog appears to be shorter on leg. Excellent thighs with muscular condition. Front structure not very balanced. Bone tapers from top to bottom. Movement is not as consistent as the two in front of him.

4. (57) **CH EIRIAN ROSSLARE'S REMEMBRANCE**, HP559349/03. Best laid shoulder in class. Good hock strength, heavy bone, and very good condition. Neck set is flared and correct. Good length of muzzle. Movement was not consistent and dog was not driving today

Veteran Bitches (8) 2 AB

1. (94) **GCH CARAGLEN BERWYCK LIBAAN AT DRY CREEK**, HP583193/08. Strong bitch with power and substance. Moves with topline held in correct position. Ears are folded with equal muzzle and back skull. True up and back. Neck is a bit too upright into front assembly.
2. (102) **TALIESIN'S BEOADH OF FINDAWAY**, HP543435/05. Medium size bitch that screams commanding appearance. Straighter front assembly with medium fill. Head is so lovely with balance. Took a few uncomfortable steps in movement and did not demonstrate powerful stride today.
3. (88) **GCHS WILDISLE BRIE GOOD GOLLY MS MOLLY**, HP522322/02. Smaller in height, but has commensurate bone. Nothing wispy about this girl. Shape is excellent although her front could use more angulation. Outstanding condition, true movement. Incredible side gait that is easy and open.
4. (96) **GCH R NOBLE NAINSI**, HP560993/02. Black, great attitude. Old type look to head especially. Feet could use improvement. Flat fill but not hollow. Pasterns are more upright than I care for.

Best of Breed and Best of Winners

(136) **JELLO SHOT O'LUGH WITH AERIE**, HP624108/03. This girl continued to show the balance between greyhound shape and substantial body and bone needed in a wolf killer.

Best Opposite (55) **GCH R NOBLE NASCH**, HP560993/10. My Veteran dog possessed a wonderful shape and kept up his movement on a very warm afternoon. Strong neck with proper tie-in the front assembly.

Select Dog (61) **GCHS WILDISLE BRIE SHARPSHOOTER**, HP617326/12. Kept his shape with topline on the move with reach and drive. Great neck with flare at the base and excellent bone.

Select Bitch (148) **GCH LISMORE NIGHTWING'S R NOBLE VIPER**, HP671892/04. Great proportions and shape. A moderately angulated girl with an excellent topline.

Best Bred By. (36) See Bred by critique

