

IWADV 2018 Sweepstakes

Judge's Critique

By Linda Souza

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the membership of the Irish Wolfhound Association of Delaware Valley for giving me the opportunity to evaluate your beautiful youngsters. It was a joyful pleasure to greet and go over each and every one of the hounds. Showing "green" puppies can sometimes be quite a test on our own strength, but for the most part these were a settled and accepting group of young ladies and gentlemen. The experience left me feeling our breed has a bright future. I would like to extend a special thank you to Show Chair Doug Marx and my wonderful stewards Gregory Kane and Chet Chase for keeping me on track. My vision of the perfect Irish Wolfhound is one of type, size and movement...an athletic hunter. When evaluating breeding stock, I look for the dogs with the most attributes. Fault judging will only result in awarding mediocre dogs. I believe puppies under 18 months should look like colts and fillies...lots of leg and immature bodies. So much development occurs from 18 months to 4 years to bring them to full maturity. Most of the heads and ears I saw were very pleasing so I don't mention them in my observations. I did unfortunately see a number of inside or tight fitting lower canines forced into the upper gums. It is a universal problem in our breed and we have to continue to be aware and breed away from it. Thank you for bringing all your lovely puppies to me. It was an honor to have them in the ring.

6 to 9 Puppy Dog

- 1) **Lismore Broadway Smash at O'Lugh** - A handsome dark 8 month old boy with proper shape including depth of chest, tuck-up and rise over the loin which was evident both standing and on the move. He stood over plenty of ground and moved around the ring easily with a lovely open side gait. I suspect he will grown into something even more special. I was pleased to award him Best of Opposite Sex in Sweepstakes.
- 2) **Windborne Dawson** - A sweet 6 month old baby boy trying to figure out what he is supposed to do in the ring. He has many positive points including good length of leg, a nice topline and pleasing overall balance. There were moments of lovely movement from this baby boy. I hope to see him again down the road.

9 to 12 Puppy Dog

- 1) **C'Lute Eagle of Elkhorn** - A very handsome 11 month old dark brindle boy with lovely breed type. Pleasing head, good ears, nice neck into shoulders, good depth of chest, broad thigh and easy movement. He is very appealing to me.
- 2) **Castlekeeper's In Awesome Wonder** - A cream brindle male just under 10 months old very much up on leg with a very pleasing shape. As he

matures, I suspect he will continue to hold the ground better and better on the move. He has great potential.

12 to 15 Puppy Dog

- 1) **Legacy's Starkeeper Silverado Spirit** – A 14 month old light brindle boy with lots of enthusiasm on the move. He has good bone and substance. I would like to give him more length of body for the maturing process but time will tell. More importantly right now is that he is a happy fella and enjoying himself.

15 to 18 Puppy Dog

- 1) **Shancarrick's Debonair Darragh** – A very handsome 15 month old dark boy with lots of presence. I loved his shape and balance standing over a lot of ground with good length of leg and no exaggerations. He is very much a colt right now but he has plenty of length for the maturing process. Moved around the ring with ease.
- 2) **Tailstorm Kevin Barry, JC** - A 17 month old brindle boy with a smooth neck into the shoulders, good depth, broad thigh and proper height to length. He moved well. I would give him just a touch stronger back line.
- 3) **Ar Riversong Rosslare Orange Crush** - A 16 month old brindle boy with excellent bone and substance, smooth neck into the shoulders and good length of leg. He carried himself around the ring very well. I would give him a touch more length of loin and bend of stifle. He is a bit rump high at this awkward stage.
- 4) **Shancarrick's Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** – A litter brother to the first place dog but quite different in looks. This boy has a lovely neck into the shoulders and moves soundly. He could use a touch more length of leg and length of body to stand over more ground.

6 to 9 Puppy Bitch

- 1) **Lismore Ard Rhi's Little Night Music** – A lovely dark 8 month old bitch with a smooth neck into the shoulder, deep chest, a proper rise over the loin and wonderful gait. She was very similar to her 8 month old brother that placed first in the 6-9 male puppy class.
- 2) **Inishkeen's Light of Ancient Shine** – A 6 month old baby that I found very pleasing in shape and balance at such a young age. She already was moving with such purpose. Her legs have already started to "shoot up" and I suspect her body length will follow behind. Lots to like about her.
- 3) **Eirian Nellie Q O'Tailstorm** – A littermate to the second place girl but not quite as together which would be more expected for just 6 months old. She was also very pleasing in shape and had moments of lovely movement. 6 month old puppy bitches are just plain cute!
- 4) **Cranna Beatha's Oonagh** – A nice size 7 month old girl who was just trying to figure out what she was supposed to be doing in the ring. She has good

bone, substance and length but wanted to tuck her behind a bit when moving. Once she starts to relax and gait freely, I think there will be a great improvement. Keep practicing!

9 to 12 Puppy Bitch

- 1) **C'loan Eagle of Elkhorn** – A beautiful dark 11 month old bitch. She caught my eye in this class immediately for her lovely breed type and she did not disappoint me on the move. I loved her shape and her presence. She is everything she should be at this age. I hope to see her again as she matures.
- 2) **Lismore Marion Kerby** – Another lovely 11 month old brindle bitch with excellent bone, substance, shape and strong on the move. I would give her a touch more length of leg and body to help her stand over more ground.
- 3) **Starkeeper Aoibheann Ailis** – A lovely 9 month old brindle girl with a lovely neck into her shoulders, wonderful length of leg and great presence. I would give her a little more depth of chest which should improve with maturity. She used herself well on the move.
- 4) **Elkhorns Caoimlte of Eagle** – A brindle 11 month old litter sister to the first place bitch. This girl has lots of body, good length of leg, nice tuck-up and rise over the loin. She is a touch rump high at the moment but I suspect that will settle as she matures. She moved well around the ring.

12 to 15 Puppy Bitch

- 1) **Taliesin's Brice** - A strong 12 month old light brindle bitch with a good solid body. She has a pleasing shape and nice low hocks. Moved with lots of power. Hopefully she will have enough length of body to accommodate the maturing process.
- 2) **Taliesin's Saile** – A lovely 13 month old light brindle girl with a beautiful neck into her shoulders, lovely topline and great length of leg. I really liked this girl but she was giving her handler a “go of it”. If she had settled, I could have easily placed her higher.
- 3) **Taliesin's Berin** – A 12 month old brindle girl and littermate to first place. She is also a quality girl in a little smaller package. She has a nice shape with easy movement. I might want to give her a little more depth of chest but that may come.
- 4) **Taliesin's Boudicca at Sceolan** – Another light brindle 12 month old litter sister to first and third place. This girl also moved around the ring well but could use a little more depth and length as well as angulation front and rear to give her a bit more overall shape. This is very typical of a 12 month old wolfhound...the legs grow so fast and everything else needs to catch up!

15 to 18 Puppy Bitch

- 1) **Ard Rhi's Summer Skipper** - A beautifully shaped 15 month old brindle girl with excellent bone and substance without being coarse. She has depth of chest, excellent well drawn up belly, strong topline and perfect length of

leg. There were no exaggerations. She was a solid mover around the ring. This would have been my pick to take home and I was very pleased to award her Best in Sweepstakes.

- 2) **Dash Shancarrick at Aerie** – A lovely dark 15 month old bitch with a very nice shape and excellent balance. She carried herself around the ring actively and easily. She was only overshadowed by the size and depth of the first place bitch.
- 3) **Shancarrick's Darling Dubheasa** – Another pleasing 15 month old dark bitch and littermate to the second place bitch. She has wonderful breed type including a beautiful neck into the shoulders. She has good depth of chest and a broad thigh. At the moment she is just flattening out a bit in her topline.
- 4) **Riversong Pinkalicious** - A 16 month old brindle bitch of excellent bone and substance. She has a pleasing shape and sound movement. She is carrying a lot of body on her frame and I'm hoping she will have enough length as she continues to mature.

BEST IN SWEEPS - Ard Rhi's Summer Skipper

BEST OF OPPOSITE IN SWEEPS- Lismore Broadway Smash at O'Lugh