

Dawn Wiseman    Temair

My father actually planted the Irish Wolfhound seed in my mind when I was a very young girl. He told me about dogs he saw in Germany when he was stationed there in the Army that were taller than I was. (If you know me, you will know that that might be a very short legged hound!) And, he then told me about these magnificent dogs and some of their history. I would never forget that conversation with him as it would be one of very few I would ultimately enjoy with him.

Years later, in 1977, when I was stationed in Hawaii with the 25th Infantry Division Band, I read in the post newsletter one day that an airman at one of the closeby air bases had a litter of Irish Wolfhound puppies. I went. Just to see these hounds my father had described. I walked in and beheld those rare and singular hounds, and my life was never the same. I went home with a puppy that day (something I would never allow now!). I was enthralled with him and thought he was just the most glorious creature ever created. I continued to believe that until I went to a dog show and witnessed what Irish Wolfhounds were supposed to look like, after which I loved him with all my heart.

I served in the Army for 21 years as a musician, administrative specialist, and linguist, always with a wolfhound at my side. The operations tempo was too great for me to attend many dog shows or meet any breeders, but I did manage to show my dogs in Germany, Panama, and Virginia, where I first saw and met Sam Ewing. When I lived in Panama, I had the only Irish Wolfhound in the country at that time, so she was treated and admired like royalty. I enjoyed taking my hounds with me on buses, trains, shopping, the bowling alley, in restaurants, and to fairs. It was an incredible experience. In Germany, one of my wolfhounds was the mascot for the local soccer team.

When I retired from the Army in 1998, I joined the local kennel club in Charleston, SC and began my journey into the world of Irish Wolfhounds and dogs. My first “real” Irish Wolfhound was a pretty bitch bred by Sam

Ewing and Jocelyne Gagne. I took her and showed her at my very first Wolfhound National in Lima, Ohio. Sam had me sit at his side, and asked me questions and mentored me as the entries were being examined. How I wish now that I could have experienced that again!

I have bred only a few litters, an exhausting and exhilarating experience simultaneously, an immeasurable gift and treasure.

Fifteen years ago I began my foray into my second breed, Ibizan hounds. With a completely different front structure than what I had become accustomed to, my education took a sharp right turn as I learned even more about sight hounds. I bred one litter, and the keeper from that litter is still home with me, along with two other girls. The Ibizans live well with the wolfhounds, and keep them exercised.

I taught handling classes in Charleston for over ten years, and developed classes in puppy confidence, ringcraft, toy dogs and large dog conformation. I have had the honor of handling several beautiful Irish Wolfhounds, and many other breeds as well.

I have judged at several AKC All Breed B matches, and have been honored to judge Sweepstakes in Irish Wolfhounds, Yorkshire Terriers, Vizslas, and Weimaraners.

I am a member of the IWCA, IWAC, IWAGS, and the Cary Kennel Club. As a member of the Charleston Kennel Club for over 20 years, I served as President, Vice President, Secretary, on the Board of Directors, and Show Chair.

I am currently licensed to judge AKC Star Puppy, Canine Good Citizen (all levels), Trick Dog and the Temperament Test.