

**Ellen Kroll – August Irish Wolfhounds
Snohomish, Washington**

Judging dogs is a privilege—one I never take for granted. It's a remarkable opportunity to evaluate each individual dog, weighing strengths and weaknesses through the lens of the Standard, knowing that each day of judging can vary with the setting, the handler, and the dog's response. Judging is rarely black and white—it's more like trying to keep ten plates spinning at once—but I genuinely love the challenge.

I believe judging dogs requires you to rely on your experiences, both in and out of the ring. I've been fortunate to have generous mentors who shared their time and insights. My professional background as a veterinary technician and instructor of anatomy and physiology taught me to understand structure on a deeper level. Riding dressage refined my eye for balance and movement, while observing lure coursing and hunting events pushed me to reevaluate how form meets function in a practical setting.

Since 1990, my husband Jim and I have bred Irish Wolfhounds under the *August* prefix, always on a very limited scale, with a focus on athleticism, health, and correct type. Our involvement in the breed has taken us to shows across the U.S. and occasionally to Europe, and we've been fortunate to meet and learn from dedicated dog people around the world.

At the heart of it, what I value most in a judge is honesty—someone who gives a thoughtful, sincere evaluation of the dogs on the day. I believe that's what our specialties should be: a place to share knowledge, exchange perspectives, and celebrate both our common ground and our differences.

Thanks so much for bringing your dogs to me.