

**Event: Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada
Mid-Canada Regional Specialty Show
Date: July 23, 2005
Conformation Judge: Jocelyne Gagné**

First of all, thank you for the invitation to judge your Regional Specialty show. I appreciate the opportunity to go over your dogs, and enjoyed the assignment. While the entry was not large, I was pleased with the overall quality of my winners.

As many of you will know, I was at your very first specialty show, and have traveled the distance from Southern Ontario several times over the last decade to join you at this regional specialty. So it was an honor to be asked to join you as a judge (and a nice change to be able to fly in!)

It was a pleasure to share the judging podium with Danielle Renaud, and we had an opportunity to get to know each other a little better, and certainly I enjoyed her company.

In particular I was touched with the dedication of the show. It was a very pleasant surprise, and very kind of the Mid Canada branch committee to do this. I was impressed with your remarks and with Susan Prokopenko's commentary that appeared in the catalog. Thank you.

Dogs, and Irish Wolfhounds in particular, have been a major part of my adult life, so it really should come as no surprise that I enjoy both exhibiting and judging this magnificent breed. Thanks to those of you who entered your dogs and provided me with such a great day. I am sure that those who attended the show will agree that the lovely atmosphere provided by the Show Committee in Thunder Bay made this event a very welcoming one.

Movement is of prime importance to me so often my final choices were based on what I considered the best movement. For me, a sighthound without good legs or the capacity to last in the field, is not really a sighthound. After all, the game does not come to the dog... the dog has to be able to catch it's prey. These dogs were built to run, so they have to be able to do their job. Form and function are linked for me when I am judging Irish Wolfhounds. While I recognize that the show ring does not test the field ability of our dogs, as a judge I am looking for a wolfhound that can function as a coursing hound.

I was looking for a dog with shape, smooth flowing curves, with good bone and size. And I was looking for a dog that had free and easy movement. I saw some lovely dogs at this show. I saw a few who were too short backed and some too short legged for my taste, and several that were too heavy in my opinion to do their job. But overall, there were many good examples of the breed. My winners were not faultless, but they were excellent representatives of this breed, and on this day, were my choices as the best ones here!

JUNIOR PUPPY MALE (1)

1st.Stoneybrook Pascal of Tresmorn

This puppy had a very nice shape, a lovely head, good bone and had the right amount of substance for a youngster of this age. He was a decent mover and in profile looked smooth on the go around (which is excellent for a young boy of this age!) He could use more forechest, and appeared a bit shallow in front, and this was accentuated in his movement coming at me, which was just slightly off. This may improve with maturity.

12-18 MONTH MALE (1)

1st.Nightwing Silence

Another substantial young male with lots of power to him. At an awkward teenage stage, and his front is turning out slightly at the pasterns right now. His rear assembly is overpowering his front quarters on the move so that he is crabbing a bit (moving sideways). This may also be due to the fact that he could be just a shade longer in the back. Head a little heavy for my taste; although it is strong, I would like more length to it.

BRED BY EXHIBITOR MALE

1st. Rockhart Anthem

A substantial male, with a good shape. He is a smooth mover, with good reach and drive on the go around. He has a pleasing head and I like the nice low hocks. I would like a little more daylight underneath him (just a shade taller).

2nd. Nightwings Intensity

Another male with good bone, and substance. As with the first place dog, I would like to see a little more daylight underneath him.

This dog was moving downhill. His rear quarters were not as nice as the first place dog, and his feet were flat.

OPEN MALE

1st. Skyes Comet

A handsome, substantial wheaten male. A very nice head. Overall he provides a powerful impression. He was the soundest dog in this class, and the smoothest mover, looking very nice on the go around. To be critical, I would want just a bit more reach in front.

In outline, he needs bit more length of body to balance his height.

2nd. Nightwing's Gunslinger

A large, dark grey male with good substance. A powerful appearance. His movement is disappointing. Coming at me he is paddling in the front, and going away he is kicking out his left back leg. This does not help his profile movement, and he looks to be running downhill.

3rd. Brimstone Ianina's Mr. Magoo, JC, CGC

Tall grey brindle, who covers a lot of ground. He has a beautiful head and neck. Unfortunately, he is too long and steep in the croup. On the move, he does not have adequate reach and drive, and is not a smooth mover.

WINNERS MALE

Rockhart Anthem

This dog won his award because of his general shape, which is correct and presents a nice outline. The only criticism I would make of his outline, is that I would like to see more of a tuck up. He has free and easy movement and uses himself well. A very sound and solid dog.

RESERVE WINNERS MALE

Skyes Comet

This is also a very impressive male wolfhound. I just could not get past the fact that his proportions kept leaving me wanting more length to him, in order to balance his height. Great tuck up, and good angulation. He could have produced more reach and drive on the go around.

JUNIOR PUPPY FEMALE

This class provided me with two pretty puppy bitches to go over. I see now, looking at the catalogue, that they are littermates.

1st. Brimstone Miz Liz

This puppy is a little longer in body, and smoother on the move. She is using herself better than #2. At this stage in her development she is bent out slightly at the pasterns.

2nd. Brimstone Fireridge Magma

This puppy looks a little tighter in topline, and does not seem as flexible as the #1 puppy. She is bouncing up and down on the move, and is not moving as freely as the first place puppy. She is toeing out at this time.

SENIOR PUPPY FEMALE

1st. Rockhart Gossip

A sable brindle. This puppy has lovely length and shape when viewed in profile. A strong looking puppy, with beautiful outline. She has a nice head, and lovely ears that she roses. Insisted on pacing at first, but finally settled into a trot, and moved around nicely. When viewed moving from behind, she was a little close. To be critical, the croup could use a little bit more length and curve to it.

12 TO 18 MONTH FEMALE

1st. Nightwing's Seductive

A dark grey brindle bitch with a nice shape. She has a pretty head, but is undershot. A solid girl, but she could use some more curves, and these may come as she settles into herself with maturity. She is balanced, and uses herself on the move to gait smoothly, but in profile she looks like she is running downhill.

CANADIAN BRED FEMALE

1st. Lonnkyle Order

A lighter coloured grey brindle. A pretty bitch with a good shape. She is feminine and has a nice head with good planes. I like her length of body, and she presents as a strong bitch. She moves out, but is stilted in her gait. If she would relax a bit, I am sure her movement would be improved and smoother, and more efficient. Coming at me she does not converge in front, but is moving parallel.

BRED BY EXHIBITOR FEMALE

1st. Stoneybrook Rockhart Rebecca

A very balanced bitch; with good length to her body, and good daylight underneath her. She is a strong looking bitch; gives the impression of power. Good substance and scope. She moved well on the go around. Coming at me she is a bit wide in front, and moving parallel... her front legs are not converging.

2nd. Skyes Antoinette

A beautiful wheaten bitch with great shape to her. Powerful quarters both front and rear, which she used to advantage on the move. I liked her head. She is not moving as easily as the 1st place bitch; not as smooth on the go around in this class. She is a little short coupled for my taste; could use more length to her body.

OPEN FEMALE

This was the largest class of the day, with no absentees, and 9 entered.

1st. Lonnkyle Nadean

This bitch caught my eye immediately. She is a beautiful, feminine Irish Wolfhound with a lovely shape and curves in the right places. She is balanced, and not exaggerated in any way. Has adequate bone and is in good hard condition. Moved well viewed from every direction.

2nd. Rockhart Calamity

A younger bitch, a lighter grey/red brindle. She has more leg than #1. Is very active and well muscled. Has a lovely profile and good shape. Could be cleaner in front coming at me, but has nice side gait.

3rd. Skyes Stoneybrook Rue

Another youngster. A very pretty red wheaten. She has good movement and a nice shape. Carries her tail a little high.

4th. Stoneybrook Ruby

A very strong looking red wheaten bitch, with good curves. She moves well. Just a little more leg for her length, would balance her in my view.

WINNERS BITCH

Lonnkyle Nadean

A very solid and sound bitch, who moved around the ring easily. A pretty picture when standing, and has a lovely head. Nothing extreme about her, and she is well put together. Her parts all flow together nicely. Deserving of this win!

RESERVE WINNERS BITCH

Rockhart Calamity

Although a younger bitch, she has good bone and substance, and is in excellent hard condition. The serious contender for this reserve placement was the BBE bitch, who has more maturity. However, this bitch had good reach and drive, and was better in front coming at me than the BBE bitch

BEST OF BREED/ BEST OF WINNERS/BEST CANADIAN BRED IN SPECIALTY

Lonnkyle Nadean

The Winners Bitch just did not let down. She continued to move around the ring freely, with good extension in the front and drive off the hock. A beautiful shape when standing, that she maintains on the move. Each time I looked at her, she was standing proudly and when asked to move, she just strode out easily. A pleasure to go over and to look at her. I could not deny her this win.

BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX

Rockhart Anthem

A tough choice for me between the Winners Dog and the Specials Dog. Both are very masculine with good impressive shapes. Both dogs used themselves well when moving and were sound. I was fortunate to have two very masculine, and typey males to go over. In the end I made my decision based on the fact that the winners dog had more reach and drive on the go around.

BEST PUPPY

Rockhart Gossip

This bitch is beautiful in profile. She is the most together of the competitors and uses herself well when moving. A strong looking puppy with much potential.

ALTERED FEMALE/ BEST ALTERED IN SPECIALTY

1ST. Stoneybrook Jade At Vallemar

A nice, sound grey brindle bitch. She moves easily around the ring.

2nd Ch. Ianina's Neapolitan

A pretty wheaten bitch. She did not want to gait properly, and chose to pace today.

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Date: July 23, 2005

Sweepstakes Judge: Danielle Renaud

Before going with the regular critiques on the puppies presented to me, I would like to express some comments on this wonderful day. As you may know, I am no stranger to the amount of work involved in putting up such an event and the organizers of this Specialty deserve the greatest credit. This small and dedicated group surely knows best how to make everyone at ease and so very welcome. The road was long to get to Thunder Bay, but the scenery so beautiful that it made the drive well worth it. The hotel and adjacent show grounds are very nice, and the view of the mountains "behind the scene" is spectacular. Visible from the show ring, wild geese were peacefully resting on a nice sized pond surrounded by paths mowed for the pleasure of the walkers. Even the weather all through the weekend was fantastic ... what else could someone ask for? OK, we didn't see one single moose and we would have loved to witness one of these so special Northern light storms. If it has been possible, Sylvia would have made these happen for us, I am sure.

Thank you everyone who made this Mid-Canada show possible. Thank you for inviting me. I will cherish fond memories of my time with you in your wonderful area. Let me take this opportunity to encourage you all to plan on taking part of the combined IWCC National and Mid-Canada Regional Specialties held in Thunder Bay on September 2006. I am positive, that like us, you will discover a wonderful part of Canada and outstanding Canadian Wolfhound fanciers.

If few in numbers, my puppies were "plenty" in qualities. All of these youngsters demonstrated lovely temperament.

6 TO 9 MONTH MALE

1211 – Stoneybrook Pascal Of Tresmorn

A white footed, 8 months old puppy with a beautiful head and expression. Good coat, good bones and nice rear angulations. A little loose in his movement at this stage which is not unusual on such a nice size growing youngster. Nice low tail carriage. **Best Of Opposite in Sweepstakes**

6 TO 9 MONTH FEMALES

1226 – Brimstone Miz Liz

I really like this baby. At 6 months old she demonstrates good coordination and nice extension in her movement. Moderate size with very nice angles front and back, nice shoulder and beautiful head and expression. A very well balanced puppy. Very promising.

1208 – Brimstone Fireridge Magma

Littermate to my first. A taller and all around bigger girl than her sister. Nice bones, good head and harsh coat, good rear angles. Not as sound in movement as no.1 and a bit to round in topline for me on the day.

9 TO 19 MONTH FEMALE

1217 – Rockhart Gossip

A big and solid puppy. Nice from all angles, very good front and shoulders, nice long neck. Well angulated and solid rear with nice low hocks. Would like to see a more feminine head and I find her a tiny bit long in the loins. Outstanding in movement, long covering low reach with powerful pushing drive. So fluid in movement, showing no effort in running. **Best In Sweepstakes**