

**Event: Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada
Canadian National Specialty Show
Date: September 16 & 17, 2006
Judge: Elizabeth Murphy**

Thank you for inviting me to judge your 2006 National Specialty. It was a great honour and a pleasure. My congratulations to all the winners and my thanks to all exhibitors for the sportsmanlike way all accepted my decisions, although in many classes there was very little to choose between the winners. There were many hounds of good type, with good heads, good coats and well made. The quality of puppy bitches and junior bitches was high which promises well for the future of the breed in Canada.

The main problems are similar to those elsewhere:

- a) Upper arms lacking sufficient length and/or angulations to give depth of brisket and correct position of the elbows. The extra length and slope of upper arm is an important feature of the sight-hound. Sometimes straight upper arms are accompanied by upright pasterns. The spring of pastern is an essential feature of the sight-hound.
- b) Lack of sound movement. Most of the hounds moved with nice stride, the most essential feature of good movement, but many were not moving true coming and going.

It was a very nice experience to give the Best of Breed to a male, I find my Best of Breed winners are usually females. It seems to be a little more difficult to breed exceptional males. I often wonder if it is because of the awkward stages of growth that most young males go through to a greater extent than females at the same age. Then maybe not all males grow out of the difficult stages.

On a lighter note, when typing up the critique, I was intrigued with the names of some of the hounds, my favourite is: "Awesome Pawesome of Kerry" and I was very impressed with "Tomahawke Wolfhaven Windtalker" who boasts no less than four owners!

Congratulations to all concerned on the excellent organization of both National and Regional Specialties at more or less the same time and venue. I can only imagine the amount of work involved. Well done! The venue was fantastic and added to the style and grace of the occasion. A very special thanks to my stewards Olive Taylor and Marion Day and Show Secretary and Show Superintendent, Terry Young, who did an excellent job keeping things running smoothly.

Thank you again for making my visit so special. Arranging my own personal guide for the first few days was a lovely idea. Thank you Kim, for your kindness to me, you were a treasure.

My memories of my trip to Canada are: beautiful hounds, lovely people, and fantastic country. Thank you and Congratulations on a great National Specialty!

Elizabeth C. Murphy

Junior Puppy Male

1 Simmons; **Lonnkyle Lander**

Loved this puppy. Very typical with good conformation. Good head and good coat. Needs more ring experience, moved well in spite of this.

2 Daley/Shorey; **Aotearoa Tihi Aru**

Typical puppy. well made. Good head and coat. Movement coming and going should improve as he matures.

3 Smith/Rutherford; **Heathview Professor Fonzworth**

Typical puppy with good conformation. Good head and coat. Moved well for is age. Needs more ring experience to show to advantage.

4 Wortman; **Redtops Corwyn**

Nice typical puppy. Still very immature. Movement should improve with maturity.

Senior Puppy Male

1 Mattson; **Nightwing's Legend**

Promising puppy. Good conformation, nice stride, moved well. Ears a little heavy.

2 Fitzgerald; **Kellamore Braemar of Fitzwick**

Still very immature. Nice head, good coat. Movement coming and going should strengthen with maturity.

3 Simmons; **Lonnkyle Philip**

Nice puppy, moved well for his age. Would like a better bite.

12 - 15 Month Male

1 Nesbitt; **Wolfkin's Aslan**

Lovely typical puppy, good head, and ears. Good conformation. Well laid shoulder but would like a little more angulation of upper arm.

2 Hartenstein & Simon; **Rockhart Havoc**

Nice puppy with good head, body and good hindquarters. Would like a little more angulation of forequarters. Moved with nice stride, movement coming and going should strengthen with maturity.

3 Charles; **Excalibur of Our Valley (Bel)**

Nice puppy but still very immature. Nice head, good hindquarters, would like more angulation of forequarters. Stride a little short at present, this should improve as he matures.

4 Gottsch/Curtis/Morris; **Ianina's Six Pack Shootout**

Another immature puppy. Nice head, good coat and body. Would like a little more angulation in fore and hindquarters. Length of stride should improve as he matures.

15 – 18 Month Male

1 Simon; **Stoneybrook Dakota**

Loved this puppy. Very typical, lovely head, good coat and good conformation. Moved very well for his age.

2 Lawless/Simon; **Stoneybrook McGrath Brennan**

Another very typical puppy. Good forequarters and hindquarters. Movement should improve as he matures.

Canadian Bred Male

1 Nesbitt/Osborne/Andrews; **Wolfkin Odin**

It was lovely to watch this hound going around the ring. Very typical, good head, chest and hindquarters and moved with lovely stride. Would like a little more angulation of forequarters and harsher coat.

2 Simmons; **Lonnkyle Petition**

Another quality hound. Typical, good head, body and hindquarters. Would like a little more length of upper arm. Moved well.

3 Veel; **Dunnescroft Penrhyn Repique**

Nice hound but a little over-groomed for a rough coated breed which detracted from his appearance of good type. Would like more angulation of forequarters. Moves true in front.

4 Rubenick: **Oldline's Red Cedar**

Typical hound, good coat, plenty of forechest, good body, good hindquarters. Stride a little short and tail carriage too high. 4th place due to temperament, a little too aggressive for an Irish Wolfhound.

Bred By Exhibitor Male

1 Nesbitt; **Wolfkin Zydeco**

Lovely typical hound. Good head, good coat. Well made body with good hindquarters. Moved with nice stride but a little close behind.

2 Mattson; **Nightwing's Legion**

Another very typical hound. Good conformation, well developed for his age. Good coat. Moved with nice stride

3 Singer/Rutherford; **Heathview Zadkiel**

Nice hound. Good head, good coat and good hindquarters. Would like more angulation of forequarters. Moved well coming and going, stride a little short.

4 Simmons; **Lonnkyle Pathos**

Nice typical hound with good head and ears. Good body and coat. Shoulder well laid but would like a little more angulation of upper arm giving more depth of chest.

Open Male

1 Hartenstein/Simon; **Rockhart Enigma**

Lovely typical hound. Good Body, good conformation, good forequarters and hindquarters. Nice head but frontal bone a little high. Moved well with nice stride. **Winners Dog.**

2 Sharpe/Pline/Osborne/Andrews; **Tomahawke Wolfhaven Windtalker**

Another lovely hound. Typical, good conformation, good angulation. Moved with good stride. Coming, moves a little wide at elbow. **Res. Winners Dog.**

3 Koller; **Rockhart Great Gatsby of Kerry**

Nice typical hound, good head, good coat, good angulation fore and aft. Would like a little more spring of rib. Moves with nice stride, though a little close behind.

4 Lubera/Stobart; **Caraglen Shellane Hijacked JC**

Nice hound of good type. Good body and coat, good forequarters and hindquarters. Movement coming and going need to strengthen up and tail carriage a little too high.

Junior Puppy Female

1 Pline; **Tomahawke's Falling Leaf**

Lovely typical puppy. Good conformation. Nice head, though ear a little heavy. Moved with nice stride, hind action still needs to strengthen up a little. Tail carriage may settle with time.

2 Lavigne/Gange; **Glenamadda Starkeeper Wallis**

Another typical puppy. Good head and ears. Good body with good coat. Well laid shoulder but would like more angulation of upper arm giving more depth of forechest. Moves well for her age.

3 Daley/Shorey; **Aotearoa Aroha Noa**

Typical puppy with good head, though ears a little large. Good body, good hindquarters. Layback of shoulder good but would like a little more angulation of upper arm. Moved well for her age with nice stride.

4 Prokopenko/Gagne; **Starkeeper Glenamadda Veronica**

Nice typical puppy, good body, coat and hindquarters. Good shoulder but needs more depth of forechest. Moves well for her age.

Senior Puppy Female

1 Sharpe/Traskos; **Thunderwolf's Connemara Autumn**

Lovely puppy, good type, good head and ear. Good body and hindquarters. Very good moved; moved with nice stride and is true coming and going.

2 Simmons; **Nightwing's Lonnkyle Leena**

Another lovely typical puppy. Good body, well developed for her age. Good coat. Would like a little more angulation of hindquarters. Moved with nice stride but a little wide at elbow.

3 Simon/Levan; **Stoneybrook Lismore Arwen**

Puppy of good type, good head and good coat. Good hindquarters. Would like more angulation of upper-arm. Tail carriage at little high at present. Moved with nice stride but still a little wide in front.

4 Traskos; **Thunderwolf Andromeda Ascendant**

Nice puppy with nice head, ears a little heavy. Good coat. Needs more ring confidence to show to advantage.

12 - 15 Month Female - This was a nice class.

1 Ross; **Cnoccarne Keshagh**

Nice typical hound with good head, ears and coat. Good body and good hindquarters, Moves with nice stride but hind action needs to strengthen up.

2 Hartenstein/Simon; **Rockhart Heresy**

Another typical puppy, well built with plenty of muscle. Good head and neck, good coat. Good forequarters and hindquarters. Moved with nice long stride though hind action needs to strengthen up. Very close to Ist.

3 Bernardi/Stobart; **Caraglen Berwyck Dark Promise**

Nice typical hound, good head and reach of neck, good ear. Good body with good conformation. Moved with nice stride, but a little wide in front. Tendency to side-wheel, a common problem in a growing puppy. Expect this will correct itself as the puppy matures.

4 Ryan/Collier; **Quest For Granuaille At Curiaan**

Typical well made hound. Good head and body. Good coat and good hindquarters. Would like a little more depth of forechest. Moved with nice stride, hind action needs to strengthen up.

15 - 18 Month Female

1 Pline/Osborne; **Tomahawke's Hau Kodah**

Lovely typical hound, good head with well carried ears, good coat. Well made with good forequarters. Moved with nice stride, movement coming and going needs to strengthen up a little.

2 Simmons; **Stoneybrook Lonnkyle PL**

A bitch of excellent type. A photo of this bitch would enhance any article on breed type. Moved with nice stride, movement coming and going disappointing. .

3 Stobart; **Pinehurst Caraglen Meridian**

Another typical hound with good head and good ears. Should well laid but would like a little more angulation of upper-arm and at stifle joint. Moves well.

Canadian Bred Female

1 Traskos/Osborne/Andrews; **Wolfhaven's Thunder Wolf Waltz**

Lovely typical hound showing all the right curves and angles. Moves with lovely stride but still a little close behind.

2 Rubenick; **Oldline's Darkest Moment**

Another lovely hound, typical, good head, nice to see a dark eye in a wheaten. Good Coat, good body good hindquarters. Moved with nice stride though still a little close behind.

3 Louks; **Awesome Pawsome of Kerry**

Nice typical hound. Moves with nice stride and true coming and going. Sorry can't read rest of my comment.

4 Gagne/Watts; **Laislinn Starkeeper Rayne FCh**

Nice hound, good body. Would like more angulation of upper arm and better tail carriage. Moved with nice stride but still a little close behind.

Bred By Exhibitor Female

1 Prokopenko/Gagne; **Glenamadda Starkeeper U R Zada**

Exceptionally nice bitch. Typical, good conformation and good movement. My notes read: "all good!" **Winners Bitch**

2 Hartenstein/Simon; **Rockhart Eclipse**

Another typical bitch. Good head, good body and good coat. Would like a little more angulation of forequarters with a little more reach in front. **Reserve Winner Bitch**

3 Daley/Freedman; **Aotearoa Emrys Mango**

Nice typical bitch with good head, good ear and good reach of neck. Good body and good hindquarters. Would like a little more rise over the loin and a little more length of stride.

4 Ross; **Cnoccarne Moriagh**

Another nice typical bitch, good body, coat and hindquarters. Would like more strength of muzzle and more reach of stride.

Open Female - Another good class

1 Simmons; **Lonnkyle Nadean**

Lovely hound, very typical. Good head, good coat, good body. Conformation good, moved well.

2 Ross; **Cnoccarne Cloonenagh**

Another lovely typical hound. Good head, coat and body. Good hindquarters. Good shoulder, would like a little more angulation of upper arm. Very good mover.

3 Fitzgerald/Gagne; **Starkeeper Cearah of Fitzwick**

Very typical hound. Good head, coat and body. Conformation good. Would like a little more length of stride.

4 Stobart; **Caraglen Roseanna Danna**

Very typical hound. Good head, body and coat. Well made. Moved with nice long stride but a little close behind.

Specials Only

Best of Breed; E Ross; **Ch Cnoccarne Cashelagh**, and **Best of Opposite Sex** (Reserve Best of breed) Ryan/Osborne/Andrews **Ch Wolfhaven Rocknroll To Curiann**, My Best of Breed and Res. Best of Breed were not only Specials, they were Very Special and a joy to judge. In addition to my BB and Res BB, the following deserve special mention;

Prokopenko/Gagne; **Ch Star keeper Glenamadda Realtan**

Fitzgerald/Volk/Gagne; **Ch Karontara Stareeper Dylan**

Nesbitt; **Ch Wolfkin's Chai Pi**

Ross; **Ch Knocknarea Benoble of Cnoccarne F.Ch.**

**Event: Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada
Canadian National Specialty Show
Date: September 16 & 17, 2006
Sweepstakes Judge: Jude Callender**

6 - 9 Month Male

1st – 411 – Lonnkyle Lander

A very impressive, rangy stallion-like hound with great movement, lovely neck, beautiful old-style head. A strong hound with loads of potential. Full of himself today, a real job for his handler.

2nd – 429 – Tomahawke's Wolfkin Pax

Lovely puppy, beautiful laid-back shoulder, excellent top line. Moved well. Ears not his fortune at this point. Pressed hard for number one.

3rd – 303 – Heathview Professor Fonsworth

Large rangy wheaten male, needs to com into his top line. Didn't have his movement under control today.

4th – 354 – Aotearoa Tihi Aru

Red brindle boy, not as good in front as above. Well muscled and moved out well.

9 - 12 Month Male

1st – 384 – Nightwing's Legion

This hound caught my eye when he came into the ring. He has great presence. A substantial yet typey hound. Good upper arm and lay-back of shoulder, excellent top line which he held on the move, although he at times moved wide in front which may be his age. Well muscled and presented in excellent condition.

2nd – 410 – Lonnkyle Philip

Rangy red brindle dog not as together in movement, and straighter in front than first in this class. Was soft in his top line which could be due to age and condition.

3rd – 390 – Kellamore Braemar of Fitzwick

Appeared to be a younger dog, not as well boned-up and straighter in front than those ahead of him. Movement not helped by hygromas. Lovely dark pigment.

12 - 15 Month Male

1st – 428 – Wolfkin's Aslan

Beautiful large male, very strong, could have more curves but balanced. Mature for his age, lovely dark pigment. Moved out well.

2nd – 304 – Caraglen Berwyck Dark Threat

Also moved out well, not as good in front. Needs maturity which should improve his depth of chest. Has mice long sweep of second thigh.

3rd – 345 – Ianina's Six Pack Shootout

Appeared to be a younger male, roachy at this time. Chest will improve as he matures. He did not move as well as second place. Needs more breadth of second thigh.

4th – 330 – Blackwitch Pierce at Vallemar

Large, tall well-pigmented dark male not as good in front as previous placements. Good length of neck. Could be in harder condition. Tail set needs improvement.

15 - 18 Month Male

1st – 423 – Stoneybrook Dakota

A large rangy male, good forechest, moved out far better than second place. Needs more curves. Steep in croup.

2nd – 301 – Stoneybrook McGrath Brennan

Not as much scope and did not move out as well as first place. Shown in good condition, front nicely under him. Good forechest, pleasing expression, decent tuck-up.

6 – 9 Month Female

1st – 346 – Sidhe's Wolfchase Reba

A lovely typey puppy, beautiful head with level planes and loads of expressions. Excellent pigment, lots of curves, good forechest, well put together and moved with reach and drive. Bit soft in her top line at this stage of growth. A delightful puppy with great potential.

2nd – 383 – Starkeeper Glenamadda Veronica

Brindle also moved out well but not as well as the first place. Good pigment, low hocks, lovely head. Had a better shape on the move than when standing.

3rd – 335 – Tomahawke's Falling Leaf

Rangy bitch, not as good in front, but balanced and moved well. Not as much depth of chest. Appears at this time to be loaded over the shoulders which spoiled her top line.

4th – 420 – Redtop's Casidhe

Seemed to be a youngster in this class, with still a lot of growing to do. Outline spoiled somewhat by hygroma on her croup, but lovely type with wonderful expression and delightful temperament.

9 - 12 Month Female

1st – 395 – ThunderWolf's Connemara Autumn

Powerful grey brindle. Lots of curves flowing one into the other, great movement, dark pigment, lovely outline and held it on the move. Excellent type.

2nd – 356 – Stoneybrook Lismore Arwen

Close on the first place in type and curves. Not as much substance or breadth. Needs to mature. Falls off in the croup.

3rd – 408 – Nightwing's Lonnkyle Leena

Also a strong bitch, not as good behind as those ahead of her. Lovely lay-back in shoulder. Not moving as well today as the others placing before her.

4th – 388 – ThunderWolf Andromeda Ascendant

Large red brindle. Very substantial bitch. Could use more curves and depth of chest when she matures.

12 - 15 Month Female

1st – 361 – Rockhart Heresy

Not only a powerful grey brindle bitch, but one with presence, lots of curves in the right places, excellent type, beautiful outline and held it on the move. Moved effortlessly. Lovely strong neck flowing into the shoulders and top line. A striking example of type with strength. Had I to take one hound with both type and the ability to face a wolf, she was it today. I was delighted to find such quality and function in one package.

2nd – 328 – Cnoccarne Keshagh

Appeared to be a younger red puppy. Moved out very well. Good front assembly with excellent lay-back. Strong head and neck flowing into well laid-back shoulders and correct top line rising over the loin. Has lots of maturing to do.

3rd – 332 – Sidhe's A Redneck Woman

A good typey bitch, lovely mover, great pigment and well put together. A bit long in the loin.

4th – 308 – Caraglen Berwyck Dark Promise

This bitch is a lovely type but not at her best today. Ears could be better. Excellent outline and a strong hound. Straighter in the upper arm than the others in this class, and was not moving as well today as she ought to have with her conformation.

15 - 18 Month Female

1st – 409 – Stoneybrook Lonnkyle PL

A nice and typey puppy with a lovely old-style head. Held her shape on the move. Well balanced with great promise. Has her front well under her.

2nd – 310 – Pinehurst Caraglen Meridian

Did not move as well as first place. Straighter in the upper arm, but has a nice deep chest and breadth of stifle.

Best in Sweeps 361 – Rockhart Heresy

Best of Opposite in Sweeps 384 – Nightwing's Legion