

**Event: Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada
Mid-Canada Regional Specialty Show
Date: September 15, 2006
Conformation Judge: Sorcha Wilde (United Kingdom)**

There are some things that I did not touch on in my after-dinner speech and want to as a preface to my critique.

I forgot to thank Kim, who chauffeured Betty Murphy and I around Thunder Bay, taking us to many beautiful historic spots, and entertained us to lunch in an Irish pub. I too wanted to mention that her wonderful son, aged fourteen, and daughter, twelve, entertained us in full Scottish Regalia to traditional dancing at the Friday dinner. Although Kim and family do not have Irish Wolfhounds, her sister, Glenda Black, one of that indomitable team of Silvia Martin, does. Again, that special family spirit helped make the show special for me and, I am certain, for the exhibitors.

In my critique, I repeatedly mention the lovely heads and powerful hindquarters. Nowhere else internationally have I seen such an abundance. Congratulations! In some of the larger classes, hounds of merit were unplaced. What does need attention, apart from making certain that leg length is noted when breeding are teeth (size), jaws (width) and feet.

Several years back, Susan Hudson of Brabyns fame judged the American National Specialty. In her after-dinner speech, she said: "Today, I have judged on teeth and feet." There was some amusement, thinking this was a joke. But then she went on to say: "If an Irish Wolfhound has not the feet to carry it over any terrain to chase its prey, and not the strength in the jaw or the complement of punishing teeth to dispatch the prey, then it is pretty useless." We all understand that an Irish Wolfhound needs the soundness of body and powerful stamina – but yes, teeth and feet are very important.

I thank all of you exhibitors for your great sportsmanship. Many of you have traveled hundreds of miles to show your hounds at this wonderful Canadian show and I thank you – because to be afforded the opportunity to place my hands on generations of your diverse breeding lines is indeed a huge privilege. So, many thanks to each and every one of you.

To have a show that has been run with such efficiency requires dedication and skill over many months to cover all the details of producing a smooth-running show and an atmosphere of happiness and camaraderie – so, thank you Silvia and all those special friends who have worked so hard alongside and have become like family.

Now, to my steward Olive. Where would I have been without her? Not only did she keep me on track, but when the heat affected me, packed my neck with ice bags and sprayed me with lavender. I have had many stewards over the years and been grateful, however Olive has for me been the best.

Naturally, you will want to know what I thought about what for more than 40 years has been my passion – the Irish Wolfhound. Over the years, I have commented and written on many aspects concerning the breeding, rearing and showing of this great hound and wondered what I could say that has not already been said – almost impossible, but then in England I became hooked on the BBC programme about the finding of a MARIA and thought this might help you to understand what judging is all about or by the end of what I have to say, consider me a crazy, eccentric person! Of course, that is what you may be thinking already.

I feel certain that most of you will have heard of Andrew Lloyd Webber who wrote the music for the Phantom of the Opera, Cats, Evita and much more. I should think all of you have seen or at least heard of 'The Sound of Music' and the memorable Julie Andrews as Maria. The purpose of this BBC programme was to find a new talent out of hundreds of hopefuls from around the UK to play Maria. Exciting, taxing but purposeful – rather like looking for and selecting the talent amongst the Irish Wolfhound that showed under me. On the Maria show, there were three knowledgeable judges with Andrew Lloyd Webber casting the final vote. The search was to find someone who could become a West End star (like being on Broadway). This required several aspects of ability, apart from being able to sing soprano. Some of the Wolfhounds 'gave voice' today, although this was not part of their audition! Hundreds of hopeful Marias auditioned and eventually the cut came down to 30 – same as my process of elimination.

Although the judges disagreed on some of the various aspects and ability of the girls, they did after some debate agree in the final analysis, that certain physical and mental attributes were essential to their Maria. I too, have to look at the Wolfhounds in such a manner. Are they instantly recognizable as an Irish Wolfhound (breed type)? Have they got the required temperament? And of course much more.

The 30 hopeful Marias were sent to a school to be put through a regime to test their skills. After a week, ten were selected to perform live in front of the judges, a live audience and on TV. They had to be able to sing, act, move with ease, dance and hold the stage and give out that special magic that would stand them apart. In fact, a standard and a very high one. Not only did they have to show their ability in all these fields, they were tested on an army assault course to see if they had STAMINA. Eight live shows a week demands that. So does an Irish Wolfhound need stamina. It is part of its essence which defines it as this singular breed. Andrew Lloyd Webber declared his Maria had to be modern, able to accept the necessity to work at her chosen craft and have the passion to be in it for the long haul. I think all of these things are relevant to us, our hounds and judging.

Success for the Irish Wolfhound of the future resides in the underlying belief in the relevance of the standard and that today's Irish Wolfhound fanciers' and breeders' adaptations stay true to the essence of the standard that Captain Graham evolved over a hundred years ago, and that although some new elements contribute to the evolution of the modern Irish Wolfhound there should be a belief that a standard is only a true living force when those who judge or select know how to look at tradition with contemporary eyes, staying true to the essence of the standard, but acknowledging that the public who attend the show belong to today.

Now back to Maria. There was a twist to this show – the general public was asked to vote on the ten would-be Marias. Well you might say 'how dangerous' but one has to have a certain amount of faith and to my amazement the public voting was done with much attention to what was at stake – in fact, Mrs. Nagle of the famous Sulhamstead kennel told me that when you are judging, there would be those ringside who would have as much or indeed more knowledge than you. Andrew Lloyd Webber said that if the wrong Maria were chosen – not only would it be a disaster for that person, because she would be publicly humiliated by the press, also the general public would feel let down and so too would her fellow actors. In fact, nobody would benefit. However, the right choice would bring success to all. If you place an Irish Wolfhound in the top awards and it does not fulfill what is required of it according to the standard, then you too fail yourself, fellow enthusiasts and breeders. Now I know that those of you ringside were not able to vote for which hound or hounds you would place, although I am certain every one of you had an opinion – but by the very fact that you made the effort of coming here today shows your commitment to the breed and so that is why I think judging entirely on one's own (and it is a very lonely place) is an enormous privilege and responsibility. I hope you understand that finding a Maria or Mario means a lying bare of one's abilities in public.

Like Andrew Lloyd Webber, I wanted something special. It is a well-known fact that I feel the Irish Wolfhound should be able to do the job it was originally bred for – hunting, and that requires power, strength, muscle and stamina. It has to be made correctly and should be a creature of beauty. A continuity of purpose.

The search is exciting. I trust you will see judging is no easy task, but like Andrew Lloyd Webber you have to have a belief and passion that out here, there is always a modern something who will contribute to the future. What a responsibility.

So what did I find?

Well I found my Maria, and although there were many beautiful bitches who on another day could have been my Maria, today she was my choice. My Maria, Best Opposite in Show, has apart from her beautiful shape, effortless movement and judging on her condition and muscle would be able to hunt. She held her head high with that wonderful expression, so when looking into her eyes you could see the soul of a true gazehound. She commanded the ring, feminine and beautiful.

Now for my Mario and Best in Show. He held his own amongst a collection of interesting and up-and-coming males. Was he truly beautiful – no, but my Mario had to be mature, powerful, command my attention for strength and balance, one that despite the upper 80 degrees never flagged moving and if he could do that, whatever the circumstances, then he had stamina.

He is a handsome dog, that as a breeder you truly appreciate his balance, strength and powerful hindquarters. Would I like him alongside me hunting – definitely YES. It was a great pleasure to find a hound that my mentor Florence Nagle would have appreciated.

There are a few problems that need addressing – incorrect top lines, no length of upper arm so an inability to extend in front movement and cover the ground. Teeth and jaw width need watching. If the teeth are small and the jaw narrow and weak, the potential as a hunting breed is greatly diminished.

However I thought there were some very interesting youngsters, who, if they fulfill their promise, spell much hope for the future.

I leave you today with wonderful memories of this show in truly beautiful surroundings. I trust you all had your fun spotting your Marios and Marias.

In fact to all of you – Carpe Diem. Seize the day and have a safe journey home. Thank you all.

Sorcha Wilde

Junior Puppy Male

1st – 211 – Lonnkyle Lander

A very promising puppy. All curves. Already has good musculature. Well-ribbed back rib cage with correct length of loin. Good over the croup with good tail set and carriage. Covered the ground when moving. Needs to grow into his head, which at this very young age is a good sign. Definitely one to watch.

2nd – 229 – Tomahawke's Wolfkin Pax

Another one of promise. Beautiful head and expression. Strong clean long bones. Strong curved hindquarters. Not quite the balance of the first. However, at this huge growing stage, the balance changes. A lovely puppy.

3rd – 103 – Heathview Professor Fonzworth

A wheaten with a lovely head and expression and good pigment. Correct coat. Plenty of width through the body. Good wide hindquarters with angulation. At that growing stage when the top line is a little roached. Moved soundly.

4th – 221 – Redtops Corwyn

A real baby with a fantastic temperament. Lovely quality head. Correct expression. Good bone. Sweeping hindquarters. Needs time to strengthen and deal with his curves. I hope he fulfills his promise.

Senior Puppy Male

1st – 187 – Nightwing's Legend

Already has the makings of an impressive male. An upstanding, well-constructed youngster that moves out in front and drives from his powerful hindquarters. Good bone, good feet. Masculine head held on a strong neck. By my BIS winner and could well emulate him.

2nd – 210 – Lonnkyle Philip

Tall, strong-bodied youngster, still very raw-looking. Good head and expression. Long boned, though not with the curve or width of the one above. Covered the ground moving but not driving off his hocks.

3rd – 145 – Ianina's Six Pack Shootout

Really big fella with lovely head. Strong body with length and depth. Good hindquarters. Needs time to settle, muscle and co-ordinate. Movement not unsound but erratic.

4th – 190 –Kellamore Braemar of Fitzwick

Big cream hound. If only his rear had matched his beautiful head, which had perfect ears, a true gazehound expression and dark pigment to the lips and eyes! Good bone, good coat but lacking in rear angulation and movement unco-ordinated.

12-15 Month Male

1st – 104 – Caraglen Berwyck Dark Threat

His name could be his talisman for the future, if he continues fulfilling his promise. This youngster really excites me. Beautiful to look at standing and moving. All curves. Masculine head set on a strong, arched neck. Long bones, body with substance and muscle. Really drove off his hocks. Wished he had settled more when challenging for Best of Winners. A quality youngster.

2nd – 162 – Rockhart Havoc

Plenty to like. However, not the length of leg or feet of the first. Plenty of curves from shoulders to the powerful hindquarters. Good spring of rib and depth of chest. Correct coat. Lovely easy movement.

3rd – 228 – Wolfkin's Aslan

If only he had moved better! A promising youngster with good bone. Standing showed his pleasing outline and powerful hindquarters with low hocks. No disgrace to be third.

4th – 114 –Slaine Syncopated Rhythm

Apart from my winner, had the best feet in the class. Good head, masculine with lovely expression. Good length of leg. Correct coat. A little straight in the top line and not moving as freely as first or second.

15-18 Month Male

1st – 223 – Stoneybrook Dakota

Stood alone in this class. Upstanding, well-made and well-presented young male. Good shoulder placement, good spring, depth and length of ribs. Correct underline and top line. Strong angulated hindquarters. Lovely easy, active movement covering the ground. My Reserve Winners Dog, also my BPIS Male.

Canadian Bred Male

1st – 206 – Lonnkyle Petition

Tall, rangy red, all long bones. A raw youngster that needs time to mature. Strong attractive head and with his lovely shape could only be a sighthound. Moved well driving from his powerful hindquarters.

2nd – 179 – Oldline's Red Cedar

Lovely head, though I sensed unease within him; perhaps overhandled? Mature body and balanced hindquarters won his place with his sound strong movement.

3rd –227 – Wolfkin Odin

A tall fella with a lovely head and beautifully muscled rear carriage. Not the angulation fore and aft, so lacking forechest and sweep to second thigh. Handled and presented well.

4th – 224 – Dunnescroft Penrhyn Repique

Another one with a head to be proud of. Lacked the length of rib cage, so too long in the loin. Needed more curve to the hindquarters and therefore not able to move freely and easily. Presented well.

Bred By Exhibitor Male

1st – 165 – Rockhart Elysee

Balanced, strong muscled hound with masculine head. Good ear carriage and length and width to his jaws. Plenty of depth of chest. Strong powerful hindquarters. When moving reached in front and drove from his low hocks. Litter brother to my Winners Dog.

2nd – 207 – Lonnkyle Pathos

An attractive hound with long bones and body. Good head set on a strong arched neck. Well ribbed back body and sufficient depth of chest. Plenty of muscle in his sweeping hindquarters. Good coat. Still looks immature. Lost to above on erratic movement.

3rd – 111 – Slaine Chivalry

Best head and expression in the class. Good front with correct upper arm. Sufficient width through the body and strong hindquarters. Needs more leg length to balance the length of body.

4th – 184 – Nightwing's Legion

Typical young male with attractive head. Good bone and width and depth to his body. However his front did not match the quality of his well-muscled hindquarters and was penalized.

Open Male

1st – 166 – Rockhart Enigma

A strong dark grey of substance. Nice depth of chest and spring of rib. Correct coat. Despite the temperature being above 80 degrees F he moved round the ring, never flagging. He had the stamina to carry him over the long haul. Well presented and handled. I was happy to award him Best of Winners.

2nd – 133 – Sidhe Guinness of Gardenfield

One with a perfect gazehound expression. Lovely balanced head, strong neck, good shoulder placement. Strong, well-ribbed body. Correct coat. Moved soundly. Would like a little more leg length.

3rd – 115 – Caraglen Shellane Hijacked JC

Reminds me of the powerful Sulhamstead hounds. Wonderful temperament that exudes gentleness yet great strength. Has depth of chest and width through the body. Not the sweep to hindquarters as those above. One I would definitely use in a breeding programme.

4th – 194 – Tomahawke Wolfhaven Windtalker

In this large class of mature males, no disgrace to be placed fourth. With the three above could change places. Big strong fella with lovely bone and very powerful body. Strong male head with good expression. Liked everything about his make and shape except his feet. The heat was obviously affecting him when moving.

Winners Male 166 – Rockhart Enigma

Reserve Winners Male 223 – Stoneybrook Dakota

Junior Puppy Female

1st – 199 – Lonnkyle Phoenix Risin at Curiann

Wonderful strong, well-boned puppy that already has great musculature. Lovely head with good length of muzzle and plenty of width and strength to jaws. Really covered the ground moving showing her curved balanced body. Hope she fulfills her promise. By my BIS sire and dam, to whom I gave the Award of Merit. She exhibits her breeding.

2nd – 220 – Redtops Casidhe

A dark grey that exudes quality. Gorgeous head and expression. Beautiful outline and moved freely. A little less mature than the first, but in this baby class means little except that it shows up on the day. A beautiful puppy of great promise.

3rd – 135 – Tomahawke's Falling Leaf

Lovely strong bone and plenty of spring of ribs. Standing a bit straight both ends today, however a good collected mover and lovely steady temperament.

4th – 146 – Sidhe's Wolfchase Reba

A lovely quality red brindle with a beautiful head and the longest of tails. Looked a real baby in this class, compared to those above. To be fourth in a class of eight is no disgrace. I am certain in time, she will be at the top of the line. Very promising.

Senior Puppy Female

1st – 156 – Stoneybrook Lismore Arwen

A dark grey that had that beautiful expression of a true gazehound. Dark eyes, rose ears and dark pigment. Good length of body, well ribbed back, good shoulders and this particularly showed by her reach in front when moving; coupled with her strong wide and sweeping hindquarters, she ate up the ground. My Best Puppy. A credit to her breeder and owner as she faced some very strong competition on the day.

2nd – 195 – ThunderWolf's Connemara Autumn

Well-grown youngster with pleasing head. Balanced body with plenty of width. Good hindquarters. Drove from her hocks. Eyes a little light but expression was not spoiled by this. Excellent ear carriage.

3rd – 208 – Nightwing's Lonkyle Leena

Particularly liked the power this puppy exhibited. Lovely bone, body with width and depth. Standing a little straight in the rear. Moved well.

4th – 143 – Ianina's Six Ways from Sunday

Tall youngster with plenty of leg length but not lacking in depth of chest. Long body. Strong loin. Not the shoulder placement of those above. Presentable standing, but falls apart on the move. Shown and handled well.

12-15 Month Female

1st – 108 – Caraglen Berwyck Dark Promise

Promise she has in abundance! Looks as if when mature could hold her own amongst the best. Beautiful shape standing and moving. Wonderful hindquarters, all curves, width and muscle. Drove off her low hocks. No face furnishings but strong head on muscular neck and strong jaws and teeth. Excellent coat.

2nd – 161 – Rockhart Heresy

Great effortless, powerful movement. Another one that shows off her many virtues. Strong body with good angulation both ends. Would prefer more length of leg. Has strength and steady temperament. Good coat.

3rd – 113 – Slaine Tempo Soave

Has the length and quality of bone that I appreciate. True gazehound head and expression. enough width through the body. Not the curving outline of those above. Standing a little straight in the rear. Still deserved her place in a good class, as when moving she really covered the ground.

4th – 198 – Quest for Granuaille at Curiann

Beautiful head. An upstanding bitch that had a muscled, balanced body with plenty of width and depth to her ribcage. Strong loin. Looked like a huntress. Not moving as easily as those above. No disgrace to be fourth in a hotly contested class, with promising bitches unplaced.

15-18 Month Female

1st – 209 – Stoneybrook Lonnkyle PL

Pale grey quality brindle, balanced and was all curves. Plenty of substance. Her angulated shoulder placement and powerful hindquarters enabled her to reach and drive. Another hound by my BIS winner. A credit to her breeder and owner.

2nd – 137 – Tomahawke's Hau Kodah

Not the balance of the first. However, good leg length of dense bone, plenty of width through the body. Powerful hindquarters. Handled sympathetically showing how she could cover the ground moving.

3rd – 101 – Pinehurst Caraglen Meridian

Typical head with good expression. At that stage when she needs to drop in the rear. Has the length of bone, but standing straight which showed up particularly when moving. Lovely sound front and balanced strong body with depth.

Canadian Bred Female

1st – 127 – Cnoccarne Treasagh

Looks a hunter. Balanced. All the long lines and proportions of a gazehound with a lovely head. All her muscles were long and smooth. Powerful sweeping hindquarters. Really covered the ground moving. Not carrying sufficient weight, but one I felt should in order to complete the picture.

2nd – 189 – Wolfhaven's ThunderWolf Waltz

Mature and in excellent condition. Pushed hard for the first placement. Lovely head and expression. Plenty of bone and substance. Good top and underline. Good coat. Moved soundly but not the reach or drive of the one above.

3rd – 182 – Laislinn Starkeeper Rayne FCh

Certainly this bitch can move right out covering the ground, as to the credit of her breeder so do all of her hounds. Really sound bitch with good head, a well ribbed back body. Clean bone, nice feet. Would prefer more length of leg to balance length of body. Handled beautifully.

4th – 219 – Awesome Pawsome of Kerry

Not the body or curves of those above and this showed up when moving. Balanced head with that special expression and when examined showed her steady, lovely temperament. Nice bone and good coat.

Bred By Exhibitor Female

1st – 168 – Glenamadda Starkeeper U R Zada

Very powerful, balanced bitch in excellent condition. Good head, lovely expression. Good spring of rib and depth of chest. Clean long bone. Particularly good feet and pasterns. Aesthetically would like more sweep to her hindquarters. Moving she reached in front and drove from her hocks. Feel certain that she could go all day if asked. Has stamina and it showed. Credit to her owners and breeders.

2nd – 164 – Rockhart Eclipse

Another good strong pale grey bitch who pushed hard for first placement. Attractive head. Strong body with spring and depth. Powerful hindquarters with lovely low hocks. Moved well. Would like more length of leg.

3rd – 150 – Aotearoa Emrys Mango

Real sighthound head and expression. Liked the leg and body proportions and the well-cushioned feet. Strong hindquarters which she used well. Disappointed that she did not move with the drive of those above, as I liked her.

4th – 136 – Hanta Yo's Cree of Tomahawke

Nice head with excellent rose ears. Good width throughout the body. Strong curved hindquarters. Needs more leg length to balance body length. Moved well keeping going in the heat. No disgrace to be fourth.

Open Female

1st – 204 – Lonnkyle Nadean

Winners Bitch and I gave her the Award of Merit. I would love to own her. Completely balanced in hard muscled condition. Good head with muscled rose ears. Good shoulders, greet sweeping hindquarters with low hocks. Wonderful body with strong top line and correct underline. Powerful, long striding movement. Really good pasterns that with all her other virtues would enable her to deal with any terrain. Would I take her amongst wolves for hunting? Definitely.

2nd – 158 – Stoneybrook Skye Soleil

An attractive cream with good pigment and beautiful dark eyes. Good coat. Sufficient bone, spring of rib and depth of chest. Great sweep, width and muscle to hindquarters. Won her place in a large class in the final cut on her ability to move out covering the ground and when asked not to tire.

3rd – 158 – Caraglen Roseanna Danna

The best head and expression in the class. A very good powerful bitch. Strong, balanced body and good leg length. Good topline and tail set. Just did not show herself when moving. A very good bitch.

4th – 163 – Rockhart Calamity

Much to like about her, especially as she used her strong hindquarters when moving. Good head and a powerful body. Not the feet or leg length of the three above. However, a bitch that deserved her place in a hotly contested class of fifteen.

Winners Female 204 – Lonnkyle Nadean

Reserve Winners Female 209 – Stoneybrook Lonnkyle PL

Veteran Female

1st – 186 – Ch. Starkeeper Cuhaven Karontara

A really lovely sighthound who certainly did not look her age both in body and movement. A great credit to her breeders and owners.

Best of Breed 205 – Ch. Lonnkyle Normandie

Best of Opposite Sex 196 – Ch. Wolfhaven Rocknroll to Curiann

Best of Winners 166 – Rockhart Enigma

Best Canadian Bred in Specialty 205 – Ch. Lonnkyle Normandie

Best Puppy in Breed 156 – Stoneybrook Lismore Arwen

Award of Merit 204 – Lonnkyle Nadean

**Event: Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada
Mid-Canada Regional Specialty Show
Date: September 15, 2006
Sweepstakes Judge: Pam Paloma**

Thank you so much for asking me to fill in. I must say, the day was much more difficult than I expected, because there were so many really good youngsters. I was reminded how much easier it is to judge from ringside and I thank you all for that as well. Everyone should have that experience – it is enlightening! Happily for Lloyd Simmons, I do not believe that Puppy Sweepstakes is about judging best trained! His puppy dog shows tons of promise and actually did behave long enough to keep me from looking like an idiot for awarding him Best in Sweepstakes.

Pam Paloma

6 - 9 Month Male

1st – 211

Lonnkyle Lander

A fabulous, quality young male. His beautiful head is perfectly set on a great neck. He had the best front assembly of the entire group of youngsters. His well-proportioned frame is covered by strong muscling. Obviously I liked him – but perfection would like in a slightly increased body length.

2nd – 229

Tomahawke's Wolfkin Pax

An easy-going, nice young dog. Much more moderate than his sister but still in balance.

3rd – 221

Redtops Corwyn

This little guy was the youngest of this class. Even taking this into account, he should have more bone and breadth.

4th – 103

Heathview Professor Fonzworth

Sorry. No notes for this one.

9 - 12 Month Male

1st – 184

Nightwing's Legion

What a handsome young dog! He has a good outline, good bone and is well muscled throughout. His dark eyes and lovely expression save his somewhat plain head.

2nd – 210

Lonnkyle Philip

A rangy and angular youngster – somewhat raw. His side gait was quite good, more than I expected given his moderate angulation.

3rd – 190

Kellamore Braemar of Fitzwick

This was another one who surprised me with his ability to do more than I expected. He's a bit short in rib and long in loin. The best head in this class.

4th – 145

Ianina's Six Pack Shootout

A big, tall yearling. His long, strong second thigh leads to a short hock making for a pretty impressive rear. However, his neck is straight and short and he throws his front around.

12 - 15 Month Male

1st – 104

Caraglen Berwyck Dark Threat

This dog was the obvious winner from the beginning. He has a wonderful, smooth outline and exudes masculinity. He was one of the few with just the right amount of rear angulation coupled with very short hocks. I'm sure he aggravated his handler as much as he did me when he was lazy.

2nd – 228

Wolfkin's Aslan

The neck set and shoulder on this boy are not as good as on the first dog. He's happier on the move and he has a strong rear plant but lacks the necessary ease and length of stride.

3rd – 130

Blackwitch Pierce at Vallemar

A very tall but square dog. His lack of angulation front and rear make it impossible for him to reach or drive. Obviously this is an awkward time in his development. Perhaps he will settle into himself, but I expect it will take another year.

15 - 18 Month Male

1st – 223

Stoneybrook Dakota

No critique available.

6-9 Month Female

1st – 135

Tomahawke's Falling Leaf

The ranginess and scope of this baby really caught my eye. She was "heads up" beautiful standing or moving, and well balanced especially considering her length of body. I loved her attitude – stable but active.

2nd – 181

Starkeeper Glenamadda Victoria

The sister of the girl behind her is another strong girl – of less extreme type than the first bitch. She is very nice in neck with a good, well-muscled arch and uses her front to its best advantage. Her topline improves when she gaits freely.

3rd – 183

Starkeeper Glenamadda Veronica

The sister of #2 is another long, strong but still feminine bitch. She is well muscled throughout, from her well set on neck to her broad thighs. She did not use her powerful body as well as her sister.

4th –

Redtops Casidhe

A very pretty dark brindle, much younger than her group. She is well angulated front and rear. At times her topline had too much rise but it flattened out enough when she moved.

9-12 Month Female

1st – 195

ThunderWolf's Connemara Autumn

This is a big, leggy bitch puppy – good standing and moving. Good in shoulder and upper arm.

2nd – 208

Nightwing's Lonnkyle Leena

Am amazingly powerful young girl for her age, particularly behind. She stood a little wide in front although that corrected on the move.

3rd – 156

Stoneybrook Lismore Arwen

This girl is long and strong, big but feminine. Overall well balanced from her wonderful, strong arched neck to her thick broad thighs. Her tail was very distracting.

4th – 143

Ianina's Six Ways from Sunday

Although big and strong, this puppy's outline is square. Her head is somewhat boyish – perhaps it will not be so noticeable when she grows up.

12 - 15 Month Female

1st – 108

Caraglen Berwyck Dark Promise

Yet another wonderfully strong, balanced girl – and she kept that balance as she gaited. She could do with a more feminine head, however I loved that she looked right at me and dared me not to put her up!

2nd – 198

Quest for Granuaille at Curiann

A very "stylish" young bitch with a gorgeous head. Not enough front angulation. Great show-off attitude that is spoiled by her tail carriage.

3rd – 109

Slaine Caraglen Rock On

Racy and strong and similar of #2 in outline. She will hopefully develop more forechest as she matures.

4th – 132

Sidhe's A Redneck Woman

Although a bit older than the others, this girl appear smaller. She could use more bone. She is short in the ribcage which spoils her underline. Her big thighs and low hocks help her immensely when she moves.

15 - 18 Month Female

1st – 209

Stoneybrook Lonnkyle PL

This dark brindle has an outstanding outline topped off by all the details – dark eyes, good ears and a happy, confident attitude. She's a strong, clean mover from any angle.

2nd – 110

Pinehurst Caraglen Meridian

This is a good bitch but lacks the scope of #1. She should lose some weight.

Best Puppy in Sweepstakes – 211 Lonnkyle Lander

Best of Opposite in Sweepstakes – 209 Stoneybrook Lonnkyle PL