



FALL 2024

Rat Tails

RAT TAILS OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE IRISH WATER SPANIEL CLUB OF AMERICA



Photo: Sarah Zumpf

CHARITABLE SUPPORT MEANS TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR YOU. HELP US, HELP OUR DOGS. IWSCA IS A 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.

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President's Message

Your Board has been discussing the need for rare breeds, like the Irish Water Spaniel, to participate in studies that investigate diseases in the canine population. In these studies researchers look to better understand disease. We are looking to be able to identify research studies that our breed would be invited to participate in. Many of you may remember the study we participated in that was offered by Dr. Jean Dodds. She was studying thyroid levels in our dogs and was instrumental in helping me understand where my dogs' thyroid level should be for optimum health. If you look her up, you will see that through research she and her team came up with a Canine Vaccination schedule that is now being adopted by all 27 North American veterinary schools. I highly recommend that you read about her. We will put on our web page what we find out after we identify studies that are open.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy holiday season. If you travel to family and/or friends for Thanksgiving, may you travel safely. As December rolls around, I wish you all Peace!

Pam



Officers, Committee Chairs, Regional Representatives

(Contact Information can be found on <https://iwsca.org/board>)

IWSCA Board of Directors

President
Pam Manus

1st Vice President
Timothy Gulley

2nd Vice President
Linda Deckard

Corresponding Secretary
Edith Blackwell

Recording Secretary
Bethany Urban

Treasurer
Melissa Gulley

Membership Director
Heidi Currier Ferris

IWSCA Committees

Rat Tails Newsletter Editor
Edith Blackwell
iwscarattailsnews@gmail.com

Delegate to the AKC
Dan Sayers

Public Relations and Education
Laurie Jacobs

Rescue Committee
Lisa Schaitberger

Health & Genetics Committee
Laurel Baglia

Breeders Education Committee
Mindy Garbarino, Greg Siner

Webmaster
Sally Lewis

Judges' Education Committee
Stacy Duncan, Michelle Cummings

Field Committee
Heidi Currier Ferris

2025 National Specialty Committee

Timothy Gulley
Michelle Cummings

Available Puppy and Adult Dog Coordinator
Dana Louttit

Regional Representatives

Northeast
Laurel Baglia
Jeremy Kezer

Mid-Atlantic
Tiffany Schuffert

Southeast
Linda Deckard

Midwest
Susan Sarracino-Deihl

Southwest
Ellen DeVrieze

Northwest
Liz Liddle

International
Charlene Schermers



Club Objectives

The IWSCA is organized and operated exclusively for the charitable, humane treatment of animals, support of scientific study and research and educational purposes within the meanings of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

The specific objectives shall be:

1. To promote the public's knowledge and appreciation of dogs in general and Irish Water Spaniels in particular;
2. To produce, publish, and distribute to the general public educational materials about the proper care, treatment, breeding, health, development, and training of Irish Water Spaniels;
3. To support and promote study and research on the history, character, breeding, genetics, and particular health problems of the Irish Water Spaniel;
4. To establish a national database of resource materials about the Irish Water Spaniel;
5. To further understanding of the disease, defects, injuries, and other ailments that afflict dogs in general and Irish Water Spaniels in particular;
6. To acknowledge and advance the critical role of an AKC recognized Parent Club in providing education, health research, and support of rescue for the benefit of the general public, purebred dogs, and Irish Water Spaniels in particular;
7. To conduct activities, including sporting events, sanctioned matches, specialty shows, hunt and working certificate tests, obedience, agility and tracking trials, and other such activities and events as may be held under the rules of the American Kennel Club in furtherance of the above purposes;
8. To otherwise preserve and protect the Irish Water Spaniel and to do all things possible to bring its natural qualities to light, including promoting regional activities and the establishment of local clubs and/or interest/study groups;
9. To urge members and breeders to abide by the AKC's Code of Good Sportsmanship and accept the standard of the breed as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which the Irish Water Spaniels shall be judged.



Board Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2024

The following board members were present: Pam Manus, Dan Sayers, Melissa Gulley, Heidi Ferris, Linda Deckard, Edith Blackwell, Tim Gulley, and Bethany Urban.

Recording Secretary – Bethany Urban

- Next Board meetings will be July 9th and September 10th, 2024. There will be no August Board meeting.
- Our May Board meeting was held at 3 p.m. after the AGM on May 20th in Wilmington, Ohio. The following Board members were present: Pam Manus, Dan Sayers, Melissa Gulley, Heidi Ferris, Linda Deckard, Edith Blackwell, Tim Gulley, and Bethany Urban. The meeting lasted 35 minutes and no motions were made. Motion to adjourn made by Tim Gulley and seconded by Bethany Urban.
- April minutes were approved by the Board on June 11, 2024.

Corresponding Secretary – Edith Blackwell

- Edith will have cards made up with our club logo to be used for handwritten notes for our membership.

Treasurer Report – Melissa Gulley

- The 2nd quarter report will be presented at the July Board meeting.
- IWSCA has received a donation of \$24,610 from the Estate of Laurie Mougel. Laurie and her husband Mark were the owners of Bear Associates, LLC, who for many years produced our IWSCA Newsletters and club mailings. The Board will have further discussions on where the funds will be allocated.

AKC Delegates Report – Dan Sayers

- No Report. Next report will be submitted for the July Board meeting.

Report of Committees

Specialties – Tim Gulley

- 2025 - Bird supplier no longer has birds due to bird flu. A new supplier will be found. Working on hiring an Agility Secretary.
- 2026 – The deadline for a formal bid for the 2026 Specialty is September 1, 2024. The Specialty can be held anywhere in the United States.

Newsletter – Edith Blackwell

- Next newsletter will be published in mid-July.

Membership – Heidi Ferris

There are 5 new member applications this month:

- Dr. Marlene and Robert Terlingo, New Ringgold, PA
Endorsed by: Vikki Magaraci and Chris Bartos
- Hans and Laura Van Hees, West Chester, PA
Endorsed by: Kim Kezer and Jeremy Kezer
- Sarah M. Ford, Kensington, MD
Endorsed by: Kim Kezer and Jeremy Kezer
- Brian Kelleher, Columbus, OH
Endorsed by: Gregory Siner and Bethany Urban
- Cassandra Grisenti, Burley, ID
Endorsed by: Marsha Moon and Nancy Wiley

Motion made by Heidi Ferris to accept the applicants listed above as members of the IWSCA. Seconded by: Edith Blackwell
Approved by all Board members.

Old Business

- Puppy List Coordinator – Pam Manus
Discussion on how to make the Puppy List more accessible and fairer for all breeders.
- Ad-hoc Committee on By-laws
No new update.
- Morris & Essex 2025
Still looking for a chairperson and committee.



New Business

- Follow-up on AKC's response and plan for safe environment for Juniors and others.

Motion to adjourn at 10:50 p.m. by Linda Deckard. Seconded by: Edith Blackwell

July 9, 2024

The following board members were present: Pam Manus, Dan Sayers, Melissa Gulley, Heidi Ferris, Linda Deckard, Edith Blackwell, Tim Gulley, and Bethany Urban.

Recording Secretary – Bethany Urban

- Next Board meetings will be September 10th and October 8, 2024. There will be no August Board meeting.
- June minutes were approved by the Board on July 10, 2024.

Corresponding Secretary – Edith Blackwell *Corresponding Secretary Report*

- 2025 Specialty work
- Contacted AKC to gain access to the AKC On-Line Events.
- Once in, I discovered that Laurel had repeated the 2024 Specialty information for 2025. I was able to send in requests to change the location to Estes Park and correct the dates.
- AKC also needed additional information about the Estes Park location which Tim provided me, and I provided the AKC.
- I now need to create the events. Question for Melissa, how do we work payment?
- AKC Gazette error. Jeremy pointed out that the link to the IWSCA website was incorrect in the AKC Gazette. I contacted the editor who was happy to make the change and apologized for the error.
- Purchased card stock for note cards. Should I send a note on behalf of the club to Lynn's husband Bob or Pam, do you want to send it?
- AKC requested updated Club Officers and membership list. (Email forwarded on 6/19)
- Question - in addition to the On-Line events

section, are there other parts of the AKC website that IWSCA has log-on access? For example, Laurel used to provide rankings for various venues, but I don't have that log-on information.

AKC Delegates Report – Dan Sayers *October 08, 2024*

The quarterly AKC Delegate Meeting was held on Monday, September 09, and Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at the Doubletree Newark Hotel in Newark, New Jersey.

I attended the Legislative Caucus and the General Caucus and received a report from the AKC Delegate Junior Task Force. A very brief summary is provided below:

- **AKC Delegate Junior Task Force –** Approximately 75% of all clubs' Junior Coordinators have completed the Stewards of Children online training course provided by the children's advocacy group Darkness to Light. The task force is encouraging all clubs to amend their bylaws to allow Junior Members to participate. A Junior Activities Report for Specialty Clubs has also been sent to all Junior Coordinators with a request to summarize the activities each club provides for Juniors.
- **Legislative Caucus –** This was another well-attended meeting that reviewed several proposed federal bills (Puppy Protection Act, Goldie's Act) and the (CDC) Healthy Dog Importation Act. Enforcement of the CDC regulations has been inconsistent to date across all border entries. The National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA) conference is to be held in Plano, Texas, October 18-20, 2024, which will have a focus on the dog fancy.

At the annual meeting, AKC Chairman Tom Davies provided a report that included:

- The inaugural NOHS Regional Show, scheduled for September 21, 2024, marks the start of a series of eight (8) competitions highlighting owner handlers. This nationwide competition is an AKC pilot program.
- The inaugural AKC Rally Championship Invitational (RACH) will take place in



- December in Orlando, Florida.
- The inaugural AKC International Sweepstakes Championship, held October 12 & 13, 2024 at North Carolina State University, is modeled on FCI-style competitions.

AKC CEO Dennis Sprung introduced the following:

- AKC's response to 9/11 on its 23rd anniversary

AKC CFO Ted Phillips delivered a report which included registration statistics:

- Litter registrations were down 17% from the same period for 2023
- Dog registrations were down 14% from the same period for 2023
- Online registrations account for 84% of all registrations
- Total participation in all events is up 11% from the same period for 2023

At the annual meeting, the Delegate Body voted on a number of amendments to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*. Specifically, a two-thirds vote in the affirmative was made to amend the following: Chapter 9, Section 11 and Chapter 11, Section 12 to address eligibility restrictions for Show Secretaries and members of their household; Chapter 10, Sections 2 & 5 to obligate the Show Veterinarian to examine a dog referred by the event committee to be examined due to suspected illness or injury, with costs paid by the dog's owner or owner's agent; Chapter 15, Section 1 to indicate that the examined dog may only return to compete on the same day/ weekend/ circuit/cluster if the Show Veterinarian has determined its presence does not endanger other dogs. Additionally, Chapter 14, Section 4 of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers* was amended to standardize the rotation and make every stake conducted in the same fashion regarding the running order.

Details for all votes may be found in the minutes from the Delegate Meeting which have been published on the "Secretary's Pages" of the October 2024 edition of

the *AKC Gazette*: [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgiclfindmkaj/https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn-origin-etr.akc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/07102516/AKC-Gazette-October-2024-rev.pdf](https://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgiclfindmkaj/s3.amazonaws.com/cdn-origin-etr.akc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/07102516/AKC-Gazette-October-2024-rev.pdf)

A proposed amendment to the Rules Applying to Dog Shows will be voted on at the December 2024 AKC Delegate Meeting. This proposed amendment to Chapter 16, Section 2, would allow a dog to earn championship points variously through Best in Show, Reserve Best in Show, and Group wins, or with Group Placements, inclusive of any points earned in Breed competition. Details may be found on the Secretary's Page in the above link. Please send any comments to me directly at: Ninodanny@aol.com.

The next Delegates Meeting will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida, on Friday, December 13, 2024.

Yours respectfully,
Dan Sayers

Report of Committees

Specialties – Tim Gulley

- 2025 – Everything is going well, and the co-chairs will be making a site visit in October.
- 2026 – The deadline for a formal bid for the 2026 Specialty is September 1, 2024. The Specialty may be held anyplace in the United States.

Membership – Heidi Ferris

No new members this month

Old Business

- Puppy List Coordinator – Pam Manus
Discussion on how to make the Puppy List more accessible and fairer for all breeders.
- Morris & Essex 2025 - Still looking for a chairperson and committee.

Board Business Conducted by email since the July 9, 2024, Board Meeting

- Motion made by Dan Sayers August 26, 2024, for IWSCA to reimburse Sandy Ascot for shipping various newsletters, catalogs, paper lists, etc. to Dan Sayers as the club archivist. Per Sandy Ascot the estimate for



shipping is \$170.00
 Seconded by: Pam Manus
 Approved by: All Board Members.

- On August 22, 2024, Edith Blackwell made the following two motions.
Motion 1: Motion made that the IWSCA ask the AKC to remove event #2025166901, an IWSCA Regional Specialty to be held on Friday, January 10, 2025, in Knoxville, TN in conjunction with the American Spaniel Club Flushing Spaniel show.
Motion 2: If motion 1 passes, Edith Blackwell moves that the IWSCA have a supported entry with specialized ribbons.

Motion 1 and motion 2 have been seconded by Pam Manus. Approved by: All Board Members.

Motion 1 and motion 2 have been seconded by Pam Manus. Approved by: All Board Members.

Motion to adjourn at 9:50pm by Linda Deckard

2024 Treasurers Report – Melissa Gulley

Wells Fargo Bank Account Balances as of June 30, 2024:

Main Acct #2296	\$109,817.22
2024 Specialty #2320	8,8363.33
2025 Specialty #2312	10,700.00
Membership #2379	2,580.06
PayPal Transfer #2338	4,380.00
Wine Country #2361	1,151.74
Merchandise #2304	5,809.20
Account #2353	550.00
Total Wells Fargo	\$143,824.55

PayPal Account Balances as of June 30, 2024:

IWSCA Treasurer Account	\$3,197.60
IWSCA Membership Account	758.68
IWSCA Merchandise Account	97.03
Total PayPal	\$4,053.31
Total Cash	\$147.90

Invesco Investment Account:

On March 31, 2024	\$44,242.01
On June 30, 2024	43,257.47
Decrease in value	\$662.54

As noted in the March 31, 2024, report, all payments received through the IWSCA Website (Star Chapter) are deposited daily into the Main Wells Fargo Bank Account. All payments received will be properly accounted for in QuickBooks.

September 10, 2024

The following board members were present: Pam Manus, Dan Sayers, Melissa Gulley, Heidi Ferris, Linda Deckard, Edith Blackwell, Tim Gulley, and Bethany Urban.

Recording Secretary – Bethany Urban

- Next Board meetings will be October 8, 2024, November 12, 2024, and December 10, 2024.
- July minutes were approved by the Board on August 22, 2024.

Corresponding Secretary – Edith Blackwell

- Star Chapter has the features to send out monthly club updates, notices, and other club information.



Treasurer's Report - Melissa Gulley
No report

AKC Delegates Report - Dan Sayers
No report.

Report of Committees
Breeders Education - Mindy Garbarino and Gregory Siner

The note below was sent to me via email from Mindy Garbarino:

As far as a BEC update, we put an ad in the newsletter about the upcoming Breeders Education meeting to be held the morning of October 5, 10am-12 noon, followed by Rattail Days at 2:00pm. We are having a guest speaker (who is a vet nurse, as well as an accomplished and very successful Lab breeder for over 20 years), who will lead a discussion on how important it is for a retrieving breed to have a correct front.

Also, BEC has agreed to sponsor the BBQ lunch on that day. For more years than I can remember, the Urbans have been graciously providing lunch at Rattail Days, so since the morning will be dedicated to Breeders Education, Greg and I felt it would be pertinent and acceptable for the BEC to fund the lunch.

Yours respectfully,
Dan Sayers

Specialties – Tim Gulley

- 2025 - Everything continues to go well and there will be a visit to the show site in October.

Newsletter - Edith Blackwell

- Next newsletter should be sent out at the end of October or the beginning of November.

Awards Committee- Heidi Ferris

Awards Committee Report from Kim Kezer

Hi Heidi,

Here are some notes from our last meeting held on August 13, 2024

Following up on the request from Missy McMunn to create a milestone award for public service (Therapy Dog). Sarah will speak with Missy for more information so the criteria for the award can be made.

Creating a program for the annual awards ceremony for the tables. Create a program that would include opening remarks, specialty chair remarks, congrats to the winners of the Specialty, BOD, WC/WCX winners, dinner and then awards.

New Business

Laurel will work with Lisa Schaitberger to create a list of all specialty winners to post on the Club website.

Discussion regarding the recent request to create a new award for Joan Hanawalt. The committee would like to standardize protocol for members who want to donate a trophy in the name of another club member. There was discussion about the different types of awards the club already gives and maybe the trophy donor would like to participate with sponsorship of one of these (milestone, spotlight etc.) awards/trophies. Edith will draft a letter that would include an application to allow for more discussions. A proposal will be written and submitted to the BOD following our next meeting.

Fill-able awards application to be posted on the club's website. The AC would like to create a fill-able PDF awards application to be posted on the club's website. The goal is for Sarah to download the completed forms from the club's website instead of club members sending their completed forms via US Post. Nicole volunteered to confer with Sally to see if this is possible.

Kim will spend time looking at the club website and work with Sally to include more



historical information related to challenge and perpetual trophy winners, photos of trophies and statistical information on key club awards like all-arounder, and QVA.

Kim asked all committee members to review the committee task documents and award application. Discussion about what items we want to offer in the future for awards.

Next meeting is mid-September.

Thank you,
Kim

Membership - Heidi Ferris

- There are 4 new member applications this month:
- Elizabeth Theriault from Bristol, CT
- Endorsed by Vikki Magaraci and Chris Bartos
- Jenny Wadhwa from Brunswick, ME
- Endorsed by Emily Pikul and Hannah Loonsk
- Argia Watson and Kari Watson from Chicago, IL Endorsed by Ruth Bruskiwitz and Lisa Schaitberger
- Former member rejoining: Bridget Kvarnlov from Minneapolis, MN
- Endorsed by Bethany Urban and Gregory Siner

Motion made by Heidi Ferris to accept applications listed above as members of the IWSCA. Seconded by Linda Deckard

Approved by all Board Members

Note: Since Pam did not have sound on her computer, the following agenda items for Old Business and New Business have been moved to the October Board meeting:

Old Business

1. Breeders List
2. Morris & Essex 202S

New Business

1. The bids received for the 2026 National Specialty

Board Business Conducted by email since the September 10, 2024, Board Meeting:

- On September 10, 2024, Bethany Urban made a motion to approve the following members in good standing to serve on the Nominating Committee for the election year 2024/2025.
- Dana Louttit, Nominating Chair
- Gregory Siner
- Rosemary Sexton
- Ellen DeVrieze
- Ann McNeill
- Terry Kast, Alternate Committee Member

Seconded by: Pam Manus

Approved by: All Board Members.

- On September 29, 2024, a motion was made by Edith Blackwell that the IWSCA have a Supported Entry with Sweepstakes at the Maryland Sporting Dog Association on Saturday, March 1, 2025.

Seconded by: Bethany Urban

Approved by: All Board members.

Motion to adjourn by Tim Gulley at 9:15pm

Seconded by Linda Deckard



IWSCA Board of Directors Solicitation for Volunteers

Over the past year, and through the hard work of a good friend, I have become involved with an The 2024 Nominating Committee would like to provide the IWSCA general membership with an opportunity to be considered to serve on the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee (Ellen DeVrieze, Ann Mcneill, Rosemary Sexton, Greg Siner, and I) are tasked with providing a slate of members to stand for election to open offices for the club term beginning May 1, 2025. The Nominating Committee and Board want to be inclusive and give eligible members an opportunity to express their interest in serving on the Board. **At a minimum, board members must be IWSCA members in good standing, have been IWSCA members for three years, have attended at least two Annual General Membership Meetings, and be residents of the United States.** The complete club bylaws are available on the club website at iwsc.org under “Club Documents.”

The four offices below will be open as of May 1, 2025, at the expiration of the current two-year term for those positions. Neither incumbents nor volunteers must be placed on the slate by the Nominating Committee. In addition, eligible members who are placed on the slate can be challenged with additional nominations submitted after the slate is announced, pursuant to Article 4 section 4 of the Bylaws. A paper ballot election would then be held.

Please note that the IWSCA Board meets monthly by Zoom for 2-3 hours, usually on the first or second Tuesday of the month. Board members are expected to attend every meeting. Additional business is conducted by email between meetings. Volunteers for Treasurer should have an accounting background and knowledge of QuickBooks.

From IWSCA Bylaws, Article III, section 2:

The **Second Vice President** shall be the liaison to the rescue committee and shall assume the office of the First Vice President if vacated for any reason.

The **Recording Secretary** shall keep a record of all meetings of the IWSCA and the Board; of all votes taken by mail, email, or teleconference; of additional nominations to the Board, and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the Club.

The **Treasurer** shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to the Club. S/He shall deposit the same, in a bank approved by the Board, in the name of the Club. His/Her books shall, at all times, be open to inspection of the Board and s/he shall report to them, at every meeting, the condition of the Club's finances and every item or receipt or payment not before reported; and, at the Annual Meeting, s/he shall render an account of all monies received and expended during the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine.

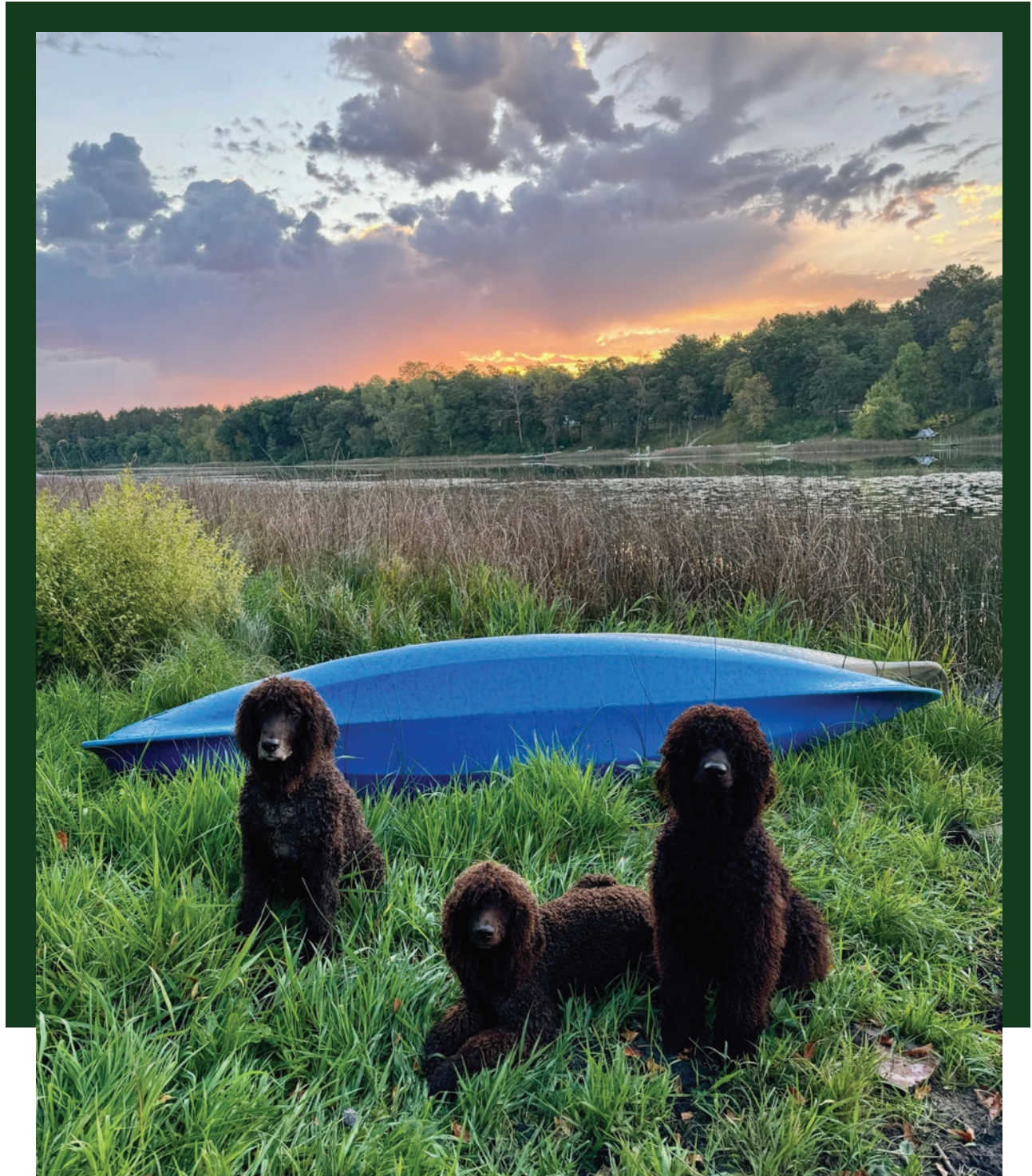
The **Membership Director** shall maintain a roll of members with their addresses, provide current membership data to the Board and newsletter editor, and distribute a Directory of Membership annually to the Membership. S/He shall send out dues renewal notices and collect dues, send the dues collected to the Treasurer, receive and present new member applications to the Board, and notify new members of their election to membership.

If you would like to be considered for the election slate for the 2025-2027 term, please send a short email to me as Chair of the Nominating Committee at Louttit.dana@gmail.com by December 1, 2024.



Please address your eligibility, interest, and relevant experience in your email. If you are volunteering for a specific position, please indicate. If the Nominating Committee has additional questions, we will contact you.

Thank you,
Dana Louttit, Chair
IWSCA 2024 Nominating Committee



AKC Government Relations News

October 17, 2024

Congressman Glenn “GT” Thompson, Chairman of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee, provided the keynote address to the recent Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs (PFDC) annual meeting in Millmont, PA.

Congressman Thompson provided an update on the status of the Farm Bill which passed out of his committee without anti-breeder language from the Puppy Protection Act (H.R. 1624), Goldie’s Act (H.R. 1788), or the Better CARE for Animals Act (H.R. 5041).

Thompson reiterated a statement he made at last year’s annual meeting that, “of the thousand objectives [in finalizing the Farm Bill], one is protecting the animal welfare provisions while preventing the emotional animal rights agenda from entering the Farm Bill.” He reminded the group that he remains committed to his goal of ensuring that the Farm Bill is “bipartisan, bicameral, and highly effective.”

Thompson thanked the group for providing input at last year’s meeting that was useful to him in talking with his colleagues when discussing dog-related issues. He noted that the truth and facts on animal issues provided by the Federation and the American Kennel Club have been extremely helpful in combating the emotion-based arguments and tactics used by the animal rights activists.

When asked what club members can do to help, he stated, “Reach out to your member of Congress and ask them if they are going to support the Farm, Food, and National Security Act. If they say yes, thank them. If they say no, ask them why?” Additionally, he encouraged the group to urge lawmakers to make sure that the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS), which administers the Animal Welfare Act, is appropriately funded so it can properly enforce its current requirements.

Also speaking at the event was Charley Hall, AKC Government Relation Mid-Atlantic Region Manager, who encouraged the group to not only advocate at the federal and state level but also at the local level. He shared with the group the success local advocates recently had in stopping West Mifflin Township, Pennsylvania from enacting an ordinance limiting ownership to no more than three dogs.

Also during the event, Darin Cox, President of the Federation, presented the Outstanding Club of the Year award to the Obedience Training Class of Harrisburg (OTCHPA), who works with a non-profit group, Dog T.A.G.S., which trains the dogs of combat veterans who are suffering from post-traumatic stress or traumatic brain injury to be their service dogs. There are four levels of classes to train the dogs at no cost to the veterans – all expenses are paid, and all trainers are volunteers who receive no compensation other than the joy of seeing the veterans regain the lives lost in service to their country.

To close the meeting, Linda Witouski, legislative liaison for the Federation, provided brief words of encouragement to members about getting more involved and active at both the state and local level. AKC Government Relations congratulates the federation on a successful event and extends a special thanks to Congressman Thompson for taking time to talk with federation members, and for his public support of AKC and federation concerns about overreaching canine regulation. For the latest information on the Farm Bill and contacting your member of Congress and U.S. Senators, visit the AKC Legislative Action Center at www.akcgr.org.

If you would like a member of the AKC GR team to speak to your club or attend an event to share resources and discuss how we can work together to be effective advocates for dogs, please contact us at doglaw@akc.org.



Judges' Education

The Judges' Education Committee (JEC) is seeking your help! We will be putting on the Irish Water Spaniel Judges Education seminar as part of the American Dog Show Judges Advanced Institute being held at the Kentuckiana Cluster of Dog Shows in Louisville, Kentucky. The IWS seminar will be on Saturday, March 15, 2025, from 1:45 - 3:15 with the hands-on workshop from 3:15 - 4:15. We are seeking folks who can help provide dogs for the hands-on workshop. If you are local and/or would be able to bring IWS to Louisville to help JEC make this an awesome presentation for the breed, please reach out to Michelle (topknots98@gmail.com) and/or Stacy (stacyjd@msn.com). There are four days of all breed shows (Thursday - Sunday), so there's a lot of opportunity if we want to build an entry.

Your help is needed and will be greatly appreciated!

Stacy and Michelle



2025 Specialty Site Visit

By: Melissa and Tim Gulley and Michelle Cummings

It Was a Sacrifice... But your National Specialty co-chairs were willing to do it!

The weekend of October 11 – 13 Michelle Cummings and Tim and Melissa Gulley, boarded our respective planes in the wee hours of the morning to travel to Estes Park, CO to do some detailed reconnaissance at the locations hosting our 2025 IWSCA National Specialty. We stayed at our host hotel, Holiday Inn Estes Park.

We tortured ourselves by dining at several local eateries, beginning with breakfast when we arrived in town at the Estes Park Pie Shop & Diner (You Need Pie!). And yes, after finishing our bacon and eggs, we shared a slice of warm apple pie with a pecan and caramel crumble topping, à la mode. It was so yummy.

Downtown Estes Park is very charming with local apparel and gift shops, art and jewelry stores, restaurants and cafés, and the best saltwater taffy shop in the USA! Really, the Taffy Shop (est. 1937) was voted the best in 2024! They still use the original machines to make the taffy. And Laura's Chocolate Shop had some tasty treats too. For those of you who quilt and/or knit, Peak to Peak Stitching has gorgeous fabrics and yarns to drool over, and a very friendly staff.

There is a free parking garage at the beginning of downtown and there are free trollies to pick you up and return you to your parked car. There are also several parks and trails in this beautiful, dog-friendly town to enjoy.

And the ELK! They are right there in town, standing in the middle of the street, laying and grazing in people's yards! There was one bull elk standing tall on the roadside as we drove into town! They are quite magnificent.

We had a very productive meeting with the event planners at the Estes Park Event Complex to go over our layout ideas and discuss some other details at the facility. Our next meeting was with the event coordinator at our host hotel, which also went very well. The hotel is beautiful and very comfortable. Ya'll will love it!

After long and busy days, we ended each night toasting marshmallows and making s'mores around the cozy fire pits at our hotel. So relaxing!

We are so excited about this event! Your 2025 National Specialty committee is working hard to make sure everything will go as smoothly as possible. We want all of you to be excited too and join us May 12 – 15, 2025 in Estes Park, Colorado! We expect to have reservations opening by mid-January 2025.

See you there!
Melissa Gulley



Canine Sensitivity to Drugs: Testing for the MDR1 gene mutation

By: Sheryl Krohne, DVM, MS, DACVO

The Program in Individualized Medicine at WSU Veterinary School offers a test for the MDR1 mutation, by mail. This mutation is responsible for many drug sensitivities in dogs. For example, if your dog becomes overly sedated from medications to stop vomiting, it may be from this gene mutation. Or, if you or your veterinarian are concerned about using a certain sedative, anesthetic, antibiotic or worming medication, testing for this mutation can tell you if your dog is sensitive, and may have unexpected negative reactions. Up to 75% of some breeds have the MDR1 mutation including some sight hounds and herding breeds. (It is not this high in IWS; however, most breeds have had individuals test positive for the mutation). Dr. Katrina Mealey, who is a board-certified Veterinary Pharmacist, is recognized as the leading expert in identifying problem medications. She discovered this mutation in dogs and cats and runs this testing program. Many common medications can cause an adverse reaction in dogs with this mutation.

I did this test with my IWS, and it is easy and inexpensive. If your dog has the mutation and is sensitive, you and your vet can get dosage recommendations from the Pharmacist at the laboratory. This Online access is called MDR1Caddie and is explained on the website. This advice access is included with the cost of the test (\$70 plus postage to send it to the lab - approximately \$5). And, dosing advice can be accessed at any time during the life of the dog. All portals and instructions are on the website and were easy to use.

How to do the testing

The website is <https://prime.vetmed.wsu.edu/> You can also Google “MDR1 canine testing” and the WSU laboratory website will come up. This website tells you how to order the test, and how to do either the cheek swab or the blood test.

You follow the instructions in the testing kit when it arrives and mail the sample back to the laboratory. If you don't want to do the cheek swab yourself, you can schedule it with your vet. The only tricky part is making sure you follow the instructions to get a good sample from the cheek lining and that the mouth and teeth are clean from dog food. My dog took some convincing, even though she takes pills easily and lets me brush her teeth. If you choose the blood test option, you will want your veterinarian to do that and prepare it properly. I used a flat rate cardboard mailer (flat priority mailer) from the USPS to send the swab back to the lab. That was not included in the kit. I received the results by email in less than a week and put them in my dog's file at her veterinary clinic. It was peace of mind for future drug treatments.



Travels with Cash

By: Laurel Reeves

If not now, when? Travels with Cash...This travelogue doesn't detail wins or even placings. It does talk of meetings with old and new friends — friends met through our relationships with dogs and horses. The places we've been to this summer... Off Cash and I went!



Laurel with Cash



Laurel, Shona Nester Ensign and Elizabeth Trail



Wesleyan Chapel

IWSCA National Specialty & Marietta shows - First of course was the IWSCA National Specialty in Wilmington, OH, preceded by the shows in Marietta, OH. The countryside was beautiful, especially along the road from Marietta to Wilmington. While in the area, I went to the World Equestrian Center where the Arabian Buckeye horse show was being held. This was a bit disappointing in that this show was at one time huge and a major event. Just as often with dog shows, entries were down though the quality was still present. On the way home I stopped at my friend Mary Pavelko's farm north of Dayton, OH. We've known each other since the '70s, first meeting through Arabian horses. Mary has national winning field trial Irish Setters.

Waukesha KC - Late in July Cash and I headed to Waukesha, WI. Often one of the shows in the region with a larger IWS entry, this year entries were small but of high quality. The weather was predictably unpredictable with heat and sporadic downpours. Nonetheless the IWS held their own with high placings. I found a grooming spot in an area of small breeds, mostly smaller poodles, and enjoyed visiting with and listening to (aka eavesdropping on) their conversations.

O'Leary Extravaganza - The following weekend Cash and I headed to Strathroy, Ontario, Canada to the O'Leary's Extravaganza. We had a great time visiting with the IWS and their people who we seldom see. The drive through Chicago (I live in Minnesota) was pretty bad, stop and go traffic which with a manual transmission car such as I had at the time, made my hip ache! I do not recommend doing that. The border crossing was not nearly as daunting as it might have been had the new crossing-with-dogs regulations been left in place. A great time was had by all!

Lexington, KY shows at the Kentucky Horse Park - The end of August found Cash and me headed to Lexington, KY to visit with another long time Arabian horse friend from the '70s, Sara Katzmark. Mary Pavelko joined us. Although we've stayed in touch, Sara lives near Atlanta, GA



so we seldom, like decades between visits, see each other. Sara was showing her Basset Fauve de Bretagne dogs. They are an AKC Misc. breed which held a specialty at the Lexington shows. I actually ended up showing one of her dogs in the BOB ring! That was different!

Although Cash was entered at Lexington, I didn't try to round up IWS entries for these shows. The main purpose of our trip was to visit with friends in an unscheduled manner with the option of not showing at all. And visit with friends in an unscheduled manner we did:

- At that show Taylor Jessie and I briefly chatted. Taylor wasn't showing her IWS, but her daughter had an entry of a different breed.
- Elizabeth Trail was there to see the Manchesters. I came away with a piece of Elizabeth's art which now is proudly displayed at the entry to my home.
- And, Shona Nester Ensign was at the Kentucky Horse Park competing on Bishop. Elizabeth, Shona, and I got together to attend the \$60,000 Adequan USEA Adv. Show Jumping on Saturday evening. This event was delayed an hour or so due to thunderstorms and a deluge. Not to be deterred, we waited out the storms in the stables and finished a bottle of pretty decent wine.

Sunday evening after the dog show, the weather was calm and not as stifling hot as it had been all weekend. I took the opportunity to wander the well-manicured grounds of the Kentucky Horse Park. Peaceful. Lovely. Only a couple other people with their dogs were there taking pictures with the remarkable backdrops. I recommend doing this.

Rochester (MN) KC - Next up was a local show in Rochester, MN, which included a brief stint as a ring steward. I highly recommend taking a turn as a ring steward, especially at the smaller shows where such help is often needed. I've had many very informative conversations with judges and enjoyed watching different breeds being shown.

The Dalys - Also on that weekend I, without Cash, traveled to Albert Lea, MN to celebrate Mary and Bill Daly's 50th wedding anniversary. Also attending were Sue and Doug Underland. Congratulations to Mary and Bill!

Wine Country – A visit to this event has been on my travel list. So off Cash and I went at the end of September. We managed to avoid the worst traffic through Chicago this time although it started to rain west of Chicago and continued to rain and be wet until I was nearly home seven days later. We were delayed a bit in northern Ohio to let a couple of tornadoes pass over the freeway ahead of us. The show grounds were all that I'd heard. So picturesque! The Finger Lakes area was beautiful. As a geologist, I found the terrain to be especially interesting. The gathering of the IWS clan over pizza was enjoyable and a few vineyards also were visited!

Monday after the shows, Cash and I headed home. First stop, Seneca Falls at the Women's Rights National Historical Park, Wesleyan Chapel. Remarkable and inspiring. Next to Niagara Falls. Had to. The drive home was uneventful, even through Chicago! One more show to go, Coulee KC near Winona, MN. Then Cash and I will be focusing on our scent work classes and enjoying the winter to come. Hope to travel next year to Estes Park and maybe IWSCOPS & Morris & Essex. If not now, when?



Rattail Days

October also brings one of our favorite Northeast events, Rattail Days. Over 25 years ago, Greg Siner put together a weekend of fun and education for Irish Water Spaniel enthusiasts in Southern Rhode Island called RATTAIL DAYS. The weekend includes breed study, a match show, dinner, and auction.

Greg makes it a priority to invite members who excel in different activities within the breed (beginner field training, agility, rally) to share their knowledge. During the weekend events, he has also included IWSCA Breeders Education seminars.

This year, we were fortunate to have long-time, knowledgeable Labrador breeder, Tom Flaherty speak on proper front assembly. As the match show judge, Tom did a wonderful job sorting through over 25 Irish Water Spaniels.

Every 5 years, Greg hosts a Rattail Days International. This includes breeders from around the world to partake in round table discussions and judging that help broaden our perspective of the breed. In the past, over 150 friends of the breed and over 80 Irish Water Spaniels have attended that weekend.

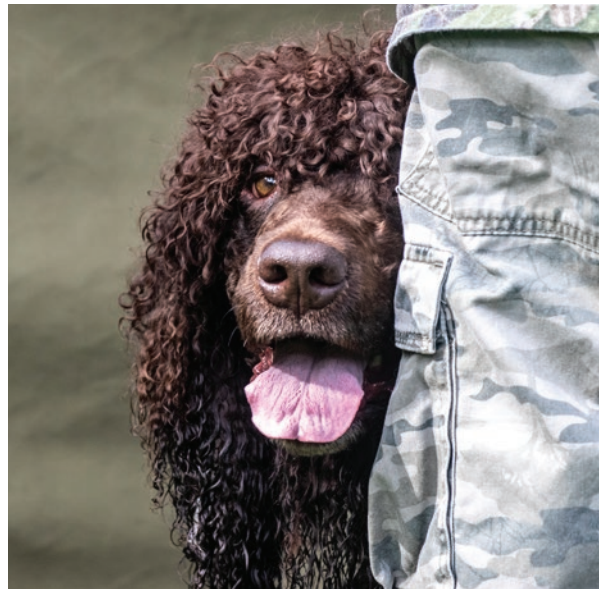
The next Rattail Days International will be the first weekend of October 2025.



Regional Reports

Northeast Report

Pam Manus shares some sad news: “I wanted you all to know that Rock, Green Socks Rock with You, was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma in August. It’s a nasty cancer found usually in the leg of large dogs. His was in his right front leg. He crossed the Rainbow Bridge on September 18th peacefully. I wanted you to know that I am planning on offering his medical records and necropsy to be part of cancer research in canines. He was a joy in life; I’d like him to be part of a better future for our 4 legged “kids.”



Rock



Myna helping with gardening

Emily Pikul writes that “Myna ran at the Tartan Gordon Setter FastCAT event on 9/1/24 at Showcase for Dogs and garnered two qualifying runs ranking her #4 IWS currently.” Also that “Northwestern Ct Dog Club 9/22/24 Ch. Epik’s In Omnia Paratus CGC ATT won the Sporting group under Mrs. Shellie Marshall of Australia.”



Arrow

Kim and Jeremy are happy to announce that Arrow (Chantico’s A Slice And A Pint) earned his JH and AXJ titles in the past several months.

Natalie Weissman shares, “Hi, the girls have been busy this summer - Ch RACH 2 Castlehill’s Wickedly Cute Jolene CDX BN GN RM 6 RAE 5 CAX BCAT THDA DJX DN CGCA TKP ATT FTN added this summer the Fetch Dog Novice Title and her BCAT FAST CAT Title. RACH Ballyhoo’s True Blue Justine O’Hogan at Castlehill CDX BN GN RM 4 RAE 5 CAX DN CGCA TKN FTN ATT added this summer her Rally Master 4 Title, RAE 5 Title, Her Fetch Dog Novice, her Fetch Dog Novice Title, her Temperament Test and her BCAT FAST CAT Title.”

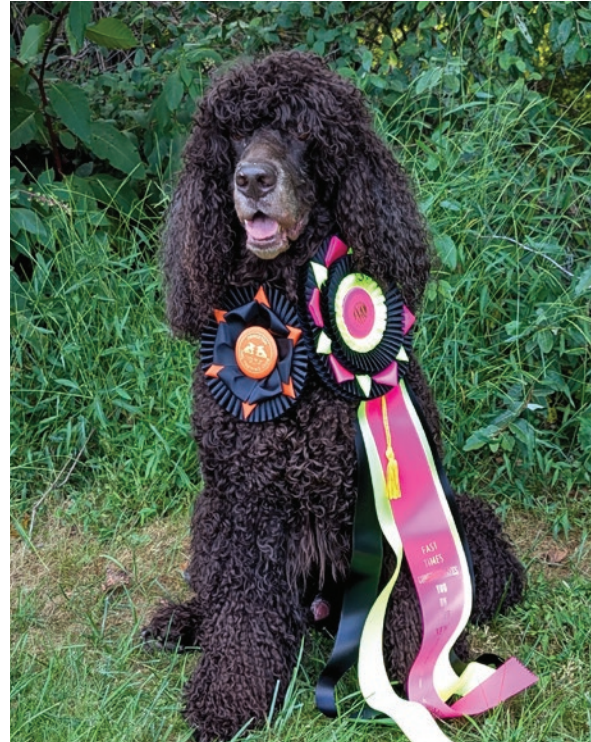
Natalie, Jolene and Justine.



Stephanie O'Reilly reports that "My news is that Sloane (MBIS MBISS NBISS MRBIS GCHG MACH2 Poole's Ide Sargeant Sloane CD RA MXS MJG MFB T2B2 earned his MACH2 on September 15, 2024 at the Horse Park in Allentown, NJ."



Midge



Sloane



Hadley

And lastly, Alice Getchell writes that "It has been a successful season for Hadley and Midge. Beginning with the Irish Water Spaniel National Specialty in Ohio, Hadley performed successfully in Novice Rally in which we received the highest qualifying score and earned 1st place among a group of good handlers and dogs. Hadley also received, on this day, her Novice Rally title and is now officially CH Epik Talk of the Town at Poole's Ide CGC RN DJ DS SCN SIN SEN Not to be outdone by her "sister," Midge earned her 4th JH pass and title at a hunt test in CT on the first week of June. She had attained her first 3 passes last year, before going into "season" during the height of field trial competitions. She is now CH Started Epik Talk of the Town at Poole's Ide CGC DS DJ JH WC."

Have a great fall and winter,
Jeremy and Laurel



Mid-Atlantic Report

Fall is in the air! This is the perfect weather for getting out and about with our Irish! Tim Fleming and Koffi have been out and about. Below is a short recap of their most recent adventures!



Koffi at the water

From Tim Fleming

The Pittsburgh Irish Festival this year was a big hit for Koffi & me on September 7th & 8th with good weather both days. This was our third year attending the festival and we enjoyed meeting lots and lots of people, sometimes he had as many as 4 or 5 sets of hands feeling his soft coat all at once. A little bit of hot dog went a long way to make him very cooperative to allow all those hands at times, but I think his favorite part was ogling the lady dogs around us. We were joined the first day by a rambunctious 7 mo. old Irish Wolfhound and 3 Soft-coated Wheaten Terriers. The 2nd day saw 3 more Wolfhounds, 4 Irish Red & White Setters, an Irish Setter briefly, and a bagpipe group blaring away right near our tent. Thankfully it was cooler this year than the last 2 years and it was nice to see some familiar faces from previous years and catch up. Towards the end of the 2nd day I was starting to feel some strain in my voice from so much talking and repeating the same phrases so many times, “Hi, this is Koffi, he’s an Irish Water Spaniel.” “Oh! I thought he was a poodle.” “No, it’s a whole other breed different than poodles...” Overall it went very well and it was nice to let Koffi do his thing for the city of Pittsburgh.



Tim and Koffi at Irish Festival

Also, we recently visited a nearby state park that allows goose hunting and Koffi & I got our first goose! After I began his field training 1 year ago to hunt geese, ducks, and pheasants with him, we successfully got our first wild bird, and it’s a big one too - about 14 or 15 lbs. with a 6 ft. wingspan! I saved the down, plucked the bird so it can be roasted, and also kept all the organ meats to use as much of the bird as possible. Koffi will thoroughly enjoy eating a number of these items along with myself. Last night he was loving the goose foot he gobbled down and I’m really looking forward to more of what we’ll experience this first hunting season.

Submitted by Tiffany Schuffert



Southeast Report



Brenda and Portia, her great sniffer

Brenda Bauerlein reports that Portia (Castlehill's PS Baby I'm A Star At Donnybrook, DCAT, SWN, TKN) enjoyed running at the AKC Fast Cat invitational in Wilmington, Ohio as one of the top IWS for 2023. Then Portia competed in a 3-day AKC scent trial in Roanoke, Va. Portia qualified 12 of the 12 events plus had several class placements. So happy for my great little sniffer. Brenda also reports that while she was doing her doggy events that her husband, Tim was holding down the fort at home during the hurricane, with Cooper and Celeste. Thankfully they had just the fence come down.

I asked for hurricane storm reports (Helene and Milton). Thankfully it appears all IWS and their owners are safe.



Midwest Report

The Midwest Irishers and their owners have been very busy this summer having fun in a multitude of events! I sent a shout-out for contributions for the Midwest column and I was not disappointed. Our beloved Irishers put their best “paws” forward in conformation, the field, obedience, rally, scent work, FastCAT, agility, dock diving, the new Fetch tests, at important ‘outreach events’ and at social events. And one boy spent May – September traveling the country and to Canada with his owner. Laurel Reeves sent in an interesting Travelogue of their journey. What a grand summer everyone had. I will let each one recount their adventures in their own words.



Porter, Lori, and Connie at FastCAT Invitational

Conformation

First my brief report on the Waukesha Shows and the IWSCA Supported Entry.

The Waukesha Kennel Club shows July 27th and 28th had a small entry of IWS with a supported the entry on the 27th. Best of Breed both days was GCH Realta Sycomore Spry, SEL Bitch both days was Ch Realta & Sycomore Prunella. BOS on Saturday was GCH Sycomore Ballad of Blue. Evora’s Brandy Pot Light BN RN SWA SIE DS FCAT CGC (Bran) was WB/BW for 1 pt on Saturday while Muddy Waters Controlled Chaos O’Firecreek Farm “Cash” was WD on Saturday. On Sunday Cash was WD/BW/OS for 1 pt while Bran was WB. Spry did well in the Groups at Waukesha taking a Group 2 under Ms. Bonnie Linnell Clarke on Saturday and a Group 4 under Mrs. Nancy D. Simmons on Sunday. Congratulations to Mark and Sondra Barker, Lisa Schaitberger and Laurel Reeves!

From Lori Espeland and Connie Timmerman

Lori reported that Porter competed at the AKC FastCAT Invitational at the Roberts Center in Wilmington, OH Oct. 8-12, 2024. Porter finished his FCAT4 and went BOB for the second year. He can now add the FCAT4 behind his name – Saracen Raiz My Mug to Freedom FCAT4 GCG TKN. Brenda Bauerlein with Portia, Castlehill’s P.S. I’M A Star at Donnybrook DCAT SWN TKN and Lisa Wright with Jamie, Crispin’s Double Shot This Girl is on Fire CAX FCAT5 THDN DMA DSX ASA HDN CGC TKN FITB, and Ronan, CH Crispin’s Whiskey Promise, East Texas Good O’Boy CAX FCAT5 THD RATN DMA DSX ASA HDN CGC TKN joined Lori and Connie at the FastCAT Invitational.





Driver

From Ruth Crocker

Having earned his Grand Championship in the fall of 2023, it was time to turn Driver's (CH Realta's Marvelous Adventure RN ACT2 ACT2J) attention to other pursuits. It is a Realta tradition to excel in both conformation and field work, and I had put in some time building a good solid foundation for the latter. So, in late May of 2024 Driver was dropped off at Dynamic Retrievers in Donnelly, MN (run by Tim and Lauren Springer) for further training and competition. I told my friends that I was sending him to summer camp, which is close to the truth, as he had a great time doing all the fun stuff for which he was born and bred. He earned his first Junior Hunter pass on August 27th at the Vikingland Retriever Hunt Test, his second pass on Sept. 8th at the North Dakota Retriever Club Hunt Tests, and his third pass on Sept. 14th at the

Chippewa Valley Hunt Tests. He needs four passes to earn the title, but we ran out of season in which to compete. So, he'll do a brief stint with the Springers next spring to finish his JH. During the winter we will be focusing on obedience in the hopes of eventually earning the "all-around IWS" designation from the club.



Betty at Irish Fest

From Ruth Bruskiwitz

On September 18, 2024, Betty completed the requirements for AKC's Star Puppy. That same day she earned her Trick Dog Novice title. Betty is now Kendall's Anyone Can Whistle TKN.

What Ruth did not mention was that her puppy Betty earned both titles at the tender age of 5 months 4 days! Nice going Ruth and Betty!

When Bran came into my life 5.5 years ago (give or take a month) her breeders were quite clear that she was a "busy girl"... they called her the "energizer bunny" because she kept going and going. Last year her summer was spent raising a litter of 8 puppies... this summer she picked up where she left off in 2022 doing what she loves best.... lots of things.

In May we attended our first Fetch Trial, just to see what the hoopla was about... she earned her Fetch Novice title. I hadn't really worked on retrieves with her for at least 2 years, but she retrieved to hand for all three. This September, my Field Spaniel Club was part of a 3 day, 3 club Fetch extravaganza, she earned her Intermediate title. Yes, we are starting to work blinds.



Scent Work- We continue to move through excellent earning our Excellent Container, and Exterior levels this summer, we need two legs to finish our Buried Excellent level to finish out the SWE title this fall.

Obedience- We finally competed in our first Novice Obedience trials this summer. She loves obedience, but still has some issues with being watched closely, and a really bad handler. She is much better at the sport than I am, and I'm really proud of her working through and recovering fast when something unexpected happens. She earned her first Novice B leg with a high 180's score. We hope to finish this title this fall.



Bran 2024 Regionals Splash

Dock Diving - Our Season was limited this year in NADD attendance (we just squeaked in 15 splashes to qualify for regionals) but Bran has exceeded expectations, earning her Dock Master Title and her Dock Senior Advanced title; she also brought home the coveted Pink Pony Trophy for jumping farthest at the

O'Leary Summer Extravaganza. She competed at Regionals and Placed 2nd with an automatic entry into the Nationals. Unfortunately, we will not

be able to attend Nationals, but hoping we make it next year. Bran finished the season number 2 in the breed. What makes me most happy is her sister Pharaoh is ranked 3rd, brother Finley 4th Nationally for 2024, and her son "Livi" owned by Marguerite Woelfel has started Dock Diving and looks like the "diving gene is strong in him".

Scent Work- We continue to move through excellent earning our Excellent Container, and Exterior levels this summer, we hope to finish our Buried level to finish out the SWE title this fall. Time flies when having fun, and Bran is a great dog to have fun with.

From Rosemary Sexton

Élan has been busy in both obedience and rally earning the CD and RN this summer. She has always enjoyed working regardless of the venue. Her scores of 192, 194 1/2 and 196 1/2 reflect her attitude. These scores earned her an invitation to the 11th American KC Obedience Classic in Orlando, FL Dec. 14-15, 2024.

As an addition as to other titles earned this summer/fall, both Élan and Leeloo earned Novice agility titles, Élan NA NAJ (and has already picked up two open standard agility legs) and Leeloo NAP. Elan is now Reálta's Élan! CD RN MH NA NAJ; Leeloo is now CH Reálta & Sycomore The Fifth Element Leeloo NAP.



Elan and LeeLoo Agility Titles



From Sarah Zumpf

Autumn is my favorite season! 2024 has been special for another reason as well ...

Grouse (Madcap The Earth Has Music For Those Who Listen MX MXJ MXS MJB XF) earned her Master Agility Championship (MACH) at the Arrowhead Dog Agility Association Agility Trial under Judge Loretta Zich on 09/28. What fun this Grousie girl is!



Grouse MACH September 2024



Fiain at NAJ, October 2024

Fiain, (Poole's Ide Up North) started her agility career at the same trial; at the Fargo Moorhead Kennel Club on 10/11 she earned her first title, Novice Agility Jumpers (NAJ). She appears to be all in on this game.

I cannot thank the breeders of these wonderful dogs (Betty Wathne – Grouse, Hannah Loonsk, Greg Siner, Bethany Urban -Fi) enough for letting them join us in Minnesota!

And Sarah mentioned that Trout is enjoying his retirement!





Lily in the field



Bri, fetch novice

From Susan Sarracino-Deihl

The summer was busy with field, fetch tests and raising puppies. We tried the Fetch tests before the puppies. The field work was done before and after the puppies. During the first two months of the puppies' lives we stuck close to home.

The Fetch tests were interesting. For our dogs accustomed to L-O-N-G retrieves, the retrieves at the Novice and Intermediate level were easy. Both Harris (CH Saracen Springtime Thunder JHUA BCAT CGC TKN FTI WD) and Murphy (CH Saracen Fireworks Over The Marsh DCAT DS FTI) earned Fetch Intermediate titles. Both Lily (Saracen Diamond Decoy JHU DJ FTN WD) and Bri (CH Saracen Diamond on the Snow JHU RN BCAT DN FTN CGC TKN WD) were only entered in one day of tests and they earned their Fetch Novice titles. Bri at 2 months shy of 13 yo was particularly happy to be out and about! And though the retrieves were not what they were accustomed to, they all had fun! As for the field, Lily has been having a blast running Spaniel tests. She loves the birds and I can't wait to take her hunting later this fall! And now that her maternal duties are over, Harris can't wait to get out hunting either!

Milwaukee Irish Fest

Lisa Schaitberger and Ruth Bruskiwitz with Liam (Ch Kendall's Still the One CD RN JH BCAT DJ DN CGC TKN), Bran and Betty represented the IWS at the Milwaukee Irish Fest in August. Everyone had fun and Betty was a star meeting all the children.

Everyone, have a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving and Holiday Season!
Susan



Northwest Report

Here's to early sunsets with your curly pals!

Fall greetings from the Pacific Northwest. It's green, beautiful, slowly getting chilly and the dogs are frolicking in leaves as they are raked. Time for lighting the fire for cozy evenings.

Many of us are getting ready for our next clan gathering at the Whidbey Island Kennel club shows in November. IWSCOPS members, friends and guests had a lovely Specialty Show in August celebrating our curly friends. Our President, Rebecca Brooks, shares her report below.

Two things tell me it is no longer summer. First, I have fully rested and recovered from our IWSCOPS Local Specialty show and second, it is dark when my brown clowns wake me up in the morning.

I have been very lazy the last few weeks so I thought I would continue the lazy streak and have an AI program write my message to you. Unfortunately, it made me not seem nearly as lazy as I have been, so I dusted off my keyboard and you get my very non artificial musings.

It was a fantastic summer with the gathering of our IWS community. I love seeing our out-of-state and out-of-country members for the August sets of shows. I love it even more that those members came away with beautiful ribbons, trophies, and new titles.

The IWSCOPS Specialty is a favorite time of year for me as we always try to have the best "party with a dog show" event and this year was another one that won't be forgotten for a while. I am deciding if it is because of all the fun events we held or the records breaking rain on the first day. How long does one have to do something before it is considered a tradition? I think we are starting a tradition of "do something new" for our show. Last year, it was a new venue. This year, we included more fiends and opened our Obedience and Rally trials to all breeds as well as 2 Fetch Dog trials. I loved seeing all the "New Title" ribbons being handed out. I wonder what we will do for our "something new" next year. Our show committee is already hard at work planning for next year and I have no doubt it will continue to be a memorable event. I sure hope you can join us next August as IWSCOPS will be celebrating 25 years.

Things that are coming up in the next few months will again be a chance to bring us all together. In November we are supporting the Saturday and Sunday entry for the Whidbey Island Kennel Club show. I am sure there will be more details throughout this newsletter. In December, we have our annual Christmas Party and Gift Exchange. The date for that is Saturday December 7th, starting at 5pm at Steve and Tammy Walker's. Check your Groups IO email for more information on that event.

One last thing, our Calendar Committee is putting the finishing touches on the 2025 calendar. It will be ready to ship soon so please start placing your orders. We are keeping the price for the calendar the same this year \$35 plus \$5 shipping. Out of the country shipping and tracking will be extra. Place your order by emailing iwscopscalendar@gmail.com.

I hope all of you are having a beautiful start to the Autumn season with your Irishers. I am so pleased that our club is going strong and growing. All your support, involvement and contributions are what make this club so strong. We have a lot to be proud of and I genuinely appreciate each and every one of you.

Rebecca Brooks, IWSCOPS President



CH Landacre's Nordic Tapestry RI





IWSCOPS Annual Party with a Dog Show

And what a party it was! In addition to our standard specialty offer, this year at our annual shindig we added two days of all breed rally and obedience trial and fetch dog. Both were a great success but more on that below. Mother nature decided to throw us a monkey wrench this year by bringing us rain. Not out of the question in August for Washington but we rarely see rain at IWSCOPS.



IWSCOPS team Rally 1st place Lorece Newton and Rob'n, Walter Kilmer and Eddy, Mary Marter and Morgan, Rebecca Brooks and Isla.

Friday set up was in the rain, but our amazing club members persevered. It rained all night and sadly we lost a few pop-up tents to the tent graveyard but this club, like always, regrouped, got new pop-ups where they were needed and pulled off starting on time Saturday morning.

The All-Breed Rally and Obedience Trial was a huge hit. The rain did not keep folks away and thanks to our amazing club members and our incredible judges and ring stewards, we had a very successful trial. Even with the entry being limited, we had great numbers and folks truly smiled through the weather and got the job done!

From Cat Shelby and Stacy Duncan. Huge thanks to Stacy for collating the results!



Total Obedience /// Saturday – 27; Sunday – 31
Total Rally /// Saturday – 72; Sunday – 61

Results:

Saturday – August 24th

Best of Breed – GCHS. Flintcrest Five Star
 General RN, DJ, FDC, TKN, CGC
 Best of Winner/Winners Bitch – Keptrein Red
 in the Rose
 Best of Opposite Sex – CH. Brekkon's Brown
 Eyed Girl at Flintcrest
 Select Dog – CH. Wicklow N'Blackthorn's I Don't
 Look for Trouble CD, RAE, CGC, TKN
 Best of Breed Owner Handler – CH. Wicklow N'
 Blackthorn's I Don't Look for Trouble CD RAE
 CGC TKN

3rd Excellent B - CH Wicklow N' Blackthorn's I
 Don't Look For Trouble CD RAE CGC TKN.

“Q” Excellent B – Tirnanog Spudster Idaho IWS
 B CD BN RE CGC

Sunday – August 25th

Sweepstakes – Puppy
 Best Puppy – CH. Brekkon's Brown Eyed Girl at
 Flintcrest
 Best Opposite Puppy – Lugh McCool's Celtic
 Reign at Mallyree
 Rally
 2nd Intermediate – CH. Coomara's Oran Mor
 RN
 “Q” Intermediate - CH Cat's Moonshine Sit
 Down U'R Rockin' The Boat CAA RATCHX
 CZ8G DJ CGCA.
 3rd Advanced B -Tirnanog Spudster Idaho IWS
 B CD BN RE CGC
 “Q” Advanced B CH Wicklow N' Blackthorn's I
 Don't Look for Trouble CD RAE CGC TKN
 3rd Excellent B - CH Wicklow N' Blackthorn's I
 Don't Look For Trouble CD RAE CGC TKN.
 “Q” Excellent B – Tirnanog Spudster Idaho IWS
 B CD BN RE CGC

Sunday – August 25th

Sweepstakes – Puppy
 Best Puppy – CH. Brekkon's Brown Eyed Girl at
 Flintcrest
 Best Opposite Puppy – Lugh McCool's Celtic
 Reign at Mallyree
 Sweepstakes – Veteran
 Best Veteran – CH. Landacre's Nordic Tapestry RI

Conformation

Best of Breed – GCHS. Flintcrest Five Star
 General RN, DJ, FDC, TKN, CGC
 Best of Winner/Winners Dog – Lugh McCool's
 Celtic Reign at Mallyree
 Best of Opposite Sex – CH. Brekkon's Brown
 Eyed Girl at Flintcrest
 Select Dog – CH. Coomara's Oran Mor RN
 Select Bitch – CH. Keptrein Red in the Rose
 Award of Merit – CH. Wicklow N' Blackthorn's I
 Don't Look for Trouble CD, RAE, CGC, TKN
 Best of Breed Owner Handler - CH. Brekkon's
 Brown Eyed Girl at Flintcrest
 Winners Bitch – Flintcrest Step Right Up OA,
 OAJ, OF

Rally

1st Novice A - CH Cat's Moonshine Sit Down
 U'R Rockin' The Boat CAA RATCHX CZ8G DJ
 CGCA
 3rd Novice B – Poole's Ide Burning It At Both Ends
 1st Intermediate - CH Coomara's Oran Mor RN
 2nd Intermediate - GCH CH Brekkon's First
 Mark BN RN CGC TKN
 “Q” Advanced B – Tirnanog Spudster Idaho IWS
 B CD BN RE CGC
 “Q” Excellent B – Tirnanog Spudster Idaho IWS
 B CD BN RE CGC
 (Fully results can be found at www.baray.com)

Thanks to the initiative of Erin Fogg, IWSCOPS
 added Fetch Dog both days this year. It was
 truly a great success with a total number of 55
 runs. Many titles were earned, many IWS folks
 participated along with dogs onsite for the all-
 breed rally and obedience trial. Nothing more
 our brown dogs like more than fetching their
 favorite ball or bumper in the RAIN!

IWSCOPS will celebrate our 25th Anniversary in
 2025! We've already started planning one heck
 of a party and we'd love it if everyone would
 block out August 22nd – August 24th (tentative
 – pending AKC confirmation of these dates) on
 their calendar and join us to celebrate!



**Team Rally trophy that is decorated each year by the
 winning team**



From Sheryl Krohne in Spokane, WA

Raine (Cat's Over the Rainbow CD RE MXP MJP BCAT RATCHX10) has been sniffing around this fall. Barn Hunt in Chehalis over Labor Day was epic because we tent camped!! Raine got her PlatinumGold2 title and 5 Master Q's. We survived the tent and the dogs liked "real" camping. (I missed the trailer!). Spokane Dog Training Club had a fun SW trial in September, and we progressed to Excellent in interiors and buried. Raine likes it, but wonders where the Rats are? October 4-6 was Rat hunting at "Rat-A-Caters" in Snohomish, WA. Raine got 5 more Q runs, and her RATCHX10. She Qualified for Obedience Nationals in Orlando in December, but we decided it was too far to travel for one obedience run. Happy Halloween to everyone, and good luck to all going to Nationals!



From Mary Marter, Port Coquitlam, BC, Canada

GCh CanCh Coomara's Óran Mor FTN RI "Morgan"

Morgan had a very successful IWSCOPS Specialty. He completed three titles that weekend. He earned his Fetch novice. He loved it! But apparently, he only does things in threes. When we attempted his second leg for Fetch intermediate, he said "Nope, three is enough." He took his bumper and headed for home.

In Rally Intermediate, in very inclement weather, he earned his Intermediate title with a 91 high in class, and a 97.

But he wasn't done... In the conformation ring he was up against some very lovely boys but managed to catch the eye of judge Raymond Yurick to get Select Dog and a 5pt major to finish his Grand Championship.

He was a very busy boy, and we had tons of fun despite the heavy rain on day one. Thank you to everyone who has helped me along the way. It truly takes a village. On to new adventures!!



Mary Marter and Morgan



Upcoming Events

January 10-12, 2025 American Spaniel Club Flushing Spaniel Show	Knoxville, TN IWSCA Supported Entry
Feb 28 – Mar 2, 2025 Maryland Sport Dog Association (MSDA) Spring Event	Supported entry Saturday, March 1, 2025
May 12-15, 2025 IWSCA National Specialty	Estes Park, Colorado
October 1, 2025 Morris and Essex Kennel Club Show	Colonial Park, NJ



IWSCA Social Media



Irish Water Spaniel Club of America

Official Club Facebook Page - Official Club Announcements
<https://www.facebook.com/IWSCA/>

Irish Water Spaniel Photo Collection & Archive

A curated collection of the finest IWS photographs in the world
<https://www.facebook.com/IrishWaterSpanielPhotography/>

Irish Water Spaniel Conversations Facebook Group

Start a conversation about most anything IWS, brag or even vent.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/587531408082300/>



Irish Water Spaniel Instagram @IWSAmerica

<https://www.instagram.com/iwsamerica/>



Irish Water Spaniel Twitter @IWSAmerica

<https://twitter.com/IWSAmerica>



Irish Water Spaniel Pinterest

A place for snapshots - send us your photos to be included
<https://www.pinterest.com/IrishWaterSpaniel/>



Irish Water Spaniel Club of America You Tube Channel

A place to view amazing videos of IWS around the world
Coming Summer 2023



Groups.IO

A Members Only e-mail group for club announcements and communications from the Board. If you are a member and not receiving e-mails please contact us.

**Contact Laurie Jacobs for more information at
MysticCaribou@sbcglobal.net or on FB Messenger.**

