



WINTER/SPRING 2024

Rat Tails

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



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

Back in the 70's, my mother, Marion Hopkins, a lifetime member of the IWSCA, found a dog vest at one of the numerous dogs shows she went to -- it said: "VOTE AS YOU DOG-GONE PLEASE--BUT PLEASE VOTE."

She believed strongly that we all had a say in what happened in our lives. She put the vest on her dogs whenever she joined in protesting against or supporting an issue she felt needed to be addressed.

The AKC has an active government watch group. They are wonderful at tracking each state's pending legislation as it pertains to dogs, dog owners, breeders, and businesses. They send out all this information to each parent club. Thankfully for the last 20+ years Florence Blecher, our Government Committee Chair, has religiously sent us this information. From that information, you know exactly what the bill is about and how it's written. AKC clearly states why they either support or oppose each bill. They offer bullet-point information to support their stand. They encourage each of us to contact our state representatives/senators to voice our opinions. AKC gives us email contact information for the committee members that will have the bill coming before them. Included in all the information is the bill's number, along with the date and time of the hearing. This gives us each a chance to be heard. It's a busy, hurried world, and we may not feel we have the time or energy to take on another "thing to do." BUT there is some nasty "anti-dog" legislation out there (even in my little state of New Hampshire), and we are given the tools to advocate for our animals and use our voices to bring some common sense back into our lives and our dogs. After all, we are dog lovers, owners, and breeders.

It might take a few minutes to do this, but it will have a lasting effect one way or the other.

Enjoy the spring and enjoy your dogs.

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
Dana Louttit

2nd Vice President
Linda Deckard

Corresponding Secretary
Laurel Baglia, PhD

Recording Secretary
Bethany Urban

Treasurer
Melissa Gulley

Membership Director
Heidi Currier Ferris

IWSCA Committees

Rat Tails Newsletter Editor
Edith Blackwell

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
Patrice Dodd

Judges' Education Committee
Stacy Duncan, Michelle Cummings

Field Committee
Heidi Currier Ferris
2024 National Specialty Committee
Laurel Baglia, Jodi Lamp

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 DeVreize

Northwest
Liz Liddle

International
Charlene Schermers



Photo by Sarah Zumpf



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

November 14, 2023

The following Board members were present: Pam Manus, Dana Louttit, Laurel Baglia, Dan Sayers, Linda Deckard, Melissa Gulley, Heidi Ferris, and Bethany Urban.

Recording Secretary – Bethany Urban

Next Board meetings will be on December 12, 2023, and January 9, 2024. October minutes were approved on November 14, 2023.

Corresponding Secretary – Laurel Baglia

Nothing to report.

Treasurer Report – Melissa Gulley

The 4th Quarter Report will be presented at the January 2024 Board meeting and in the next newsletter.

Report of Committees

Specialty Committee – Dana Louttit

2024 - Laurel Baglia provided an update regarding a December T-shirt/sweatshirt fundraiser. Logo is complete and in the process of being digitized.

2025 – Tim Gulley and Michelle Cummings joined the Board meeting to discuss the 2025 National Specialty. Tim Gulley and Michelle Cummings took a trip to visit the proposed show sight and gave an update to the Board. Contracts were provided to the Board.

2026 - The Specialty committee is in the process of forming, and they have been provided with a workflow packet to assist with the planning process.

Breeders Committee – Dan Sayers

Dan Sayers reported that on Friday, October 20, 2023, a Breeders Education Seminar was held in South Kingstown, Rhode Island. The presentation by Gregory Siner

and Mindy Garbarino was well received by everyone attending.

Public Relations – Melissa Gulley

Melissa Gulley led a discussion of current public relations activities.

Awards Committee

The Ad Hoc Committee has met and presented their suggestions for the calculation for the #1 IWS in Scent Work to the Awards Committee.

Membership – Heidi Ferris

There are six new applications for membership:

Bailey and Riley Hawk
Foxboro, WI

Endorsed by Lisa Schaitberger & Bethany Urban.

Melissa Dobma
Ontario, Canada

Endorsed by Lisa Schaitberger & Bethany Urban

Marsha Painter
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Endorsed by Lisa Schaitberger & Bethany Urban.

Marguerite Woelfel
Drums, PA

Endorsed by Lisa Schaitberger & Bethany Urban

Cheryl Friese
Red Wing, MN

Endorsed by Laurel Reeves & Mary Daly

Devin Christopher
Columbus, OH

Endorsed by Gabrielle Long & Emily Pikul

Motion by Heidi Ferris to accept applicants listed above as members of the IWSCA. Second by Linda Deckard. Approved by all Board members.



Old Business

Star Chapter – Melissa Gulley

The new website is up and running. Training will begin for Heidi Ferris, Laurel Baglia, and Dana Louttit. Star Chapter's email capabilities will replace the membership Groups and the Board Groups. .

New Business

Discussion of the need to make revisions or updates to the IWSCA By-Laws. Motion made by Bethany Urban to appoint Dana Louttit to form and act as the Chair of a By-Laws Ad Hoc Committee. The committee will review the by-laws and provide feedback on what needs to be updated or revised. Second by Pam Manus. Yay by Pam Manus, Linda Deckard, Melissa Gulley, Laurel Baglia, Heidi Ferris, Bethany Urban, and Dan Sayers. Abstained by Dana Louttit.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:20 p.m.

December 12, 2023

The following Board members were present: Pam Manus, Dana Louttit, Laurel Baglia, Linda Deckard, Melissa Gulley, Heidi Ferris, Bethany Urban, and Dan Sayers.

Recording Secretary – Bethany Urban

Next Board meetings will be January 9, 2024, and February 13, 2024.

The November minutes were approved on December 13, 2023.

Corresponding Secretary – Laurel Baglia

Nothing to report.

Treasurer Report – Melissa Gulley

The 4th Quarter Report will be submitted in January 2024

Report of Committees

Specialty – Dana Louttit

2024 – Laurel Baglia reported that they

are waiting for final approval from AKC to announce the 2024 Judges. The logo has been digitized.

2025 – Tim Gulley joined the meeting briefly and reported that the contracts had been signed by the specialty chairs.

Delegate - Dan Sayers

Nothing to report.

Membership – Heidi Ferris

No new membership applications this month.

Field – Heidi Ferris

Susan Sarracino-Deihl submitted a request for the IWSCA to sponsor an AKC Spaniel Hunt Test on Saturday, June 1, 2024, at Rock River Kennels, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. As in previous years, the IWSCA would be joining the Field Spaniel Society of America (FSSA) for two days of spaniel hunt tests. The chairperson will be Susan Sarracino-Deihl, and the Secretary will be Renee Pederson. The committee members will be Susan Sarracino-Deihl, Chuck Pederson, Renee Pederson, Ruth Bruskiwitz, and Ann McNeill. The plan is to have two fields with an entry limit of 55 dogs (total for the test). According to AKC Rules, the IWSCA Spaniel Hunt Test can be a designated National Specialty Spaniel Hunt Test. Preference can be given to IWS for entering the test. The plan is to have three local judges to decrease expenses and one judge from Illinois.

Motion made by Heidi Ferris to approve the request for an AKC Spaniel Hunt Test on June 1, 2024, as proposed by Susan Sarracino-Deihl. Second by Pam Manus. Approved by all Board members.

By-Laws Committee – Linda Deckard

Linda Deckard reported that the by-laws committee will consist of Dana Louttit, Jim Rubin, and Linda Deckard, and the committee has had its first meeting.

Nominating Committee – Bethany Urban

When the Board began doing research for a On November 16, 2023, the Nominating Committee provided a list of candidates for the election year of 2024. Bethany will send a notification of the 2024 proposed slate to the



membership on or before January 15, 2024.

Continuing Business

Star Chapter – Melissa Gulley

Melissa and Dana will continue to review the new website for any issues. There will continue to be hours of work involved after the website goes live to get the full benefit of what Star Chapter has to offer the IWSCA. Meeting Adjourned: 9:30 p.m.

January 9, 2024

The following Board members were present: Pam Manus, Dana Louttit, Laurel Baglia, Linda Deckard, Melissa Gulley, Heidi Ferris, Bethany Urban, and Dan Sayers.

Recording Secretary - Bethany Urban

Next Board meetings will be February 13th and March 5th 2024.

The December minutes were approved on January 9, 2024.

Corresponding Secretary- Laurel Baglia

Laurel Baglia reports that all 2024 club events received to date have been updated on the AKC website.

Motion made by Laurel Baglia to approve a Regional Specialty at Wine Country on September 28, 2024. Seconded by Linda Deckard. Approved by all Board members.

Treasurer Report - Melissa Gulley

See the attached 4th Quarter Report for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Report of Committees

Specialty – Dana Louttit

2024-Laurel Baglia reported the specialty store will be open soon. The National Specialty Schedule of Events has been posted on our club webpage - <https://iwsca.org/>.

2025 - Nothing to report.

2026 - Call for bids will be announced to the membership.

Delegate - Dan Sayers

See attached AKC Delegate's Report.

Breeders Committee

See attached Committee Report.

Membership - Heidi Ferris

No new membership applications this month. Beginning in 2024 the following information for a new club member will be included in our newsletter and the Board minutes:

- Name of the new club member(s)
- City and State of residence
- Name of endorsers of the new member

Heidi Ferris will input the new members' profile in the membership directory.

Judges Education - Dan Sayers

The Judges Education information that was presented by Dan Sayers on December 16, 2023, in Orlando, Florida as part of the Dog Judges Association of America was highly successful. A total of 35 judges signed up, and 28 judges were in attendance. IWSCA club members with seven Irish Water Spaniels were there for the hands-on presentation.

Public Relations - Melissa Gulley

Melissa Gulley reported that she and Laurie Jacobs had a meeting and discussed the capabilities Star Chapter has for Public Relations.

Awards- Heidi Ferris

Motion made by Heidi Ferris to increase the Rosette trophy stipend for a Regional Specialty to \$300 and for a Supported Entry to \$150. Seconded by Dana Louttit. Approved by all Board members.

Continuing Business

Star Chapter - Melissa Gulley

Melissa Gulley reported that the Star Chapter review and update process continues.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:30 p.m.



Treasurer's Report Submitted by Melissa Gulley

All figures below are for the year ending December 31, 2023.

Bank Accounts:

IWSCA Main	95,301.86
Merchandise #2304	5,809.20
*2023 Specialty #2353	550.00
**2024 Specialty #2320	14,882.59
2025 Specialty #2312	5,550.00
PayPal Transfer #2338	1,000.00
***Membership #2379	2,846.82
Wine Country #2361	1,151.74

Investment Account:

Balance on December 31, 2023	\$41,381.13
Balance on January 1, 2023	\$37,622.28
Change in value	\$3,758.85

NOTES:

* On December 29, 2023, I transferred \$11,505 from the 2023 specialty bank account into the main bank account. This would include the original \$10,000 seed money. This account is now at a minimum balance to avoid bank fees.

** On December 29, 2023, I transferred \$2,352.39 from the IWSCA PayPal account into the 2024 Specialty bank account. These are the net proceeds from the summer fundraiser.

*** On December 29, 2023, I transferred \$17,287.71 from the Membership bank account into the main bank account.

The 2025 Specialty has received a donation of \$5,000.



Photo by Jeremy Kezer



AKC Delegate's Report

January 09, 2024

By: Dan Sayers

The quarterly Delegate Meeting was held on Thursday, December 15, and Friday, December 16, 2023, at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida.

I only attended two committee meetings on Thursday, as I gave a Judges Education presentation on Friday as part of the Dog Judges Association of America (DJAA) Sporting Breed Seminars. The meetings I was able to attend included those of the Parent Clubs Committee and the Canine Health Committee as well as the General Caucus. A very brief summary is provided below:

Canine Health Committee - Recent outbreaks of canine influenza were discussed. Rates of incidence were considered, and it was shared that judges at the ANC and its preceding shows were instructed to ask each exhibitor to show their dog's bites as a means of avoiding possible transmission from dog to dog. The Dog Aging Project (a four-year study) was mentioned as was a Citizen Science Project on how to maintain a healthy breeding population.

Parent Clubs Committee - A main point of discussion was the registration of non-standard colors and patterns in various breeds: French Bulldogs, Labrador Retrievers, Weimaraners, etc. This is an issue AKC is working on directly with the parent clubs that are impacted by these registrations.

Although I did not attend the annual meeting on December 16, 2023, the Delegate Body was introduced to four candidates who presented their credentials to fill three (3) vacancies on the Board of Directors for the Class of 2028. The candidates were Dr. Carmen Battaglia (German Shepherd Dog

Club of America, Sally Fineburg (Hatboro Dog Club), Dr. Michael Knight (Texas Kennel Club), and Laurie Maulucci (South Windsor Kennel Club). A vote will take place at the March 2024 Delegate's Meeting.

Additionally, the Delegate Body voted on six (6) amendments to the *Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club* and the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*. Specifically, a two-thirds vote in the affirmative was made to remove exhibiting restrictions for sweepstakes, futurity, and special attractions judges "as any restrictions have historically been defined by Board policy," and a two-thirds vote in the affirmative was made to allow a "breed club" the option to offer a 3-pt. major for Reserve Winners at "any specialty show." This is an "opt-out" option that is "controlled by the Parent Clubs."

Details for all votes and the credentials of the Board of Directors candidates may be found in the minutes from the Delegate Meeting, which have been published on the "Secretary's Pages" of the January 2024 edition of the *AKC Gazette*.

<chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn-origin-etr.akc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/02134225/Secy-Pages-January-2024.pdf>

The next Delegate Meeting will be held at the Doubletree Newark Hotel in Newark, New Jersey, on Monday, March 11 and Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

Please send any comments to me directly at: Ninodanny@aol.com.



**Breeders Committee Report
January 09, 2024**

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

Happy New Year! Greg and I are planning a conference call for Wednesday morning to

discuss the budget. After that phone call, I just want to type up a chart that will outline the events. We are considering the estimated cost associated with those events. I should be able to have that to you by the end of this week. As far as updating the Board, I guess you can use that as an update.



Photo by Jeremy Kezer



IWSCA 2024 National Specialty Schedule

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, May 17, 2024

2 All Breed Dog Shows

Magic Valley Kennel Club, Inc.

Washington County Fairgrounds -
922 Front St. - Marietta, OH
Superintendent - MBF Inc. -
<https://infodog.com/>

Saturday, May 18, 2024

IWSCA Regional Specialty

Magic Valley Kennel Club, Inc.

Washington County Fairgrounds -
922 Front St. - Marietta, OH
Superintendent - MBF Inc. -
<https://infodog.com/>

Sunday, May 19, 2024

All Breed Dog Show

Blennerhassett Kennel Club, Inc.

Washington County Fairgrounds -
922 Front St. - Marietta, OH
Superintendent - MBF Inc. -
<https://infodog.com/>

Sunday, May 19, 2024

IWSCA Specialty

Roberts Centre, Wilmington, OH

3:00 PM

Check in Holiday Inn Wilmington, OH
Grooming set up available in Roberts Centre D
Hospitality Opens in Montgomery Board Room

Monday, May 20, 2024

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner on your own
8:00 AM:

Agility course building - Roberts Centre A

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Agility Trial - Roberts Centre A - Judge Dee Crofton

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Breeders Committee Meeting - Franklin 1

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

AGM - Franklin 1

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Welcome Party with Cash Bar and Hors
D'oeuvres

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner on your own

8:00 AM - Noon

Obedience- Roberts Centre D - Judge

Kathleen Cook

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Rally - Roberts Centre D - Judge Kathleen Cook

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Sweeps - Roberts Centre D - Judge Michelle
Cummings

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Taco Bar - Roberts Centre D

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Breakfast and Lunch on your own

8:00 AM - Noon

AKC Fetch Trial- Roberts Centre D - Judge

April Barr

9:00 AM - Noon

Judges Education - Franklin 1

1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Conformation - Roberts Centre D - Judge

Doug Johnson

5:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Cash Bar, Dinner, Silent Auction and Live
Auction - Roberts Centre C

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Breakfast on your own

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

WC/WCX - Clinton County Sportsman Club

Judges Ruth Bruskiwicz and Lindy O'Leary

Noon

Boxed Lunch at Clinton County Sportsman Club

5:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Cash Bar and Awards Banquet - Roberts Centre C

Friday, May 24, 2024

Check out of Holiday Inn

Host Hotel Information:

IWSCA 2024 NATIONAL SPECIALTY HOST HOTEL (Host Hotel RV link)

Holiday Inn - Roberts Centre

123 Gano Road
Wilmington Ohio 45177

We have a group rate for the Specialty (May 20 - 23, 2024).
There is a one-time pet fee of \$50 per room, with a 4-dog limit per room.

Phone number: 937-283-3200 You must choose option 4. Use Room Block Code KHR

Reservation Deadline April 28, 2024.

Contact Jodi Lamp (jodilamp@gmail.com) or Laurel Baglia (navaroneiws@gmail.com) for more information.

RV Registration

The Roberts Centre has 26 RV Spots that are Full Hook-ups, and at a rate of \$40 per night. All other parking is considered dry parking at a rate of \$25 per night. YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR RV PARKING. RV availability is on a first come, first served basis.

Cardio Testing

Don't forget to publish your OFA Advanced Cardiac results to earn a \$200 rebate on your test cost from the IWSCA.

All you have to do to receive your rebate is check the box on the OFA form to share the results and send your dog's registered name and your name and mailing address to Treasurer Melissa Gulley at **MGulley220@gmail.com**.

That's it! If you need help finding testing, contact Dana at **Louttit.dana@gmail.com**.



Photo by Sarah Zumpf



In Memory of our friend, Lynn Ellen Musgrave

September 16, 1952 - February 25, 2024

Born and raised in Tahlequah Oklahoma, Lynn developed her love of Irish Water Spaniels early by holding onto the back of her Dad's IWS Curly while learning to walk beside him. Her passion for theater and debate began in Oklahoma as well performing in high school and local productions such as the ***Trail of Tears***.

She completed her MFA at the University of Michigan and brought her talents to Minneapolis. She was an on-stage presence, an accomplished director and sound designer at numerous local theaters. Theatre in the Round became her home away from home for performing in 18 productions, directing 53 productions, sound designing over 100 productions, serving on the board of directors, tech advisory committee and more.

Anyone who knew Lynn is well aware of her passion for animals in general, but she devoted most of that passion to her Irish Water Spaniels. Lynn joined the IWSCA in the mid 1980's, becoming well known for breeding, showing, and spoiling rotten many generations of the breed she'd grown to love as a child. She was incredibly proud of her Dreadlocks (later D'Locks) kennel name and the progeny it produced. Lynn was the proud breeder of the oldest and youngest IWS to receive their championships.

In recent years, numerous back surgeries and debilitating pain didn't dull Lynn's passion for IWS and theater, but the pain and discomfort all but eliminated her participation in them.

On the first of February, after a 6th back surgery in 18 months, Lynn was admitted to the ICU at United Hospital in St Paul, MN. On February 25th, worn down by pneumonia in both lungs, an aggressive bone infection, and erratic cardiac rhythm, Lynn was released from her pain. She had been on life support for nearly two weeks.

Lynn leaves her husband Bob, 3 IWS (Flutter, Luna and Banna); (two cats Nervy and Weasley), and a brother and niece in Oklahoma.

To all who knew her in the dog or theater world, Lynn was a force driven by her passion for IWS and the performing arts.

A celebration of life will be held in Minneapolis later in the spring at Theatre in the Round.

Please direct questions and messages for the family to: DlocksIWS1@gmail.com

Cards may be sent to: Bob Berglund 2818 Pierce St NE Minneapolis MN 55418



2010 litter from CH D'locks Something Wicked and CH Dlocks Peregrin Took



Health News from Members

Our Journey of Hemangiosarcoma with Reef

By Kim and Jeremy Kezer

As dog owners, we all dread the moment that our dog doesn't get up or behave in their normal way. In March 2023, that sense of panic and urgency happened to Jeremy and me. When Jeremy and our three dogs (Reef, Ghillie, and Arrow) arrived home from a 2-hour drive after running agility, the two younger ones came into the house with the usual cyclone of craziness, but where was Reef? Jeremy said Reef would not get out of his crate. I ran out and immediately checked his gums. Knowing he was fine at the start of the ride home and suddenly crashed, a terrible sense of dread hit me as I saw his gums were very pale. We drove immediately to the ER. Before we knew it, Reef was taken away on a gurney, and we waited in the car, in shock, and in fear for our boy, hoping to not hear what we were dreading. Ten minutes later, they had us come in and speak with the attending veterinarian. Side note: our vet said, "I only know of one person who has this breed, I went to vet school with her." We smiled and said, "Hannah Loonsk?" and of course, it was Hannah, so we felt some comfort in having a distant connection to one of our own.

So, then we started the dreaded conversation. The vet said that based on his symptoms (anemic, blood in his abdomen, two small masses on his spleen, and sudden weakness) they suspect it is Hemangiosarcoma. They told us that Reef "is stable, and we will keep him overnight to do more testing, and if he is well, and without signs of metastasis, then we would like to discuss a splenectomy." Immediately we asked about a Chinese herb known to be helpful with hemangiosarcoma; Yunnan Baiyao. We were relieved to hear it was administered upon his arrival. We went to say good night to our boy and were happy to see him upright and perky, with vet techs fawning over his beautiful curls and long ears. We left knowing he was in good hands. The surgeon called in the morning with positive results, no metastasis, no need for transfusion, bleeding stopped, and blood pressure normal. Options were discussed, and we agreed to proceed with the splenectomy. Reef made it through, and every time we spoke to someone at the hospital there were always adoring comments about loving his bangs and hair, and they even went as far as combing out his ears because hair kept getting into his mouth. We took him home, relieved, not focusing on what he could be diagnosed with. He had an excellent recovery over the next few weeks and was back to his goofy, lovable ways doing everything he enjoyed.

Our reason for sharing this with our Irish Water Spaniel community is not for sharing a sad story, but more for increasing awareness about this horrible cancer, what to look for, and possible treatment options to get the best results for your dog, knowing there is no cure. We are in no way endorsing any of the products or treatments mentioned, only sharing information. We fully respect everyone's decisions for caring for their animals and the choices you and your veterinarian team make. I will, however, make one recommendation, and that is to have Yunnan Baiyao (YB) in your medical kit as a staple. I have used YB on a cut to stop bleeding as well as on the nail quick. It doesn't sting and works quickly. Here is an excerpt from [bestnaturalpets.com](https://www.bestnaturalpets.com) regarding YB. "In the veterinary world, Yunnan Baiyao is most used to help extend the life of dogs and cats who have bleeding cancers. While researchers are still learning why Yunnan Baiyao is so effective, we believe that it works by activating platelets in the blood. Platelets are what allow blood to clot. By activating the platelets, we can encourage healthy blood clots and reduce bleeding in tumors. Yunnan Baiyao also encourages healthy circulation to relieve your pet's pain and keep their immune system active."



Pathology results

The results were back, sadly a 90% chance of it being hemangiosarcoma. On the other hand, there was a 10% chance it wasn't. We are generally hopeful people, so we focused on the 10% and were determined to do all we could to support Reef for whatever time we had left with him. We immediately reached out to our dear friends, Meagan, and John, who had sadly received a similar diagnosis with their IWS Coco a year earlier. We consulted with their homeopathic vet and had a plan in place even before we met with the oncologist.

What is Hemangiosarcoma?

Hemangiosarcoma (HS) is a common and deadly cancer that grows and spreads rapidly without ever being aware that your dog has the disease. There are three different types of HS; Splenic (most common), cardiac (starts in a chamber of the heart), and cutaneous/subcutaneous (skin or under the skin). Time is of the essence when suspecting HS because a sudden rupture will cause massive blood loss, collapse, and possible death. All too often, even making it to the emergency clinic commonly results in doing nothing other than deciding to let them go. Regardless, knowing the signs and acting promptly can make a huge difference in stabilizing your dog. Symptoms vary depending on the type of HS. Generally, if there is a sudden change and your dog is showing signs of weakness, pale gums, lethargy, distended and tender abdomen, or exercise intolerance, be prompt in seeking care. In Reef's case, we were fortunate to observe the dramatic change and get help fast. This undoubtedly helped with a strong recovery going into surgery.

Visit with Oncologist

Being an oncologist must be one of the hardest professions when it comes to presenting options and outcomes. We are sharing our experiences in the hopes that it may be helpful to others, but we sincerely hope you will never need it. Prior to our visit, we familiarized ourselves with as much information as possible preparing for the discussion. The oncologist spent 45 minutes explaining options and answering our questions. The sobering part of the conversation was knowing none of the treatments would have a profound impact on his longevity if it indeed was HS. On rare occasions, the masses in the spleen could be benign, we just needed to wait and see (remember the 10%). Canine cancer research is ongoing, and while there are effective treatments for some, HS is not one of them.

The Options

Conventional Chemotherapy-5 doses IV 20 minutes 3 weeks apart. Possible outcome 4-6 months at the most. On average, only 7% will survive a year from the onset with chemotherapy. \$\$\$\$

Targeted Chemo/Immunotherapy

FidoCure-Markers are identified in the tumor, and then some of the markers are correlated with specific medications to interrupt the biological process associated with those markers. \$\$\$\$

Torigen Immunotherapy- Veterinarians surgically excise the tumor, and the lab will personalize a vaccine from the tumor. \$\$\$\$

Precision Medicine is generally oral medication, given daily that is prescribed to cover targeted types of cancers based on a culture and sensitivity. These are therapies that can be used in conjunction with or following traditional chemotherapy methods.

Turkey Tail Mushrooms- \$ Yunnan Baiyou-\$ Chinese Medicine- \$\$

We wanted to give Reef as many good days as we could with little to no bad days. When discussing



treatment options, the doctor said Reef would need to be hospitalized for the day of his treatments, and he may not feel well for a few days following treatment. We decided against any chemotherapy or advanced therapy treatments. Knowing the prognosis, the priority was quality time over quantity. Our decision included immediately changing his food to a Ketogenic raw diet by Bones & Co., eliminating carbs which “feed cancer.” We met with the homeopathic veterinarian and started daily dosages of the following Chinese Herbs; Yunnan Baiyao, Stasis Breaker, Wei Qi Booster, an herbal tea of Astragalus and Codonopsis roots, and Turkey Tail Mushroom. Reef did extremely well on this protocol and had no bad days until his last couple of weeks.

His recovery from the splenectomy was unremarkable, and after a month, he began running agility again and pretty much back to himself, making us laugh all the time. In August, Reef and Jeremy earned their PAX (Preferred Agility Excellent) and a beautiful ribbon. Reef, Ghillie, and Arrow enjoyed their summer together playing, and we appreciated every day with him. We were grateful for the 6 months we had. Would we do anything different? NO.

We hoped Reef would continue to be with us for a long time, but it was not meant to be. This type of cancer is not painful, they only feel weak because they become anemic due to periodic internal bleeds. That is the only positive thing I can say about HS. Reef started showing signs of the advancing disease in September, initially through exercise intolerance on our morning walks. YB helped us through a few episodes where he was not himself (weak, tiring easy). We had to acknowledge that our time with Reef was not going to be all we’d hoped. Our last week with him was hard, but he gave us an amazing gift; between two episodes of lethargy, he gave us 2 ½ perfect days where he had all of his energy, his gums were nice and pink, and he was thoroughly enjoying spending time with us and the other dogs. He and I did some heelwork in the yard, which I will cherish always. Jeremy was comforted seeing the brightness in those beautiful brown eyes of his and watching him play with Ghillie and Arrow. Knowing this very well would be the last time to experience the joy and love with him, we hold these days in our hearts forever. Then the day did come to say goodbye to our lovely boy Reef, and he is missed so much.



Reef, Ghillie and Arrow relaxing



Reef and Jeremy



Reef



Kim and Reef



Public Relations and Education

Meet the Breeds & Special People

By: Laurie Jacobs

The best way to discover new breeds and learn about them is to meet them. The AKC has given breed clubs the opportunity to educate the public about all that makes up their breed with an event called Meet the Breeds (MTB). Starting in 2009, the family-friendly shows are an educational canine adventure giving dog lovers the unique opportunity to meet and play with some of the best ambassadors of a breed. Until three years ago, the MTB was always attached to a major dog show held in cities around the US, but now they are massive stand-alone events held at some of the largest venues across the country.

We couldn't be part of these events if it weren't for the very hard work of the volunteers who pack their dogs, crates, tables, and chairs and drive or fly to the event location from cities as much as a thousand miles away. These same people arrive early enough to set up the booths, which always look so inviting, and then stand on their feet talking IWS all day long. They know when to rotate dogs, so they don't get too tired or overwhelmed. Oh, and they navigate the parking lot getting to and from these massive complexes! These people continually share all that makes our Irish Water Spaniels so very special.

My point is that we can't teach the world how great Irish Water Spaniels are without volunteers. I just want to take this time to thank all of those who have stepped up, time and time again, either at the MTB or an Irish Festival or parade. If I've left out a name, I am sorry, but please know how very much you are appreciated.

The AKC hasn't announced its 2024 schedule as of yet, but the possibilities are once again in Columbus, Chicago, and Tampa. There has been some talk of a show in Virginia. If you have a well-socialized dog and one that you believe makes an excellent example of our breed, want to volunteer, or just want to hang out and help, then please contact me.

Laurie Jacobs

Public Relations & Education

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Lonnie Sparks
Tiffany & Terry Schuffert
Laurel Baglia
Brenda & Tim Bauerlein
Linda Beilstein
Edith Blackwell
Nicole Brown
Ruth Bruskiwitz
Linda Deckard
Taylor Jessie

Jodi Lamp
Shellie Lewis
Hannah Loonsk
Dana Louttit
Melissa McMunn
Ann & Brian McNeill
Lynn Musgrave
Shona Nester Ensign
Deb & Joe Nezgoda
Wendy O'Leary

Emily Pikul
Gretchen Post
Lisa Schaitberger
Lisa Shaw
Cat Shelby
Greg Siner
Lonnie Sparkes
Ginny Spencer
Mary Williams Marter
Sarah & Bob Zumpf





Orin Schuffert, Mindy, & Brenda make a new friend at Meet the Breeds, in April 2022, in Tampa, FL.

Meet the Breeds event in Chicago, IL held August 26 -27, 2023. Photo by Taylor Jesse.



Orlando Meet the Breeds AKC Invitational attendees in 2017. Photo by Jeremy Kezer



Flushing Spaniel Show

January 12-14, 2024

In 2019, the Irish Water Spaniel was welcomed back to the Flushing Spaniel Show of the American Spaniel Club after an absence of many years. To some of us, the site of the show is one of our favorites: two beautiful dog-friendly hotels connected to the World's Fair Exhibition Hall in Knoxville, Tennessee, with lots of outdoor space to exercise dogs, huge, carpeted rings, low exhibitor density, and well-organized reserved grooming. Rosettes, fun trophies, special group competitions, obedience and rally in a quiet corner and a group dinner help make it a special show.

This year's attendees included: Mark and Sondra Barker (whose Boy and Spry took home top honors), Taylor and June Jessie, Dana Louttit and Hannah Loonsk, Tara Darling, Emily Pikul, Janet Manuel, and Cassandra Stewart. Susan Sarracino-Deihl sent a bitch Special, Courtney Manrod came by and joined us for dinner, and Deborah Hughes judged Sweepstakes. June Jessie was our Junior Showmanship competitor, and Taylor Jessie and Trip represented us in obedience (and finished Tripp's CD title). Congratulations to all the winners!

There are breed clubs that want the show to move away from January in Knoxville, and next year could be the last year in Knoxville. Thank you to all who have made the effort to represent our breed in Knoxville. We hope you join us there in January 2025.

Results: IWSCA Regional:

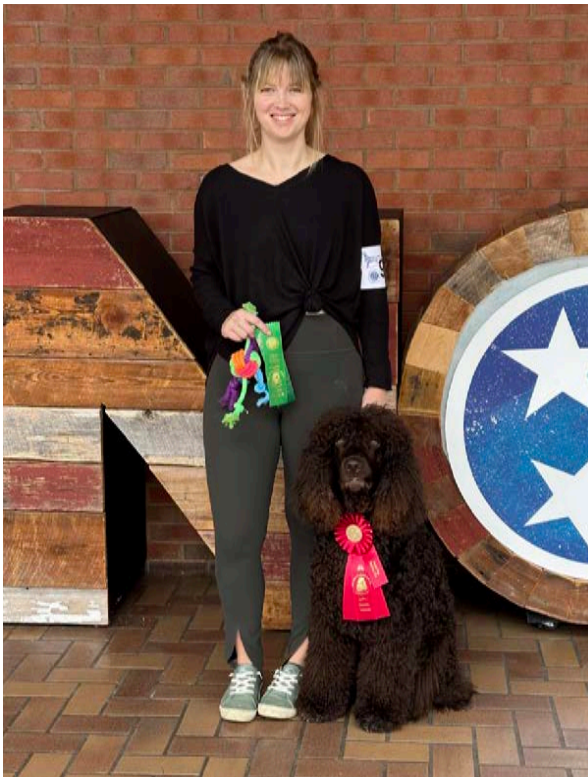
- Best of Breed, Best of Winners, Winners Dog: Realta & Sycomore O'Boy (Boy). Owned by Mark and Sondra Barker.
- Best of Opposite: GCHS CH Poole's Ide Say No More CD RN JH CGC TKI WC (Simone). Owned by: Hannah Loonsk & Gregory M Siner & Bethany Urban.
- Select Dog: CH Starlines Now You Know (Vinni). Owned by: Cassandra Stewart & Grace Stewart.
- Select Bitch: Saracen Hope For the Future (Bryna). Owned by: Susan Sarracino-Deihl & Robert E Deihl.
- Winners Bitch: Bred by Exhibitor: Poole's Ide the More the Merrier RN (Hattie Disney). Owned by Hannah L. Loonsk and Gregory Siner.
- Reserve Winners Dogs: Poole's Ide Riptide RN (Rip). Owned by: Hannah Loonsk, Gregory M Siner, Bethany Urban and Dana Louttit.
- Reserve Winners Bitch: Poole's Ide No Secrets RN CGC (Carly). Owned by Gregory M. Siner and Hannah Loonsk.

Results: Flushing Spaniel Specialty

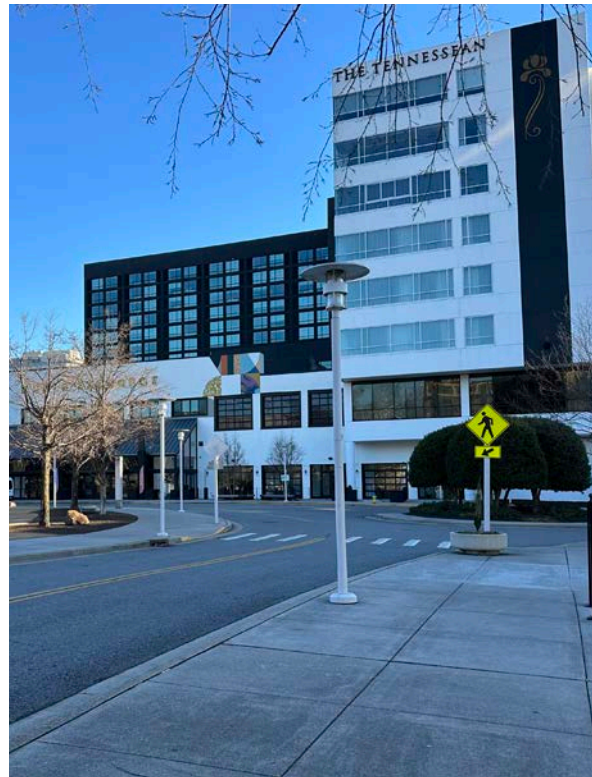
- Best of Breed: GCHB Realta Sycomore Spry CGC (Spry). Owned by: Rosemary Sexton & Sondra Barker & Mark Barker.
- Best of Winners, Winners Bitch: Tara's Luck Be a Lady (Ladybug). Owned by Tara Darling-Lyon.
- Best of Opposite: CH Starlines Now You Know (Vinni). Owned by Cassandra Stewart & Grace Stewart.
- Select Dog: GCH CH Castlehill's Ramblin' Rafael O'Crispin BN RA CGCA TKI (Raffie). Owned by: Elenora L Benz & Richard Kelsky.
- Select Bitch: GCHS CH Poole's Ide Say No More CD RN JH CGC TKI (Simone). Owned by: Owned by: Hannah Loonsk & Gregory M Siner & Bethany Urban.
- Winners Dog: Ildanoch Triple Chocolate CGCA RA BN (Trip). Owned by: Taylor Jessie & Jacob Jessie.



- Reserve Winners Dogs: Poole's Ide Riptide RN (Rip), Owned by: Hannah Loonsk, Gregory M Siner, Bethany Urban and Dana Louttit.
- Reserve Winners Bitch/Best Bred By: Poole's Ide the More the Merrier RN (Hattie Disney). Owned by: Hannah L. Loonsk and Gregory Siner.
- Award of Merit: Tara's Luck Be a Lady (Ladybug). Owned by Tara Darling-Lyon.



Tripp and Taylor Jessie



The Flushing Spaniel Show venue



Hannah and Hattie



The Trophies





The Rosettes



Deb Hughes Sweeps



The Group Dinner



Simone



Rip relaxing



Taylor Jessie and Tripp





Photo by Jeremy Kezer

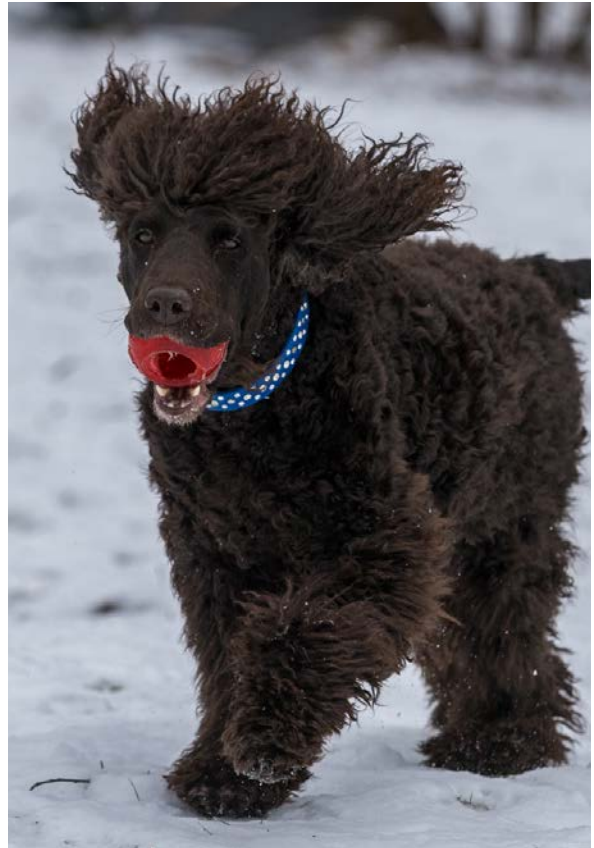


Photo by Jeremy Kezer

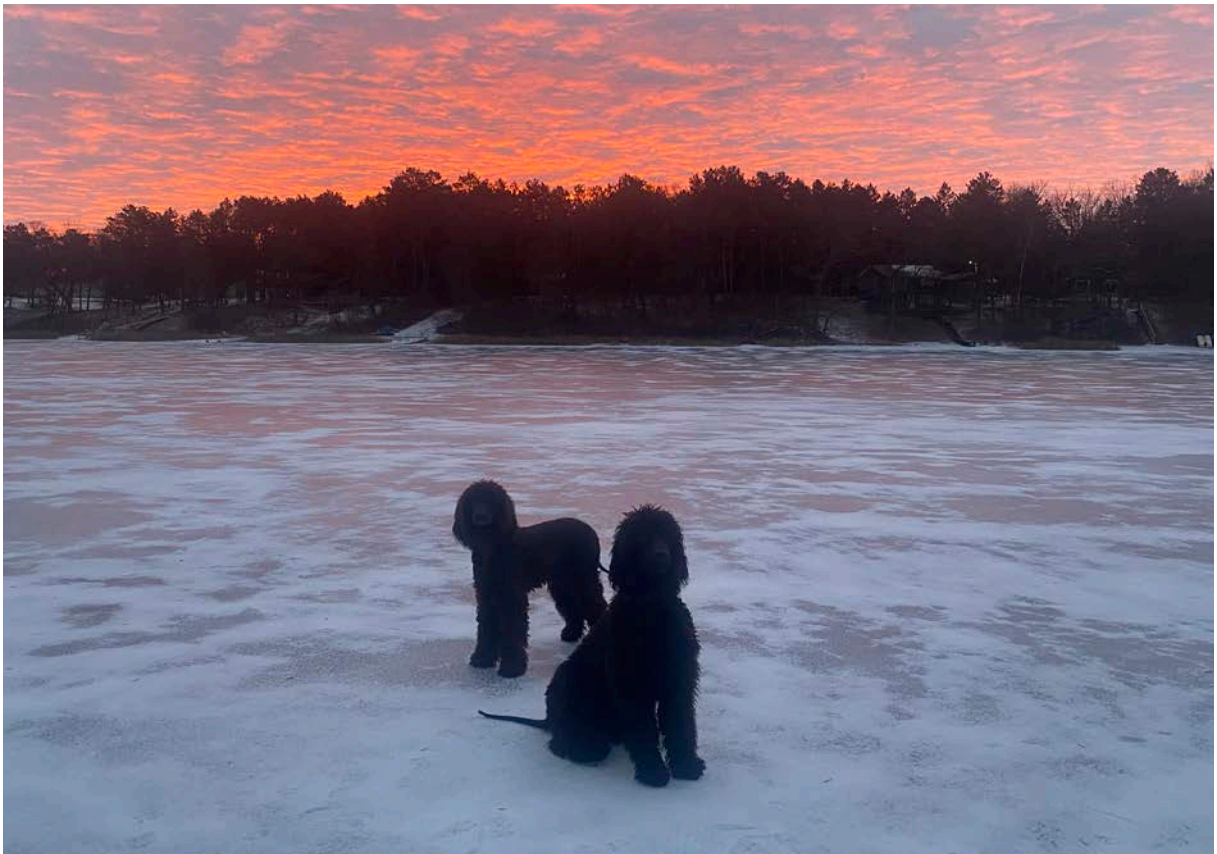


Photo by Sarah Zumpf



Regional Reports

Northeast Regional Report

By: Jeremy Kezer and Laurel Baglia

Stephanie O'Reilly writes that "November/December has been a great couple of months for her gang. Polly (BOSS GCH MACH Poole's Ide Pollywog MXB MJS MXF T2B ACT2 ACT2J) added a MACH title to her name when she earned her 20th double Q on November 27, 2023, at the Thanksgiving agility cluster in West Springfield, MA. She then went to compete at the 2023 AKC Agility Invitational in Orlando, FL. Polly had a fabulous debut at this event with a clean T2B warm-up run on Friday and 4 clean rounds to finish 9th overall in the 20" height. She then went on to compete in the finals and placed 8th overall.

Sloane (MBIS MRBIS NBISS MBISS GCHG CH MACH Poole's Ide Sargeant Sloane CD RN MXB MXJB MBF T2B) added a MACH to his name when he earned his MACH title on December 31, 2023, at the Shawangunk agility trial in Saugerties, NY. He earned his MACH 6 months after retiring from the conformation ring. Sloane also earned enough points and double Qs to qualify for the 2024 AKC agility championships in just 5 months.

Flare (CH MACH5 PACH2 Castlehill's When Sparks Fly of Cuardach RN MXG2 MJG2 PAX2 MJP2 MJPB MXF T2B FCAT) earned her PACH2 on December 30, 2023, at the Shawangunk agility trial in Saugerties, NY. She earned her 2nd PACH six months after earning her first PACH."

It's officially winter here in the Northeast, and between the holidays and inclement weather, our local field trainer, Dave Sears, didn't have any group training sessions until the last week of January. We had three IWS who were happy to stretch their legs, and all appeared to pick up right where they left off in 2023.

Arrow (Chantico's A Slice And A Pint) competed in his very first agility trials in January and has been doing really well! On his first day out, he picked up his first Novice B Standard and Novice B Jumpers Q's.

Heidi Ferris let us know that "Dahlia Malloy earned ACT1 and ACTJ1 titles in December. What's not to like about Agility? You get to run and jump around, and your people don't tell you to stop it; they give you treats for doing it!" Dahlia Malloy's (Saracen Irish Traveller at Madrigal JHU SEN SBN SCN ACT1 ACTJ1) people are Heidi Ferris and Toby Teller.

Upcoming Events

Wine Country will be from September 26th through September 29th, 2024. There is apparently going to be a big balloon festival in the area that may also be taking up hotel rooms, so if you intend to come to Wine Country you may want to make reservations early!





Sloane (MBIS MRBIS NBISS MBISS GCHG CH MACH Poole's Ide Sargeant Sloane CD RN MXB MXJB MBF T2B) and Stephanie O'Reilly



Polly (BOSS GCH MACH Poole's Ide Pollywog MXB MJS MXF T2B ACT2 ACT2J) and Stephanie



Midge Field Training



Polly and MACH





Hadley Field Training



Flare (CH MACH5 PACH2 Castlehill's When Sparks Fly of Cuardach RN MXG2 MJG2 PAX2 MJP2 MJPB MXF T2B FCAT).



Arrow Field Training



Arrow First Agility Trial



Mid-Atlantic Regional Report

By: Tiffany Schuffert

Spring is in the air! We still have some refreshingly brisk temps, which my dogs love, but you can start to feel the hint of warmth that is on its way. We have a few busy months coming up in the Mid-Atlantic:

- March 1-3 is the MD Sporting Dog Association shows with Regional Specialty and Supported Entry! This year they're expanding from two days of conformation to three!
- May 17-19 is another Regional Specialty and Supported Entry at the Marietta, OH dog shows! There are four shows over 3 days the weekend before the National.
- May 20 – 23 is the IWSCA National in Wilmington, OH. Visit https://iwsc.org/IWSCA_2024_National_Specialty for more information.

Additionally, we've all been having fun with our pups!

Marilyn Cantrell is thrilled to announce CH Flintcrest Finten Forbes CD BN RM FDC (Forbes) earned his Rally Master title in November 2023. Marilyn says, "We started on

the title just before COVID hit, and then it took a good 18 months to get back in the ring due to COVID and me getting old!"

Tim Fleming and Koffi have been doing some field training. Tim says, "I took him [Koffi] to have a session with a hunting trainer in December, and the best part was that he surprised all of us by retrieving a bird out of the water. This was something he'd never done before, so it was a real plus and since he loves to swim so much, I'll probably be starting with waterfowl hunting first, then move on to upland birds. I may actually prefer waterfowl hunting more since he loves the water so much, and I love to eat goose and duck! (see the attached photo of the Christmas goose I roasted this year). When I started specifically training him to hunt in August, I quickly learned that he's quite gun-shy, so it's been a slow road since then, trying to figure out how to move past this with baby steps. Just within the last week, I think I've finally got a good routine in place that will hopefully get him to a good place with the gun sound.



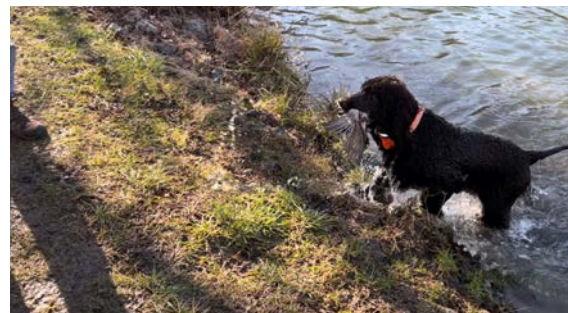
The roasted duck



Marilyn Cantrell and Forbes



Koffi swimming



Koffi with a bird



Southeast Regional Report

By: Linda Deckard

IWS Gather at the ANC in Orlando

In December 2023, Irish Water Spaniels gathered in Orlando, Florida, for the 23rd Annual AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin. The popular two-day show was held on December 16-17 at the Orange County Convention Center and included the AKC National Championship competition, an Agility Invitational competition, and Obedience classes. There were six IWS entered under Judge Dr. Daniel W. Dowling. Best of Breed was awarded to GCHB Realta Sycomore Spry CGC, bred and co-owned by Rosemary Sexton and Mark & Sondra Barker. Spry was the only IWS in the Breed ring that day, so no other awards were made.

Since the ANC is the only show hosted by the American Kennel Club, this spectacular event includes several competitions that are not typically offered at all-breed shows. For 2023, these special attractions included the National Owner-Handled Series Finals, a Best Bred-By Exhibitor competition, and the Puppy and Juniors Stakes. Spry earned a Bred-By Group Two under Judge Dana Cline, and the Barker's young dog, Realta & Sycomore O'Boy, bred by Mark, Sondra & Rosemary and owned by Mark & Sondra, was awarded a Group Two in the Stakes, under Judge Desmond J. Murphy. Boy was handled by Mark.

Three IWS teams competed in the Agility Invitational. Chris Bartos and Lily (Crispin's Flirting With Disaster MX MXB MXJ MJB MFB CA); Stephanie O'Reilly and Polly (GCH CH MACH Poole's Ide Pollywog MXB MJS MXF T2B BCAT ACT2 ACT2J); and Kathy Fitzpatrick and Tempo (CH Ballyhoo's Timing Is Everything RM2 RAE2 MX MXJ MJB MFB T2B CA BCAT SWME CGC).

Lily and Polly both competed at 20" and "Tempo" at 24". The Agility events started on Friday, December 15th, with a Time2Beat warm-up run. This run doesn't count toward competing for finals, but it is a great opportunity for teams to get used to the environment.

The main part of the invitational was held on Saturday, December 16, with two rounds and another two rounds and the finals were held on Sunday, December 17. On Sunday, Kathy and "Tempo" were awarded 2nd place in the 24" class.

Polly and Stephanie had four clean rounds and were ranked 9th in the 20" class, which earned them a spot in the finals, where only the top 10% of the competitors compete. Polly and Stephanie finished 8th in the finals. Polly also earned the breed medallion for the top Irish Water Spaniel after the four rounds.

On Friday, December 15, the AKC and Dog Judges Association of America, Inc. (DJAA) held an Advanced Judges Institute for the Sporting Group Breeds. A presentation on the IWS was included and presented by Dan Sayers. Many of the judges who attended shared very positive feedback on the club's presentation. IWSCA members brought seven IWS for the hands-on portion of the seminar, much to the delight of the judges and the DJAA. Thank you to the following members who supported the club by making their dogs available to aspiring judges of the breed: Mark Barker (Oklahoma), Sondra Barker (Oklahoma), Brenda Bauerlein (Florida), Mindy Garbarino (Florida), Stephanie O'Reilly (Connecticut), Emily Pikul (Massachusetts), and Lisa Wright (Texas).

Florida in December is always a great place to find yourself, so please consider joining the Clan for the Orlando events this year. We hope to see you there! ***And a Shout-out to Dan Sayers and Stephanie O'Reilly for providing the info re: the Orlando show!***



2026 Specialty – Planning in the Works

We're preparing a bid to hold the 2026 IWSCA Independent Specialty at Louter Creek Farm near Athens, GA, in early April. Outdoor conformation, obedience, tracking, scent work, WCX/WDX, and AKC Fetch competition are on the docket, with the potential for dock diving at nearby Lake Oconee. The location for agility has yet to be determined. Also, in consideration is the Fast CAT or Farm Dog test, which is being offered at a location about an hour away from Louter Creek.

Southwest Regional Report

By: Lisa Wright

We had a long, brutally hot, searingly hot, record-breaking-hot summer here in Houston, Texas and the dogs had to spend months inside idling in the air conditioning. In October, the temperatures finally dropped to a safe level, and the Chaos Twins could get back to doing what they love best, SPORTS! They are back to chasing the trash-bunny and have earned their FCAT5 title, the highest Fast CAT title in the breed.



**The Chaos Twins
earned FCAT5 titles**



**"Ronan" CH Crispin's Whiskey Promise, East Texas
Good O'Boy CAX FCAT5 THD RATN DMA DSX ASA
HDN CGC TKN**



**"Jamie" Crispin's Double Shot This Girl is on Fire
CAX FCAT5 THDN RATO DMA DSX ASA HDN CGC
TKN**



Midwest Regional Report

By: Susan Sarracino-Deihl

Conformation

The conformation scene has been relatively quiet in the Midwest. However, on the first show weekend of 2024 Bryna earned her final point for her CH. She is officially now CH Saracen Hope for the Future!

AKC Fast Cat Invitational

The IWS had three representatives at the AKC Fast Cat Invitational Dec. 12-15, 2023, in Orlando, FL. Lori Espeland took her energetic boy Porter co-owned with Connie Timmerman down to Orlando while Lisa Wright took her lovely duo Jamie and Ronan. Porter was the IWS Best of Breed winner with a speed of 25.846 mph. In addition, he earned his FCAT3 while in sunny FL! He is now officially Saracen Raiz My Mug to Freedom FCAT3 TKN CGC.

Field

Though the Midwest had a doozy of a snowstorm in mid-January, the weather has overall been comparatively milder than in past years. Pat Wilson in Omaha took advantage of this and hunted pheasants right up to the closing of the pheasant season Jan 31, 2024. He took out his veteran Murphy and young puppy Sedi who was 1 yo Jan. 3rd. At first Sedi relied on Murphy but by the end of the season she had become a hunting machine.

Valentine's Honor to our Veteran IWS

In the previous Rattails we welcomed new IWS to the Midwest. This Valentine's Day we honor several of our "oldsters" - Irishers over 10 yrs. of age. Some are Ch's, some are hunting dogs. Most importantly, all are dearly beloved members of our families. First the distaff side: the oldest of our honorees is Auryn at 14+ yrs. of age. Rosemary says that she continues to be active and loved the fall weather. At 12+ yrs. are littermates Bri and Orlagh. Bri still loves her birds; but

above all she loves doing anything with me. Orlagh continues to delight both Amy and Gene and plays with 'younger' Poodle brother Hugo and new Poodle rescue Marshall. Amy reported that last summer Orlagh was still launching herself off the shore into Lake Michigan! Summer at 11 yrs. 8 mos. continues to be a happy playful girl keeping Harlan and Nona Noel busy. Izzie just celebrated her 11th birthday in December. She continues to keep Sue and Doug Underland and 9 yo Breeze and 7 yo Eammon on their toes. The three boys in the group are Trout, Murphy and Goose. Trout at 2 months shy of 11 yrs. continues to love agility and continues to show great energy in the Preferred class. Of course, Sarah Zumpf is ever watchful that he does everything safely. Murphy and Goose are 10 yrs. 7 mos. old. Born 1 day apart, Murphy in the Midwest and Goose in the Pacific Northwest with each going to different families in Omaha, they have been great family and hunting companions. This last hunting season Murphy helped introduce Pat Wilson's young puppy Sedi to the joys of NE pheasant hunting.

In Memoriam - Marvel



GCH Realta's Modern Marvel CDX RA SH DJ CGC
3/1/14 – 1/11/24

Marvel was a lovely, talented girl. She excelled in the ring, obedience, field, and as a mom. I know Rosemary and her family miss her.



Upcoming Events

Keep two Midwest events on your calendars!

Saturday, June 1, 2024

The IWSCA sponsored Spaniel Hunt test

Location: Rock River Kennels, Beaver Dam, WI
Information: www.huntsecretary.com
Preference to entries to IWS.

Saturday, July 27, 2024

Waukesha Kennel Club Supported Entry

This show is part of the Waukesha Summer Splash shows.
Multiple events – 3 days of obedience and rally trials, three days of Fast CAT, two days of dock diving.
Information: www.waukeshakennelclub.org
Superintendent: MBF

Have a great Spring!



Murphy (right) and Sedi (left)



Porter

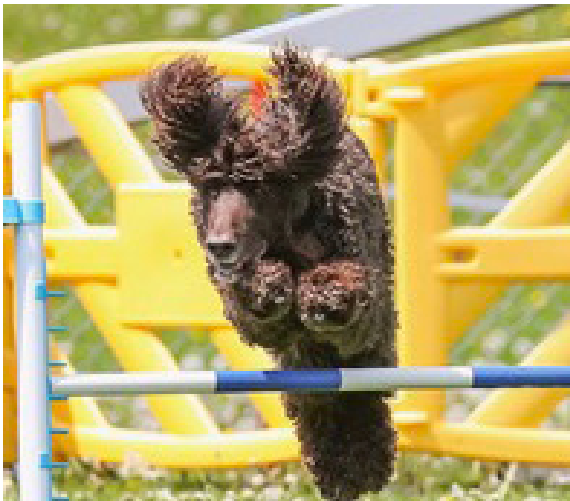


Orlagh



Murphy





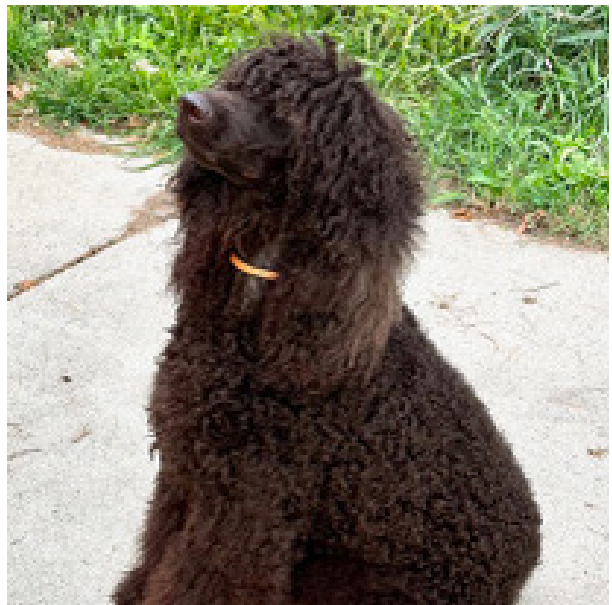
Trout



Summer



Izzie



Bryna



Briar



International Regional Report

By: Wayne Dickson

Hello from Canada!

Litter Announcement: Wayne Dickson had a litter born on December 18th, with 5 boys and 1 girl! Two boys are available! Link to the Pedigree.



Aonghus: Am Can Ch Alto's Ode to Magic. CHIC



Dayzee: Ballyhoo's Winniewain Whistle de L'Alto. CHIC 5 Can pts and 5 Am pts with one major!



Upcoming Events

May 17-19, 2024 Marietta, OH Shows	Regional Specialty (Saturday May 18) and Supported Entry (May 17, 2023) Marietta, OH.
May 20- 24, 2024 National Specialty	Wilmington OH (Robert's Centre)
June 1, 2024 IWSCA sponsored Spaniel Hunt test	Rock River Kennels, Beaver Dam, WI. Information www.huntsecretary.com
June 16, 2024 Middlesex County KC Supported Entry	Brooklyn, CT
July 27, 2024 Waukesha Kennel Club Supported Entry	Part of the Waukesha Summer Splash shows includes 3 days of obedience and rally trials, three days of Fast CAT, and two days of dock diving. Information: www.waukeshakennelclub.org
September 26-29, 2024 IWSCA Regional Specialty and Supported Entry	Wine Country Circuit, Romulus, NY
May 13, 2025 Independent IWSCA Specialty	Estes Park, CO (two days before National Specialty)
October 1, 2025 Designated Specialty	At Morris & Essex



Save The Date!

The 2025 National Specialty will be held May 11-16, 2025, in Estes Park, Colorado.

The host hotel is Ridgeline Hotel. Events will be held nearby at Estes Park Event Center. Estes Park is 1.5 hours northwest of Denver airport. Co-Chairs Tim Guley and Michelle Cummings are hard at work making sure that you will have a great time!

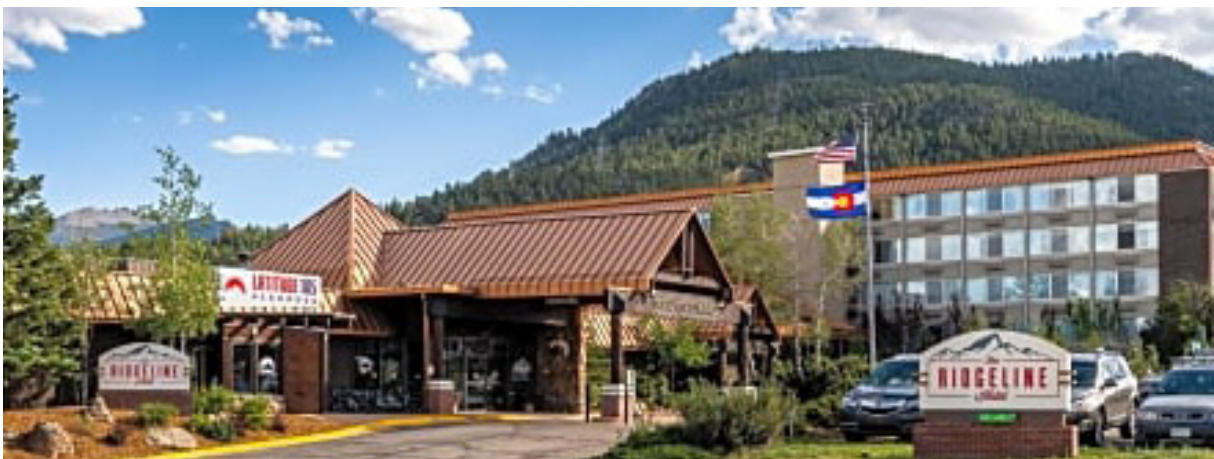
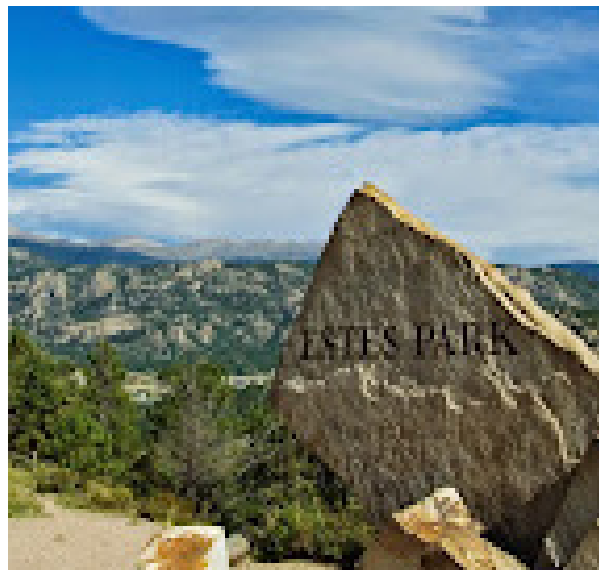




Photo by Sarah Zumpf



Photo by Jeremy Kezer



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.**

