



FALL/WINTER 2023

Rat Tails

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE IRISH WATER SPANIEL CLUB OF AMERICA



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What's inside

3	President's Message
4	Officers, Committee Chairs, Regional Representatives
5	Club Objectives
6	New IWSCA WC/WCX Coordinator
8	Upcoming Events
8	Board Meeting Minutes, August 8, 2023
10	Board Meeting Minutes, September 12, 2023
11	Board Meeting Minutes, October 10, 2023
12	AKC Delegate's Report
14	Judges' Ed Committee Report
15	CHIC Echocardiogram Update
17	Membership News
18	2022 Awards AKC Delegates Report
20	Regional Reports
25	• Northeast
27	• Mid-Atlantic
31	• Southeast
	• Southwest
	• Midwest
	• Pacific Northwest
	• International
	IWSCA National Specialty - Party with a Dog Show
	Public Relations and Education
44	IWSCA Social Media





President's Message

"Oh the Places You'll Go!" Dr. Seuss had it right - especially if you have an Irish Water Spaniel in your life. I've been thinking of the newcomers to our group. I wonder what they have seen in the breed, what people they watch, what dogs caught their eye, what prompted them to take the plunge. Well, as I look around, I have seen owners and their IWSs enjoying each other, doing all kinds of things. In the past conformation would come to mind immediately, and maybe obedience. But nowadays, it's agility, scent work, rally, barn hunt, FastCAT, hunting (both retriever and upland), free dance and costumes. But what I think catches the imagination is what we do with the dogs when it's just us and them: playing ball, running or walking, hiking, boating, swimming to mention just a few wonderful things we all do. Occasionally there is a dog that has a different slant on life and truly enjoys the work. Joy Jaskula and Ted Godfrey have had 2 IWS along the way with a mission. Cork, trained as a deer recovery dog by Ted, and Finn, who recovered deer antlers, are dogs who have "gone to other places" per Dr. Seuss. The picture is of Finn with his collection of deer antlers for a season.

If we ask nicely, maybe Joy will post a picture on FB of their Antler Christmas Tree. So our IWS are able and willing to do whatever we do, and occasionally do it when we ask them.

Enjoy the winter, enjoy your dogs.

Pam



Officers, Committee Chairs, Regional Representatives

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Available Puppy and Adult Dog Coordinator

Dana Louttit

louttit.dana@gmail.com

**If you have a puppy
needing a home or an adult
dog in search of a new
home, let Dana know.**

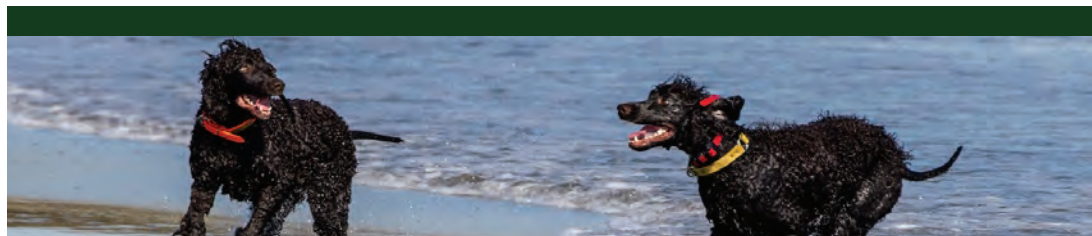


Club Objectives

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.



New IWSCA WC/WCX Coordinator

Heidi Currier Ferris, Field Committee

In July, Dr. Mark Findlay accepted the responsibilities of the Club's WC/WCX Coordinator.

The primary responsibility of the WC/WCX Coordinator is to ensure that all WC and WCX tests are conducted and judged under the requirements of the IWSCA Rules and Regulations. The tests may be held in conjunction with IWSCA sponsored events such as the National Specialty, or held independently with approval from the Coordinator.

Any IWS member who wishes to participate in a WC or WCX test held under the rules of another retriever breed **must obtain pre-approval** from Mark who will confirm that the requirements for obtaining a qualifying pass are the same as the IWSCA requirements, and that the judges qualify under the IWSCA rules. The request for approval must include the name of the test giving club, and contact information for the Test Chairperson and/or Test Secretary (name, address, phone number, and e-mail). If the test does not meet the requirements of the IWSCA WC/WCX test, the dog may still participate but there would be no IWSCA recognition of a qualifying pass.

Mark is responsible for preparing a certificate of achievement for each dog entered in a qualifying test, and delivering them to the Test Chairperson prior to the conclusion of the test. Once you have entered a test you need to provide Mark with the information needed for the certificate, which is:

- Test entered (WC, WCX, or both)
- Registered name of the dog
- Sex
- Dog's AKC #
- Owners' names
- Date of the test
- Name of test giving club
- The test location

Preparing the certificates in advance is important because in order to be valid the certificate requires the signatures of the judges present at the test.

Following the completion of the test, Mark will send IWSCA duck bands to members who earn a Qualifying pass.

Mark's e-mail is findlaymark@rocketmail.com and phone is 423-443-7904.

Thank you, Mark!



Upcoming Events

January 12, 2024
American Spaniel Club:
Knoxville Tennessee

January 12 - IWSCA Regional Specialty with Puppy and Veteran Sweeps and Junior Showmanship; January 13-14 - Flushing Spaniel Show IWSCA Supported Entry. Trophies and rosettes!

May 17-19, 2024
Marietta, OH Shows

Regional Specialty (Saturday May 18) and Supported Entry (May 17 2024) Marietta, OH.

May 20-24, 2023
National Specialty

Wilmington OH (Robert's Centre)



Board Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2023

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

Recording Secretary - Pam Manus

Pam Manus acted as Recording Secretary for this meeting.

June minutes were approved on August 1, 2023

July minutes have not been approved.

Next Board meetings will be September 12th and October 10th.

Treasurer Report - Melissa Gulley

No report this month

Corresponding Secretary - Laurel Baglia

Discussion regarding the American Spaniel Club which will be held January 12th thru January 14th, 2024. There is a Specialty Judge, Flushing Show Judge and Sweeps Judge.

Motion made by Dana Louttit to approve an Independent Specialty with Sweeps for Veterans and Puppies at the American Spaniel Club on January 12, 2024, and a Supported entry at the Flushing Spaniel Show on January 13, 2024. Second by Linda Deckard. Approved by all Board members.

Report of Committees

Specialty - Dana Louttit

2024 - Laurel Baglia reported the Specialty Committee has had a meeting and they are working on a raffle. Laurie Jacobs will oversee the raffle. Laurel Baglia is finalizing contracts for Agility and Obedience. Betty Wathne is working on the logo.

2025 - Dana Louttit read a proposal from Tim Gulley and Michele Cummings Co-Chairs regarding the proposed specialty to be held in Estes Park, Colorado. The proposal will be voted on during the September BOD meeting when Bethany Urban will be in attendance.

Breeders Committee - Dan Sayers

Dan Sayers reported there will be a Breeders Committee Seminar on Friday October 20th, in Rhode Island the day before Rat Tail Days hosted by Mindy Garbarino and Gregory Siner. There will be an announcement in the next Rat Tails Newsletter. Dan Sayers has requested a 2024 budget from the Breeders Committee.

Judges Education - Linda Deckard

Linda Deckard reported that a Judges Education Seminar will be held on August 27th at the IWSCOPS Specialty. Stacy Duncan will do the presentation. Another Judges Education will be presented by Dan Sayers at the AKC National Championship in Orlando, Florida, December 16th and 17th, 2023.

Health & Genetics - Laurel Baglia

Laurel Baglia will be attending the Health and Genetics Conference.

Awards - Heidi Ferris

Heidi Ferris reported back to the Awards Committee and answered the questions they had regarding awards. The Board has asked the Committee to explore some "outside the box" ideas for awards that would help keep the cost down on awards.

Cardiac - Dana Louttit

Dana Louttit reported that the slides she put together for the AGM are a good historical trail on how the Board came to our decision regarding heart testing. We can look into joining other Kennel Clubs to get heart testing done to reduce the expense of the test. We will remind the membership that they can request a "rebate" when completing a qualified advance echocardiogram and publishing the results in OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals).

Field - Heidi Ferris

Mark Findlay has been sent everything he needs to assume the responsibility for WC/WCX. Judy Goonyep has the rosettes for WC/WCX and Heidi will arrange to bring them to



the 2024 Specialty in Ohio.

Membership-Heidi Ferris

No new membership applications. Heidi Ferris suggested we should highlight some of our older members. Dan suggested that the Club Historian could take on that activity and it would be wonderful documentation for our club.

Old Business

List of Specialty Judges - Pam Manus

Emily Pikul, Stacy Duncan, and Greg Siner are meeting to design a method to begin the process of getting a list of Judges for our National Specialties.

Updating of By-Laws - Pam Manus

This is tabled; while we need to look at it, we need to have the time to do it. We will look at it individually during the next few months. We will revisit this.

Nominating Committee

Bethany Urban will send out an E-Blast by August 15, 2023, to the membership asking for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee for Board of Directors and Officers up for election for the club year 2024.

Star Chapter- Melissa Gulley

Melissa Gulley reported that everything is staying on track for launching the new website in September. The website will be user-friendly, helping to keep our membership engaged.

Adjournment:

Meeting Adjourned: 10:30 pm

September 12, 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 October 10th and November 14th 2023.

July minutes were approved on September 1, 2023.

On September 12, 2023 the 2024 Nominating Committee was seated. The Committee will include Tim Gulley, Ellen DeVrieze, Wendy O Leary, Alice Getchell and Jim Rubin. The Committee will be chaired by Tim Gulley.

Treasurer Report - Melissa Gulley

The quarterly Treasurer report will be submitted in October.

Corresponding Secretary - Laurel BaJrlia

Nothing to report.

Report of Committees

Motion made by Pam Manus to accept the 2025 proposal for our National Specialty to be held in Estes Park, Colorado. The National will be co-chaired by Tim Gulley and Michelle Cummings. The National would be from May 12 through May 15, 2025.

Approved by all Board members.

2024 - Update given by Laurel Baglia.

Delegate - Dan Sayers

The Delegate report will be submitted in October.

JEC - Linda Deckard

Linda plans to attend Judges Education in Orlando, Florida on December 16th and 17th, 2023. Dan Sayers will do the Judges Education presentation. Stacy Duncan and Michelle Cummings will coordinate the Irish Water Spaniels who will be at the presentation. As of this writing 26 judges have signed up.

Public Relations - Melissa Gulley

Meet the Breeds in Chicago was successful with 4 people and their IWS attending.

Awards - Heidi Ferris

Report received from Kim Kezer, Awards Committee Chair with the following requests.

1. The committee would like the Board to revisit the calculation for the #1 IWS Scent Work.



2. The Awards Committee agrees with treating all venues equally: Obedience, Rally, Field, Scent Work, Dock Diving, Barn Hunt, and FastCAT with the same type of trophy for the Top IWS at each level.
3. There is concern about the increasing expenditure for the Annual Awards and how this will be addressed.

The decision was made that Heidi Ferris would organize an ad-hoc committee of club members to assist the Awards Committee with the agenda item listed in bullet #1, Scent Work.

Cardiac - Dana Louttit

When the Board began doing research for a heart testing requirement for CHIC the Irish Water Spaniel was #1 of all Sporting Breeds of instances of abnormal in heart tests in Advanced Cardiac and #9 in All Breeds.

On August 14, 2023, Dana looked at the database and IWS had moved to #2 Sporting Dog and #21 AU Breed. That is with 218 Advanced Cardiac tests done.

On September 12, 2023, with an additional 6 tests completed the IWS moved to #3 Sporting Dog and #22 All Breed.

Health & Genetics - Laurel Baglia

Went to a conference on Microbiomes, Nutrition, Cancer. Lots of conversation on gut/stomach microbiome.

Field - Heidi Ferris

No report

Membership-Heidi Ferris

There are two applicants for membership:
Tiffany Anderson
214 Chatfield Ct. NE Leesburg, VA 20176
Phone: 571-221-4245
E-mail: shamrockspaniel@yahoo.com
Endorsed by Susan Tapp and Brenda Bauerlein

Adam and Anna Keefe
1 Red Cross Ave. #3
Newport, RI 02840
Phone: 401-212-0227
Email: adamkeefe.aok@aol.com
Endorsed by Hannah Loonsk and Gregory Siner

Motion by Heidi Ferris to accept applicants listed above as new members of the IWSCA. Second by Dan Sayers. Approved by all Board members.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:45 pm

October 10, 2023

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

Recording Secretary - Bethany Urban

Next Board meetings will be November 14th and December 12th, 2023.

The August minutes were approved on November 14, 2023.

The September minutes were approved on November 13, 2023.

Corresponding Secretary - Laurel Baglia

Received a request from Tiffany Schuffert to hold a Regional Specialty and Supported Entry at the Maryland Sporting Dog Association held on March 2nd and March 3rd, 2024.

Motion made by Laurel to approve a Regional Specialty on Saturday, March 2, 2024, and a Supported Entry on Sunday, March 3, 2024. Second by: Melissa Gulley. Approved by all Board members.

Received a request from Tiffany Schuffert to hold the following Regional Specialty and Supported Entry on May 17 and May 11, 2024.

Motion made by Dana Louttit to approve a Supported Entry on May 17, 2024, at the Magic Valley Kennel Club (afternoon show) in Marietta, Ohio, and a Regional Specialty on May 18, 2024, at the Blennerhassett Kennel Club in Marietta, Ohio. Second by: Linda Deckard Approved by all Board members.

Survey from the AKC regarding the pedigree database will be completed and submitted by



Laurel Baglia on behalf of the IWSCA.

Laurie Jacobs has ordered the Medallions for the AKC National Championship show in Orlando, Florida for 2024. She is also taking care of ordering the Medallions that were not ordered in 2023. The cost will be \$215.

Treasurer Report - Melissa Gulley
See attached 3rd Quarter Report

Report of Committees

Specialty - Dana Louttit

2024 - Laurel Baglia reported that Judges and Secretaries are set. The logo is getting digitized, and the McNeills are working on WC/WCX.

2025 - Dana Louttit reported that Tim Gulley and Michelle Cummings have just returned from a visit to Estes Park, Colorado to evaluate the site for the 2025 National Specialty.

2026 - Dana Louttit reported that we do have an individual who is interested in getting a group together to make a bid for 2026 in the SE.

Delegate - Dan Sayers
See attached report.

Newsletter - Dana Louttit

Dana Louttit reported that Churchill will continue to publish the newsletter for the IWSCA.

Judges Education Committee- Linda Deckard

See attached report from Co-Chairs, Stacy Duncan, and Michelle Cummings.

Awards Committee - Heidi Ferris

Heidi Ferris reported that she has organized an Ad Hoc committee of Sue Tapp, Terry Kast, and Kathy Fitzpatrick to assist the Awards Committee to revisit the calculation for the #1 IWS in Scent Work. Sue Tapp and Kathy Fitzpatrick have developed a set of points for calculating and have passed it on to Terry Kast for her review and input. The budget for Award trophies for 2023 will be \$6,000. The Board has offered to work with the Awards Committee to help make the workload more manageable for the Committee in 2024.



Health & Genetics - Laurel Baglia
 Bethany Urban was appointed as the new liaison to the Health & Genetics Committee. Laurel Baglia is the Chair of the Committee.

Membership- Heidi Ferris
 No new membership applications this month.

Old Business

New Platform for our IWSCA website and membership management

- Melissa Gulley is setting up training for the areas where we need additional training.
- Melissa Gulley and Dana Louttit have been reviewing the data that has been merged into Star Chapter for any errors, misinformation, updated or lacking information.
- Star Chapter is a “member based” platform and each member has a profile.
- There will be many hours of work involved even after the new website goes live to get the full benefit of what Star Chapter has to offer the IWSCA.

Selection of Specialty Judges - Pam Manus
 Emily Pikul, Stacy Duncan, and Gregory Siner will be meeting again to propose a process for selecting specialty judges.

Merchandise Chair- Pam Manus
 The new Merchandise Chair will be Pam Manus.

By-Law Revisions - Pam Manus
 Linda Deckard was authorized to notify the membership that a by-laws committee is being formed and to ask for volunteers. Linda Deckard said she will arrange for an Eblast to be sent to the membership. The By-Laws Committee will consist of 5 members.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:30 pm

Treasurer’s report submitted by Melissa Gulley October 9, 2023

All figures below are for the second quarter ending September 30, 2023.

Wells Fargo Bank Accounts	
IWSCA Main	69,939.87
Merchandise	5,809.20
2023 Specialty	12,606.00
2024 Specialty	12,550.00
Account #2312	552.01
PayPal Transfer	1,350.48
Membership	18,622.49
Wine Country	998.24
Total Cash in Bank	\$ 122,428.29

Invesco Investment Account Quarterly Reports:	
	\$ 38,248.69 Q1
	\$ 37,731.81 Q2
	\$ 38,917.71 Q3

The 2022 Federal Form 990 tax return was filed on October 5, 2023.

NOTES:

*On May 10,2023 I transferred \$10,000 from the Main account into account #2320 as seed money for the 2024 National Specialty. A generous donation of \$3,000 was made to the 2024 specialty. A \$1,000 deposit was paid to the Roberts Centre for the upcoming specialty.



AKC Delegate's Report

October 10, 2023

By: Dan Sayers



The quarterly Delegate Meeting was held on Monday, September 11, and Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at the Doubletree Newark Hotel in Newark, New Jersey.

I attended several committee meetings over the two days, including those of the Parent Clubs Committee and Canine Health Committee as well as the General Caucus.

Among the presentations given and items discussed were those of the following Committees: Breeder Development, Canine Health, Companion Events, Juniors, Dog Show Rules, Field Trial and Hunting Test Events, Education Initiatives, AKC Parent Clubs, and AKC Purebred Preservation Bank. A very brief summary of each is provided below:

Breeder Development Committee - Of the dogs/litters registered with AKC, 74% are considered “casual breeders.” Of all AKC recognized breeds, 22 breeds account for

80% of all registrations.

Canine Health Committee - A summary of Veterinary Outreach programs was reviewed, and it appears interest in theriogenology among some vet students is increasing.

Companion Events Committee - Discussion took place re: having displaceable jumps in Obedience due to safety concerns, allowing talking in Beginner Novice, and allowing dogs to wear “goggles” in Tracking. Also, Obedience Judges seminars are available online at AKC.org as is a Stewarding video.

Juniors Committee - Junior participation is strongest in all-breed events; however, Breed, Performance, and Companion events also find some Juniors participating.

Dog Show Rules - Fewer than 100 catalogs are sold at the largest all-breed events; sweepstakes will likely increase to allow 24-month-old dogs to compete; people with disabilities may have a “runner” who must qualify (i.e., bred-by, owner-handler, etc.)

Field Trial and Hunting Test Events - Oregon’s “no meat” ballot initiative is being watched closely as it could encourage similar anti-hunting initiatives elsewhere.

Education Initiatives - EDDY Awards, Pupdates, Breeder Interview Videos, BE Coordinators, Pedigree Databases were reviewed.

Parent Clubs Committee - Previews of two Breeder Interview Videos (Damara Bolte and David Fitzpatrick) were presented and references were made to the development of a Junior Mentor program, AKC educational materials, and an upcoming survey to be sent to clubs on pedigree databases.

Purebred Preservation Bank - This program continues to be developed with input from both breed clubs and individual breeders.



AKC Chairman Dr. Thomas Davies gave his Chairman's Report in which he indicated both dog and litter registrations are "still higher than four years ago but not as high as in 2021." Thus far, 2023 has experienced growth in both events and entries. Conformation Events are up 20% and Entries are up 9%; Performance Events are up 11% and Entries are up 15%; Companion Events are up 10% and Entries are up 11%. The Events/Entries that have experienced the greatest increases are: Rally (16%/19%); Fast CAT (21%/30%); and Scent Work (17%/23%).

AKC CEO Dennis Sprung provided his President's Report - and led a moment of silence in honor of the lives lost on 9/11/2001 - before introducing several speakers, including:

Kassi McCombe - AKC Business Intelligence Manager (provided a data summary)

Caroline Murphy - AKC Director of Performance Events (presented a video: Meet the Breeds in the Field featuring 15 Pointing Breeds)

Ted Phillips - AKC CFO (delivered financial report)

Jaime Fritz - AKC Archivist (presented a general overview of the library & its services)

Domenic Carota - AKC Vice Chairman (acknowledged Delegates of 25 years)

Dr. Thomas Davies - AKC Chairman (recognized Clubs celebrating 100 years)

Dr. Carmen Battaglia - AKC Board Member (spoke about AKC Detection Dog Task Force)

Sheila Goffe - KC VP Government Relations - (spoke about AKC Detection Dog Task Force)

Nancy Fisk & Sally Fineburg - AKC Delegates (delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the AKC Junior Delegate Committee and introduced the members, including the Committee's newest member, Dan Sayers)

Gail LaBerge - AKC Delegate (provided an update on AKCPolitical Action Committee)

Patti Strand - Chair of Nominating Committee (spoke briefly about the Committee)

At the annual meeting on September 12, 2023, the Delegate Body voted on candidates to serve on several Delegate Standing Committees, including: All-Breed Clubs; Canine Health; Field Trial and Hunting Test; and Parent Clubs. Additionally, self-nominated positions were filled for several Committees, including: Bylaws; Companion Events; Delegate Advocacy and Advancement; DogShow Rules; Herding, Earthdog, Coursing and Scent Work Events; and Perspectives Editorial.

The Delegate Body also voted on one (1) amendment to Chapter 2, Section 14 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility which allows digital copies of required booklets at events. The amendment was adopted with a two-thirds vote in the affirmative.

Six (6) proposed amendments to the Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club have been proposed. These amendments will appear in two (2) editions of the AKCGazette and will be voted on at the December 2023 Delegates Meeting. Details for these votes may be found in the minutes from the Delegate Meeting which have been published on the "Secretary's Pages" of the October 2023 edition of the AKC Gazette.

The next Delegates Meeting will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida, on Friday, December 15, 2023. Please send any comments to me directly at: Ninodanny@aol.com.



Judges' Education Committee Report October 2023

JEC October 2023 report to the IWSCA BOD

By: Stacy Duncan and Michelle Cummings

The JE Committee had a very successful presentation at the IWSCA National. The feedback by the participants at the time of the event was fantastic. Michelle and I each received praise via e-mail and Facebook after as well. As a club, that is something we should be very proud of. I've even heard from a couple of folks who attended and continue to say it was one of the best presentations they've attended. We did receive some feedback we need to address but for the most part, a highly successful event. In all we had 8 attendees and I've seen some have gone on to obtain either permit or regular status as an AKC judge for Irish Water Spaniels. In addition to the event held at the National, we had folks interested in being mentored at the Regional and follow on shows. One of the judges for IWS at the all breed that weekend pulled out her "IWS At A Glance" resource before judging and it made me smile. She and I chatted after the breed judging about the resource, and she indicated studying the night before and that she wished every breed would prepare something similar. Also, great feedback.

We had offered JE at IWSCOPS in August but the folks that wanted to attend decided to attend the DJAA Event in Orlando instead as they were already planning to attend the show in Florida. Since we had the time available, at the last minute, Michelle and I decided to offer a review of the Illustrated Standard to the IWSCOPS membership or anyone who wanted to attend. We had a great turnout and folks really enjoyed the presentation, our cute model (Grant) and an open environment to talk about the breed we all love. It was a great experience for everyone involved. I wrote up the attached article that was included in the IWSCOPS Newsletter and would appreciate it if you shared it with the balance of the Board.



Upcoming Judges' Education Events

**DJAA Advanced Sporting
Institute**
(Orlando, Florida)

a. Presenter - Dan Sayers
b. December 2023

**Oregon Dog Judges -
Advanced Institute**
(Portland, Oregon)

a. Presenter - Stacy Duncan
b. January 2024

American Spaniel Club
(Knoxville, Tennessee)

We've been asked but I don't believe we've committed to participate yet.

a. Presenter - none assigned
b. January 2024

IWSCA National
(Wilmington, Ohio)

We have not asked at this point to do JE at the National, but it is our assumption that it will be requested.

a. Presenter - none assigned
b. May 2024

With regard to Florida, now that we're two months out, we'll start working on getting folks to commit to provide dogs for the DJAA Event. As of now, it looks like Jeremy and Kim Kezer, Lisa Wright and Emily Pikul will likely be in attendance. I would bet there will be others in attendance as well so I'm less concerned about having enough dogs as I was a couple of months ago. This will be a priority in the next few weeks to make sure we get the necessary participation. Neither Michelle nor I will be in attendance in Florida this year.

We are running low on printed copies of the Illustrated Standard. Michelle has been in communication with Jim Rubin and Dan Sayers to see if we can locate the file for printing and/or how to best go about getting additional Illustrated Standards printed for use by JE.

I believe that's it at this point. We have a few things we really need to tackle such as fixing the mistakes in the current presentation and then we'll need to start on the two big topics of updating the presentation and developing a program for presenter and mentor qualifications.



CHIC – What is it and how is it used?

By: Sheryl Krohne, DVM, MS, DACVO and Dana Louttit

CHIC is an acronym for Canine Health Information Center and was created by the OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, which is a registry and statistical service for canine health). The Information Center is an online resource produced by the OFA registry partnering with breed clubs, so that the information reflects the health issues prevalent in your breed of interest, i.e. Irish Water Spaniels (for this article). This information is easy to find and understand at ofa.org, choosing tab CHIC Program. You can also browse results and requirements by breed, fill out applications, and find scheduled health clinics at this site.

A CHIC number is given to a dog when it has been screened for every disease required by the parent club for the breed, and whose results are publicly available in the database. The OFA generates this CHIC Certification number automatically, when all the results have been sent to OFA, by the owner, and the boxes on the form have been checked to release the data publicly. Dogs must also have permanent ID, and the certification is typically generated in 1-2 weeks. **A CHIC number does not imply normal test results.** It only shows the tests and results that have been done, and that the results have been made public. CHIC numbers are permanent and reflect the requirements of the breed at the time they were generated.

This program should be a great help to breeders. Some of the diseases will have genotypic results (from gene testing), and therefore, carriers could be used for breeding with the appropriate mates. Other tests will only have phenotypic results (results from examination of the animal) and will have to be evaluated appropriately for each disease. IWS current screening requirements are: Hip Dysplasia from OFA Radiographs; Elbow Dysplasia from OFA Radiographs; ACVO Eye Exam from dogs older than 24 months; and Cardiac Exam - Advanced by Cardiologist with Echo. (The Advanced Cardiac was added to the CHIC requirement for 5 years, by a vote of the IWSCA board in March 2023). Also recommended, but an optional exam is Autoimmune Thyroiditis from laboratory results. The application forms for each test will be filled in by the examining specialist. These forms will be provided on-line for you to fill out before the exam, or in paper form at the clinic, depending on the examiner's preference.

I briefly scanned the **Health Clinics** calendar on the OFA website and found several clinic offerings in many areas of the US on most weekends for the rest of the year. A majority of the cardiac clinics I saw included **Echo**, and all of the Auscultation with Echo exams were in the range from \$265 - \$310. The IWSCA is currently offering a \$200 rebate for an Echocardiogram, which is **very easy** to apply for. (These listings use the terms Echo, Echocardiogram, Cardiac Ultrasound, and Doppler synonymously for the cardiac clinics. An Advanced Cardiac Exam requires an auscultation and Echo by a board certified cardiologist and a signed exam form on site. Remote exams are not accepted). There were also clinics for eyes (CAER), elbows, hips, and thyroid bloodwork. Prices seemed much less than "in clinic" evaluations.

Reports from the Cardiac group (via Dana Louttit) show an **encouraging trend** since adding the Echo requirement. More than two dozen new cardiac results added to the OFA database this year have dropped IWS to #22 abnormal (from #9) in all breeds, and down to #3 from #1 in Sporting. The effort by the club to encourage more Advanced Exams for all of our IWS seems to be providing more data, helping us to determine what the real numbers of affected dogs in our breed might be. With more exams in the future, we could have statistical help with breeding recommendations. The Cardiac Working Group has obtained recommendations from cardiologists that only Pulmonic stenosis (PS)



and SubAortic stenosis (SAS) diagnosed dogs should be eliminated as breeding prospects, since we have a small gene pool. The Echo can diagnose these conditions, even before dogs show clinical signs. The Echocardiogram was added by OFA to the Advanced Cardiac Exam in 2020, to help in earlier diagnosis of cardiac disease. (Previous Rat Tails have published the “Healthy Hearts Initiative” series starting in 2021. Please refer to those for relevant details about research results and the development of heart testing criteria).



Rock



Membership News

New Members

Tiffany Anderson

214 Chatfield Ct NE
Leesburg, VA 20176
571-221-4245
shamrockspaniel@yahoo.com

Adam and Anna Keefe

1 Red Cross Ave., #3
Newport, RI 02840
401-212-0227
adamkeefe.aok@gmail.com

Change of Address

Crystal Jordan

13859 Destin Beach Lane
Orlando, FL 32827
703-855-7803 (same phone)
jordanjj@att.net (same e-mail)

New E-mail Addresses

Stephanie Fedewa

finnbolin@gmail.com

New Phone Number

Rebecca Brooks

206-465-4552

Correction to Year Joined

Joan Hanawalt (1978)

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Heidi Currier Ferris

Membership Director



Midge



Event Gallery

Rat Tail Days
Saturday,
October 21st, 2023

Tuckertown Park Pavilion
1155 Tuckertown Rd, Wakefield, RI 02879



A little rain may have dampened the field but not our spirits for Rat Tail Days, Saturday, October 21, 2023 in Wakefield, RI.



Regional Reports

Northeast

By: Jeremy Kezer and Laurel Baglia

Hello from the Northeast, where winter is fast approaching.

Madeline Urban shares that “At the Wachusett Kennel Club on August 19th, 2023 my dog Jackson, Poole’s Ide Smackwater Jack, and I received our first Owner Handler Group 4 placement! Jackson is owned by Greg Siner, Bridget Kvarnlov, Bethany Urban and Madeline Urban.”



Madeline and Jack

We are also fortunate to have a couple new puppies in the area! Rebecca Tracy reports that “We are thrilled to introduce our new pup, Madeleine (Maddie), who came to us last week all the way from Limerick, Ireland. It was quite an adventure getting her here but she weathered it like a pro. Maddie is a bundle of pure joy with a whole lot of mischievousness thrown in.”

And Judy has a new little girl “Gale” (Seiche’s Second Wind O’Bachlach), who she says “is living up to her name! Thanks to Lisa for giving me the chance to work with such a talented little girl. Cape Cod is known for gale force winds. We’ll see in which direction.”





Maddie



Puppy Gale

Natalie Weissman has let us know that “CH RACH2 Castlehill’s Wickedly Cute Jolene CGCA THD TKP BN CD GN CDX CAX DJX ATT RAE5 RM6 completed her AKC Championship at the Salem Virginia Cluster. Ballyhoo’s True Blue Justine O’Hogan at Castlehill CGCA TKN BN CD CAX DN RAE2 completed RACH legs 16 & 17 at Lower Camden Kennel Club. Ballyhoo’s Valiant Knight Sir Joseph CGCA TKI DJX DS BN CA completed his Trick Dog Intermediate Title.”

Ghillie (CH Chantico’s Super G O’Muddy Waters RN MX MXB MXJ MJB XF T2B WC) earned her MACH under Mark Giles at the BBTC trials on October 6th.



Ghillie



Reef

Kim and I also had to say goodbye to Reef (Can BOSS GCh Am/Can Ch Chantico’s Shelter From The Storm Am/Can CD RA MX AXJ MXP4 MXPB MJP4 MJPB PAX XF MFP DS CGC, IWSCA QVA Recipient) in late September after a short illness. We miss him terribly.

Pam Manus, Alice Getchell and Kim have been doing lots of field training this summer and fall. Pam, Alice and Kim ran their dogs at the New England Flat-Coated Retriever WC/WCX trial in October. Rock and Ghillie competed in the WCX, while Midge, Hadley and Arrow competed in the WC. While none of the dogs passed, they all showed lots of enthusiasm and are all looking forward to trialing again next spring.





Rock



Arrow

Alice has also been doing some hunt test trialing this year: “Midge and Hadley enjoyed field training this year and although neither dog obtained a JH title, both dogs improved their hunting/training skills, as did their owner/handler. Hadley, at the age of 9.5 years, passed her first JH test in Conn. in July and managed to get the biggest ribbon of the two dogs. Midge passed four UKC hunt tests in the spring, to earn her Started title and went on to receive 3 passes towards her JH title. Unfortunately, she came into season at the end of July and had to be scratched from the last 2 JH tests in August. No worries.... that fourth pass, for the title, is one of our goals for next year.” Emily Pikul also reported that Darla (BISS GchB Can Ch Pooles Ide That touch of Mink CGC) got to add ATT to the end of her name. She tested a 99/100 on her AKC temperament test.

The Rat Tail Days event was held October 20-21st in Rhode Island. Friday afternoon we had a great breeders’ seminar with Greg Siner, Mindy Garbarino, Laurel Baglia and Hannah Loonsk all presenting. Saturday the event moved to Tuckerman Park in Wakefield where we had a retriever training demonstration by Hannah, followed by a breed match judged by Jim Rubin. Saturday was a stereotypical fall day - cool and rainy - and the dogs and handlers took it all in stride. We then had a wonderful and warm dinner get-together at Bethany and Tom Urban’s house.



Ghillie



Mid-Atlantic

By: Tiffany Schuffert

The Mid-Atlantic is experiencing lovely colors and pumpkin spice everything right now, along with some cooler weather! This is my favorite time of year! We're starting to prepare for our 2024 regional events, and I wanted to share what we have in the works.

MD Sporting Dog Shows - We will be starting the year with a Regional Specialty and Supported Entry in early March at the Maryland Sporting Dog Association show in West Friendship, MD. Missy McMunn will be coordinating these events and will share more information as we get closer. Following the tradition of other clubs, IWSCA will entertain donations for trophies. Sponsorship of a specific class or placement with a general donation of \$25 or an item of your choice will be listed in the Premium and Catalog. Lunch on Saturday will be catered by Panera and a group dinner at Libertores of Reisterstown is planned for Saturday evening. We're looking forward to a great showing of IWS at this year's event!

Marietta, OH Shows - Additionally, we will be offering a second Regional Specialty and Supported Entry at the Marietta, OH shows the weekend before the National (May 17-19, 2024). I will be coordinating those events and will share more details as they solidify. There are two shows on Friday, May 17th. The afternoon show will be a Supported Entry. Saturday, May 18th, will be a Regional Specialty. This is a great opportunity to warm up your dogs and for more points for those who will be coming to the National.

We've been out and about with our pups as well. April Barr shared that she and Goose have been working on some obedience and rally. In fact, Goose qualified and took second place in obedience at the Chambersburg Ara Kennel Club shows in October. That win finished his CD title! And just to be even more of an overachiever, he also qualified for his 3rd leg and Rally Intermediate title! Way to go April and Goose!



Good friends Maple and Tempo (CH Cuboglach Rosy Maple RE CAA BCAT SWME RATO DJ DN CGC TKN and CH Ballyhoo's Timing Is Everything RM2 RAE AX MXJ MJB MXF T2B CA BCAT SWME respectively) earned their Scent Work Master Elite (SWME) titles within minutes of one another at the Star City Canine Training Club Scent Work Trial on Saturday, October 14, 2023, in New Castle, Virginia. Only one other IWS has received this prestigious award. Maple came into the competition needing "just" two Master Interior qualifying legs; Tempo came into the competition needing "just" two Master Buried qualifying legs. Both dogs were successful in their first two attempts.



Maple is owned by Sue Tapp and Tempo is owned by Kathy Fitzpatrick and Bob Hogan. Proud owners and dogs are pictured with the rosettes and embroidered SW Master Elite bags which they won. All three owners are members of the Star City Canine Training Club, so the achievement was especially sweet and well-celebrated.



L to R – Kathy Fitzpatrick, Tempo, Maple, Sue Tapp

The Mid-Atlantic folks have also been doing some outreach this fall. Tim Fleming and I attended the Pittsburgh Irish Festival with our pups! It was a great event with lots of visitors. Both Koffi and Orin had a great time!



L to R – Koffi, Tim Fleming, Tiffany Schuffert, Orin

We also had a great time in Columbus at the AKC Meet the Breeds event! Terry Schuffert and I were there with Orin and were joined by Jodi Lamp with Letty, Ann and Brian McNeill with Finn and Rorie, and Devina Christopher with Carrot.



L to R – Brian McNeill, Rorie, Finn, Ann McNeill



Devina Christopher with Carrot



Southeast

By: Linda Deckard

The Southeast Region now has a Group/page on Facebook and as of 11/3, it has 52 members. If you live in the SE, U.S, or just love the SE area and IWS, you are welcome to join us for news that is happenin' down South.

In October, Christi Williams and her boy "Journey" – Glad Rags There And Back Again, CGC - passed their first two hunt tests at the East Tennessee Fall Hunt Test, in Sweetwater TN. This was especially a thrill, since Journey had battled some health issues that interrupted his training for over six-months. He looks pretty happy about his orange ribbons!

The folks in the SE have begun planning for a 2026 National Specialty. It will probably include venues close to some notable spots within an hour drive of Atlanta and Athens. Dates will be announced early next year, but the timeframe will include a 3-day Cluster of All-breed shows, in the same area, following the Specialty events. If you would like to assist with the overall Specialty planning or one of the events, please contact Christie Williams - cwilliamsedu@gmail.com or Linda Deckard – imswick.iws@gmail.com .

The **2023 AKC National Championship Presented by Royal Canin** is to be held at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida on Saturday, December 16 and Sunday, December 17, 2023. We're looking forward to including the list of winners in the next Rat Tails!



Southwest

By: Lisa Wright

I am proud to present my first champion “Ronan” - CH Crispin’s Whiskey Promise, East Texas Good O’Boy CAX FCAT4 THD RATN DMA DSX ASA HDN CGC TKN.



This has been a very long five-year journey for us. It began when I arrived at my first dog show with clean, neat, completely natural puppies. A kind judge took pity on me and gently suggested that they needed some trimming and grooming. Thus began my education in dog grooming and dog showing. Five years of classes, mentors, reading, and conversations, plus endless supplies and equipment later and I feel like I’ve only scratched the surface, but it has been an interesting adventure!!

So, in August we took a nine-day trip to Salem, Virginia for a five-day show. This was the most stressful dog show I have ever done. I had to endure an 8 am ring time most days, with two dogs to groom all on my own, a cramped grooming space that was a literal mosh-pit most of the time, and my twelve-year-old hearing-impaired granddaughter’s absolute refusal to get out of bed each morning which insured I was always running late. Both dogs joined the protest of early mornings by ignoring me, refusing to eat,

refusing to go out to potty and gazing at me reproachfully as my frustration level rose. I spent a lot of time those five days seriously contemplating my life choices.

Without the gentle kindness of Courtney Manrod who calmly reminded me to focus on what was important each day and who pitched in to help me where she could despite having dogs of her own to deal with, I would not have kept my sanity. Also, I cannot thank Gabriella Long enough for taking my granddaughter, Raya, under her wing. She kindly allowed Raya to handle her boy, Otter, each day. Raya was quite proud to be in the ring and aspires to be a Junior Handler. Many thanks to Emily Pikul who kindly gave Raya directions and support in the ring when she needed it. Raya did a great job with all the dogs she handled. She brought my Jamie back into the ring where she was awarded Winners Bitch and her first major and she brought Ronan into the ring on our last day for Best of Breed where he was awarded Select Dog.



Ronan's big day made all the stress tolerable. He was awarded Best of Winners and Owner Handler Best of Breed. We went on to the Owner Handler Groups where he was awarded a Group 4! A new champion and a group placement all on the same day. The conformation ring is not his favorite activity, but my sweet boy is always happy to play whatever game I ask him to. What a good boy!

Evenings were spent socializing with all the good Irish Water Spaniel folks and decompressing from the day. We celebrated the many majors that were awarded, the new champions that were finished, and the group placements awarded to our beloved breed.



Raya waiting to show Otter, beside her new mentor Gabriella Long with Rain, and support staffer Mark.



Midwest

By: Susan Sarracino-Deihl

Conformation

Midwest Irishers have been busy showing since the National Specialty in May.

At the Minnesota shows the last weekend of June it was a family affair with Karma (Realtas Marvelously Wicked Irish Lad SH owned by Kathryn Lee), Leeloo (Realta & Sycomore The Fifth Element owned by Rosemary Sexton) and Spry (GCHB CH Realta Sycomore Spry CGC owned by Mark & Sondra Barker) showing all 4 days. BOB all four days was Spry, with Spry taking Group 1 under Dr. M J Woods on June 23. Karma and Leeloo traded off going BW, each one getting two 1-pt wins.



Mark and Spry BIS

The last weekend of August, Cash (Muddy Waters Controlled Chaos O'Firecreek Farm owned by Laurel Reeves & Diane Wacker), Porter (Saracen Raiz My Mug to Freedom FCAT owned by Lori Espeland and Connie Timmerman) and Driver (CH Realta's Marvelous Adventure RN ACT2 ACTJ2 CGCA owned by Ruth Crocker) joined Spry, Karma and Leeloo. Spry took a Group 1 under Virginia Murray on 8/26. The next day Spry took Group 1 under Cindy Vogels and then BIS under D J Johnson. Cash and Karma each went WD that weekend and Leeloo went BW both days.

In mid-September Karma, Cash, Porter, Leeloo and Driver showed at the Rochester

MN KC shows. On Saturday 9/16 Karma went WD to finish his CH. He is now CH Realta's Marvelously Wicked Irish Lad SH! Leeloo went Best of Breed. Driver went OS. On Sunday 9/17, Porter went WD/BW, Leeloo went BW/OS, Karma was BOB, Driver was SEL.



That same weekend in Missouri, Mark and Gabrielle's lovely girl Rain finished her CH. She is now CH Tara's After the Rain RI!

October 20 through 21, Mark & Spry made the long trip from OK to northern IL and were well rewarded with two Group 2's under Marjorie Martorella and Desmond Murphy.

The last weekend of October 10 IWS showed in the Coulee KC shows in Winona, MN. Cash and Porter were entered in the classes. Making her show debut in the 6-9 mo. class was Cheryl Friese's cute puppy bitch Fiadh (Muddy Waters Gaelic Girl). Leeloo was entered in the BBE class, Story in the Am Bred class ably handled by Mary Daly's granddaughter, Ruth Bruskiwitz's Poppy (Epik's Oh the Places You Will Go TD DCAT DJ CGC TKN) and Bryna (Saracen Hope for the Future, owned by Susan Sarracino-Deihl & Robert Deihl) in the Open class. Karma, Driver and Liam (Ch Kendall's Still the One CD RN JH BCAT DJ CGC TKN owned by Ruth Bruskiwitz) completed the entry.





Ruth, Poppy, and Liam
in Milwaukee

Saturday under Ms. Shelley Hennessey Bryna went WB/BW/Best of Breed for a 5 pt major, Karma was BOS, Driver was SEL (thus earning his GCH title - GCH Realta's Marvelous Adventure RN ACT2 ACTJ2 CGCA) and Cash was WD. Bryna completed that day by placing Group 3 under Shelley Hennessey.



Bryna

On Sunday under Del Richards, Bryna again went WB/BW/BOB for a 5 pt major, Liam was BOS, Karma was SEL and Porter was WD. It was so nice to meet new club member Cheryl Friese and her very cute puppy Fiadh and to renew acquaintances with Mary and Bill Daly! Congratulations to all the winners – Spry on her BIS and Group wins, Karma on his CH and GCH points, Rain on her CH, Driver on his GCH, Liam on his GCH points and Bryna on her major wins and Group placement.

Agility

Sarah sent this lovely note about Grouse, “Grouse (Madcap the Earth Has Music For Those Who Listen MX MXJ NF) earned her Master Excellent Bronze (MXB) title under Judge Mark Sjogren on 10/01/2023 at the Arrowhead Dog Agility Association Trial in Proctor, MN. Sarah says that she never stops trying and is so much fun! “Love my spunky girl!”



Grouse

Field

Harris (Ch Saracen Springtime Thunder JHUA BCAT CGC TKN) has continued her winning ways in the field. In August and September, she passed three more JHU spaniel tests to finish her JHUA on Sept. 3. We plan on moving on to both the Senior and Master level in the spaniel hunt tests and start the Junior retriever work next year.

Milwaukee Irish Fest, Aug 2023

I received a lovely note from Ruth B about Milwaukee Irish Fest. “In August, Milwaukee held its 42nd annual Irish Fest. I’ve participated in the Celtic Canine exhibit with my IWS in more than 25 of those 42 festivals, but this year was particularly memorable as Liam was selected Best in Show in the conformation exhibition on the second day, among representatives from all of the Irish breeds. This year’s fest included Red Setters, Red and White Setters, Glen of Imaal, Irish, Soft Coated Wheaten and Kerry Blue Terriers, IWS, and Wolfhounds. Pictured are Poppy in pink and Liam in blue, wearing their cooling vests to combat the 90-degree heat! Unable to attend were Lisa Schaitberger and Bran, who were home with puppies!”



Around the IWS World

Kendall and Faye Anne Hughes of southeastern Minnesota have been on the Therapy Dog journey with their 2 ½ year old IWS Kealy.



Kealy and Faye Anne
at the Mayo Clinic

From Faye Anne, “Kendall and Kealy have been certified as a team through Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD) for over a year now. Kealy works with an area nonprofit, Three Rivers Restorative Justice. She has proven herself a vital member of the team as she is present in the restorative circles, offering gentle presence and comfort to those in need. Participants take delight in her soft curly hair and playful ways.

Faye Anne and Kealy were certified as a team through Alliance of Therapy Dogs this past summer. The process of certification is a time to learn and grow as a team. The ATD evaluator for southeastern Minnesota, Don Vaughn, served as a wise guide and coach along the way.

The next adventure is onboarding with Mayo Clinic’s Caring Canines Program. When the Director of Animal Assisted Therapy, Whitney Romine, shared the need for therapy teams, we were delighted to answer the call. Mayo Clinic receives up to 80 requests per day for Therapy Dog visits. Visits can be to patients and staff alike. It is a wonderful opportunity to bond with our IWS. This breed has the perfect combination of a gentle demeanor and a fun-loving spirit.

Getting comfortable with hospital visits will be an adventure for Kealy. There are so many different noises, equipment, and smells to check out! But Kealy is well on her way to being a great “Dogter”!

We also enjoy having a ‘trading card’ (provided by Mayo) to leave with patients and staff after a visit. It has a picture of the dog

on the front of it and some fun facts to know about the dog on the back of it. The pediatric patients love collecting the trading cards and bragging about the dog visits they’ve scored, proudly displaying their collection.

Kealy recently visited with a weary staff person one day at the clinic. When I asked them how they were doing, they replied “Better now!” with a smile on their face, as they happily snuggled with our curly girl.

The program director, Whitney, is a subject matter expert when it comes to Animal Assisted Therapy. We have learned so much! There is even a research study now underway at Mayo, looking into how dogs respond to therapy visits.

One recent piece of advice we have treasured is “Remember to fill your dog’s cup!” Often therapy visits are like ‘work’ for your animal, they require energy and attention. We are taught to watch for signs of stress and weariness. We are reminded how important it is to let your dog run and play once released from their work.

We can quickly refill Kealy’s cup with some fetch or playing ‘hunt for it’ with a favorite toy. Also, treats are welcome all along the way!

When all is said and done, we all have a sense of having our cup filled. The Hughes heartily recommend the therapy dog experience. We are grateful for the opportunities that have come our way.”

Puppies

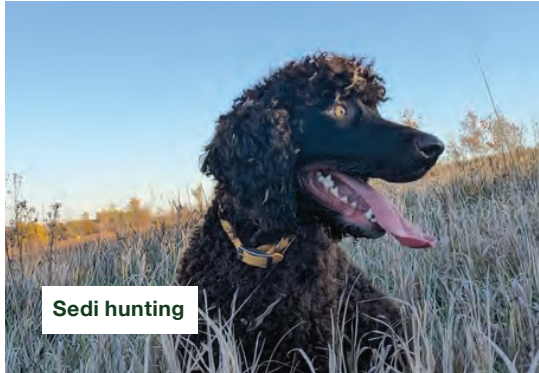
It is always special to welcome new puppies to our world. There is something special about them. In September Laurie Jacobs welcomed CJ into her home. CJ’s registered name is Seiche’s Anchor in the Wind. Laurie reports that she is full of energy as well as loads of hugs, kisses and love.



Puppy CJ’s gotcha day



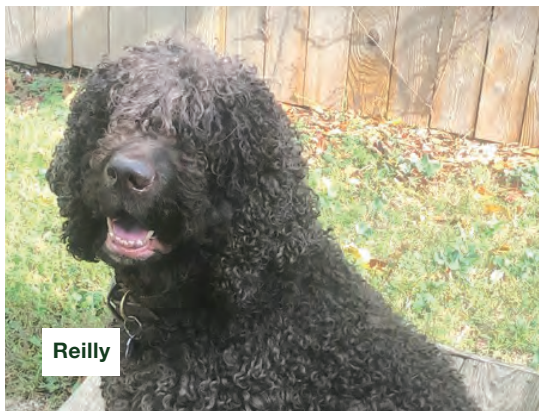
In March long time IWS owners Pat and Jennie Wilson welcomed Sedi; she joined their household with 10 yo Murphy. Sedi has kept everyone on their toes. Pat has worked diligently with her so she will be able to hunt pheasants this year. Needless to say, she loves the birds, the water and the fields.



Sedi hunting

It Takes a Village

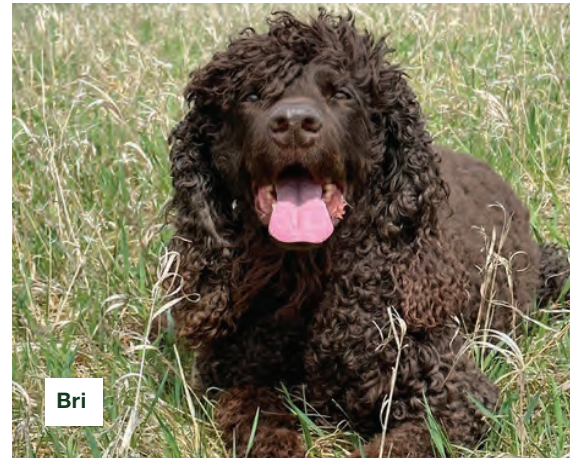
In late June I found out that a boy I bred needed a new home due to his owner going into a long-term care facility. After the 4th of July Reilly went to his new forever home – Marvin and Susan Henry. Reilly is their 6th IWS! Their first IWS was Casey (wh. in 1974) from Lloyd Spencer. Their second was a Barleycoft girl wh. in 1980. IWS #3 was from us, Rusty wh. in 1991. IWS #4 was Murphy (wh in 2004) from Diane Wacker. WS #5 was Dugan (wh in 2017) from Michelle Gihring. Reilly makes #6. All were well loved and treasured and the first several were also good hunting dogs. Rusty, in particular, loved it when Marvin took him on guided upland and waterfowl hunting in WY. Reilly has made himself right at home being devoted to Marvin. I feel fortunate that Reilly is in such a wonderful home!



Reilly

And finally – the Veterans!

Rosemary's Auryn (Ch Realta's Never Ending Story "Auryn" CDX RE SH) celebrated her 14th birthday in June. Our Bri (Ch Saracen Diamond on the Snow JHU RN DN BCAT CGC TKN) and her sister Orlagh (Saracen's Orlagh Diva on the Marsh) will celebrate their 12th birthday Nov. 3. It is nice to see these "youngsters" still doing well despite their age.



Bri



Trout and Auryn

Upcoming Events

Look for a supported entry with IWS fun day in the summer of 2024.

Tentative IWSCA sponsored spaniel hunt test – June 1, 2024.



Pacific Northwest

By: Liz Little

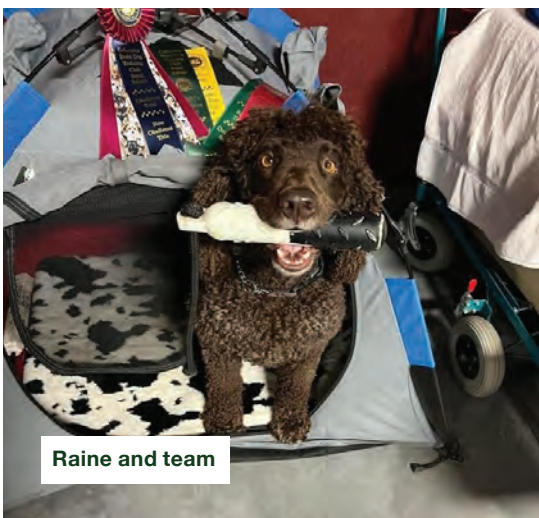
Happy Fall from the Pacific Northwest. That means, of course, the little lovelies will be bringing in colorful leaves to share and decorate your homes.

I've enjoyed all of the cute photos shared on Facebook of our dogs enjoying fall and doing fun things. As I write this, I just think of how much joy these curly kids give us every day and look at mine just watching the day go by.

I'm so thankful for our breeders who work tirelessly to bring these Irishers into our lives.

From Sheryl Krohne

Cat's Over The Rainbow CD BN RE AXP AJP



NFP BCAT SCN SIN SBN RATCHX7 CZ8P2
CGC TKN

Raine and I went to Barn Hunt at French Creek in Snohomish, and Obedience/Rally trials in Richland, WA in the last 2 months. She finished her Platinum2Bronze Crazy8 title, and got 5 Master Qs in BH. An almost perfect Q weekend on really big, technical courses. In Obedience the weekend before, she finished her CD and Rally Excellent titles. Both trials had great weather and we worked in some trail walks, and swims in the Columbia River. Onyx also had a great time!



From Patrice Dodd

Not an actual IWS, but the motorboat Spainnear Uisce was moored in Port Townsend, WA for the annual Wooden Boat Festival in September. It was certainly doing its job to promote the breed as scores of folks stop by to ask what the boat's name means. That led to discussions of our dogs and IWS in general. We even met a few folks who have an IWS or whose family members have had them in the past.

We even had aboard the matching red cups from the 2009 National Specialty in Auburn, WA.

Also, I've been doing a lot of AKC Scent Work judging around the Northwest, and Carlin has been my faithful demo dog, testing my searches. I still hope to see some other IWS show under me, but that hasn't happened yet.



The motorboat
Spainnear Uisce

Mary Westlake sponsored a Halloween Contest for the IWSCOPS folks. Here are the cute photos! Thank you, Mary!



Sheena, loved by Mary and Gary Westlake

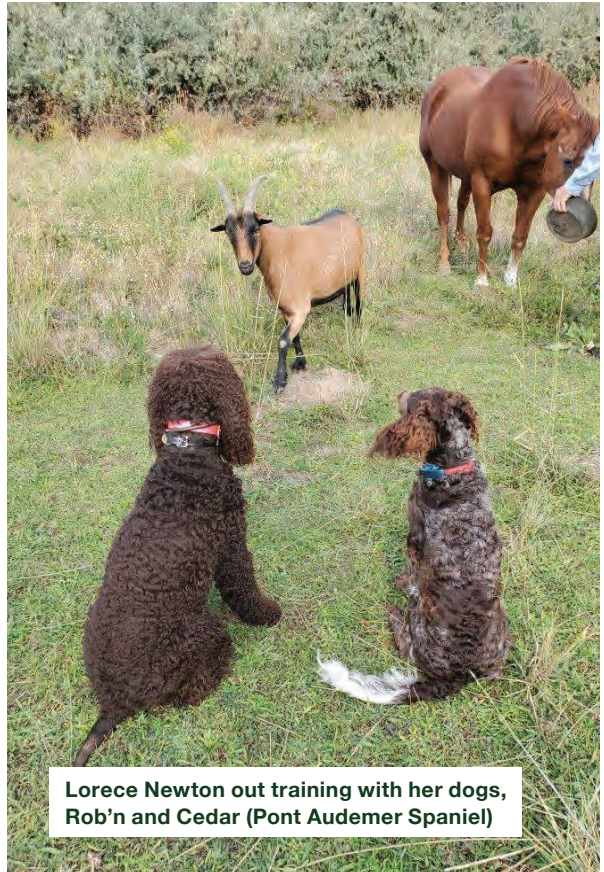


Moss, loved by Martha Jordan





Rob'n, loved by Lorece Newton



Lorece Newton out training with her dogs, Rob'n and Cedar (Pont Audemer Spaniel)



Loren Ripley's girls, Brighton, Tate (IWS) and Riley- all beauties!



International

By: Charlene Schermers

Hello from Canada!

The IWSAC hosted a supported entry on Saturday September 23, 2023 with the Mount Cheam Canine Association at the Mount Cheam Canine Association All Breed Dog Show, September 21, 2023 - September 24, 2023 in Chilliwack BC.

We had 1 class dog from the Pacific Northwest, 2 class dogs from British Columbia and 1 class female from Alberta.

Under Judge: Anik Primeau

Best Of Breed: 3 pts Flintcrest First Strike Fintan

Best Of Opposite Sex: Finnibone's On Your Knees Boys

Best Of Winners: Flintcrest First Strike Fintan

Best Puppy In Breed: Topknotz Murphy Mystic Ceili

Winners Dog: Flintcrest First Strike Fintan

Reserve Winners Dog: Topknotz Murphy Mystic Ceili

Junior Puppy Dog Class: 1st Topknotz Murphy Mystic Ceili

Open Dog Class: 1st Flintcrest First Strike Fintan
2nd Coomara's Oran Mor

Winners Bitch: Finnibone's On Your Knees Boys

Canadian Bred Bitch Class: 1st Finnibone's On Your Knees Boys

This little get together was a fun weekend and on behalf of the club as Western Director I want to thank Mary Marter for all your work on making this happen. A huge shout out to Liz Little for joining us Canucks! And for Catherine Coles, President of the IWSAC, for your support in this venture.

We are already tossing around the idea of a supported entry for 2024 and hoping for more entries.



Prizes from My Leash in Penhold, Alberta CAN and Cat Shelby USA



Left to Right Morgan, Mary Marter, Murphy, Sway, Charlene Schermers, Mamacass, Fintan and Liz Little





Fintan



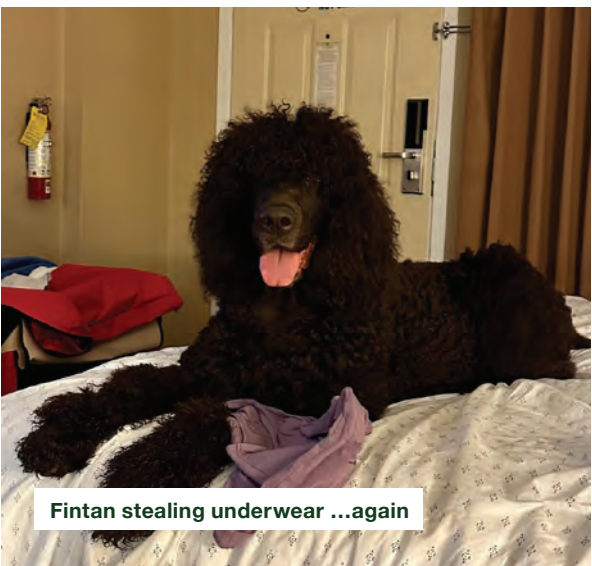
Sway



Murphy



Mary and Morgan



Fintan stealing underwear ...again



Fintan and Charlene



From Flora Deluce in London, Ontario:

Malone had a busy summer.

CKC Titles Obtained

WCI

WCX

NADD

His best jump 22 feet

Number 1 IWS in distance for North America

Diving Dogs NADD 2023 Season

When he is not busy, he enjoys a good book at the trailer.



Malone resting a moment



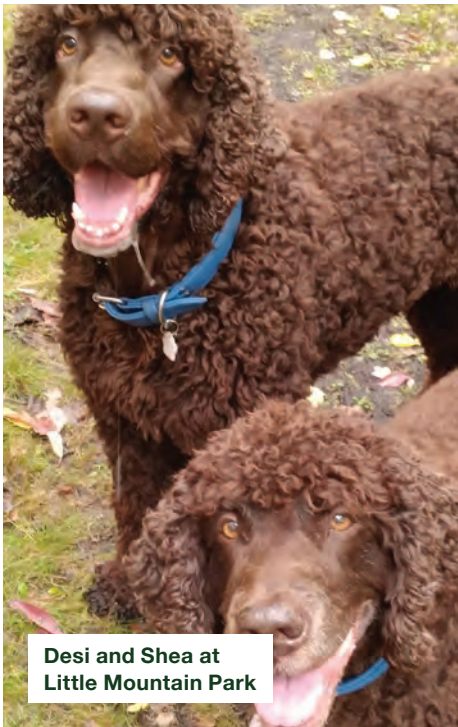
Malone



From Karen Zoppa, Winnipeg Manitoba:

Greetings from Winnipeg Canada, where our nearly 13-year-old bitch, Shea (Muddy Waters Stir It Up) and her 4 year old great-grandpup and roommate, Desmond (Brio's Taliesin North) are enjoying their favorite off leash romp at the quarry wetlands park in the town of Birds Hill. While Shea has Working Title training, Desmond does not yet. However, his drive runs deep, shown in his enthusiasm for plunging in at the Canada geese and mallards. They have enjoyed a lovely summer of chasing bumpers on Lake Winnipeg, visiting all of our regular off leash woods and trails and hanging out in the yard. This lovely summer began with our May trip to the IWSCA National Specialty in Minnesota, where we reunited with our breeder "moms," the great Diane Wacker and lovely Nicole Brown, along with other dear friends - Laurel Reeves, Tori James and Katie Ferreira. It was a pleasure to watch the events and to participate in the Parade.

Although a couple of these pictures were taken a mere two weeks ago, we are now under a blanket of snow here, which only revs up their engines more. I can never get the camera fast enough to record them chasing each other around the yard like freight trains in the snow. The joy these two Irish companions bring us (and apparently each other!) every day with their antics and intelligence is beyond measure. We are blessed.



**Desi and Shea at
Little Mountain Park**



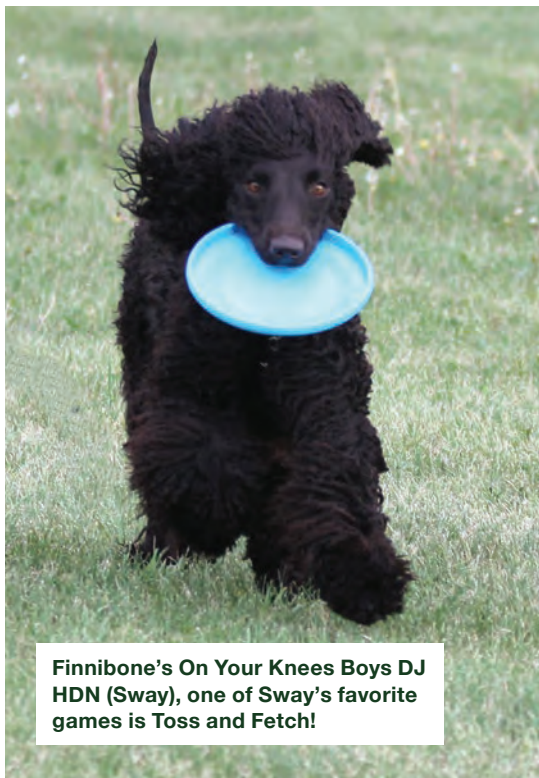
Desi at Birds Hill - Autumn



From Charlene Schermers in Red Deer, Alberta:

Greetings everyone! Winter is upon us now and in full swing with snow covered ground and temps below 0. My least favorite part is the lack of sunlight. Daylight hours are now reduced to 8 Am to 4PM. Sway, Mamacass and I continued to be busy at the pool from July to mid-September, we just finished our last disc league for the season with the Worldwide K9 Toss and Fetch League, and Mamacass and I continued to compete in CKC Rally Obedience.

Mamacass and Sway both competed in the NADD Regionals Dock Diving Competition in August and Mama placed 2nd in Air Retrieve in her division and Sway placed 1st in Distance and 1st in Hydro Dash. They both earned invitations to NADD Nationals in Missouri and I was so proud of how hard they worked, which in their minds is just fun! They are both true water dogs and as soon as they see it they are in it!

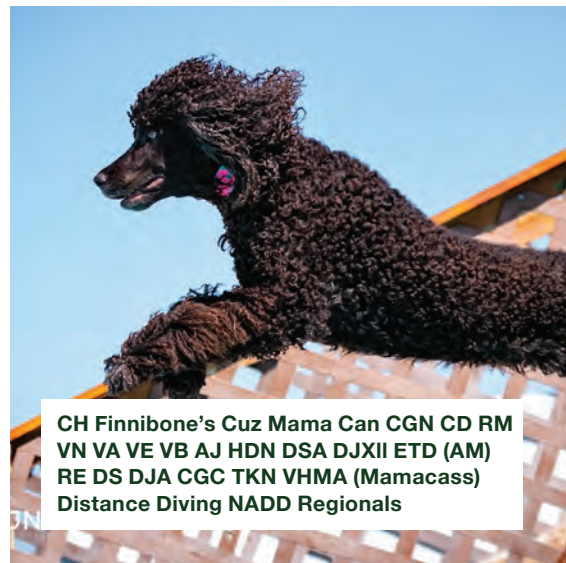


Finnibone's On Your Knees Boys DJ HDN (Sway), one of Sway's favorite games is Toss and Fetch!

We drove through the mountains this fall to meet our friends and play in the ring at the IWSAC Supported entry conformation



Sway Distance Diving NADD Regionals



CH Finnibone's Cuz Mama Can CGN CD RM VN VA VE VB AJ HDN DSA DJXII ETD (AM) RE DS DJA CGC TKN VHMA (Mamacass) Distance Diving NADD Regionals

competition. Sway did amazing and ran the ring like a rock star. We met Jill Brennan and she was kind enough to jump on the end of Sway's leash and what a great team they were! Sadly, there was no love from the judges this time, but Sway is growing into a lovely representation of the breed; being a Mr. Steel daughter.

Mama and I achieved a 2nd set of QQs towards our Rally Championship and I am proud to say that we have achieved our CKC RMX Title, and only have a few points to go for the RACH Title...maybe for Christmas.

Have a Super Holiday Season!



Summer Party with a Dog Show

By: Cat Shelby

August 26 and 27, 2023, marked a new era for our much-anticipated summer Party with a Dog Show. The new location at Fun Fur Paws in Mount Vernon, Washington, was the site chosen for this year's gathering. Ed note: I've included some comments from those that attended and hope that those who couldn't be there this year, will definitely mark their calendar to join in next year.

From Walter Kilmer, Show Chair:

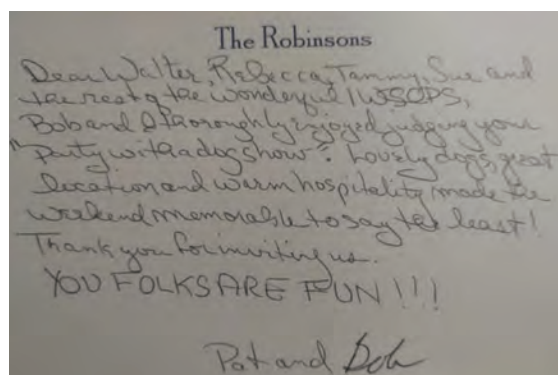
"I was so excited to fit our "Party with A Dog Show" into a new facility. I must admit that I was quite excited and a bit nervous when we started set-up on Friday. Having shown in obedience indoors at Fun Fur Paws several times in the past few years, I had always imagined it would be fun to show on their lovely outdoor fields. I was not disappointed! Eddy and I got a career high Obedience score on Saturday. I truly felt that I was showing on a golf course. Kudos to Dave and Melissa for the great care they take of their facility.



The ring set-up on fantastic grass.
Photo: Cat Shelby

I would be remiss not to mention that I loved our judging panel. I was really pleased to see all the titles that were finished at the specialty. Alvin Eng is a personal favorite Obedience Judge. I also really enjoyed the Robinsons. What nice folks! Also, a big thank you to Maryke Nau for stepping in to judge sweepstakes at the last minute. Thanks to Shawn O'Donnell's for the great meals and to Cynthia Kelly of Campfire Photography

for recording the event for posterity. Most importantly, I would like to thank all of the club members for your generosity in helping set up, running the show, and tear down.



The note from our judges, the Robinsons



Tim and Jynx. Photo: Cat Shelby

It was great seeing many longtime members, as well as meeting some new friends. I can hardly wait to do it all over again next year!"





Stacy and Kelly. Photo: Cynthia Kelly

Here's a few reports from those that attended:

From Sheryl Krohne:

“Raine and I have had a fun summer of competitions, with the highlights being at Fun Fur Paws (FFP) and French Creek Barn Hunt in July, and back at FFP in August for the IWSCOPS show. Liz Liddle visited the day that Raine got her agility titles in Excellent Jumpers and Excellent Standard at FFP and took this fun picture of us with Onyx lurking in the background. The next weekend, Raine did well at the BarnHunt at French Creek in Snohomish, finishing her RATCHX 7 and CRZY8 Platinum2 titles. She Q’ed in 5/6 Master Runs and received a Judges Special Award for beautiful team hunting on the last day of the trial. The picture is with our awesome judge, Jeff Dairiki (who also has Irish dogs - Glen of Imaal Terriers). At IWSCOPS, she finished her Beginner Novice title with a 1st place and got a leg for her Novice Obedience title. We had a great time meeting lots of IWS and their friends, all who are wonderful. It was especially fun for Raine to meet the Canadians and have a romp with Murphy, her grandnephew. Sorry to not have a picture!! Thanks to the organizing committee who put on a great show!”

From Melissa and Tim Gulley:

“We would like to give a heartfelt thank you to Bethany Urban for her relentless quality control and perseverance making sure the embroidery on the trophies was looking perfect and shipping everything back to the west coast!

Tim and I always enjoy coming up to Washington for the IWSCOPS “Party with a Dog Show” specialty and this year was no exception! The new venue was great, with perfectly manicured green grass and flushing toilets. And yes, more shade would have been nice, but I’m sure that will be remedied next year.

As usual, Tim enters everything he can with our two dogs to make the most out of the long trip. The unexpected surprise was Calypso doing so well! She is pretty much retired from competition and doesn’t really enjoy trialing in rally. However, she sure proved that she still had the moves and brought home the big ribbons and nice trophies! She wasn’t going to let her boy show her up! She also showed well in veteran sweepstakes, and conformation.

Jynx did well too! He is 2 and a half and still learning to do obedience in front of a crowd. He is a mama’s boy, so we learned we had to keep Calypso back at the set up while Jynx was in for rally and obedience, otherwise he looks for her. As soon as he was finished in the ring, I would take Jynx and give Calypso to Tim for his next run. A little crazy, but it worked!

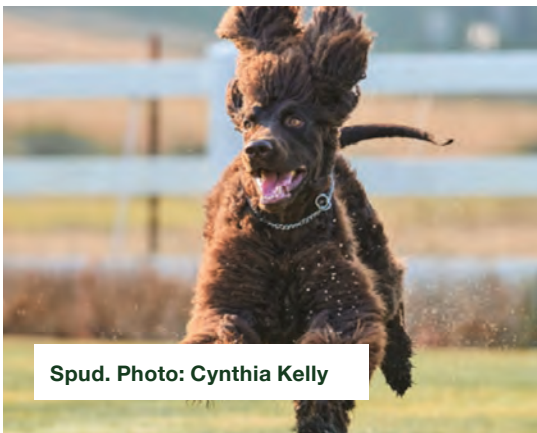
The bird dog match is always so much fun, and I’m sure Jynx would have loved to play at that for another hour. The Campfire Photography got some great photos of him that show the power he has when released to fetch to bird.

The best part about this event is the people. It is so very nice for us all to come together and visit, show our dogs, tell stories about our dogs, and enjoy good food and laughter. Every year we meet a few new people, and truly hope there will be a bigger crowd next year.”



From Susan Dickinson:

“Well, since Spud finished his CD and RA, it has been pretty quiet. Just our normal play on the farm. However, most of you know he made up for it at the IWSCOPS Specialty. As Judge Alvin Eng says, “he’s a really good jumper”. Spud and I had a blast at the show/party. I want to thank all of you for making me feel so welcome and a part of the festivities. I can hardly wait to see the photos by Campfire Photography that she took of him leaping over the fence and bounding around the ring in the Bird Dog class. Good news is that we did get his first leg towards his RE.”



Spud. Photo: Cynthia Kelly



Michelle Cummings and Cat Shelby

From Michelle Cummings:

“As I left CA to head to WA for IWSCOPS, I was worried it wouldn’t be the same. Would we still have the same party with the dog show vibe we’ve had for 20+ years? As Cat and I drove onto the grounds, I was pleasantly surprised at the beautiful venue. As we made our way around the venue, all the familiar faces appeared, brown dogs were in sight and the business of putting on a dog show began. Two days of fun, laughter, and celebration in our new “normal”. Still, a party with a dog show.”



Loren and Tate. Photo: Cat Shelby



Loren and Tate. Photo: Cat Shelby



Public Relations and Education

Meet the Breeds, Chicago, Illinois // August 26 & 27, 2023

By: Laurie Jacobs

In August, the annual Great American Dog Show was held once again at the McCormick Center in downtown Chicago. The Irish Water Spaniel was fortunate to have a great presence and representation at the Meet the Breeds booth, which saw hundreds of visitors both days. Being both my and Tripp's first Meet the Breeds event, I wasn't sure what to expect but was happy to have the help of Nicole Brown & Raven, who drove from MN and also worked both days.

From Taylor Jesse:

On Saturday we were joined by Ruth Bruskiewitz from WI, with Liam & Poppy. It was great to have the presence of a breeder for a few people who came specially to meet an IWS in person. Ruth's knowledge and connections made for an easy transition of conversations for anyone with serious interest in becoming part of the IWS world. On Sunday Kelly Connolly, from the Chicago area, brought her boy Cal who was another welcomed addition. A long time IWS pet owner, Kelly also added a wealth of perspective and knowledge to the MTB "team."

All of the dogs who participated were absolutely phenomenal stewards of the breed. Their coats were maintained in a variety of cuts (from show coat to clipped down) and Ruth's Poppy was even used as a dog during the grooming demo! We were visited by every age and type of person imaginable and not once did our dogs shy away. They were respectful and gentle but getting plenty of breaks as needed. Overall, it was a wonderful experience and even more wonderful very public exposure for our breed.



Young IWS fans at the Great American Dog Show.



The IWS Meet the Breeds booth



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.**

