



Fall/Winter 2025

Rat Tails

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



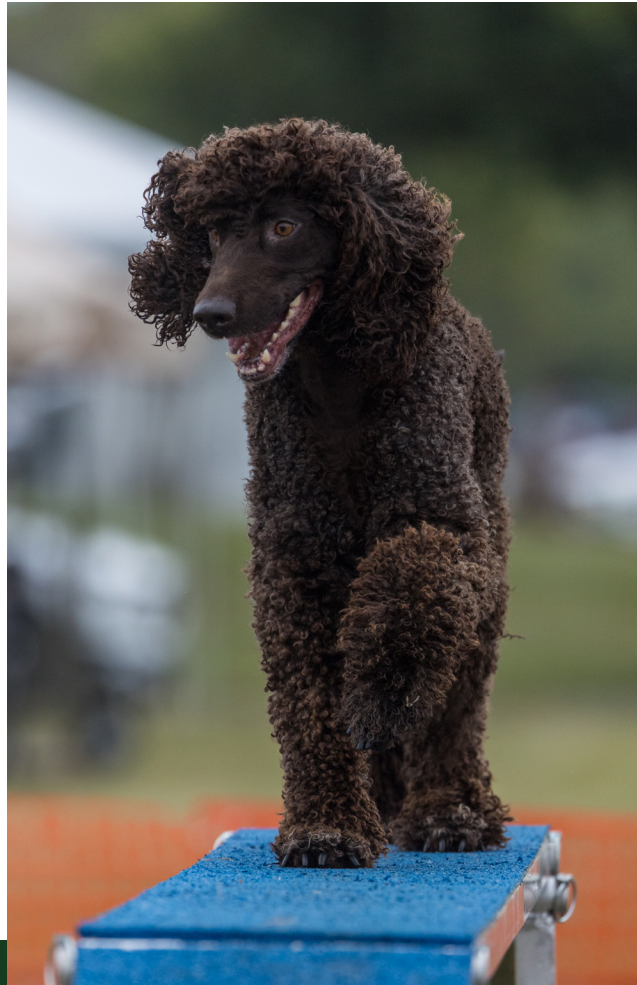
CHARITABLE SUPPORT MEANS TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR YOU, HELP US, HELP OUR DOGS. IWSCA IS A 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.

What's Inside

3	President's Message
4	Officers, Committee Chairs, Regional Representatives
5	Club Objectives
6	Upcoming Events: 2026 Irish Water Spaniel National Specialty and Flushing Show
9	AKC Delegate's Reports
17	AKC Code of Sportsmanship and Civility
18	Rat Tail Days 2025
20	Wine Country 2025
22	Morris and Essex 2025
25	One of Us Needs Us – Wendy O'Leary
26	Reflections: Early Irish Water Days by Thomas Carshall
31	Regional Reports
31	Northeast
34	Mid-Atlantic
36	Midwest
38	Southwest
41	International
44	IWSCA Social Media



President's Message



As our holiday seasons approach, temperatures drop and the daylight hours shorten, it seems that suddenly our lives become packed with plans – either with family and friends, or groups we belong to, and then of course there are the preparations that go into supporting these plans. There doesn't seem to be enough hours in the day, and life gets a little (or more) hectic. It can be fun or exhausting. Thank goodness we have our IWS "fur babies." It's a proven fact that petting, loving, and being loved by our animals lowers blood pressure and heart rate and brings a sense of peace and quiet. Another proven method is to put on some music that you love and sing and dance to it. I can tell you right now that the IWSs love that and join in with gusto!

So as this world spins off its axis and your life becomes a bit hectic, my wish for you all is that you take time to enjoy your seasonal plans, make time to sit and pet your "fur babies," and sing at the top your lungs and dance to any song that brings a smile to your face and peace to your heart.

Peace,

Pam



Officers, Committee Chairs, Regional Representatives

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

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International

Charlene Schermers



Club Objectives

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

The specific objectives shall be:

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



Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar!

May 11-16, 2026



Travel to the mountains of Western Pennsylvania for 5 days of good food, good company, and beautiful dogs!



Special Events

Resort Venue with On-Site Lodging
OFA Cardiac Clinic with Dr. Emily Westphal
Group Hikes
On-Site Grooming Tutors
Freestyle Performances
Gun Dog Sweepstakes
2 Agility Trials
7 Days of All-Breed Follow-On Shows with
Supported Entry on Monday, May 18
“Reproductive Health of Your Stud Dog” Lecture
Stud Dog Showcase



Join us!



FLUSHING SPANIEL SHOW

Join us for the wonderful Flushing Spaniel show January 10th and 11th in Knoxville, TN. Stephanie Kaul will be judging the breed, and Lone Wandel from Denmark will be judging our puppy and veteran sweepstakes. Held under the auspices of the American Spaniel Club, the Flushing Spaniel Show is held at World's Fair Park. There are only 9 breeds in competition. The two carpeted breed rings are very large and the room is calm and quiet.

Two great hotels, the Marriott Knoxville and the Tennessean, both dog friendly, are attached so you never have to go outside except to walk your dogs. There is rally and obedience and multiple groups for gundogs with flushing titles, bred by, NOHS (owner handler) and Best in Show (essentially a mini Sporting group.) We gather on Saturday night for an IWS dinner. Contact Dana Louttit for more information. Louttit.dana@gmail.com

IWSCA Seeking Assistance for the Newsletter

The IWSCA is soliciting volunteers to assist with producing the Rat Tail Newsletter. Currently the club has a single editor who consolidates contributions from the regional representatives and IWSCA members. The editor then uses a professional for layout and design. Previously, the newsletter was produced six times a year. The last few years it has been three to four times a year. Ideally, a member would volunteer to take over the editor/coordinator role. But it could also be done with a small team. If you are interested in working on the newsletter, please contact Edith Blackwell at iwscarattailsnews@gmail.com.



AKC Delegate's Report

August 12, 2025

The quarterly AKC Delegate Meeting was held on Monday, June 09, and Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at the Doubletree Newark Hotel in Newark, New Jersey.

I attended the Legislative Caucus and Annual Meeting. A very brief summary is provided below:

Legislative Caucus – The following topics were discussed regarding a variety of proposed legislation in the US: hobby breeders regulated as commercial breeders; “cruelty” breeding; support for state-wide dog federations; third-party inspections; access to lawmakers; hunting and land use; supporting AKC PAC (Political Action Committee); economic benefits of dog shows by state; Farm Bill (a no-go under the current administration?); reintroduction of the Healthy Dog Importation Act (on hold?); USDA (better care for animals) vs. Dept. of Justice (enforcement); NAA Conference is scheduled to take place Oct. 17-19 in Virginia Beach, VA, and may be attended virtually.

At the Delegate Meeting, AKC President and CEO Gina DiNardo presided over her first meeting as President.

AKC Chairman Dr. Thomas M. (Tom) Davies spoke about two issues to explore when discussing the current state of AKC: the micro-environment (clubs, judges, breeders, exhibitors) and the macro-environment (demographic, ecological, political, economic, cultural, and technological factors). The effectiveness of AKC's Government Relations was emphasized by the impact being made through its 50 state reports, which provide important information that may be shared with lawmakers, media outlets, and local chambers of commerce.

AKC CFO Ted Phillips provided a report that included first-quarter key performance indicators:

- Total Operating Revenue was 13% below budget.
- Total Operating Expenses were 7% below budget.
- Conformation Revenue was 13% below budget.
- Companion and Performance revenue was close to budget.
- Registration Income was 14% below budget.
- Litter Registrations were 12% below budget.
- Dog Registrations were 28,000 fewer than for the same period in 2024.
- Investment Income brought the net result to a “break-even point.”

AKC Senior Director of Broadcasting Bill Ellis provided a report on AKC Broadcasting and Media:

- AKC on ESPN series reaches 15 million people throughout the year.
- Coverage has included Agility and Dock Diving, among other events.
- AKC Salute the Troops connects AKC and U.S. Army through working dogs.
- New shows have included AKC Fastest Dogs USA, Agility Premier Cup, and Diving Dogs Challenge, bringing greater awareness of AKC through ESPN.

AKC Vice President of Sports Services Mari-Beth O'Neill provided a report on the Junior Task Force:

- Somerset Hills KC honored for its work with local 4-H members.

AKC Executive Secretary Sheila Goffe read a list of vacancies on various Delegate Standing Committees, including Canine Health, Field Trial & Hunting Test Events, and Parent Clubs Committees. Qualifications of nominees for all committees will be emailed to Delegates.



One (1) proposed amendment to the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club was voted on at the June 2025 AKC Delegate Meeting: Article XI, Section 9. The Board of Directors requested the addition of verbiage to indicate the requirement of the President to obtain the advice and consent of the Board of Directors prior to appointing an Executive VP, VP, or Assistant VP. This was endorsed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee and approved by the BOD. There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

Five (5) proposed amendments to the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club and one (1) proposed Amendment to the Rules Applying to Dog Shows will be voted on at the September 2025 AKC Delegate Meeting: (1) Article IV, Section 5. The AKC BOD has endorsed a Bylaws Committee proposal to remove the requirement to publish the name of each candidate in a second issue of the AKC Gazette. (2) Article VI, Section 4. The AKC BOD has endorsed a Bylaws Committee proposal to remove the requirement to publish the name of each candidate in a second issue of the AKC Gazette. (3) Article VII, Section 1. The AKC BOD has NOT endorsed a Doberman Pinscher Club of America demand to bring forward a proposed amendment to the Delegates to change the hiatus period for the reelection of any Delegate to the Board of Directors from a period of one year to four years. (4) Article XIV, Section 1. The AKC BOD has NOT endorsed a Bylaws Committee demand to allow Event Committees to verify and affirm complaints, and furnish a deposit for the suspension of AKC privileges to any person for conduct prejudicial to the best interest of purebred dogs, purebred dog events, or the AKC, alleged to have occurred in connection with or during an event. The deposit would be returned to the complainant should the Event Committee find merit in the complaint.

The deposit will be kept by the event-giving club should it be determined the complaint has no merit. (5) Article XVIII, Section 2. A notice of the date, time, and location of the annual meeting and each regular meeting would no longer be mailed to Delegates. And (1) Chapter 6, Section 2. Notification must be printed in the Premium List if a breed specialty club is not offering the three-point major in the Reserve Winners at its specialty show.

Additionally, the AKC BOD is considering various changes to requirements in Fast CAT (public display of run times), Retriever Hunting Tests (judges must score all abilities; additional clarity for Master Level Retrievers); and Scent Work (dogs with coloring; revised specs on buried searches). Also, the inaugural Scent Work Master National will be held October 12-14, 2025 at the Roberts Centre in Wilmington, Ohio.

Details appear in the minutes from the Delegate Meeting, which have been published on the "Secretary's Pages" of the July 2025 edition of the AKC Gazette: https://images.akc.org/pdf/gazette/july-2025.pdf?sc_src=email_2223734&sc_lid=135391756&sc_uid=2F087WQ5Pp&sc_lid=7013&sc_eh=a1762288637333cf1.

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

The next Delegate Meeting will be held at the Doubletree Newark Hotel in Newark, New Jersey, on Monday and Tuesday, September 8-9, 2025.

Yours respectfully,

Dan Sayers



AKC Delegate's Report

October 13, 2025

The quarterly AKC Delegate Meeting was held on Monday, September 08, and Tuesday, September 09, 2025, at the Doubletree Newark Hotel in Newark, New Jersey.

I attended the Legislative Caucus and Annual Meeting. A very brief summary is provided below:

Legislative Caucus – The AKC Government Relations Dept. is a team of (12) with (6) field staff; AKC/GR follows (2,500) bills nationally, providing bill analysis for AKC Breeders; (20) states have proposed bills that would subject breeders with (3) intact females to licensing; (10) states have proposed bills that would require regulation of breeders who sell (1) dog sight unseen; AKC/GR Legislative Toolbox provides articles and videos which may be shared with lawmakers; “AR terrorism” requires opposition from the dog sports community based on facts, including the economic impact of exhibitors in local communities, the economic impact of breeders on local veterinary practices, and the benefit of breeders who provide dogs to law enforcement, TSA, etc. It is important for local dog clubs to join state federations which can respond quickly to proposed regulations that include land use restrictions as well as breeder restrictions and encourage members to show up at public meetings.

AKC President and CEO Gina DiNardo presided over the Delegate Meeting.

A Delegate Forum was presented on “Strategic Planning for Your Club’s Sustainability and Vitality” by Charles Ruthford, Olympic Kennel Club, with a review of the club’s SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) objectives for helping dog clubs to prepare for the future by utilizing: understandable terms, regular updates,

accessibility to all, engagement with show superintendents, and 2-5-year planning. It was acknowledged that when it comes to strategic planning, one size does not fit all dog clubs.

Several nominees were elected to serve 1-, 3-, or 4-year-terms on the following Delegate Standing Committees: All-Breed Clubs, Bylaws, Canine Health, Companion Events, Delegate Advocacy & Advancement, Dog Show Rules, Field Trial & Hunt Test, and Parent Clubs.

AKC Chairman Dr. Thomas M. (Tom) Davies spoke on this “pivotal moment in our history” and emphasized the need to adapt and evolve to meet the realities of today’s world and tomorrow’s dog owners. Modernization is essential: reimagining AKC website, re-envisioning AKC registration process, prioritizing faster/reliable customer service, continuing efforts to deepen public trust, and returning AKC to a position of leadership in canine spaces. Dr. Davies also spoke about the updated AKC Code of Sportsmanship and Civility, which addresses behavior in the ring and online, and the new President’s Sportsman Award, which will recognize individuals who embody the values of sportsmanship, mentorship, and integrity.

AKC CFO Ted Phillips provided a second-quarter financial report that included the following:

- Registrations and Event Fee Revenue was 6% below the same period in 2024.
- Ad/Sponsorship/Royalty Revenue was 14% below the same period in 2024.
- E-Commerce Revenue was 12% above the same period in 2024.
- Litter Registration Revenue* was 12% above the same period in 2024.
- Litter Registrations were down 13% from 2024 (28% from 2023).
- Dog Registration Revenue was 14% below the same period in 2024.



- Dog Registrations were down 18% from 2024 (30% from 2023).
- Conformation/Companion Events Revenue was comparable to the same period in 2024.
- Performance Events Revenue was 7% above the same period in 2024.
- *Includes coupon registrations from high-volume breeders.

Five (5) proposed amendments to the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club and one (1) proposed Amendment to the Rules Applying to Dog Shows were voted on at the September 2025 AKC Delegate Meeting: (1) Article IV, Section 5. The proposal to remove the requirement to publish the name of each candidate in a second issue of the AKC Gazette was sent back to the committee. (2) Article VI, Section 4. The proposal to remove the requirement to publish the name of each candidate in a second issue of the AKC Gazette was sent back to the committee. (3) Article VII, Section 1. The proposed amendment to change the hiatus period for the reelection of any Delegate to the Board of Directors from a period of one year to four years did NOT pass as there was less than a two-thirds vote in the affirmative after much discussion from the floor. (4) Article XIV, Section 1. The proposal to require that a fee accompany a complaint filed at an AKC event was sent back to the committee after some discussion from the floor. (5) Article XVIII, Section 2.

The replacement of postal mail with an email notice of the date, time, and location of the annual meeting and each regular meeting passed with a two-thirds majority. And (1) Chapter 6, Section 2.

The requirement to print notification in the Premium List if a breed specialty club is not offering the three-point major to the Reserve Winners at its specialty show passed with a two-thirds majority.

One (1) proposed amendment to the Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers will be voted on at the December 2025 AKC Delegate Meeting: (1) Chapter 14, Section 2. A disqualification by a judge in field trials or hunting tests will count as a disqualification across both sports.

Details appear in the minutes from the Delegate Meeting, which have been published on the “Secretary’s Pages” of the October 2025 edition of the AKC Gazette: https://images.akc.org/pdf/gazette/october-2025.pdf?fbclid=IwY2xjawOwDsRleH-RuA2FibQIxMABicmlkETFXS3ZhQXM0S3p4b1V-sODRZc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQOMjlyMDM5MTc4ODI-wMDg5MgABHkDurK1E-ftJ93CI8djuHuGGTfg8k-p5SfpqO8ZxqdoOKyKgAm0ZUVPSiYTN9_aem_Bu4_fNxc51iwRzr66yh1BQ

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

The next Delegate Meeting will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida, on Thursday and Friday, December 11-12, 2025.

Yours respectfully,
Dan Sayers



Changes to the IWSCA Awards Program

The Board of Directors and the Awards Committee are announcing a new direction for the Annual Awards Program beginning with activities during the calendar year 2025. Specifically, the change will affect the awards given out at the annual Awards Banquet for performance during the previous calendar year. This announcement does not affect many of the current awards including the IWSCA National Specialty Challenge and Perpetual Trophies, IWSCA National Specialty Trophies, IWSCA Regional Specialty trophies, the AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship, Marion Hopkins Leadership, and President's awards, the Nameplate and Title Charms program, and the multi-title awards for All-Around IWS and Quintessential Versatility Award (QVA).

Background

For the past few years, the Board of Directors and the Awards Committee have been discussing some challenges concerning the Annual Awards Program. AKC has been expanding the world of dog sports significantly by adding new titling venues that club members can compete in, increasing the number of performance awards given out annually. The Awards Committee has risen to the task of expanding the program to include each new sport. However, the financial need to support these awards has also increased over time which is an area of concern for the Board.

In 2014 the IWSCA became a 501(c)(3) public charity with the mission of preserving the Irish Water Spaniel breed, educating the public about this breed's qualities, and supporting research, through funding, for the health and well-being of the breed. We have been successful in meeting the overall mission but with a charitable status also comes some restrictions. For the IWSCA to successfully incorporate an awards program and still maintain its public charity status our club should ensure that its primary purpose and activities are dedicated to its tax-exempt mission. Many of the club awards should not be focused primarily on the competitive performance of our dogs.

Recognizing that the program had grown organically with the AKC's expansion, and no longer fulfilled the original purpose of the awards, in March 2025 the Board asked the Awards Committee to write a new mission statement that is in alignment with the Club's 501(c)(3) status and to develop an Awards Program that fulfills that statement.

The Annual Awards Program Mission

By increasing awareness of the Irish Water Spaniel the IWSCA recognizes, through the Annual Awards Recognition Program, those members who participate in dog activities, events, and educational outreach opportunities which promote breed preservation, allowing the dog-loving public to learn about the predictability of purebred dogs and the Irish Water Spaniel's many unique qualities.



Activities That Support 501(c)(3)

The Awards Committee understands that members of the IWSCA have been providing educational outreach through various community activities such as Meet the Breeds, therapy dog encounters, Irish Festivals, and more. The Board and Awards Committee are excited to now recognize these dedicated club members who are supporting our mission during the year at the Annual Awards Banquet through a new program.

NEW Community Service and Education Outreach Recognition

To recognize dedicated IWSCA members participating in events that bring recognition to the breed and the club through social interaction and educational opportunities, with or without their dogs. Eligible events are the following:

- Meet The Breeds
- Irish Festivals
- Parades
- Grooming Competitions
- Participation in Judges Education (not including at the National Specialty)
- Therapy Dog Program
- READ program
- Search and Rescue
- Volunteer Work – Write in option for events not included in this list

Award Qualifications and Tracking for Community Service and Education Outreach:

Events must be completed by an IWSCA member

- Members are required to track their hours through a fillable form available on the IWSCA website
- The number of hours will be cumulative over the span of their active membership
- Members must maintain active membership each year to retain their hours compilation, otherwise former members who rejoin will start anew
- Drive time over 4 hours will be allowed to be calculated in the total hours for events
 - We will allow ½ of the total drive time to be added to a member's submission
- This begins with events within the 2025 calendar year and will not be retroactive

AKC Dog Sports Participation

Following countless hours of discussion, with input from the Board of Directors, the Awards Committee agrees that members create visibility of, and curiosity in, the Irish Water Spaniel when participating in AKC recognized dog sports. It is further agreed that not all AKC dog sports have the same ability to reach the public and inspire them to learn more about the value of including an IWS in their lives.

The IWSCA was organized in 1937 by Mr. Thomas C. Marshall and Mrs. Henry T. Hall. In that year the Club sponsored its first Specialty Show and the first Field Trial for IWS. Also, in 1937 Mr. Marshall ran his dog, Ch. Blackwater Bog, in the newly introduced Obedience Trials where he earned the first CDX by a sporting dog and qualified for the National Obedience Test.



The club's All-Around Irish Water Spaniel awards program was the first to recognize that these three original venues, Conformation, Field, and Obedience, are the pillars of our breed. A Conformation championship indicates that a dog is physically and mentally fit and conforms to the breed standards as established by the IWSCA. A Field title confirms a dog's ability to fulfill the original purpose of the breed which is that of a hunting and retrieving companion. An Obedience title demonstrates a dog's effective teamwork with its handler and is the foundation of all performance sports. The Annual Awards Program for 2025 will recognize levels of achievement in these foundational venues.

Awards presented in recent years to the #1 IWS and Top IWS in AKC sports such as rally, agility, scent work, FastCAT, dock diving, and barn hunt do not align with our Club's tax-exempt mission or the historical representation of the breed. The Club will continue to recognize and celebrate achievements in those dog sports through our Nameplate and Title Charms program, QVA, perpetual trophies, and in our New Title slide show presented at the annual awards banquet. The annual awards slide show will also recognize IWS who qualified for the special AKC National and Invitational shows and trials. The Milestone awards have been expanded to recognize high level accomplishments in all performance events, as described in the summary below.

New Annual Awards Recognition Program Summary

The following is a summary of the elements featured in the Annual Awards which will be presented at the Awards Banquet in 2026. More detailed information regarding specific awards will be noted on the awards application.

- All-Around Retriever (Conformation CH, Obedience CD, Retriever JH)
- All-Around Upland (Conformation CH, Obedience CD, Spaniel JHU)
- Conformation
 - Breed Placements 1-5
 - All-Breed Placements 1-5
 - Owner Handler Placements 1-5
 - Top Winners Dog (Note: This will become a perpetual trophy)
 - Top Winners Bitch (Note: This will become a perpetual trophy)
- Field
 - IWS earning a Retriever Junior Hunter (JH) or Senior Hunter (SH) title
 - IWS earning an Upland Junior Hunter (JHU) or Senior Hunter (SHU) title
 - Note: Master Hunter titles in either the Retriever or Upland venues will earn a Milestone award
- Obedience
 - IWS earning a Companion Dog (CD), Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) or Utility Dog (UD) title
 - Note: Utility Dog Excellent (UDX) and higher titles will be recognized with a Milestone award
- Quintessential Versatility Award (QVA - Awarded to the member who demonstrates the versatility of the IWS by earning titles in 5 different AKC qualifying sports)
- Spotlight Awards (Club members recognizing other member's contribution to the IWSCA community)
- Milestone Awards (Awarded for the following high-level accomplishments)



- o Conformation – Best in Show (excluding IWSCA Specialties), Best in Show Owner Handler (excluding IWSCA Specialties), Platinum Level Grand Champion (GCHP)
- o Field – Field Champion (FC), Amateur Field Trial Champion (AFC), Qualified All Age (QAA), Qualifying for the Master National, Dual Hunter (SH and SHU owner handled), Master Hunter (MH – new award), Master Hunter Upland (MHU – new award)
- o Obedience – High in Trial (HIT – excluding IWSCA Specialties), Obedience Trial Champion (OTCH), Utility Dog Excellent (UDX – new award)
 - o Agility – Master Agility Champion (MACH), Preferred Agility Champion (PACH)
 - o Scent Work – Scent Work Detective (SWD)
 - o Rally – Rally Champion (RACH)
 - o Tracking - Tracking Champion (CT)
 - o Barn Hunt – Barn Hunt Champion (RATCH)
 - o Therapy Dog – Distinguished Therapy Dog (THDD – 400 visits)
- Name Plate Title Charm Program
 - o Every IWS who earns their first title in an AKC sport will receive an IWSCA name plate with the dog's call name
 - o Every IWS who earns a title in any of the AKC sports, or the IWSCA Working Certificate tests (WC, WCX, WD, WDX) will receive a charm to add to their name plate
- Perpetual Trophies

A Perpetual Trophy is one that is given out annually at the Awards banquet and can never be retired. The winner of the trophy will keep it for 1 year. Any member may donate a Perpetual Trophy for performance in any AKC sport. Currently there are six Perpetual Trophies, with new trophies for Top Winners Dog and Top Winners Bitch coming soon:

- o Cu'Chulain Best in Show Perpetual Trophy (conformation)
- o Marsh Brood Bitch Perpetual Trophy (conformation)
- o Irish Mist Perpetual Trophy (obedience)
- o Taoide Top MACH Perpetual Trophy (agility)
- o Cuardach Top PACH Perpetual Trophy (agility)
- o Mole End Double Q Perpetual Trophy (agility)

If a club member would like to commemorate a special win, memorialize a kennel or a special IWS, or award the #1 IWS in one of the AKC sports they may sponsor a Perpetual Trophy by submitting the specific criteria (which must be objective and easily trackable) and a description of the trophy for BOD and Awards Committee approval.

The BOD and the Awards Committee are excited by the direction of the new awards program. With the increased popularity of mixed breeds, it is even more critical now to promote our purebred Irish Water Spaniels by participating in public facing events. If you have any questions or concerns about the new program, please address them to the Board through the Corresponding Secretary at IWSCACorresSecretary@iwsca.org.





AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB

AKC[®] Code of Sportsmanship and Civility

Preface: The tradition of competitive purebred dog events predates 1884—the year the American Kennel Club (AKC[®]) was founded. Those involved in these sports share core values, including a strong commitment to sportsmanship and a welcoming, respectful culture that embraces the diverse community united by a love of dogs.

These values are evident across all aspects of the sport: conformation, performance, companion, and family dog activities. Many believe that the enduring principles of sportsmanship and civility are key reasons the sport has thrived for over 140 years.

Recognizing that periodically reaffirming our shared values strengthens our community, the revised code will be shared widely to highlight the foundational values and principles that define the sport.

- Sportspeople always place the welfare of their dog above all else.
- Sportspeople prioritize the long-term health and preservation of their breed, making decisions that reflect a deep commitment to responsible breeding and ownership.
- Sportspeople respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportspeople conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the sport, the American Kennel Club, and themselves.
- Sportspeople appreciate, encourage and support all who associate with and participate in the sports by fostering an environment where respect, equity, inclusion, and courtesy are foundational.
- Sportspeople understand, uphold and abide by all AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies.
- Sportspeople contribute to a positive atmosphere at events by avoiding negative gossip, disparagement, or unsportsmanlike behavior.
- Sportspeople extend their values of civility, fairness, and respect to all digital and social media platforms.
- Sportspeople actively support the education and mentorship of newcomers, helping them learn the rules, values, and traditions of the sport in a respectful way.
- Sportspeople recognize that they are role models in the sport, and strive to lead by example through humility, kindness, and ethical conduct.
- Sportspeople treat fellow exhibitors, judges, officials, volunteers, spectators, and AKC staff with dignity and respect, regardless of experience, background, or differences in opinion.
- Sportspeople are committed to fair play, honesty, courtesy, and competition, approaching both winning and losing with grace.
- Sportspeople understand that strong competition and civility can—and should—coexist. They appreciate the quality of their competitors, and the effort put forth by others.
- Sportspeople uphold their responsibilities to the sport of purebred dogs and refuse to let personal gain or self-interest influence their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsperson judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsperson judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsperson exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsperson exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- Sportspeople are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportspeople decline to exploit any positions of authority or recognition for personal advantage.
- Sportspeople appreciate those that have gone before them and realize they are responsible for maintaining and enhancing the sport for future generations.



Everything We Do,
We Do for Dogs.

7/2025



Rat Tail Days

On Saturday, October 25th, Greg Siner once again hosted Rat Tail Days in South Kingston, RI. We had beautiful fall weather for the event at Tuckertown Park.

The attendees were a nice mix of old and new faces, with dogs ranging from 5 months old to grey-faced veterans. In the morning, we had a puppy training talk by Kim Kezer, helped out by Finley, a 5-month puppy. Then Stephanie O'Reilly held an intro to agility discussion aided by Dawn, who was very happy to show us some basic agility moves. After that Stephanie invited the attendees to experiment with the agility equipment she brought, which proved to be lots of fun.

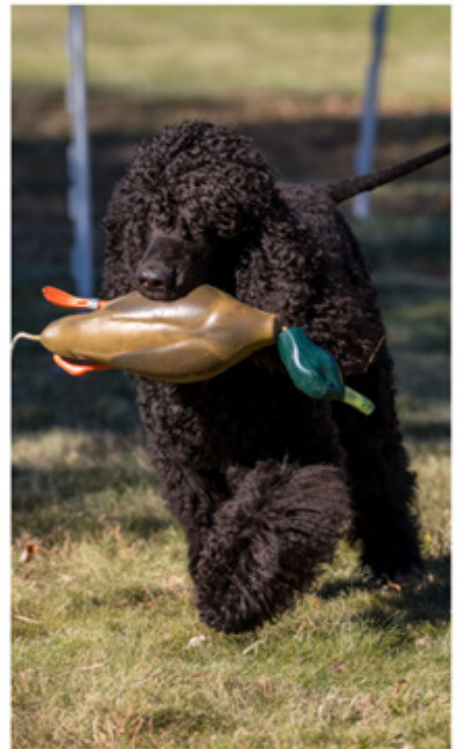
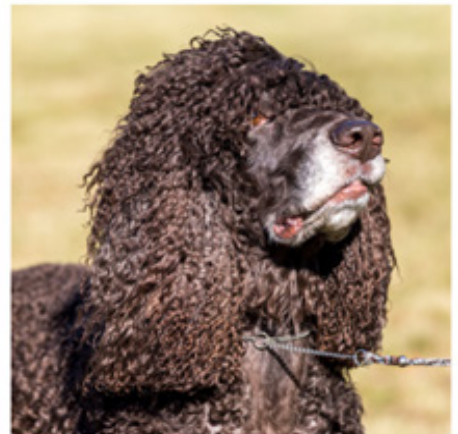
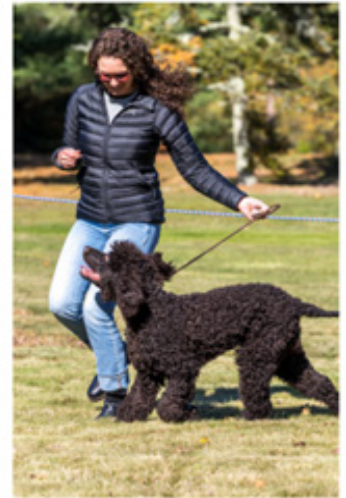
Bethany, Greg, Tom and Sam put on a picnic lunch for everybody, and we shared a birthday cake for Alice Getchell.

After lunch the fun match was held with almost 30 dogs participating. Sam Jenio was this year's judge. Handlers and dogs all appeared to have a lot of fun, especially the gun dog/bitch classes, who also had to retrieve a duck Dokken thrown by Sam as part of their judging.

Best Puppy in Match - Nash
Best Opposite Puppy in Match - Birdie
Best In Match - Hattie
Best Opposite in Match - Arrow

We then had a big group dinner at a local Mexican restaurant interspersed with a live auction. The event was a lot of fun, as always. Greg is hoping to make next year's event an International Rat Tail Days, and we are already looking forward to it.





Wine County 2025

The Wine Country cluster in the Finger Lakes once again had a large IWS contingent competing in obedience, rally, conformation and agility. There were four days of shows with large entries with majors on the line, and we lucked out on the weather front as well with lots of warm fall days. The majors paid off as we had three new champions over the weekend - Dawn, Hattie, and Oscar.

On Saturday, Lindy Williams and Agatha (CH HOOLIGAN N EPIK RAIN DROPS ON ROSES) earned 3rd place in Rally Novice for her title.

Saturday night we had the well-attended pizza party with a lively silent auction organized by Emily. Emily, Dana, Hannah, Sarah, and Brianna hosted us in their rental house for the festivities.

Because of the proximity to Morris & Essex, there was only a supported entry on Saturday. Emily Pikul made some really cool trophies for the winners. The club provided beautiful rosettes for all the placements.

Thursday:

BOB/Sporting G2 - GCHB POOLE'S IDE BY DESIGN (Skeeter)
BOW/WB - POOLE'S IDE NEW HORIZON AT CUARDACH (Dawn)
BOS/BOBOH/OH Sporting G2 - CH POOLE'S IDE RIPTIDE RN DS CGC (Rip)
Select Dog - GCH CASTLEHILL'S RAMBLIN' RAFAEL O'CRISPIN BN RA (Rafi)
Select Bitch - GCH EPIK'S IN OMNIA PARATUS CGC ATT BCAT (Myna)
WD - POOLE'S IDE EYE OF AGAMOTTO (Motto)
RWD - CRISPIN'S I'LL LIGHT THE FIRE AT CASTEHILL (Nash)
RWB - CASTEHILL'S PS BABY I'M A STAR DONNYBROOK TKN DC (Portia)

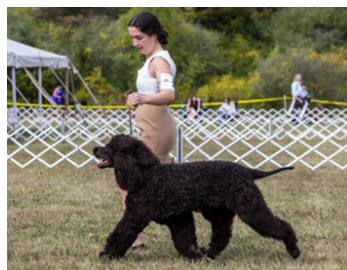
Friday:

BOB/BOBOH/ Sporting G3 - CH POOLE'S IDE RIPTIDE RN DS CGC (Rip)
BOW/WB - POOLE'S IDE NEW HORIZON AT CUARDACH (Dawn) [NEW CHAMPION]
BOS - GCHB POOLE'S IDE BY DESIGN (Skeeter)
Select Dog - GCH CASTLEHILL'S RAMBLIN' RAFAEL O'CRISPIN BN RA (Rafi)
Select Bitch -GCH EPIK'S IN OMNIA PARATUS CGC ATT BCAT (Myna)
WD - ALTO'S COULD IT BE MAGIC (Aonghus)
RWD - CHANTICO'S A SLICE AND A PINT JH MX MXB MXJ XF (Arrow)
RWB - BALLYHOO'S WINNIE WAIN WHISTLE DE L'ALTO (Dayzee)

Saturday (Supported Entry):

BOB/Sporting G2 - GCHB POOLE'S IDE BY DESIGN (Skeeter)
BOW/WD - POOLE'S IDE DARK KNIGHT (Oscar) [NEW CHAMPION]
BOS - GCH CASTLEHILL'S RAMBLIN' RAFAEL O'CRISPIN BN RA (Rafi)
Select Dog/BOBOH/OH Sporting G2 - CH POOLE'S IDE RIPTIDE RN DS CGC
Select Bitch - Best of Breed/Variety COMBINED (Myna)
WB - POOLE'S IDE THE MORE THE MERRIER RN DN CGC (Hattie)
RWD - CHANTICO'S A SLICE AND A PINT JH MX MXB MXJ XF (Arrow)
RWB - POOLE'S IDE UP NORTH (Fiain)





Morris and Essex 2025



Mother and daughter Dana Louttit and Hannah Loonsk, with mother and son, Simone and Rip.
By Dana Louttit

It is almost unimaginable that another Morris & Essex is in the books. We wait and plan for five years, and it comes and goes in a few lovely moments. For 30 years, from 1927 to 1957, Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge (niece of John D.) held a dog show on her estate in New Jersey under the auspices of the Morris and Essex Kennel Club that she founded. 50,000 spectators would come to experience an outdoor show of hospitality, gentility, and high-quality entries and judging. In 2000, the show was revived with the intention of capturing the elegance and civility of Mrs. Dodge's show. Held in a beautiful, grassy park, everyone is served a box lunch at noon, the gating is minimal, spectacular floral displays abound, and the exhibitors dress for the occasion in 50's garb with an emphasis on great hats. Classic cars provide the best of photo backdrops.





Dana Louttit, Tara Darling-Lyon, and Tara's Leprechaun Queen (Fay).

We had a lovely entry of 19 Irish Water Spaniels this year. Puppy Sweepstakes was judged by James Dickson, with CH Poole's Ide Dark Knight (Batman aka Oscar), owned by Greg Siner, Hannah Loonsk, and Jenny Wadhwa taking home top honors and Tara's Leprechaun Queen, owned by Tara Darling, going Best of Opposite Sex. Best in Veteran Sweepstakes was Missy McMunn's GCH Landacre's Nordic Sailor (Skiff) and Best of Opposite was GHB Poole's Ide Say No More CD RA JH DS CGC TKI (Simone), owned by Greg Siner, Hannah Loonsk, and Bethany Urban.

The veterans continued to shine in the breed ring, with Judge Beth Sweigart awarding Skiff the red and white ribbon for Best of Opposite Sex and Simone taking Select Bitch to her daughter, GCHB Poole's Ide Design (Skeeter), owned by Greg Siner and Stephanie O'Reilly. Not only was Skeeter Best of Breed but she later thrilled her fans by defeating 750 sporting dogs for a truly historic Sporting Group 2 from Judge Lorraine Bisso.

Select Dog was the baby Batman (aka Oscar), beautifully presented at 11 months by his new owner, Jenny Wadhwa. An Award of Merit went to the lovely GCH Epik's In Omnia Paratus CGC ATT BCAT (Myna) owned by Emily Pikul.



Skeeter with Joanne Thibault in the Sporting Group



Skeeter Group Placing



Winners Bitch and Best of Winners went to Isla, Poole's Ide Return to Mallyree (owned and shown [yay!]) by Greg Siner to finish her championship. She is the daughter of the Best of Breed winner, Skeeter. Winners Dog was her only littermate, Poole's Ide Eye of Agamoto, owned by Adrienne Fowler, Greg Siner, and Hannah Loonsk. Reserve Winners Dog was Madcap Til Moon Becomes Sun O'Morn (Canon) owned by Jodi Lamp, Betty Wathne, and Rick Walker, and Reserve Winners Bitch was Tara's Leprechaun Queen (Fay).

We did not manage a group photo, but everyone showed up in their 1950s finest. Huge thanks go to Laurel Baglia for coordinating our specialty and to Emily Pikul for an incredible array of her custom-made show ribbon pillows, crate mats and IWS artwork that will be treasured forever by those lucky enough to take them home. The next show is in 2030. You might want to be there!



Emily Pikul and Sumo



Trophies by Emily Pikul



Trophies by Emily Pikul



Lindy Williams at ringside



One of Our Own Needs Us



With deep sadness, we share that our dear friend and long-time IWS lover, Wendy O'Leary, is now in the advanced stages of a rare form of Parkinson's Disease and has moved into long-term care. Wendy has been a devoted Irish Water Spaniel enthusiast and owner for many years. Long before Dock Diving became a popular canine sport, Wendy and her husband Dennis turned their own swimming pool into a full-sized training pool—complete with a dock—so she

could teach IWS and other breed owners how to share this super fun sport with their dogs. Many who trained with Wendy went on to earn Dock Diving titles thanks to her enthusiasm and encouragement.

Every year, Wendy and Dennis hosted their well-known Irish Splash event, welcoming IWS friends from near and far to their home in Canada. Those gatherings became legendary, celebrating both the dogs and the friendships built around them.

Now it's our turn to show Wendy the same spirit of kindness and connection she has shared with so many of us.

We are organizing a Card Campaign for Wendy, spreading the messages out so she receives a few cards each week.

If you'd like to take part, please contact Laurie Jacobs for the next available week to send your card(s). You can write your thoughts, memories, photos, or simply your love and appreciation. Laurie will coordinate the schedule to keep a steady stream of smiles coming Wendy's way.

Let's surround Wendy with the warmth of the IWS family she has always cherished. She deserves every bit of it.

You can reach Laurie on FB Messenger or at her email MysticCaribou@sbcglobal.net.



Rattail Reflections: *Articles from the IWSCA Archives*

“Early Irish Water Days”
by Thomas C. Marshall



This letter is part of the Irish Water Spaniel Club of America archives. It was written on April 7, 1972, by Thomas C. Marshall who founded the IWSCA, along with several early 20th century breed supporters. Today's club members will no doubt recognize their own dogs in the stories that are shared, and I'd expect the accounts will provide many readers with a familiar nod, a good laugh, and even a little uneasiness. Whatever response they elicit, the experiences recounted are sure to reaffirm one's affection for, and devotion to, the breed we know and love.

—Dan Sayers, IWSCA Historian

[Editor's Note: This article has been split into two parts. The second part will be published in the next issue of Rat Tails.]



Primarily, I am a duck shooter, and I needed a good retriever. Labradors and Chesapeakes were too costly for me. For years, I had been reading the advertisements in Field & Stream of Percy K. Swan of Chico, California. He was a tireless advertiser of Irish. So, I wrote to him asking about this breed. For my single-page letter, I received pictures and about 15 sheets of typed paper. He was the most enthusiastic breeder I had ever run across.

It is so long ago I do not remember the exact date, but sometime in the early 1930s I sent a \$50.00 check for a "good hunting pup." In those days, there were few planes, and shipping a dog by this method was unknown. Railroad express was the only way. It took over a week for the dog to travel. When I got him, he was an unhappy little dog, about four months old.

That fall, I trained him to the best of my ability with the help of non-stop letters from Chico, California. I killed quite a few ducks that season and my pup retrieved most of them. He was not "steady." In fact, at that time I did not know what the word meant. All I wanted was a dog that would retrieve and trail a crippled duck. I do not remember too much about this dog except [that] he sold me, completely, on the breed.

During the second season, I was hunting with the son of the owner of the Hunter Arms Company in Fulton, New York, and we had an accident. In those days, I used a Merrymeeting Bay Gunning Float, which we paddled to get to the shooting area. We had a good day and were moving down the creek in the marsh to return to the home dock when I heard a shot. I was in the bow and my partner in the stern. The dog was on a shelf in the middle of the boat.

I turned to see what Bob had shot at, and there was my dog with the top of his head gone. I went into a state of shock. I could not even bury my new dog. It seemed the double Bob was using did not have a safety as many of those old guns did. Unfortunately, he had not unloaded the gun when we started home and in trying to get comfortable in the boat, he had moved his leg, so the buckle on the rubber boot had caught the trigger.

You never can be too careful when hunting. Bob's father traded in hunting dogs and very shortly I was given another Irish.

I cannot even remember this dog's name, but he was a big one, curly and good-looking. He would retrieve, but he was the un-stadiest dog I ever knew. If a duck was coming in, this Irish would be out of the boat to greet him. For a couple of days, I don't think I even got a chance to kill a duck.

Finally, we got a week of storms, and the [black ducks] were really streaming into the marsh. My gift Irish continued to scare the birds off, so we could not get a shot. As I think back, he must have been a rabid member of the Audubon because he certainly was saving the ducks. The point came when I could not stand it any longer, so I tied the retriever to the painter. Three [black ducks] and a mallard cupped their wings and dropped to one side of the decoys. The minute I started to shoot, the Irish was over the side of the boat and into the water. As the birds disappeared, we were being towed through the decoys. This was it. I had had it. I got the dog back in the narrow stern skiff and lifted the cover off the stern of the boat and installed my dog under the cover. Even then, I had to sit on the cover to keep the dog in the boat and take time to kill a couple of [black ducks] without interference.



The next day, I took this over-eager yet poorly trained retriever back to my friend Bob. After this experience, I decided I had better select my own Irish Water Spaniels.

So, off [went] another letter to Percy K. Swan in Chico. About three weeks later, while I was on our farm in Harvard, Massachusetts, I received notice there was a shipment of animals waiting for me at the railroad station. When I got there, I found FOUR dogs, not two. One was a fully trained one-year-old male. The others were four-month-old pups. The older dog became my Champion Blackwater Bog CD. The other two became my Champion Spider Kelly and Champion King Erin. The fourth dog was Irish Singer who Arthur Smith trained and placed in many Open Age All-Breed retriever trials.

When I returned to Connecticut, and my pups got beyond six months, I decided to go to shows in addition to training the dogs to hunt and work in obedience. One of the first bench shows I went to was in Framingham, Massachusetts. At this show, I met Mrs. Henry Hall of Sudbury. She was showing a Doberman and an Irish Water bitch. The Irish she had did not have a good temperament and would nip you if she thought you were not looking.

Mrs. Hall was an experienced bench show woman and I was green. The next year, I attended every weekend show I could in the New England area. Mrs. Hall was at many shows and I think I began to run into some Goodnow dogs. There was a New Yorker who was a lawyer who occasionally showed one or two Irish. His name was Henry Root Stern. Mrs. J. Watson Webb, who later founded the Shelburne Museum in Shelburne, Vermont, was seen at shows with at least two Irish.

After a year or so at bench shows, Mrs. Hall asked why I did not start a breed club. Being completely naive, I bit and the club was started with about 15 members. One winter, after hearing from some Middle West Irish owners, we decided to try for a large entry at Westminster. I think I offered to take dogs from anywhere in New England to the show. Some were good, but most were poorly groomed specimens that we had to work on to get them to look like a good Irish. My memory is not too good, but I think we had over 16 dogs and bitches there. I think it was a five-point show.

I entered in every class I could, including the Team. I showed four male dogs moving abreast as what I thought a team should look like. They were a peppy bunch and looked nice. They were so rambunctious, I asked my vet to give them something to slow them down. The idea was not bad, except we slowed them down too much! Before we got through, I was afraid I was going to have to hold some of the dogs up!

We filled so many classes that the maximum amount of cash was won in most of the classes. I was embarrassed to win most of the cash. So, the last night of the show I took the money and invited all the Irish owners there to go to Billy Rose's Horseshoe. Needless to say, we all had a good time.

My dog training was coming along pretty well when I learned the Long Island Retriever Club was holding a trial on the Marshall Field estate. My oldest dog, Bog, had been working good, so over I went. The first night I was talking to Arthur Smith of Centre Island, who had entered a "Chesapeake." He asked if my Irish was steady. I replied, "What is that?"



When Arthur learned I did not even understand the term, he had a good laugh. But after supper, he brought out a box of shells, a few pigeons, and a shotgun. We went down to the beach and put a line on Bog and tried to steady him. He was a smart dog and caught on.

The next day, Bog got through two land series and one water without breaking. When we came to the third land series, I was down against Arthur Smith's Chesapeake, a real giant of a dog. According to numbers it was my dog's turn to retrieve. Bob was steady to shot and still on the line when the Chesapeake broke and went for the downed pheasant. This was too much for Bob, so he broke and tried to best the Chesapeake to the bird. This, of course, meant Bog was out of the trial. I kept trying, as all my trial Irish were good. I think mostly it was my fault because I could not remain "cool" while I was running a dog. Once in a while, I would get an honorable mention or a third.

In the beginning, I thought I should give my dogs a good meal in the morning. After watching all four dogs stop to relieve themselves in the middle of a retrieve, I abandoned this practice.

What seemed to me my best day was in Monmouth, New Jersey. My Bog went Best of Breed, placed third in the Group, got second in the water test, and won the obedience test with a score of 198.

I like Westminster and went Best of Breed there in 1937-38-39-40 and 41. In 1939, Westminster had an obedience test competition between a men's team and a women's team. The competition was based on CDX tests, with each test changed so [that] the test was continuous. For instance, in the retrieve over the jump, the dog retrieved back over the jump, but the handler kept moving to the next station and took the gag or dumbbell while he was on the move. This was new at the time because the AKC had not approved obedience tests and the obedience test clubs were still running the tests. The crowd at The Garden went for the tests and they particularly like the Irish Water. For some reason, the men's team won. To me, it was exciting under all those lights and before all the people.

Today, there are so many obedience tests and so many people attending, it is no fun anymore. Recently, I took my American Water to a test in Darien, Connecticut, and by the time we got into the ring, it was after 12 midnight and both the dog and myself were so pooped we could not really perform. Most of the time, my Irish won the test. We seldom had a non-winning score.

Thinking back to bench shows, I remember one held in Barnstable on Cape Cod. I think the Kemp organization ran it. Mrs. Hall and I arrived at the same time. Our benches were newly made and nicely loaded with hay. I remember Mrs. Hall sweeping all the hay to the ground and remarking, "What did they think we had, chickens?" At least they were trying to make the dogs comfortable!

I always thought my Irish should place in the Group. Henry Caesar, a great Springer man, and I always were the last to be shown the gate before they chose the four for the Group. He always had a good Springer, but neither the Irish nor Springer were popular with the judges. I think they just were not familiar with the breed or knew the Standard.



After our good entry at Westminster, we wanted to show at Morris and Essex in Madison, New Jersey. Mrs. Dodge, who ran this show, said if we got a 25-dog entry she would have a class for us and let us select our own judge. This was a challenge. It was in 1937, and we got Grover Rauch as a judge. The day was beautiful, and we had spent a week gathering Irish and grooming them, so they would not disgrace the breed. My sister drove down from Boston and picked up a dog in Hartford owned by Mrs. Auerbach who owned the Fox Department Store. This dog would only obey the Butler who fed him. We tried to get the Butler to attend, but Mrs. Auerbach needed him. Once we got this dog to Fairfield we lost him for three days, so he never got to the show!

However, we did get 26 dogs to the show. Among the dogs we got there were two owned by Randall, the chauffeur for Dever Warner of the Warner Corset Company. He was the one who told how the Irish Water got his rat tail and topknot when Saint Patrick was driving the snakes out of Ireland. It was quite a tale.

My sister's station wagon had celluloid windows, and Randall had such a good time when he was delivered to his home [that] he went right through the celluloid windows! I think there were enough of each sex at this show so that there were five points for both sexes.

All this time of bench shows, my small son was showing in Children's Handling classes and winning enough of them so [that] he was able to show in the finals at Westminster. Again, this dog shows well for children.

About the farthest I went for bench [shows] was Cleveland. We could always get a group of Irish here. I suppose now everyone would fly to this show, but I used to take two days to drive it. I can remember while on the road, all four dogs getting carsick and the struggle to keep them all outdoors on time.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE.



Regional Reports

Northeast Report

Jenny Wadhwa writes “Greetings from southern Maine! Dinah (Hooligan N Epik’s Absurd Little Bird CGCA TKN SCN JHU WD) and Oscar (CH Poole’s Ide Dark Knight) have had a busy few months! Dinah finished up her JHU going 4/4 with high marks and Oscar finished his championship going BOW for a 5pt major at the supported entry at the wine country shows. A few days later, Oscar went Select Dog as a move up at Morris and Essex for a 5pt GCH major!



Oscar, New Champion

Outside of the realm of AKC, we have been hunting the dogs every day we can with relative success! Both dogs have flushed numerous pheasants, and we have bagged one over each dog. We also spent a few days in the north Maine woods where each dog flushed an elusive ruffed grouse and a few woodcock. We also have spent a few too many cold mornings in our sea duck blind failing to shoot any duck— we have high hopes that late season will yield better results. All in all, we are having a ton of fun for our first season!”



Jenny and Angus

Elizabeth Theriault reports “The last few months have been filled with many “firsts” and accomplishments. Elton (CH Crispin’s Don’t Go Breaking My Heart SCN TKN) earned the final point to complete his championship at The Southern New England Summer Classic in West Springfield, MA on August 24th. The same weekend, Elton also competed in his first scent work trial in Somers, CT. He has since earned multiple Q’s and class placements. He completed titles in Novice Containers in September and then both Novice Buried and Exterior in October. His younger brother Nash (Crispin’s I’ll Light The Fire At Castlehill), made his conformation debut this summer. He was awarded a Beginner Puppy Group First at Providence County Kennel Club in North Kingston, RI on July 26th. Recently we attended the Wine Country Circuit in Romulus, NY from September 25-28. Nash won his class each day and was Reserve Winners Dog twice to the major. Elton showed beautifully as well and ended with a Best of Opposite over two specials for a 5-point major and his first grand champion points.”

Stephanie O’Reilly is pleased to share that Dawn (Poole’s Ide New Horizon at Cuardach) started her agility career and quickly earned her novice and open standard, jumpers with weaves and Fast titles.- She is now competing at the Excellent level and having a blast. (I’ve attached a picture of her with some of her ribbons). Dawn also earned her breed championship at the Wine Country shows.





Elton, Best of Show



Dawn with her open titles

Elizabeth and Elton doing scent work



Elton



Ghillie MACH2

She won winner's bitch/best of winners on Thursday, September 25th, and Friday, September 26th for two 4-point majors. She earned all of her breed points out of the bred-by class. She is now CH Poole's Ide New Horizon at Cuardach OA OAJ OF. Polly (BOSS GCH CH MACH3 Poole's Ide Pollywog RN MXG MJC MFB TQXX BCAT) earned her MACH3 on October 3, 2025 with two beautiful runs for her 20th double Q."

As for Kim and myself, our dogs are all keeping us busy. Ghillie earned her MACH 2 in August, making her MACH2 CH Chantico's Super G O' Muddy Waters CD RN MXS MJG MXF T2B2 WC.



Ishka





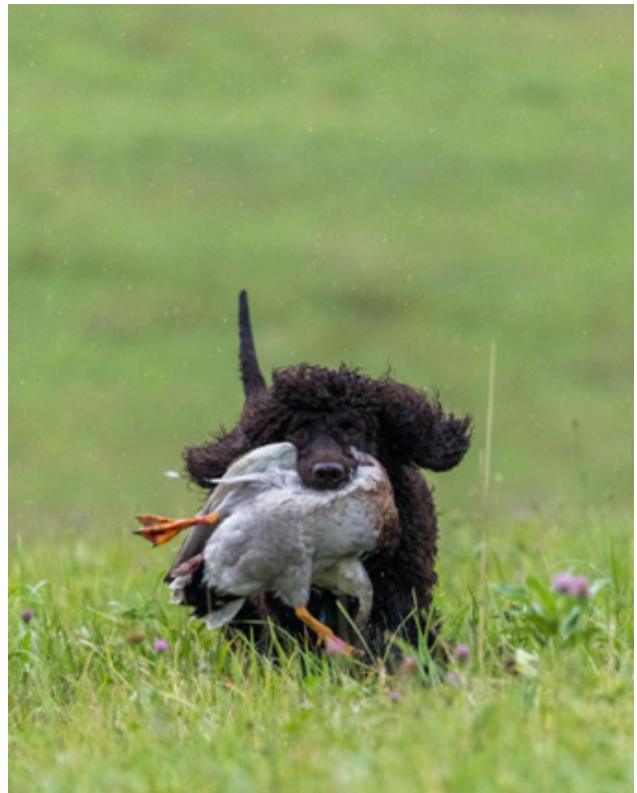
Nash, First in the Puppy Group



Dawn, New Champion

Arrow ran in a couple of Senior Hunter tests and while he didn't pass either, he has great enthusiasm for the field, and we will be training all winter to prepare him for more hunt tests next spring. He's also enjoying agility and earned his 20th Master QQ. Now we need to get the remaining points for his MACH! Ishka and I are in agility classes while Kim is doing fieldwork and obedience with her. She's got a ton of energy so it's good to focus it! Thanks,

Jeremy & Laurel



Arrow



Regional Reports

Mid-Atlantic Report

It's fall again, and as autumn settles over the Mid-Atlantic, we've traded in the heat for crisp mornings and golden leaves. The dogs are reveling in the cooler weather and long walks through colorful trails—tails wagging, curls bouncing, and plenty of mud being tracked into our kitchens to remind us why we love this season so much. We've had several exciting accomplishments to celebrate this fall!

Finn, owned and loved by Ann & Brian McNeill, earned his WDX title at the American Water Spaniel hunt test in April of 2025 in Bucyrus Ohio—congratulations on achieving this wonderful working milestone!

Rorie, also owned by Ann & Brian McNeill, has had a busy few months! She earned her Fast CAT BCAT on June 29 in Windham, Ohio. In Novice Scent Work, Brian and Rorie competed July 12–13 in Sylvania, Ohio, earning titles in Containers and Interior. More recently, on October 18–19, Team Rorie completed the remaining elements—Exterior and Buried—to finish their Novice Overall title. To top it all off, Rorie's groomer, Brianna Rakar, traveled to Hershey, Pennsylvania, to compete in the Interroom Grooming Competition, where Brianna and Rorie finished 2nd place!



Brian with Rorie



Brian with Rorie



Brianna with Rorie

Goose, owned by April Barr, has been invited to the Fast CAT Invitational in Wilmington, Ohio—what an incredible honor and testament to Goose's speed and enthusiasm!

Not to be outdone, April's youngster Tango (Realta & Sycamore It Takes Two To Tango) made his debut in the 4–6 Month Beginner Puppy class, earning a Group 4 placement—a fantastic start to what's sure to be a bright future.





April with Tango

Josie (Marley Creek's So Many Things That I Wanna Say), owned by Tiffany and Terry Schuffert, earned her AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy certificate and has been working hard in handling class as she prepares for her show ring debut!

We're also saying a heartfelt goodbye to Tim Fleming and Koffi. While they're not leaving the IWSCA, they are leaving the Mid-Atlantic and heading out to the wild, wild west. We will miss seeing them but wish them all the best in Colorado. Also, Edith Blackwell and Clancy have moved to Western North Carolina and the Southeast Region.

Here's to a season full of achievements, colorful hikes, and happy, wet dogs!

Submitted by Tiffany Schuffert



Photo credit: Sarah Zumpf



Regional Reports

Midwest Report

Am I the only one that can hardly believe it is nearly Thanksgiving? Autumn has been flying by! Such a fabulous 'dog' season... perfect for all dog related fun in the wide midwest. Grouse earned her MACH2 August 1; and Fiáin is now running agility in the Master class level. Swimming is still happening but not on a daily basis. We road-tripped to Wine Country at the end of September and it was so much fun... I had high expectations and they were met or exceeded with 4 days of IWS and their humans; hard to beat. Enjoy the remainder of fall.

Sarah



Fiáin and Grouse



MACH2 Madcap The Earth Has Music For Those Who Listen MXC MJG MF T2B, (Bred by Betty Wathne).



Fiáin having a great time in Agility



Murphy kept me busy in obedience, trick dog, and barn hunt this summer while Lily kept me busy with the field this fall.

In early August, Murphy earned his CGC, TKN and TKI. On Aug 24 he earned his RATN at the Oh Rats Barn Hunt Trial in Sheboygan Falls. The Oh Rats Barn Hunt Trials are always such well put on trials and a pleasure to attend. Murphy really loves the venue and barn hunt. He especially enjoys digging under the bales of hay and 'wearing' parts of them so fashionably on his head! Though he had a slow start at the beginning of the weekend he finished on a high note taking first and High in Class at his last trial. He is now Ch Saracen Fireworks Over the Marsh DCAT RATN DS CGC TKI FTI



Murphy

Lily had a slow start in the field this year and had to wait until she finished her season this summer to start doing what she truly loves to do. Finally, ten days before her first senior spaniel hunt test, she was able to get back into the field and she was 'raring' to go. And did she every 'go'!

On Labor Day weekend she earned her first two legs towards her Senior Hunter Upland title (SHU) at the Wisconsin English Springer Spaniel Association hunt tests.



Lily

The first weekend of October she earned the last two legs for the SHU title at the West Allis Training Kennel Club hunt tests and earned her SHU title on Oct. 5. She also earned her IWSCA WDX that day. The third weekend of October, Oct. 18 & 19, she earned her first two legs towards her Senior Hunt Upland Advanced title. Six tests, 6 passes, one SHU title, one WDX title and 2 SHUA legs! Now we will wait until next year to complete the SHUA title. In the meantime, while the weather is 'good' we will train and, of course, hunt pheasants!! Once the AKC catches up on their record keeping for the spaniel hunt test passes she will be Saracen Diamond Decoy SHU DJ FTN WDX. Hope everyone has a great fall!!

Susan



Regional Reports

Southwest Report

Santa Rosa CA: Having six entries at the supported show was a real treat, the Southwest's first in eight years. We had a mix of seasoned dogs and up-and-coming youngsters, handled by passionate exhibitors. That many IWS in one ring is always something to celebrate — shows both interest in the breed and the dedication of owners and handlers. Special thanks to those who traveled for this event, Michelle Cummings (Chai) and Sally Lewis (Joplin) from Southern California, Erin Fogg from Oregon (Skye), Stacy Duncan (Kelly, puppy Tempest exhibit only), Rebecca Brooks and Maribeth Bryant (Isla) Washington and Tim and Melissa (Jynx and puppy Maeve) right there in Santa Rosa who treated us to a fantastic homemade dinner.



Flintcrest Forever Elemental Magic "Maeve"

Santa Rosa provided a relaxed yet professional backdrop. The ring was set up with care; the stewards and organizers made us feel right at home. The dogs seemed to enjoy the day — whether trotting in the ring for conformation, greeting old friends or simply taking in the sights and smells of show life.



Debbie and David Bader with Wizzard.

Supported entries like this do more than just offer a day of competition. They bring attention to the breed, encourage owners to show up and participate, and help build a community. For a rarer breed such as the Irish Water Spaniel, every opportunity to share the breed with judges, exhibitors and spectators helps.



Photo credit: Santa Rosa Supported Entry





If you're an Irish Water Spaniel owner (or thinking about becoming one), events like this supported entry in Santa Rosa are gold. They allow the breed to shine, the handlers to connect, and the broader dog-show world to appreciate these remarkable dogs. With six entries under our belt this time around, it feels like we're building momentum. Here's to many more such gatherings — and many more IWS in the ring. The Indio California shows are in January from the 2nd-5th and there is already a great interest in attending; the other notable event is the Rose City classic in Portland. Let's build those majors.

IWSCA Supported Entry Del Valle Dog Club

Judge: Edmund Dziuk

BOB	Kelly
BOS	Jynx
Select and OH	Skye
WB	Isla
RWB	Chai
Group 3	Kelly
OH Group	Skye
4-6 Puppy Group 1	Maeve



Special Halloween snoods made by Melissa Gulley



Ronan makes 100! Therapy Dog Visits

Ronan has earned the AKC Therapy Dog Advanced title.

He was just 13 months old when he made his first therapy dog visit at a library for the children's "Reading to Dogs" program. On that visit he found his second calling. (His first is dog sports of course.)

While he has visited many different venues over the years, he clearly prefers any visit with children.

He has made the majority of his visits at a developmentally disabled children's therapy center. His calm, gentle demeanor draws even the shyest child to him. He happily tolerates the children's odd games and he instinctively knows exactly how much interaction each child needs from him. The staff appreciate his nonchalant confidence with any piece of equipment he is asked to engage with. His visit is the highlight of the week for both children and staff.

I hope he can continue doing what he loves for years to come.



CH Crispin's Whiskey Promise, East Texas Good O'Boy CAX FCAT6
THDA RATN DMA DSX ASA HDN CGCA CGCU TKN FITB



International

Irish Water Spaniel Club of Canada Specialty Results

IWSAC 2025 Nationals

Judge: Sharon Luckhart

1st Senior Puppy Dog, BPIB:	Poole's Ide Dark Night
1st Bred by Exhibitor Dog, WD, BOW, BOS:	Epik's Semper Fortis
2nd Bred by Exhibitor Dog:	Alto's Could It Be Magic
3rd Bred by Exhibitor Dog:	Chantico's A Slice and A Pint
1st Open Dog Class, RWD:	Bunyarra It's Cole's Law At Epik
1st Field Dog, SD:	Ch. Castlehill's Buggy Malone O' Crispin JH RN RATM DMA DSA HDN CGC TKA
1st Altered Male, BOB (Altered):	Evora's Finns Point
1st Canadian Bred Bitch, WB:	Evora's Pharos of Alexandria DSX2 DM AS
1st Open Bitch, RWB:	Ballyhoo's Winnie Wain Whistle de l'Alto
2nd Open Bitch:	Seiche's Maiden of Music on the Wind
1st Veteran Bitch, SB:	Ch Poole's Ide That Touch of Mink
Best Of Breed: 13 pts (5-3-1-5)	BPIG Ch Realtas & Sycomore Lady Colette of Évora RN VN ETD

IWSAC 2025 Nationals Sweepstakes

Judge: Sonya Haskell

1st Senior Puppy Dog, BISW Puppy	Poole's Ide Dark Night
1st Senior Puppy Bitch	Poole's Ide Making a Splash with Chantico
1st 15-18 Month Bitch, RBISW Puppy	BBPIS Ch. Luckpuddle's McKenzie from the Great White North CGN
p1st 7-9 Veteran Bitch. BISW Veteran	Ch Poole's Ide That Touch of Mink





Sporting Group Breeder's Class: Myrna, Beard, and Dinah



Kaitlyn with Melissa Dobma's Brig shown in Juniors



Kim Keezer and Ghillie



Jeff Cimon



Jenny Wadhwa and Batman



Maryland Sporting Dog Association 2026



Sporting Group Dog Shows

THE Biggest Sporting Dog Weekend
with many Specialties

Friday, February 27 * Saturday, February 28 * Sunday, March 1
Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship MD

**Obedience & Rally
are back!**



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(Infodog.com)
Entries close
February 11

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Best Bred By Exhibitor in Group
Best Gun Dog in Group
Best in Sporting Breed Sweepstakes
Junior Showmanship
Veteran Sweepstakes
Puppy Sweepstakes



Also:
Bird Instinct Clinics (for beginners!)
and AKC Fetch Tests (all levels!)

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A curated collection of the finest IWS photographs in the world
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Start a conversation about most anything IWS, brag or even vent.
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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.

