

How Can You Contribute to Health Research in Irish Wolfhounds



The IWHG are involved with, or coordinating, various research projects in Irish Wolfhounds; many are ongoing and need your help. Take a read through the following list and see if your hound can help contribute to research, so helping to maintain and improve the health status of the breed.

- 1) **Nottingham University Osteosarcoma longitudinal project** – Dr Mark Dunning. We are still recruiting dogs and owners for this ambitious project. **For those dogs already swabbed for this project please remember to complete the health update surveys annually.** In addition, for anyone who has experienced bone cancer in their dogs in the past, whether the dog was swabbed or not, there is a **Treatment Survey** to determine which treatments are offered by primary care vets and which are most successful. There are also two further surveys, one for wolfhound owners who have decided to amputate for reasons other than osteosarcoma and also owners who have never experienced either amputation or osteosarcoma.

Survey 1 – please complete this survey if you have experience of amputation in your wolfhound but it was for a reason other than bone cancer: <http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/IW-amputation>

Survey 2 – Please complete this survey if you have never experienced either bone cancer/osteosarcoma or amputation in your wolfhound: http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/canine_amputation1

Whilst it is hoped that no wolfhound ever suffers from bone cancer again, if your dog is swabbed and gets a confirmed diagnosis of bone cancer, please get in touch with Mark to see how you can help. This is a large project with many angles and full details can be found on the webpage: <http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/nottingham-university.html>

- 2) **Nottingham University Heart disease research** – Prof Malcolm Cobb and Dr Serena Brownlie-Sykes. By taking part in the **IWHG Regional Heart Testing Scheme** you are contributing to this ongoing project, possibly the longest running veterinary research project ever! The results of your wolfhound's heart test are recorded in the database and used by the team at Nottingham University to unravel the specifics of wolfhound heart disease. To book a slot and contribute to this valuable research whilst also looking after your own dog's heart please find a session closest to you and get in touch with Anne Vaudin: <http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/dates-and-locations-.html>
- 3) **Nottingham University Pneumonia research** – Dr Angela Bodey and Dr Mark Dunning. If your wolfhound has ever experienced pneumonia or any other type of respiratory disease or any type of nasal disease (snotty nose) we are collecting case studies so that our researchers may evaluate the most effective treatments and devise a recommended treatment protocol. Please see all details and fill out the survey on the webpage here: <http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/pneumonia.html>
- 4) **Animal Health Trust (AHT) – Give a Dog a Genome/Osteosarcoma** research – Dr Mike Starkey. Thanks to your support and donations, the IWHG have been able to fund participation in the ambitious Give a Dog a Genome project, as well as funding the whole genome sequencing of 5 wolfhounds. This has allowed Mike and his team at AHT to study in depth the differences between affected and unaffected dogs' genomes, this has led to identifying several areas of the genome which may play a part in influencing the development of bone cancer in wolfhounds. An in depth report was published in the last newsletter and more details can be found here <http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/animal-health-trust.html> and here <http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/give-a-dog-a-genome.html>
- 5) **FCE research** – Irish Wolfhounds appear to suffer from a unique form of FCE, one which affects them in puppyhood, which is why this condition is also known as '**puppy paralysis**'. It is hoped that by studying the experience of wolfhounds affected by FCE, this research could determine what causes it and the most appropriate treatment for a favourable outcome. Ellen Kroll has written a comprehensive article about FCE which is available on our webpage. If your wolfhound has experienced any form of puppy paralysis or FCE please fill out the survey. <http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/puppy-paralysis.html>
- 6) **University of Utrecht Liver Shunt project** – Dr Frank van Steenbeek. Dr Steenbeek started his research project into liver shunt in Irish Wolfhounds as a PhD student studying for his doctorate. Since gaining his doctorate he is continuing to investigate the causes of liver shunt in wolfhounds. He is still collecting DNA samples from affected dogs and their parents – if you can help his research by providing a sample then please do so. Details of how to help are here: <http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/liver-shunt-1.html>



- 7) **AHT DNA Repository Scheme** – Emma Hales. The DNA blood storage program is still available at the AHT. The easiest way to provide samples for this is for a breeder to collect an extra 1ml of blood from each puppy at liver shunt testing time. Thereafter each new owner should be informed to update the AHT with any health issues the puppy may encounter throughout its life. Full details, sample submission forms and health status updates forms can be found at the webpage; <http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/dna-storage-programme.html>
- 8) **Nottingham University Atrial Fibrillation and blood clots in giant breed dogs** – Lowri Heseltine. This research is looking at the effects and outcomes of atrial fibrillation in giant breed dogs, and in particular whether there is an increased likelihood of suffering a blood clot event associated with a diagnosis of AF. If you have or had an Irish Wolfhound with a confirmed diagnosis of AF please fill out the survey here; <http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/nottingham-university-1.html>
- 9) **IWHG Liver shunt/ Epilepsy and PRA reporting survey** – Dr Maura Lyons. This is a simple form to record incidences of Liver shunt, Epilepsy and PRA. This enables the IWHG to monitor the prevalence of these diseases within the IW population. If you have experienced these conditions in your wolfhound, please fill out the survey with your experiences. <http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/health-survey.html>
- 10) **IWHG Dentition survey** – Mrs Caroline Sheppard. Caroline has been collecting examples of jaw growth in wolfhound puppies in order to provide evidence concerning the eventual alignment of teeth in the adult wolfhound. The IW is on the KC Breed Watch list for instances of misaligned canines, the IWHG feel that if this is seen in a growing puppy there is every chance the condition could correct itself – either if left or with some targeted therapy. If you have experienced puppies with teeth issues, please contact Caroline to share your experiences. <http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/about-the-study.html>
- 11) **IWHG Veteran survey** – Mrs Caroline Sheppard. The IWHG would like to hear about your veteran wolfhounds. If you have a wolfhound who has lived to over 7 years then please fill out the questionnaire. It includes details about lifestyle and environment in order to see if there is a correlation between any of these factors and longevity in wolfhounds. You can find the details and a link to the survey on the webpage: <http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/veteran-study.html>
- 12) **Nottingham University Bloat Incidence Survey** – Matthew Keane. Study investigating the factors influencing bloating and the development and outcome of GDV in Irish Wolfhounds in the UK. This project is based on owner reported incidences of bloat and GDV in their wolfhounds and comparison to dogs unaffected by bloating. Please complete the survey here: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/IWH_GDV_Survey?fbclid=IwAR1o8XkAENiM0iwojG52EAnF41StixCY7CSS20P5kv0TKhyDbx4SHXPRneM
- 13) **Megaesophagus (ME) In Puppies** - Although it is not believed that this condition is particularly common in the breed in comparison to other issues which affect our puppies i.e. Livershunt and FCE, there is sufficient interest to have generated an opportunity for research with **Professor Jared Jaffrey at Midwestern University College of Veterinary Medicine**. It would be appreciated if anyone who has experienced ME in a puppy could contact Prof. Jaffrey and provide details in order that an indication of frequency might be obtained. If anyone has an affected puppy being managed by diet, and would be prepared to submit a blood sample for the ongoing genetic research, again please contact Prof Jaffrey and he will send instructions to your vet regarding preparation of the sample. Contact details are: Jared Jaffrey DVM, MS, DACVIM (SAIM), Assistant Professor, Midwestern University College of Veterinary Medicine. Email : jjaffe@midwestern.edu

THANK YOU!

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