



GROUP II: HOUNDS

IRISH WOLFHOUND

RECOGNIZED: 1889

Effective: May 2001

The breed standard outlines the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed, and ensures that a dog can carry out its original purpose. Breeders and judges should be mindful to prioritize dogs that are healthy and sound in both mind and body.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Of great size and commanding appearance, the Irish Wolfhound is remarkable in combining power and swiftness with keen sight.

The largest and tallest of the galloping hounds, in general type, he is a rough-coated, Greyhound-like breed; very muscular, strong, though gracefully built; movements easy and active; head and neck carried high; the tail carried with an upward sweep with a slight curve towards the extremity.

SIZE

The minimum height and weight of dogs should be 81.25 cm (32 in) and 54.5 kg (120 lb); bitches, 76.25 cm (30 in) and 47.5 kg (105 lb). These to apply only to hounds over 18 months of age. Anything below this should be debarred from competition. Great size, including height at shoulder and proportionate length of body, is the desideratum to be aimed at, and it is desired to firmly establish a race that shall average from 81.25 to 86.25 cm (32 to 34 in) in dogs, showing the requisite power, activity, courage and symmetry.

COAT

Hair rough and hard on body, legs and head; especially wiry and long over eyes and underjaw.

COLOUR

The recognized colours are grey, brindle, red, black, pure white, fawn or any other colour that appears in the Deerhound.

HEAD

Long, the frontal bones of the forehead very slightly raised and very little indentation between the eyes. **Skull** not too broad. **Muzzle** long and moderately pointed. **Ears** small and Greyhound-like in carriage.

NECK

Rather long, very strong and muscular, well arched, without dewlap or loose skin about the throat.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders muscular, giving breadth of chest, set sloping. **Elbows** well under, neither turned inwards nor outwards. **Forearm** muscular, and the whole leg strong and quite straight.

BODY

Back rather long than short. **Chest** very deep. Breast wide. **Loins** arched. Belly well drawn up.

HINDQUARTERS

Muscular **thighs** and second thigh long and strong, as in the Greyhound, and **hocks** well let down and turning neither in nor out. **Feet** moderately large and round, neither turned inwards nor outwards. Toes well arched and closed. Nails very strong and curved.

TAIL

Long and slightly curved, of moderate thickness, and well covered with hair.

FAULTS

Any departure from the aforementioned ideals shall be considered faulty to the degree in which it interferes with the health and well-being of the dog and the breed's traditional purpose.

- Too light or heavy a head, too highly arched frontal bone
- Large ears and hanging flat to the face
- Short neck
- Full dewlap
- Too narrow or too broad a chest
- Sunken or hollow or quite straight back
- Bent forelegs
- Over bent fetlocks
- Twisted feet, spreading toes
- Too curly a tail
- Weak hindquarters and a general want of muscle
- Too short in body
- Lips or nose liver-coloured or lacking pigmentation

List of Points in Order of Merit

- 1) Typical: The Irish Wolfhound is a rough-coated, Greyhound-like breed, the tallest of the coursing hounds and remarkable in combining power and swiftness
- 2) Great size and commanding appearance
- 3) Movement: Easy and active
- 4) Head: Long and level, carried high
- 5) Forelegs: Heavily boned, quite straight; elbows well set under
- 6) Thighs: Long and muscular, second thighs well muscled, stifles nicely bent
- 7) Coat: Rough and hard, especially wiry and long over the eyes and under jaw
- 8) Body: Long, well ribbed up, with ribs well sprung, and great breadth across hips
- 9) Loins: Arched, belly well drawn up
- 10) Ears: Small, with Greyhound-like carriage
- 11) Feet: Moderately large and round; toes, close, well arched
- 12) Neck: Long, well arched and very strong
- 13) Chest: Very deep, moderately broad
- 14) Shoulders: Muscular, set sloping
- 15) Tail: Long and slightly curved
- 16) Eyes: Dark

Note: The above in no way alters the "Standard of Excellence" that must, in all cases, be rigidly adhered to; they simply give the various points in order of merit. If, in any case, they appear at variance with Standard of Excellence, it is the latter that is correct.