



Irish Wolfhound Health Group

Guide to Buying an Irish Wolfhound Puppy

Buying an Irish Wolfhound puppy is a long term commitment. It is important to take your time to research thoroughly before making a decision which will affect your life for years to come. This guide will highlight the important aspects to be aware of when you are considering introducing this significant addition into your family.

This guide has been put together to help you find your way to a reputable breeder. It is important that you take great care when choosing your breeder. It is the most important decision you will make – much more important than choosing the individual pup.

There are a number of websites offering Irish Wolfhounds for sale. Some of them look wonderful and state all the right things. Be careful, things are not always what they appear to be, and behind many of these websites are commercial and volume breeders. Avoid buying from free advert websites such as Gumtree, Preloved or Pets4Homes, or from adverts in local newspapers. Responding to these adverts runs the risk of buying from puppy farms, or falling foul of scams, where you pay your money, but there are no puppies available.

Many Irish Wolfhound breeders do not advertise. Responsible breeders breed to maintain their lines and often have a waiting list for their pups. However, as the size of litters is unpredictable, they may sometimes have puppies available. These breeders are very selective about who they will trust with their pups and will often ask a wide range of questions of prospective buyers.

The best place to start your search is to contact one of the Breed Clubs. They will give you good, impartial advice to help you find a conscientious breeder. It doesn't matter if you are a member of the breed club or not, or whether you are looking for a show dog or a pet. You can also contact any member of the IWHG and we will try and answer your questions and offer you advice to find the right breeder for you.



Irish Wolfhound Club

<http://www.irishwolfhoundclub.org.uk>

Irish Wolfhound Society

<http://www.irishwolfhoundsociety.com>

Irish Wolfhound Club of Scotland

www.irishwolfhoundclubofscotland.co.uk

Irish Wolfhound Club of Northern Ireland

<http://iwcni.co.uk>

Irish Wolfhound Puppies

<http://www.irishwolfhoundpuppies.co.uk/>

Information and Advice for the Prospective Buyer

- **Do** visit breeders in order to meet them personally and to view the premises where the puppy was born. Reputable breeders will not be prepared to sell puppies without meeting prospective buyers.
- **Do** check when viewing a young litter that it is acceptable to bring children and/or the extended family
- **Do** confirm that two of the important health checks for Irish Wolfhounds have been carried out (both are required in the Code of Ethics of the four UK Irish Wolfhound clubs), namely that -
 - the parents of the puppy have been heart tested prior to breeding and within the last year, in accordance with the IW Health Group heart testing scheme (www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/about-the-scheme.html)
 - the puppy has been tested clear of Portosystemic Shunt (www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/liver-shunt.html)
- **Do not** expect the breeder to let you have your new pup until it is at least 9 or 10 weeks' old
- **Expect** to be able to see the puppy's mother, other than in exceptional circumstances
- **Expect** to be provided with the following before leaving with your puppy –
 - a written receipt for the puppy. Carefully read and understand any conditions imposed by the breeder. The breeder may require a contract to be agreed and signed. The puppy's registration papers may be endorsed to prevent breeding
 - the veterinary certified vaccination record of the puppy
 - copies of the heart certificates of parents and liver shunt results of the puppy, both of which tests should be clear
 - a current diet sheet (and preferably also a few days' supply of their current dog food)
 - registration papers, should your puppy be registered with the Kennel Club (London), Irish Kennel Club (IKC) or any overseas national registration body
 - a certificate of health insurance to cover the first few weeks with the new owner
 - written information regarding requirements and caveats specific to Irish Wolfhounds, concerning exercise, kennelling and nutrition through puppyhood to adulthood

Sample Questions for the Prospective Puppy Buyer to ask the Breeder



How long have you been an Irish Wolfhound owner?
How long have you been breeding Irish Wolfhounds?
How many litters do you typically have each year?
Which breed club(s) do you belong to?
Do you show your Irish Wolfhounds, and what successes have you had in showing?
Will you be showing any of this litter?
Do you own the sire of the litter?
How many of these puppies will you be keeping yourself?
What are the positive and the negative traits of Irish Wolfhounds?
What health problems does the breed suffer?
What is their average life expectancy?
What should we do if we ever need to re-home a dog we have bought from you?
How much grooming do they need?
What endorsements, if any, do you put on the puppy's KC/IKC papers?
How much exercise do your hounds get and how much will my puppy need?

Likely Questions the Breeder may ask you

Have you had an Irish Wolfhound before?
Why do you want an Irish Wolfhound?
Are you out at work all day?
How long will the hound be left alone daily?
Do you live in the town, or country?
What other dogs do you have, if any?
If you have children, how old are they?
Do you have a well fenced garden?
Do you have regular access to an open area suitable for your Irish Wolfhound to run free and gallop?
Do you intend to show your Irish Wolfhound?
Do you intend to breed from your Irish Wolfhound?

Finally

By the time you have read this and exchanged some of the above questions with the breeder, you should have come away, hopefully, not just with your puppy, but also with an enhanced understanding of the requirements and responsibilities of ownership of our wonderful breed. The breeder will be there for any help that you may need in the future. You may also wish to become a member of one of the breed clubs, thus connecting you to the wider Irish Wolfhound community.



Website

<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/home.html>



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/IWhealthgroup/>