



Spring

2020

Newsletter



Welcome

Welcome to the Spring edition of the newsletter.

So much has happened since our last edition, who could have imagined what we would all have to face this year. The Coronavirus pandemic has been a new experience for us all and its impact wide ranging on all aspects of our daily lives. We hope that everyone has so far managed to stay safe; that those who contracted the virus have recovered and that everybody's hounds have remained safe and healthy through this period, which as we write – is likely to continue for some time.

We have many people in our breed who are on the front line in some capacity, whether it is in the warehouses getting deliveries out to us, right through to those working in the NHS nursing patients. We all have reason to be so thankful to them all for the work they do.

One of the biggest impacts the lockdown has had for the Health Group is the cancellation of the IWHG regional heart testing sessions. As things stand at the present time, we can only review on a week by week basis whether a session can go ahead. So please keep an eye on the web page, where updates will be posted. This will obviously be a great concern for people planning to breed, or with hounds needing monitoring. We fully understand this and are aware that many plans have been postponed, due to the virus situation. Please be assured that as soon as we are able to schedule sessions, we will do so.

The news that the Animal Health Trust was in danger of folding, came as a great shock and we are waiting to see how that unfolds. There are hopes that there will be a rescue plan for it, as so much expertise and knowledge would be a tragic loss to everyone in the canine and of course, the equine world.

Angela Bodey who we all know from our heart testing scheme is also looking into pneumonia for us, so far she has collected a number of case studies and thank you everyone who has completed a survey, we would be very happy to receive a survey from anyone who has not done one so far.

For those who have already sent in a survey, Angela would be grateful for an update on how your hound is doing, could you please email the [Secretary](#), and she will pass on your information to Angela.

Other projects have also gone on hold, as research staff are furloughed or working from home. We hope by the Summer things will have eased a little and started to move forward again.

One of the things we can all do during lockdown is update our hounds' health records, if they are registered in any of the research projects. You can access these via the IWHG website links found [HERE](#)

The topic of interest in this issue of the newsletter, is a case of Juvenile Cellulitis (known as "puppy strangles").

It's not something we hear of commonly, but certainly something to be aware of. We hope you enjoy reading it.

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IWHG



Puppy Strangles – What is it

Puppy strangles is a condition affecting puppies between 1 and 6 months of age, thought to result from the immune system mistakenly attacking normal cells; it is not usually seen in adult dogs. The skin, especially on the face, becomes infected with deep sores. These sores can become so involved that they reach the lymph nodes of the neck. This neck area swells with hard knots under the jaw until it looks like the baby dog will strangle—hence the name. The condition is treatable with corticosteroids although must be done urgently as being left untreated the prognosis can be poor.

What are the symptoms of cellulitis?

- Sudden swelling of the face and muzzle.
- Development of raised bumps and pustules over the face, muzzle, and ears, these may rupture and crust over, resulting in heavy scabbing across the affected areas.
- Lesions may spread across the body if the condition is not treated promptly.
- Swelling under the dog’s jaw, the lymph nodes (located on either side of the neck, under the jaw) often become swollen and tender. As the disease progresses, these lymph nodes may rupture and drain.
- Fever.
- Poor appetite.
- Lethargy
- Loss of Appetite.
- Joint pain (less common)

An Owners Experience

Orla and her brother Oisín came into our lives early November 2019. They were three months old, very happy, healthy, and normal mischievous Irish Wolfhound puppies. They quickly settled in making our home their own.

The first sign I noticed that something was wrong with Orla was on January 2nd, 2020 when she was 4 months old. Her eyes were puffy and sticky, and the skin around them was pink. The glands under her chin were swollen. I made an appointment to visit my local vet. Examining Orla, he thought it might be blepharitis and recommended steroid drops and bathing her eyes which I have to say Orla quite enjoyed. I returned to the vet 4 days later as her eyes were not improving, and she had developed lesions on her muzzle and lips with some pustules, along with some alopecia over her eyes.



On this occasion the vet recommended antibiotics and oral steroids. We also discussed referral to a dermatologist if there was no improvement over the next week. In the meantime, I was in contact with Orla’s breeder to ask her advice and check if she had any knowledge of these symptoms occurring in the litter. The breeder was extremely supportive and helpful. She circulated photos I sent of Orla’s condition to colleagues and a dermatologist who suggested that it could be puppy strangles.

There had been no change in Orla’s eating and sleeping patterns she continued playing with her brother enjoying her walks and demanding lots of attention from all the family.

Unfortunately, her condition was worsening, with more glands under her neck swollen to the size of golf balls and increased lesions.



On the 13th January, the dermatologist carried out a thorough examination and took a detailed history about Orla. She diagnosed puppy strangles. She took scrapings to rule out any parasites or bacteria.

Treatment: Stop antibiotics and commence a three-week program of prednisolone.

- 20mg twice a day for 7 days
- 20mg once a day for 7 days
- 20mg every second day for 7 days

Orla quickly started to improve. When we returned to see the dermatologist on Feb 3rd. Her eyes and face were looking normal and her glands were no longer swollen. It was so lovely and a big relief to have her healthy again. We had to continue with 15mg of prednisolone every second day for one more week. The dermatologist informed me that puppy strangles is not common in Wolfhounds. She also advised that it should not re occur and the main issue to look out for as Orla gets older is pain in the long bones.

Orla continues to be a happy healthy well-loved puppy and continues to get up to lot of mischief and like all Irish Wolfhounds demands a lot of attention which we are happy to give.

Marie



With 2020 well underway it is sad to say that, like the vast majority of life, the Irish Wolfhound Heart Testing Scheme has been affected by the current pandemic that is Covid-19. At this point in time we are sadly unable to book ahead with dates and venues for sessions that have not been confirmed.

Those sessions that have been published on our website will need to be confirmed nearer the time as their running is solely dependent on the guidance from the Government, the BVA (British Veterinary Association) and the RCVS (Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons). This has not just affected our wonderful scheme but screening sessions across all breeds, as well as how veterinarians are able to continue practicing.

The main impact for us all is unnecessary travel restrictions, which sadly does apply to the running of our scheme. It is important that we are all helping to reduce the spread of Covid-19, hence the hard but right decision to halt all Heart Testing sessions at this stage.

We will continue to monitor the situation and follow government guidance; it is unlikely that we will be able to operate as per previous years. Social distancing measures will need to be upheld for the remainder of the year if not longer.

However, we are hopeful that we will be able to undertake a limited selection of sessions later in the year. At the time of writing, Veterinary practices are open for emergencies and life-threatening reasons.

Please do check in with your local veterinary practice as they will have their own policies in place with regards to opening. If you are worried about the heart health of your hound all veterinarians will be able to perform a stethoscope examination and an ECG, they will also be able to refer you to a specialist cardiologist local to you if required.

During this troubling time, I wish you all well and please stay home and stay safe.



DATES AND LOCATIONS

2020	REGION	LOCATION	*
<p>* Cardiologists AB - Angela Bodey SB - Serena Brownlie DF - Dave Fisher SM - Sheena Milne SR - Susan Roberts <i>NB the map locations given below are approximate.</i></p>			
Sunday, 15 March	South East	Milford, Surrey CANCELLED	SM
Saturday, 11 April	West Midlands	Great Witley, Worc CANCELLED	DF
Saturday, 25 April	Midlands	Nottingham University CANCELLED	AB
Saturday, 25 April	Wales	Bridgend CANCELLED	DF
Sunday, 3 May	Scotland West	Maybole, Ayrshire CANCELLED	SB
Sunday, 17 May	South East	Milford, Surrey CANCELLED	SM
Saturday, 20 June	Midlands	Nottingham University	AB
Sunday, 15 November	South West	Holsworthy, Devon	DF

How can you contribute to Health Research in Irish Wolfhounds?

Dr Maura Lyons, PdD, IWHG Research Co-ordinator

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

Nottingham University Osteosarcoma longitudinal project

– Dr Mark Dunning.

We have around 900 wolfhounds recruited for this study and currently NVS have said they don't need any further swabs. For those dogs already swabbed for this project please remember to complete the health update surveys annually.

<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/nottingham-university.html>

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

If your swabbed wolfhound gets a confirmed diagnosis of bone cancer –

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 link above.

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 dogs heart please find a session closest to you and get in touch with Anne Vaudin.

<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/dates-and-locations-.html>

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. We are very aware that wolfhounds are still dying of pneumonia, so please do all you can to help out, if you experience pneumonia with your wolfhound fill out the survey and let Angela know what treatment your dog received and what the outcome was.

Please see all details and fill out the survey on the webpage here;

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

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>

FCE research

– Mrs Caroline Sheppard.

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 and return it to <mailto:fce@iwhealthgroup.co.uk>.

<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/puppy-paralysis.html>

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>

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>

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>

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. goldswift.sighthounds@gmail.com
<http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/about-the-study.html>

IWHG Veteran survey

– Mrs Caroline Sheppard.

The IWHG would like to hear about your veteran wolfhounds. If you have a wolfhound that 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>

NVS 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

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 Jaffey at Midwestern University College of Veterinary Medicine. It would be appreciated if anyone who has experienced ME in a puppy could contact Prof. Jaffey 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 Jaffey and he will send instructions to your vet regarding preparation of the sample.

Contact details are Jared Jaffey DVM, MS, DACVIM (SAIM), Assistant Professor, Midwestern University College of Veterinary Medicine.
Email : jjaffe@midwestern.edu

Watch this space for details of a vaccination study involving Rottweilers, Deerhounds and Irish Wolfhounds. This was discussed at the Nottingham University Breeder Seminar Day in February 2019.

THANK YOU!

To stay in touch with everything health-wise:
Please sign up for notifications of announcements on our website here, <http://www.iwhealthgroup.co.uk/home.html>

Ongoing Surveys

[PNEUMONIA](#)

[PUPPY PARALYSIS - Fibrocartilaginous embolism \(FCE\)](#)

[BONE CANCER TREATMENT – \(Osteosarcoma\)](#)

[BLOAT - Gastric Dilatation/Volvulus \(GDV\)](#)

[DENTITION STUDY \(Breeder\)](#)

[DENTITION STUDY \(Owner\)](#)

[LIVER SHUNT, EPILEPSY, PROGRESSIVE RETINAL ATROPHY](#)

[VETERAN STUDY QUESTIONNAIRE \(Aged 7 Yrs + And Living\)](#)

[VETERAN STUDY QUESTIONNAIRE \(Aged 7 Yrs +, Last 20 Years\)](#)



Publications - All **Free** to Download

[Heart Testing Sessions Current Dates and Locations Available here](#)

[Heart Test Booking Form to book a session – click here](#)

[Guide to Buying an Irish Wolfhound Puppy](#)

[Down load the **FREE** Breed Guide](#)

[Livershunt Testing Forms](#)

[Guide to Neutering Your Hound](#)

[Find All Our Other Breed Health Guidelines Here](#)

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