

Dear Sirs

I write as Chairman of the Irish Wolfhound Society (UK) on behalf of the committee and our members, we are extremely concerned to learn that you as a body are allowing the registration of Irish Wolfhounds from parents whose pedigree is unknown, and it is possible that the sire may be a crossbreed.

The world is shrinking and the import and export of puppies is so much easier than in the past, I would suggest to you that breeders will be very reluctant to send pups to Australia which may then be used in a future breeding programme which includes any of these dogs of unknown parentage. This would also be the same scenario for the import or export of semen to be used in AI breeding programmes.

Wolfhound owners and breeders in the UK have been very diligent in ensuring that health issues are foremost in the care of our hounds so that only healthy stock is bred from. The importance of knowing the hounds full pedigree cannot be understated as it is a valuable tool in knowing what if any problems a particular line is carrying.

The owners of the Wolfhounds you have registered can have no knowledge of their breeding stock's background therefore I would suggest cannot in all honesty use those animals in a breeding programme. If these dogs remain on a register then they and any offspring should be endorsed "Not to be bred from" and no further progeny should be registered.

We would ask you to consider very carefully the future of pure bred Irish Wolfhounds in Australia, please do not dismiss lightly the work of dedicated owners and breeders over the last 150 years.

Elizabeth Murray

[sent 31 July 2012 to Dogs Victoria and the ANKC]