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Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 9:33 PM  
Subject: Irish Wolfhounds - registrations and pedigrees

Gentlemen,

I have recently been made aware of an issue in pedigree and registration of Irish Wolfhounds by Dogs Vic. I have been advised that this organization has, and may continue to allow for unregistered hounds to be recorded in a pedigree by leaving sections of the pedigree blank.

Having been involved in the Irish Wolfhound breed for nearly 35 years, I have bred and owned over 85 Champion Irish Wolfhounds, and am a licensed judge, approved by the Canadian Kennel Club to judge 4 groups. I have travelled extensively on judging assignments ( including many FCI countries in Europe, and have judged in Australia and New Zealand). I have also exported a wolfhound to Australia ( Adelaide ). I am shocked that any reputable registry body would allow a pedigree to have blanks, or sanction a registration if the sire or dam were not registered! In this day and age, where we have so many tools at our disposable to verify parentage, it is impossible to justify a "blank" on a pedigree. Dedicated breeders and owners rely on the credibility of pedigrees in their breeding program. It is essential to maintain the honesty of a recorded pedigree by any registry or controlling body associated with dogs. Breeders spend hours deliberating over matings, researching pedigrees, reviewing photographs and known material about the dogs they are considering incorporating into their breeding program. Allowing a "blank" in the pedigree is ridiculous and a slap in the face to committed breeders and guardians of our breed.

If someone has falsified the sire or dam of a litter, then they as the breeders or stud owners must face the consequences of their actions. While it is unfortunate for those individuals who may have purchased hounds or descendants from such a litter; they should be advised to seek compensation and take recourse with the "breeders" or sire owners. Why should a community of dedicated purebred dog breeders be subjected to deliberate inaccuracies in pedigree because of unscrupulous behaviour on the part of one or two other "breeders" ( and I use this term loosely, as true breeders would never falsify their records).

Even more upsetting is the recent information I've received that in fact a dog who sired one of the "irish wolfhound" litters in question, might have been a cross breed, and not a purebred Irish Wolfhound! How can the DogsVic or the ANKC sanction this? Now that there is some question regarding the actual sire of a litter, regardless of who did the matings, none of the progeny should be registrable unless there is DNA proof of parentage. To do otherwise runs totally contrary to the aim of protecting and promoting breed purity and improving on the gene pool. Research conducted on a falsified pedigree is a waste of time; to even attempt it on a pedigree that has blanks in it is inconceivable.

This impacts not only on the maintenance of the "purebred" dog, but will certainly have impact on the health and longevity issues that may arise down the line from dogs that have descended from unknown parentage. These hounds should not be allowed to perpetuate questionable parentage. The practice of allowing blanks may serve to assist the promotion of a "new" breed; but the Irish wolfhound is not a new breed. It is a well established breed of dog for well over a century, and as someone who has invested considerable time, energy and money into producing quality Irish Wolfhounds I urge you to reconsider your position of allowing the registration of any dogs that have doubtful parentage and to insist on full pedigree disclosure ( no blanks).

If I thought that my bloodline might be mingled and tainted with one where there are blanks in the pedigree, you can be assured that I would not send any semen or additional hounds to Australia. Nor would I recommend the importation of any hounds from Australia if the pedigrees are unreliable.

Please do the right thing for the sport of purebred dogs, and support the efforts of committed breeders who strive to improve their breed, by registering only litters where parentage is verified, and insist that there are no blanks on a dog pedigree.

Thank you for considering my comments in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

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