

***Our Dogs (UK)***  
**Irish Wolfhound Breed Notes**  
(March 22, 2013)

[Article has been edited to remove topics not relevant to the improper registrations issue.]

Back now to what people probably think is my pet hobby horse but this is something which cannot be left in the hope that it will all go away. It won't.

The following excerpts from various correspondence and sources are in regard to the ongoing situation in Australia where the Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC) has permitted a State pure breed dog registry, Dogs Victoria, to ignore regulations and retain the registrations of litters and descendants where DNA Profiling has shown the sire was not the Champion dog shown on the original litter registrations but was instead an unregistrable secondhand dog of unknown ancestry. Dogs Victoria has inserted a blank in the pedigrees in place of the unregistrable sire.

The comments represent the strong feelings in the worldwide Irish Wolfhound breed community over this issue and, as I'm writing this on St. Patrick's Day, seem very germane.

*"Breeding pure bred dogs and the related 'sport' of showing dogs is under fire from so many quarters it is difficult for Irish Wolfhound breeders and Clubs worldwide to understand how the governing bodies in Australia would choose not uphold their regulations. This apparent disregard for enforcement is at a time when other sporting bodies worldwide are taking the opposite approach - they are strengthening their compliance procedures while making investigation and disciplinary proceedings more transparent."*

"The core of the current issue is about the identity of the individual sire and his ancestors. It is not about whether a few of the descendants can win show awards. Breeders need to know who the individual dogs are behind proposed matings in order to make the best decisions for the breed. What happens as these dogs with incomplete pedigrees continue to be bred back into the main breed population and the unknown ancestors are doubled and tripled on in the future? What happens if a serious recessive-mode health problem becomes evident only after the unknown heritage is widespread in the breed? The concerns of the Irish Wolfhound breed community are genuine."

*"This is not a situation involving a rare breed or a breed with a development register. This is not an imported dog where blanks may have been permitted by an overseas registry for reasons valid in that country. This is not a situation where a breed community might petition a registry to allow an outcross registration for the expansion of the gene pool. This is also not a situation where a blank represents uncertainty about which registered dog was the real sire of a litter - in this case it is known the real sire (as proven by DNA Profiling) was an unregistrable dog of unknown ancestry."*

"It is accurate to say that every major Irish Wolfhound breed Club in the world and the vast majority of Irish Wolfhound breeders in Australia (excepting those who own the descendants of the bitches in contention) are opposed to the continued registration of dogs descended from an unregistrable parent with unknown ancestry. As long as a sire with known registered parentage remains unidentified, those pedigree 'blanks' represent significant potential for harm to the Irish Wolfhound breed with respect to health and breed reputation."

*"We don't register litters when the dog down the street jumps the fence; why are they allowing these litters to stay on the registry in Australia?"*

"This incident certainly raises questions about what other breaches of regulations and rules may have regularly been 'overlooked' or even sanctioned during *in camera* discussions. We are now being asked by overseas breeders in other breeds if any ANKC registration is worth the paper it is printed on. This has an effect on the reputation of the entire dog fancy in Australia."

The above quotes demonstrate the strength of feeling this situation has caused. At last people in other breeds have woken up to the fact that it may be Wolfhounds today but tomorrow it could be their breed and are signing the petition. Don't forget that it may be Australia today but could be here - or anywhere else - tomorrow.

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