

Subject: Correspondence to the Governing Council of The Canine Association of Western Australia (Inc.)

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To: Mr Peter Primrose <peter.primrose@bigpond.com>, Ms Pamela Campbell <pcampbell@iinet.net.au>, Mrs Anne Howell <pudelian@bigpond.com>, Mr Des Kehoe <vansitar@hotmail.com>, Mr David May <sennen_d@bigpond.net.au>, Mrs Marion Watson <marion@sligrachan.com>, Mrs Delia Wells <diomede@oceanbroadband.net>, Mrs Ann Rushby <mornoble@amnet.net.au>, Mr Darryl Barker <toorork.deborah@optusnet.com.au>, Mrs Anna Courtman <courtsum@bigpond.com>, Mr W Ben Era <wouterera@gmail.com>, Mrs Joanne Sewell <regencyblue@westnet.com.au>, Mr Phillipe Puklowski <lejazshot1962@bigpond.com>, Mrs Glenise McClure <blackboykennels@bigpond.com>

Dear CAWA Governing Council Members,

As a member of the Canine Association of WA and an Irish Wolfhound owner and Breeder, I am writing you to inquire about CAWA's position on the issue of dogs improperly registered by Dogs Victoria as pure bred Irish Wolfhounds on the ANKC pure bred dog registry. I am also asking for CAWA to notify the ANKC that you are withdrawing your support of Dogs Victoria and to insist that the ANKC registrations of all of the dogs be cancelled.

In late October I was disappointed, along with the vast majority of Irish Wolfhound breeders in Australia, to learn that representatives voted at the October ANKC meeting to allow Dogs Victoria to retain registrations for improperly registered litters and their descendants and to replace the originally stated sire (Ch Ornumflow Lord Erikson) with either a 'blank', the word 'Unknown' or something similar.

In the lead up to the October meeting, a number of submissions were made to Dogs Victoria by breeders, DogsVIC members and several influential breed Clubs around the world. Also, the NSW and South Australia Irish Wolfhound breed Clubs felt they had secured the absolute support of their governing bodies. As the actions of Dogs Victoria were in blatant disregard of Rules & Regulations surrounding the registration of litters and pure bred dogs, many of us unfortunately presumed the canine controlling body representatives would make the obvious 'right choice' and protect the integrity of the pedigree registry. We were wrong and as the discussion was *in camera* we can't be sure how Dogs Victoria convinced you to jeopardise the future of the Irish Wolfhound breed... the breed in which we have invested so much time, money and love.

However, the ANKC *in camera* discussion is past and, looking forward, what needs to be done now is to inform you as a member of the Governing Council as to why CAWA must withdraw its support for Dogs Victoria over this issue and insist that ANKC registrations for the litters and all descendants be cancelled immediately.

Unlike several more cynical people in dog fancy, I am not ready to decide the ANKC decision came about because the Irish Wolfhound wasn't 'your breed' or 'the breed' of anyone participating in the ANKC meeting. I rather think it is, as asserted in the attached Dog News Australia advertisement, because the representatives participating in the ANKC vote did not have all the facts, excepting the Dogs Victoria representatives, and perhaps they were not given adequate time to consider all pertinent information.

After all, this is NOT just about Irish Wolfhounds. As the accuracy of Australian pedigrees is called into question in the face of such blatant disregard for the basic concept of 'pure bred dog breeding', it devalues every Australian kennel regardless of the breed.

As such, I have attached a copy of the information presented in Dog News Australia should anyone not have had the opportunity to see the articles as it could form the basis of your discussion as a Governing Council. In reading the advertisement you may begin to understand how serious the international Irish Wolfhound community feels about this issue. Here in Australia we have been attempting to have Dogs Victoria 'do the right thing' ever since a formal complaint was filed about five years ago. While a few have spearheaded the effort, nearly every Irish Wolfhound breeder has been following and supporting their efforts. We have never and will not 'give up' on this situation and that is why it was decided we had to take the extraordinary step of

taking out a paid advertisement to provide the facts that clearly were not available when the decision was made to allow Dogs Victoria to proceed as they wished.

As you read the information, I think it important to note that the list of supporters gathered over an extremely short time frame includes breeders and owners from around the world as well as:

The Irish Wolfhound Club of NSW

The Irish Wolfhound Club of South Australia

The Irish Wolfhound Club of Ireland [the breed's *Country of Origin*]

The Irish Wolfhound Club (UK)

Irish Wolfhound Society (UK)

Federation of European Irish Wolfhound Clubs (EIWC)

The Irish Wolfhound Club Inc of New Zealand

Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada

Irish Wolfhound Club of Scotland

Northern California IW Club, USA

Great Lakes Irish Wolfhound Association, USA

and many members of the Board of the Irish Wolfhound Club of America (Unfortunately, time constraints and the long Thanksgiving weekend just prior to the publication deadline prevented the IWCA from being listed as 'a Club').

I also understand that the number of supporters both within and without the Irish Wolfhound breed has continued to grow daily since the articles were published. This pedigree integrity issue is considered to be of utmost importance by many many people and breed Clubs.

From the 'home page' for Dogs West:

"The main purpose of the Association is **to promote sound breeding and the protection of pure bred dogs. To this end there are many regulations concerning the breeding and registration of puppies**. Many competitions are held to give breeders the chance to have qualified people pass opinion on their dogs and thus assist them to maintain sound, quality stock.

"The responsibility of breeding good quality dogs that are sound in mind and body is one that breeders take very seriously. Many hours are spent, reviewing pedigrees and assessing dogs before decisions are made for matings, and then over selection of puppies for breeding. The Association has the role of controlling the breeding of puppies by promoting a Code of Ethics and putting other checks in place."

As you noted, responsible breeders *do* spend countless hours pouring over pedigrees and evaluating potential matings - making contacts worldwide to learn about health and temperament issues as well as the phenotype of dogs given in pedigrees. I don't need to tell a good breeder that just one missing grandparent means there are 65 dogs within 7 generations that we now know NOTHING about. Understanding this, how can you possibly condone the Irish Wolfhound breed being harmed in this manner?

And phenotype is the LEAST of our concerns. The dog Murphy likely had some Irish Wolfhound 'blood'; I have seen his type in Perth shelters, on pig dog sites and on RSPCA or 'rescue' sites many times. People will swear to you there is a pure bred Irish Wolfhound in their shelter and breed rescue needs to get involved and then you have a wolfhound person go and visit and you find while the dog may have a bit of 'the look', it is a mature male dog the size of a female Irish Wolfhound. To a knowledgeable person, no way is it 'pure bred'. Having a bit of 'the look' doesn't make it a pure bred dog, and it sure doesn't tell you what else is 'in there' or what any combination will produce - now or down the line when someone inevitably doubles or triples it up.

So... the biggest question is exactly what HEALTH and TEMPERAMENT issues are Dogs Victoria introducing to the future of our breed? Leaving those registrations intact is surely not promoting sound breeding nor the protection and welfare of the Irish Wolfhound.

As a member of CAWA, I am also wondering why MY and YOUR Association is allowing Dogs Victoria to spread their potentially significant legal liability to the other canine controlling bodies? Picture this scenario: A few years from now, a big rough coated dog registered as a pure bred ANKC Irish Wolfhound badly mauls two children, killing one. During their investigation, the QC and legal team for the parents learn that even though the dog has ANKC 'papers' it has an extended pedigree with 'blanks' in it. Further investigation reveals that Dogs Victoria *knew* the supposedly 'unknown sire' was proven by DNA Profiling and Parentage Certification to be a dog named Murphy who was (a) unregistered, (b) not eligible for registration with the ANKC as he had unknown parents of uncertain breed heritage and (c) the owner had provided a statutory declaration that said once he had learned more about the breed he didn't believe his dog Murphy was a pure bred Irish Wolfhound. They then uncover that Murphy was purchased by a Mr. Rochford from a newspaper advertisement for \$300 and sold a few hours later for \$800 as a 'pure bred Irish Wolfhound' to a 'mate' (the above owner) who knew little about the breed but had recently come into ownership of a three-time rehomed veteran-aged champion bitch. The lawyers then also learn this dog Murphy sired several litters, some with bitches owned by unsuspecting breeders who had paid Mr. Rochford for stud service by another dog, a three-time rehomed seven year old infertile Champion Irish Wolfhound dog, Ch Ornumflow Lord Erikson, recently obtained by Mr. Rochford. The QC starts rubbing his hands together and counting the dollar signs when he considers that Dogs Victoria was given information and DNA proof in 2007 and 2008 that Murphy was the sire of the litters yet they did nothing about it other than embarking on a brief cycle of suspending and reinstating the registrations, later ignoring further persistent prodding from the breed community and interested dog fanciers. All the while, being long time dog breeders themselves, the persons at the top of Dogs Victoria certainly must have known that ignoring their own Rules & Regulations and mixing in that dog Murphy (who was unregistered, ineligible for registration with unknown parents and of uncertain breed heritage) meant introducing complete uncertainty regarding the breed characteristics that any unsuspecting puppy purchaser might rely upon after doing their due diligence when choosing a breed. It wouldn't even take a good lawyer to win that case!!! And the legal profession always looks for deep pockets and multiple defendants, so when the QC learns that Dogs Victoria was allowed to ignore their own Rules & Regulations and was supported in the decision by CAWA and the other state bodies, they would be adding all the Associations to the lawsuit. Bingo! Dogs Victoria has managed to spread its financial liability, placing the assets of all the other state bodies at risk in its quest to cover up what appears to be an error in judgement. Surely this potential financial liability risk to CAWA is something to consider?

On an even more basic level, we all know and accept that it is not permissible to register offspring from a pure bred Limited Register dog or bitch of any breed. And a Main Register or a Limited Register dog or bitch is acknowledged as 'pure bred' by the fact that BOTH of its parents are the same breed and BOTH of its parents are REGISTERED with one of the canine controlling bodies here or overseas. For the parents to have been registered, BOTH of *their* parents (the grandparents) also must have been registered, and so on. The only exceptions are for rare breeds with special breed development registers or breeds with quasi development status.

Given the above, surely CAWA can not countenance the ANKC registration of the Roughneen litters and the Gaelhound 2006 litter and their descendants when there is no doubt that the original litters in question do not even qualify for Limited registration, let alone to be on the Main Register?

Dogs Victoria should not be permitted to register litters out of unregistered dogs with unknown parentage and uncertain breed heritage. If the management of Dogs Victoria made an error and didn't act when they first had the DNA Profiling information to hand four years ago, then frankly that is their problem and they need to sort that out themselves. Don't they carry indemnity insurance for things like that? The breeders and owners of these bitches and progeny could also pursue the original breeder / stud dog owner for a financial settlement. That is a private matter. Allowing the registrations to stand and attempting to cover up their error by suggesting the sire is 'unknown' is a very public matter.

Why should the entire Irish Wolfhound BREED pay the price for an error made by Dogs Victoria?

Why should the entire pure bred dog fancy in Australia have their hard work and reputation devalued by an error of Dogs Victoria?

To allow Dogs Victoria to leave the registrations in place is completely opposed to the purpose for the Canine Association of Western Australia or any pure bred dog organization. It jeopardizes the future of the breed that I and many others love. It makes a mockery of the very significant monetary, time and emotional investment that breeders around Australia have made

- in importing stock from highly regarded kennels to maintain the strength and diversity of the breed in Australia,
- in participating in and funding genetic research to identify markers for health issues,
- in researching pedigrees with respect to known modes of inheritance to avoid health concerns while improving type,
- in removing from the gene pool any individuals of less than typical breed temperament as a giant dog with uncertain temperament is a real danger, and
- in tirelessly educating the public about this wonderful breed and what they can expect if they choose one as a companion.

As a member, I don't want CAWA to have any part in that deception and I ask that you withdraw your support for the ANKC decision, citing incomplete information available at the October meeting.

Please read the attached articles and the paid advertisement. Please contact me with any questions. I am more than willing, as are other Irish Wolfhound breeders and owners in Western Australia, to meet with you as a group or individually to discuss this further.

I look forward to your response and assistance to right this grave wrong.

Respectfully,
Amy Andre
Anmchara Irish Wolfhounds
Member 6100006033

— Attachments: —

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| Dog News Australia_November 2012 extracts.pdf | 1.8 MB |
| Dog News articles_June2012.pdf | 1.2 MB |