

THIS EMAIL WAS SENT TO DOGS VICTORIA, THE ANKC (VIA HUGH GENT) AND EVERY BOARD MEMBER OF THE OTHER STATE CANINE ORGANIZATIONS EXCEPT THOSE FEW WITHOUT AN EMAIL ADDRESS.

Subject: A Compromise Solution?

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To: Dogs Victoria <office@dogsvictoria.org.au>, "Mr Peter Frost (VIC)" <rosslare.frost@gmail.com>

Dear ANKC and State Governing Council members,

Regarding the current problem of Irish Wolfhound registrations improperly issued with incomplete pedigrees by Dogs Victoria, I respectfully submit the following as a possible compromise solution that should allow the pure bred registry in Australia to maintain a reputation for accurate quality information while protecting the Irish Wolfhound breed.

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 own 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 descendants can win show awards given by a breeder judge flown in from overseas to award these dogs and it is not about if they might be able to demonstrate the Irish Wolfhound is the best match as their predominant breed. 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 Parents are doubled and tripled on in the future? What happens if a serious 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 the majority of breeders in a breed community might petition the ANKC to allow the 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 unregistered dog of unknown parentage.

And 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 unregistered parent with unknown ancestors. 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.

While enforcing the regulations that apply to everyone else would require the complete removal of these bitches and all descendants, if the ANKC and Dogs Victoria wish to avoid deregistering the two bitches and their descendants (approximately 40+ dogs plus 3 more litters now 'on the ground' since the October meeting), what follows is a potential compromise solution. The solution would involve placing the 2 bitches and all of their descendants on a 'special development register' similar to the ANKC web site policy discussion related to 'out crossing'. There is no reason the same methodology could not be used to mitigate the Unknown Parentage issue. The Special Development Register could be implemented as follows:

- All Roughneen litters plus the Gaelhound (June 2006) litter and all descendants are removed from the Main Register and Limited Register.
- Out of those litters, only Roughneen Eve (November 2006) and Gaelhound Heather O'Riley (June 2006) and their descendants are moved to a 'Special Development Register - Irish Wolfhound'.
- Pedigrees are re-issued with the Sire for Roughneen Eve and Gaelhound Heather O'Riley showing

clearly as 'Murphy - unregistered dog - Ancestry Unknown'.

- All re-issued pedigrees to be prominently marked with the words 'Special Development Register' rather than Main Register or Limited Register.
- All the re-issued pedigrees to have the words 'Special Development Register - Irish Wolfhound' where the Breed would normally be given.
- Each future owner be required to sign a 'Special Development Register' agreement form that explains the requirements related to owning SDR-IW and that they understand and agree to these limitations and conditions. Conditions would include mandatory health reporting, general temperament & incident reporting, plus breeding restrictions as given below. The agreement would also specify that as there are unknown ancestors with unknown parentage, the owner acknowledges that the dog they are purchasing may or may not reliably exhibit all the characteristics of the Irish Wolfhound breed. This form will also be sent to all current owners of these dogs and offspring and failure to return a signed Agreement within 30 days of receipt of Agreement (or at the time of purchase for future puppies) will mean permanent removal from the Special Development Register. (As precedent, a similar requirement for an additional agreement form already exists in Western Australia for every Limited Register registration where the puppy purchaser must sign a special Limited Register Agreement.)
- Special Development Register Irish Wolfhounds are not permitted to be referred to as anything but 'Special Development Register Irish Wolfhounds' or 'SDR-IW'. Available adult dogs/bitches and litters/puppies are not to be advertised as 'Irish Wolfhounds' or 'pure bred' or 'without papers' (or similar). Any and all advertising (including Internet sites such as DogzOnline, facebook, Trading Post, etc) or reference to litters must include the words 'Special Development Register - Irish Wolfhound' to avoid any misunderstanding by potential puppy owners.
- Animals on the 'Special Development Register' are not to be bred back on an unrestricted basis into the general Main Register Irish Wolfhound population for *at least 10 generations* AFTER 'Generation 0' being Roughneen Eve and Gaelhound Heather O'Riley. Breeding restrictions would include:
 - No further 'off register' or 'cross breeding' or 'out crossing' permitted.
 - In keeping with accepted practice for giant breeds, no bitch to whelp a litter before 18 months of age. Failure to comply with this requirement will see the resulting progeny not placed on the 'Special Development' or any other Register; this will also invalidate that litter's progeny from being accepted on to any Register.
 - Written agreement between BOTH the original Breeder and ALL Owners of any Main Register dog planned to be used over a Special Development Register bitch must be filed with the State controlling body PRIOR TO any mating taking place. Failure to meet this requirement will mean offspring of any unapproved mating will not be placed on the 'Special Development Register' and this will also invalidate that litter's progeny from being accepted on to any Register. The required written agreement must indicate an understanding by all parties that the litter is eligible ONLY for listing on the Special Development Register. The requirement to include agreement by the Breeder of the Main Register stud dog is necessary as the Breeder may be aware of health issues that need to be avoided when considering any possible matings.
 - Written agreement between BOTH the original Breeder and ALL Owners of any Main Register bitch planned to be mated with a Special Development Register stud dog must be filed with the State controlling body PRIOR TO any mating taking place. Failure to meet this requirement will mean offspring of any unapproved mating will not be placed on the 'Special Development Register' and their offspring are also no longer eligible for registration of any kind. The agreement must indicate an understanding that the litter is eligible ONLY for listing on the Special Development Register. The requirement to include agreement by the Breeder of the Main Register bitch is necessary as the Breeder may be aware of health issues that need to be avoided when considering any possible matings.
- Special Development Register Irish Wolfhounds are not eligible for export.
- Health and temperament to be monitored and recorded with results available to all Irish Wolfhound Breed Clubs in Australia on request on an annual basis. This would simply require owners annually

to provide a health print out of all visit details from their veterinarian plus the details, if any, of any other incidents that might relate to temperament. All litters to be tested for portosystemic shunt with results provided. Any stillborn or other deaths prior to registration to be reported. Other specific testing requirements may be added if it appears that any disease/medical condition may be of an hereditary origin within the Special Development Register population.

- All puppies produced are to be included in the Special Development Register. To facilitate monitoring, all dogs and bitches moved or placed on to the Special Development Register are to be microchipped *and* DNA profiled with the tests being done in a manner consistent with generating 'Certified' results. The DNA Profiles and accompanying Parentage Certifications to be provided with the application for registration on the 'Special Development Register'.
- Special Development Register Irish Wolfhounds are eligible to compete in any activity permissible to Limited Registration dogs.
- Special Development Register Irish Wolfhounds may not participate in Conformation classes for Irish Wolfhounds. Individual Clubs may choose to institute separately judged classes for 'Special Development Register - Irish Wolfhounds'; however, participants in these classes will not be eligible for 'Group' and 'In Show' awards at either 'All Breed', 'Group Specialty (i.e. Hound Group shows) or Breed Specialty shows. The Irish Wolfhound breed standard is to be used as the basis for judging. A written explanation of the Special Development Register classes must be provided by the Club to any potential Judge; a Judge can decline to judge these classes without prejudice concerning the rest of their judging assignment. It would then be the Club's responsibility to arrange an alternate Judge for the SDR-IW classes should there be any entries.
- All other Rules & Regulations, Code of Ethics etc. to apply unless superseded by specific requirements of the Special Development Register arrangement as given above.
- Once/If the minimum 10 generations after 'Generation 0' (being Roughneen Eve and Gaelhound Heather O'Riley) have been bred, a committee comprised of 1 member from each of the Irish Wolfhound Clubs in Australia (at that time) plus 1 member from Dogs Victoria will determine if there is any valid reason (health and/or temperament) to maintain the Special Development Register or if the living breeding stock on the SDR should be moved to the Main Register and any living companion SDR dogs to the Limited Register.

As 2 or 3 generations have already been bred, it would mean in another 7 generations (about 10 years) these dogs could be merged back into the general breed population on the Main Register. With the inevitable (and for this purpose, essential) line breeding that would occur within the Special Development Register, that should be adequate time to determine if there is any reason not to allow the merger into the main gene pool for the breed.

Please understand I am not submitting this proposed solution on behalf of any group of people; it is my submission only. However, I believe this is a reasonable compromise solution as:

- This solution should satisfy Irish Wolfhound Clubs and breeders in Australia and worldwide who have spent time and financial resources in protecting and promoting the breed if the above restrictions and requirements are put in place. This alternative to strictly enforcing the regulation concerning deregistration when parentage is shown to be incorrect removes the unacceptable and unnecessary risk to the future health of the breed.
- The owners of the bitches and descendants will have a means to continue breeding and earning income from their current stock. Meanwhile, they will also have time to replace that stock with Main Register Irish Wolfhounds if they desire to do so. As they are currently perceived as being 'taken advantage of' by Mr. Rochford, someone in Australia or overseas will sell them good stock to start a new breeding program. However, any residual goodwill within the breed community is likely to rapidly diminish if they take action against the ANKC or Dogs Victoria to prevent the implementation of the Special Development Register.
- Dogs Victoria will not have to de-register the 60+ dogs (plus the 3 litters whelped and ready for registration since the October ANKC meeting!!); they simply move them to the Special Development Register.
- Implementing the Special Development Register does not interfere with any right the owners of

Roughneen Eve and Gaelhound Heather O'Riley may hold to pursue a civil action against Mr. Rochford for any damages they perceive they have suffered as a result of his original actions.

- Additionally, as all owners of SDR-IW will sign a release saying they understand the implications in owning one of these SDR-IW dogs, the ANKC and the State Member Bodies (having validated the Dogs Victoria treatment of these dogs at the October 2012 meeting) will no longer have the uncertainty of future liability issues for any temperament related incidents that involve these dogs and future offspring. They would also avoid future liability issues concerning what would be significant monetary damages incurred by all Irish Wolfhound breeders if any one of these dogs or their offspring are involved in any incidents that damage the reputation of the breed.
- The ANKC will be seen worldwide as putting the interest of a dog breed ahead of people and politics by 'doing the right thing' to maintain the integrity of the breed registry in Australia.
- The Special Development Register could also serve as a working 'model' for integrating outside genes into any breed in the registry where there may be a genuine need to do so in future.

I trust you will give this solution serious consideration as an alternative to the current strategy of maintaining the registrations simply to avoid potential liability for a series of administrative errors at Dogs Victoria.

While the possible compromise solution offered may not exactly be "the wisdom of Solomon", I do believe it protects the Irish Wolfhound breed, maintains the international reputation of all pure bred dog kennels in Australia, minimizes liability for the registry and is as fair to all concerned as is possible in a complex situation.

Respectfully,
Amy Andre
Anmchara (Irish Wolfhounds)
Western Australia