

regularly we can identify potential problems before they become serious.

There is a right way to clean the ear, as I learned a few years ago from a veterinary specialist. Make sure that your hound's head is facing straight forward, and pull the ear straight out to its full length. Then, using a cotton ball, gently move around inside the ear passage. An ear wash can be used first to help loosen dirt and debris. Many are on the market, and recipes for homemade versions are readily available. One treatment that Lisa Miller, of Kiarry American Foxhounds, has found helpful is a mixture of one part cider vinegar and one part rubbing alcohol. Sprayed into the hounds' ears on a regular basis, it goes a long way in keeping ear problems at bay.

Obviously, however, if the ear is red, inflamed, or emitting a foul odor, treatment is warranted.

**Treatment options.** Serious infections may require treatment with steroids and/or antibiotics, but a number of other treatments are available to try first. I received a lot of good advice from hound friends and colleagues, including a boric acid solution, which turned out to be one component in the treatment given to us by our vet. I've been told that it's also popular with horse people. There are also a number of prescription medications available from your veterinarian.

The bottom line on dealing with hound ears: regular maintenance, and prompt action when any symptom becomes apparent. —Julie Lux, Kearney, Mo.; [deluxeounds@optonline.net](mailto:deluxeounds@optonline.net) ♦



Greyhounds

### Evaluating Greyhound Puppies PART THREE

Assign someone the task of taking photographs of the puppies as they are stacked on the table. Puppies rarely stand still for more than a few seconds, so it is nice to have photos to confirm your evaluations. Take several photos of the show side, off side, front, and rear of each puppy. Good photos will reveal

both desirable and undesirable characteristics that you might miss when going over the puppy.

If a puppy is uncooperative on the table, you might not get a good shot, so it's important to take several photos of each side of each puppy. One person can shoot with a camcorder as the puppies are evaluated and photographed with the still camera. This can be useful in recording comments about each puppy, and on video you can often capture the puppy standing perfectly for that split-second between still-camera shots. Some breeders like to use a mirror when grading puppies so they can see how the puppies look when set up.

Try to be in an objective state of mind during this first evaluation. Focus on quality; don't listen to your heart. Forget how much you like the shy little girl who wants to curl up in your lap rather than play with her siblings. Suspend for a time your color preferences, and remember that color is immaterial in Greyhounds, although we all have our favorites.

Before standing the puppy on the table, hold him suspended a few inches over it with his legs and body completely relaxed. Sometimes you can get a better idea of structure if he is not struggling against being stacked.

Hold him gently but firmly by placing one hand between his rear legs, and the other under his jaw, as close to his neck as possible. Then place him on the table in a comfortable position. If the puppy will not stand still, lift him up again and lightly brush his feet on the tabletop a few times.

We want the puppies to have a good experience when being stacked and examined. If you are having great difficulty getting a puppy to stand without fidgeting, you might want to try a little bait, but be certain he is not too hungry or he will leap out of your hands trying to get to the food. If a puppy refuses to cooperate, put him back with his littermates and return to him later.

Once the puppy is relaxed on the table, look at his overall balance and proportions. Then examine the puppy following the evaluation form described in the August column, utilizing the breed standard as your guide. At 8 weeks of age he should resemble an adult Greyhound in a puppy's

body. Is he slightly longer than tall? You don't want a square puppy. Is he well balanced? Are his front and rear angulation comparable? Can you see S-curves? You don't want to see sharp angles.

**Head.** Start with the puppy's head. Keep in mind that the head of an 8-week-old is not going to be as long and elegant as that of an adult. Is it "wider between the ears with little or no stop"? Are the planes level?

**Eyes.** Are the eyes beginning to turn dark? If the puppy is a dilute, he may have lighter eyes; eyes do continue to darken for quite a while. The standard says the Greyhound's eyes should be "bright, intelligent, indicating spirit."

—Sue LeMieux, Middletown, Ohio;  
[sue@gaiagreyhound.com](mailto:sue@gaiagreyhound.com) ♦



Irish  
Wolfhounds

### Never Too Early PART ONE

It is often said that the pleasures one receives from a relationship are in direct proportion to what one brings to it, and this holds true for both dog and man. When out in public with a beautiful, well-adjusted Irish Wolfhound acting as an ambassador for the breed, I am struck by the number of people who want one "just like him" and yet have no idea how much time and effort have gone into the training and rearing of this wonderful creature.

It is never too early to start teaching a young puppy what is going to be acceptable behavior in his world. The time and care you spend gently guiding your Irish Wolfhound puppy in how to behave will be returned a hundredfold by your faithful companion.

It was in this vein that Phyllis Hudson, whose family's Brabyns Irish Wolfhounds were world famous, wrote an article on ring manners for the 1930 English club yearbook. Although too long in its entirety to include here, it is worth quoting in part, as follows in this and the next column.

"My husband and I have often been asked by both novice, prospective, and

even experienced exhibitors of our breed, 'How do you get your dogs to show so fearlessly?' I am hoping that these few hints from our own experience may be helpful to some who, perhaps, fail to realize how very important ring manners are, especially in such a large and conspicuous breed.

"There are some breeds of dogs which will show for anyone who has any experience and skill in handling, if a piece of liver, a ball, or squeaking toy are produced to attract its attention and make it strike the right attitude, regardless of strange surroundings. The Irish Wolfhound being a very highly intelligent and dignified breed, one seldom finds, except in the case of young and playful puppies, that they can be beguiled in this way.

"I think one of the essentials of success is sympathy between exhibitor and exhibit, and I am reminded of a few lines of a music-hall song of many years ago, which describe rather aptly the state of mind your exhibit should be in to act in unison with its handler:

*You're here and I'm here,*

*So what do we care?*

*Time and place do not count,*

*It's the one who is near.*

"In other words, as far as your hound is concerned, no one else in the show exists except you and he (or she). We suggest that the preparation for show should begin as soon as the hound comes into your possession, or as soon as you decide that you wish to show him.

"The Irish Wolfhound does not necessarily become principally attached to the hand that feeds him. Our experience has been quite the contrary. Two of my most devoted companions in this breed seldom had a meal from my hands, except when ill or as tiny pups. It is the one who takes him for the kind of walks he most enjoys that wins his heart, who plays with him and talks to him and teaches him to be obedient, and sympathizes with him when he is frightened, hurt, or upset in any way, who gains his devotion and, what is more important than all, his implicit trust and respect."

We will continue with more from Mrs. Hudson in the next column.

—Lois J. Thomasson, Salinas, Calif.; Fleetwind@aol.com ♦



Otterhounds

## Fun and Games

Otterhounds have proven to be a very versatile breed. I have boasted in the past about the success of our shaggy friends in the conformation ring, but with the variety of activities now open to dogs and their owners we find our Otterhounds are up to the challenge.

It has long been said that training an OHound for obedience not only takes a great deal of patience, but a large dose of ingenuity and determination as well. Jinny Addington, from Illinois, has bragging rights of having trained three Otterhounds that qualified with OHCA Hall of Fame status earning Utility Dog titles. The first two bitches then earned UDX titles, as well as one a TDX and the other a TD. Jinny is at it again, with Ch. Sonsies Call Me Isabel, UD, RA, TD. You can bet it isn't going to rest there, as "Izzy" is working on the UDX and already has a HIT score—and I bet there will be an X after that tracking title as well.

Rally has also piqued the interest of Otterhound owners. This sport's faster pace and upbeat attitude appeals to the hounds, keeping them attentive. Dian Sulek, of Nebraska, with her buddy Ch. Scentasia Qcumber Wall St. Wizard, CD, RE, TDX, can boast they are the breed's first Rally Excellent team.

Joellen Gregory, DVM, of Maryland, is currently leader of the pack when it comes to agility. Her late VOCH Ch. Scentasia Iron Man, VCD1, CD, RA, TDX, OA, AXJ, NAP, OJP, HOF, would attract crowds with his enthusiastic runs. Now Joellen, a glutton for competition, is running not one but *two* OHounds in agility and rally. The titles come faster than I can keep up with, but halfway through 2008 we have Scentasias I'm Ready, RN, TD, OA, OAJ, NAP, NJP, and Ch. Scentasias Double Q Quest, NA (with legs toward NF and OA).

Tracking is an activity where you would expect a scenthound to be a natural; all it takes is a motivated owner.

Kitty Sweeney, of Minnesota, hardly let her Ch. Sonsies Laird Moseley dry behind the ears before following him to a TD as soon as he was old enough for AKC competition, then added the TDX before the age of 1. A TDX title qualifies a dog for the OHCA Hall of Fame, and there are 10 who have done so.

Otterhounds are gregarious creatures. Given the charm of these shaggy, bearded canines, it's not surprising that they are ideal for visiting schools, nursing homes, and other facilities. Eibhlin Glennon, of Illinois, has two OHound brothers, Gus and Alvin, that are Delta Society Pet Partners certified therapy dogs. They also serve as Reading Education Assistance Dogs, and go to school twice a week and the library once a month to listen to children read. Other owners are interested in trying that activity now.

In the past there have been OHounds who served as certified Service Dogs. These companions of severely handicapped people received Delta Society recognition for their work.

A national dog publication recently honored top sires and dams of all hound breeds. Valerie and Mike Bayer's Ch. Scentasias Yorktown Patriot was top OH sire, with three titled offspring, while Ch. Sonsies Riverrun Amuck Sally, TD, owned by Beverly and Steve Krejsa and Eibhlin Glennon, won brood bitch honors for four offspring by two sires—all of which have titles at both ends, including two TDX titles and a UD! —Louise C. DeShon, St. Joseph, Mo.; follyhoun373@msn.com ♦



Petits Bassets  
Griffons  
Vendéens

## Common Sense

Standards, by design, are often general and leave room for interpretation. Breeder interpretation is why we have "kennel stamps"—those individual styles for which certain kennels are known. The early creators of standards were involved dog people, and to them some features were considered to be *given*; that is, *they need not be mentioned*.