

THE HOUNDS' BUGLE



Northern California Irish Wolfhound Club

July, August, September 2025

Northern California Irish Wolfhound Club

Officers

President Sue Williams

Vice President Jim Bouziane

Secretary Andy Peterson

Treasurer Wendy Jepson

Board of Directors

Ally Hicks, Junko Ishihara, Blake Matheson, Robin McInerny, Cindy Steele

Bugle Editor

Robin Burchett – 2213 Greenbrier St., Concord, CA 94520

Tory_iw@att.net

Web Site

NCIWC.org

Facebook

Lynne Rosebrock Carroyiws@sti.net

Rescue

Lynne Rosebrock

(209) 742-7387

Email: Carroyiws@sti.net

Filler Photos

Carol Gabriel, Cindy Steele, and the internet (with permission).

The Hounds' Bugle is a bi-monthly publication. To Submit articles, contact Robin Burchett for deadlines. Articles appearing in The Bugle are for the information and entertainment of our readers, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Club or any of its members,

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Welcome to the latest issue of the *Hounds' Bugle*. This issue is out a little late due to technology breaking down. Editor Robin Burchett's computer met its final demise last month. This "tragedy" is a perfect segue to my comments about our generous members. Some give of time, some give financially, and some give both. When Robin's computer broke, we had a member donate a new computer to her, and another donated the computer program in which to design the *Hounds' Bugle*. This, along with the tremendous amount of time and donations we received towards our specialty held in October, indicates members who are engaged and bighearted. The next Bugle will be our specialty issue, so I and the show chair, Lynne Rosebrock, will be giving our thanks specifically related to the specialty next time.

I would now like to speak directly to those members who don't show in conformation or are looking for alternative ways to get involved with the club. Especially those who have a companion Irish Wolfhound and haven't yet joined us. We would love to get to know you.

Have you ever thought of trying a sport called rally with your hound? Rally is similar to obedience but a little more forgiving to the handler and the hound. It's a great way to start and perhaps you will like it so much you would also like to try obedience. Or have you noticed that your wolfhounds have an exceptional prey drive/instinct? Come to one of our events with a "fun run". Puppies and adults can come and try out their interest in running these small, safe courses. Who knows, you might have a lure courser living with you. Nothing is more thrilling than watching the hounds running on the course. Or you may have one like my last puppy who turned around and ran back to me rather than engaging on the field! If so, there are still

ways to enjoy your hounds and meet others through club events. If you are interested in rally, obedience, Canine Good Citizen or lure coursing, you can contact Cindy Steele at cindyasteele@msn.com. Also follow along with all our events by going to our webpage at www.nciwc.org. And if you have an idea for an idea for an event that will entice you and your hounds to join us, please let me know.

I hope you will have a lovely Autumn. We are looking forward to sharing the Specialty Edition of the *Hounds Bugle* with you next time.

Sue Williams

President

Northern California Irish Wolfhound Club

Board Meeting

July 28, 2025; 6pm via Zoom

MINUTES

In attendance: Sue Williams, Andy Peterson, Carla Martinez, Wendy Jepson, Trini Zavala,, Blake Matheson, Robin Burchett, Junko Ishihara, Cindy Steele, Ally Hicks, Dick Jolly, Jim Bouziane, Robin McInerney, Lynne Rosebrock, Mary Sharkey, Frank Christian and Maria Grotano

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by President Sue Williams at 6:02pm
2. **Guests:** Mary & Frank Christian, Richard Jolly, Robin Burchett, Maria Theresa Guitano.
3. **Attendance:** Attendance was recorded.
4. **Minutes:** Last meeting was NCIWC's Annual General Membership ("AGM") meeting in which those Minutes will be approved at the next AGM in 2026.
5. **President's Report:** Sue Williams said she didn't have anything significant to report, but she would add her thoughts to the agenda items as needed.
6. **Secretary Report:** Andy Peterson reported the only correspondence received was from the AKC regarding Match and Performance event activities. Materials were forwarded to Lynne Rosebrock and Cindy Steele.
7. **Treasurer's report:** Wendy Jepson reported she is being trained on Quickbooks and will offer a more formal financial report at our next meeting. Wendy asked for policy clarification regarding various reimbursement requests she receives. Sue Williams explained the process and suggested if anything unusual comes up, call/text/ contact Sue for clarification.

8. Committee Reports

Performance Sports - Cindy Steele reported our all-breed lure coursing event is scheduled for February 25, 2026 through March 1, 2026 in Fairfield, California. Please add to our club calendar.

Legislation: - No Report.

Bugle - Robin Burchett reported the publication has grown to over 80 pages and the postage cost has significantly increased. We only mail 18 hard copies of the Bugle and we need to find a way to bring the cost down. Suggestions included additional fee for receiving a “hard” copy of the Bugle, increasing membership dues to everyone, reduce the pages of the publication, etc. Sue Williams and Ally Hicks volunteered to work with Robin to come up with recommendations to address these club expenses and report back at our next meeting.

Website :- Jim Bouziane reported that he, Ally Hicks, Sue Williams, Lori Finucane and Wendy Jepson are working to clean up our membership rolls. He further stated the content for the memorial page of the website as well as new photos and content from the membership, personal stories, articles, poems, cartoons, would be greatly appreciated.

Membership: – Discussion centered on overseas members paying their dues via Stripe. Junko and Ally will work out the process for Akiko and Yumiko Tatsuki’s membership. Questions also were answered about the process for purging unpaid memberships and later making corrections without going through the formal process of reapplication.

Specialty: – Lynne Rosebrock reported that **1)** the contract with the fairgrounds is still under negotiation and will have it finalized in the next few weeks. Concerns are regarding multi-year contracts may no longer be available, area for lure coursing is NOT available this year and we are not sure what the fairground policy will be in the future – we need to look for other venue options. Sycamore Lane was suggested as a possible alternative venue - it’s in Lodi, less costly and has catering available. **2)** Judges are confirmed. **3)** Premium List will be out the end of August and awaiting for information on Cardiology Clinic and trophies. **4)** Logo designed by

Margie Milne will be emailed to the Board by Lynne. **5)** Boutique items are ready to go once the logo is approved. **6)** Junko requested a budget for exhibitor bags. Cindy made a motion to allow a \$200 budget for exhibitor bags. Motion seconded by Wendy Jepson and unanimously approved.

Gathering of the Cu: – Blake Matheson has been in contact with Peter Brown of IAWWC regarding the Cu. Blake offered to host the event at his property in Monterey County as well as Chair the event. The Cu would again be scheduled the same weekend as NCIWC's January Beach Walk in Monterey. It was noted that at the last IAWWC meeting Blake was announced as the new Chair of the Cu☺

Spring Fun Match: – Set for April 18, 2026; Cindy will see if the site is available.

9. Old Business

- Finalize Judges for 2026 – 2027
- Annual operating policies were reviewed and the following changes were voted on and approved:
 - a. Motion was made that would allow NCIWC to rent its Ring equipment to other clubs with the following requirement:
 - a. An NCIWC member in good standing must be responsible for all equipment rented to the requesting club.
 - b. A deposit (to be determined) will be required and refunded when all equipment is returned to NCIWC in good order.
 - b. Motion was made that would remove the current ribbon policy and replace it allowing all performance event awards similar size ribbons as the conformation awards.

10. All Star Hound – Hiking Certificate: – Frank Christian explained the history of this Award and is reinstituting a hiking program through NCIWC. The current certificate program offers certificates at the 100 mile, 250 mile

and 500 mile levels for our wolfhounds. All mileages levels are cumulative. The details of this program will be available on the NCIWC website under the “Hiking” tab. Liability insurance coverage requirements (and/or riders) are being investigated if we should allow non-members to participate in this program. Other suggestions are to just increase the fee for the event to include a membership fee (temporary or otherwise to avoid the 2-sponsor requirements). Blake also suggested the use of a waiver of liability for each participant. Frank will continue to develop this program and work with Jim Bouziane regarding content for our website

Motion was made by Wendy Jepson to adjourn the meeting; motion was seconded by Ally Hicks; all approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.
NEXT MEETING: September 2025 – TBA

Andy Peterson

Northern California Irish Wolfhound Club

Board Meeting

September 17, 2025; 6pm via Zoom

MINUTES

In attendance: Sue Williams, Andy Peterson, Carla Martinez, Wendy Jepson, Blake Matheson, Junko Ishihara, Cindy Steele, Ally Hicks, Dick Jolly, Jim Bouziane, Robin McInerney, Lynne Rosebrock, Mary Sharkey, Frank Christian, Frank and Mary Mesa, Melinda Chaney, Jim and Patti Yed~~i~~nak.

10. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Vice President Jim Bouziane at 6:02pm (Sue Williams joined meeting a few minutes later due to her travel schedule in Canada)
11. **Guests:** None.
12. **Attendance:** Attendance was recorded.
13. **Minutes:** Last meeting was NCIWC's board meeting of July 28, 2025. Motion to accept the Minutes of the July 28, 2025 meeting was made by Robin McInerney and seconded by Wendy Jepson and unanimously approved.
14. **Secretary's Report:** Andy Peterson reported the only correspondence received was from the AKC (nothing noteworthy) Andy thanked Sue Williams for preparing the agenda and getting it sent to the membership.
15. **Treasurer's report:** Wendy Jepson reported NCIWC's checking account balance is \$19,885.77.
16. **President's report:** (Sue Williams – no report)
17. **Committee Reports**
Performance Sports: No report.

All Star Hound:

Legislation: No report.

Bugle:

1) Wendy Jepson stated she received a request to renew a variety of dog magazine subscriptions which are primarily used to find “filler” material for the Bugle. After much discussion regarding the increased production and mailing costs of the Bugle (due to its length), a motion was made Cindy Steele and seconded by Wendy Jepson to NOT renew these subscriptions. The motion was unanimously passed. It was suggested that a “hyperlink” to magazine articles could easily be published by the Bugle eliminating the need to reprint entire articles.

2) It was reported that Robin Burchett’s computer crashed and needs to be replaced. Andy Peterson made a motion (seconded by Cindy Steele) to purchase a new computer for Robin Burchett. After much discussion regarding the club’s computer purchasing history, the motion did not pass.

3) The mailing cost of the Bugle was further discussed with the following suggestions considered: a) included additional fee for receiving a “hard” copy of the Bugle, b) increasing membership dues to everyone, and/or c) reduce the Bugle’s length. After considerable discussion concerning the 18 long-time members who prefer a printed copy of the Bugle, a motion was made by to leave things as they are now and continue to look for ways to reduce our production and mailing costs.

Website: Jim Bouziane reported that he continues to solicit content for the memorial page of the website as well as new photos, personal stories, articles, poems, cartoons, etc... would be greatly appreciated.

Membership: Ally Hicks reported one new membership application from Ted Drake (sponsored by Carol Gabriel) from South Lake, Texas. Motion was made by Ally to accept Mr. Drake’s application; motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Specialty: Lynne Rosebrock reported that everything for the October specialty is on track. Contract with the fairground is finalized; judges confirmed; thank you ad for vendors completed; grounds, judges' dinner, auction and raffle, ribbons and trophies, hotel reservations, RV parking, etc. are ready. Lynne requested approval to provide lunches on Friday to Dr. Boorstin's staff working the Heart Clinic – request was approved. Lynne stated she's hoping the club doesn't experience a loss on this year's specialty since the judges' travel expenses are lower. Lynne further stated that the lure coursing activities will be scheduled as to not conflict with Dr. Boorstin's afternoon presentation.

2026 Specialty: Lynne reported that the 2026 specialty judges have been selected and will be announced at the 2025 Judges Dinner. Sue Williams stated that a 50th/51st golden jubilee celebration is planned for next year with special events being planned for the celebration. Any NCIWC member interested in helping, please email Sue Williams stating your interest in joining the planning committee.

Club Activities: Upcoming activities to be added to the website calendar: 1) Gathering of the Cu (sponsored by IWAWC in 2026), January 17 (New year Paw-ty at Dillon Beach (January 1, '26), 3) Monterey Beach Walk (January 18, '26) and 4) Spring Match (April 18, '26 at Pina Adobe Park, Vacaville, CA – the judge will be Mary Sharkey) ; more information TBA closer to these dates.

18. Old Business

- 19. All Star Hound – Hiking Certificate:** Wendy Jepson has been speaking with our liability insurance agent regarding coverage should we allow non-members to participate in this program. Other suggestions are to increase the fee for the event to include a membership fee (temporary or otherwise to avoid the 2-sponsor requirement) and a waiver of liability for each participant will be

required. Initially our agent stated that we'd need an additional "accident" policy. Wendy will contact the agent again to further explore whether or not a new policy is needed if all participants are members of NCIWC.

- 20. Pop-Up Rentals:** Chief Solano-Kennel Club has requested they be allowed to rent 8 of our club pop-ups for \$500 for the weekend. Details of the rental agreement include the rental fee, any club wanting to rent our equipment will be required to have least one KC member that is also a member of the NCIWC who will be responsible for pick-up and return transportation of the rental items, and any damaged item will be replaced "like for like".
- 21. NCIWC Charitable Donations :** Sue Williams discussed NCIWC's past history of charitable donations. Blake Matheson made a motion to donate \$100 to the Irish Wolfhound Foundation and \$100 to the Irish Wolfhound Database. Motion was seconded by Andy Peterson and unanimously carried. Treasurer Wendy Jepson was instructed to disburse the donations.
- 22. Membership Emails:** Discussion regarding the frequency of mass emails sent out to the NCIWC membership ensued. The concern being if they are sent too frequently, members may begin to ignore the messages. In order to minimize club emails being ignored, it was agreed that all club mass email information to be sent to the Club secretary no later than Monday and will be sent to the members on Wednesday (now known as "Wolfhound Wednesday") the following week.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, Motion was made to adjourn the meeting; motion was seconded and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm.

NEXT MEETING: January 2026 – TBA

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Peterson, Secretary



NCIWC New Members

Read in September 17, 2025

Thomas E. (Ted) Drake

1212 Westmont Drive

Southlake, Texas 76092-7812

(817) 251-8614

teddrake@aol.com

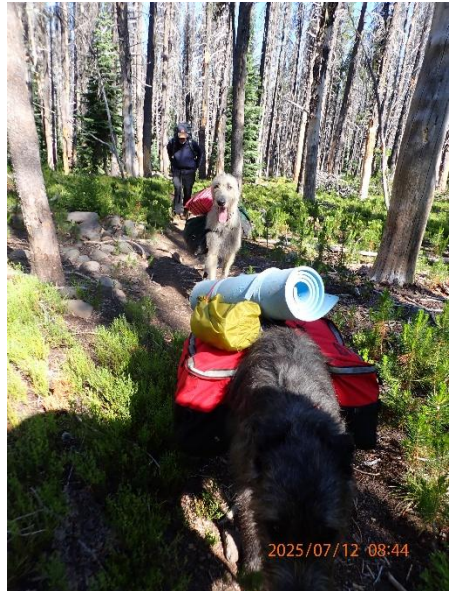
Names of currently owned Irish Wolfhounds

Saoirse

Name of Sponsor Carol Gabriel

Backpacking

Jim and Fiadh (Fee-Ya spent Sunday night at my house. We organized and packed up ready for Monday morning. It took about two hours to drive up to the staging area near 4 mile lake. I took Medb (Mave) with me. We visited 6 lakes on our 22 mile loop hike. Backpacking was new for Fiadh. She quickly learned how to hike on the trail and navigate the wind-blown trees and brush across our path. We caught enough fish at two lakes to have a fish dinner twice. One night there was a thunderstorm very near; lots of thunder claps. The dogs ignored the noise. We had perfect weather and cool temperatures to hike in. The day we were going to hike about 9 miles, we got up before the sun and finished the hike before noon. The hounds flourished in the cooler temperatures. I should mention the mosquitos. They were in full force. Deet rescue. We had full length pants and shirts, and hats with shade to help with distract them. We used a little of the Deet on the dogs; Our hounds looked like they were having a lot of fun. Mornings there were a few race track crackerdog episodes. A big thank you to Jim and Fiadh for



making this backpacking trip successful and fun. Sincerely:
Frank Christian Falkor (my trail name)







The End

Brushing Your Dog's Teeth

Brushing your dog's teeth is the best preventive according to veterinary dentists. You can start with a puppy simply licking dog toothpaste off a toothbrush. (Never use human toothpaste, which is designed to spit out. Your dog will swallow it and become sick.) Gently lift your pup's lips, then give a treat so he gets used to having his mouth handled. Do NOT grab his jaws and open his mouth wide. When you start brushing the teeth, make the sessions short and sweet. Use a pet toothpaste flavor he likes and just make a short wipe across the front and on each side. You can gradually build up to a thorough brushing. This is the same way to introduce toothbrushing to an older dog as well. If your dog flat refuses toothbrushing, you can try alternatives, which range from powders added to the food to gels put on the gums to dental treats and chews. Ideally, you should use products approved by the Veterinary Oral Health Council at vohc.org. These products have been shown to be effective in helping with dog dental care. The choices are many and include complete dental diet food, supplements to add to your dog's water or food, and treats and chews. All these products can help with tartar and plaque buildup. Note: Avoid chews and treats that can damage and/or fracture teeth, such as old, hard, dried bones.



Heatstroke in Dogs: Signs, Symptoms, Treatments

By Harriet Meyers

Updated: Apr 09, 2024 Scarlett Images/Shutterstock ·
emergency · heat safety · heatstroke · summer · summer
safety

Dogs are notoriously bad at dissipating body heat. Watch for early signs of heatstroke (also known as hyperthermia) in your dog to avoid serious outcomes. What Is Heatstroke? When a dog's internal body temperature goes above a normal temperature of 101.5 degrees Fahrenheit (F), this is a fever and is called hyperthermia. When the body temperature is above 105 degrees F, the dog may be suffering from heatstroke. Dogs have only a couple of ways to cool off—blood vessel expansion and panting. When dogs pant, they evaporate moisture from their tongues, nasal passages, and the lining of their lungs, and this cools them down as air passes over the moist tissue. They also cool off via vasodilation. Blood vessels, especially in the ears and face, expand, bringing overheated blood closer to the surface to cool down. The bottom surfaces of paws can sweat, but not enough to make a difference.

"Heatstroke usually occurs when high ambient temperature overcomes the dog's ability to dissipate heat. The degree of damage is determined by how high a body temperature is reached and how long the animal is exposed," says Dr. Jerry Klein, Chief Veterinary Officer for the AKC. Signs to Watch Out For Heatstroke in dogs is life-threatening and can also result in very serious complications. Recognizing early signs of heatstroke may help you remedy the condition before things get too serious. Early signs of heatstroke include heavy panting and rapid breathing, excessive drooling, dry mucous

membranes, bright red gums and tongue, skin that's hot to the touch, and a higher heart rate. Affected dogs become hyperactive and may have difficulty maintaining balance. As exposure to excessive heat goes on, the dog's condition worsens and includes signs of shock, pale mucous membranes with white or blue gums, a very rapid heart rate, and a drop in blood pressure. The dog hyperventilates, and dehydration becomes more severe. Pupils dilate, the pulse becomes more irregular, and the dog has muscle tremors. They may become lethargic and unwilling to move, urinate or defecate uncontrollably, collapse, and become comatose. Why Does Heatstroke Occur? Heatstroke generally occurs during the hottest part of the year, especially when it's humid. Contributing factors include:

- Breed: Heatstroke can be seen in all breeds, but may be more likely in certain breeds, including longhaired and brachycephalic (short-nosed) dogs.
- Age: Very young dogs, as well as older dogs, are more susceptible.
- Physical fitness: Dogs that are out of shape are vulnerable when they exert a great deal of energy in excessively hot surroundings.
- Weight: Overweight and obese dogs are more likely to suffer from heatstroke.
- Medical disorders: Hypothyroidism, cardiac disease, and laryngeal paralysis also contribute to heatstroke.
- Environment: The most common cause of heatstroke in dogs is confinement in a closed vehicle. The ambient temperature inside a closed car can become dangerously high in a matter of minutes, and the results can be fatal. Other causes of heatstroke can include being confined in an exercise pen or crate without fresh water in direct sunlight or for an extended period of time.
- Water: Restricted access to water or not drinking enough water can cause overheating.
- Acclimation: Sudden change to a warmer climate can cause heat stress.

How to Treat Heatstroke

Heatstroke therapy involves immediately trying to lower the dog's body temperature. If you notice signs of heatstroke in your dog, it's critical to stop any activity and help your dog cool down by:

- Walking or carrying the dog to a well-ventilated, cool area.
- Spraying or sponging the dog with cool (not cold) or tepid water, especially on the underside. Don't immerse the animal in cold water.
- Using a fan to blow cool air on them.

If you have a rectal thermometer, you should take your dog's temperature. According to Dr. John Hamil, DVM, if the temperature is less than 105 degrees F, you should still consider this an emergency and immediately take your dog to your veterinarian. If the temperature is higher than 105 degrees F, try to cool the dog down, and after a few minutes, retake the temperature. Don't reduce the temperature below 103 degrees F, because the temperature may descend to critical levels. Bring your dog to your veterinarian as soon as the temperature reaches 103 degrees F or if you're unable to reduce the temperature significantly. Severely affected dogs require fluids, medication, support, and oxygen. Complications may not occur immediately, so it's important to let your veterinarian determine the type of follow-up treatment required. Prevention Is the Best Medicine Immediate action and correct treatment can mean the difference between a swift and complete recovery and long-term 24 complications. Some veterinarians also advise that once a dog has experienced heatstroke, it's more likely to reoccur. Our dogs live to please us, and if we ask them to jog or hike or play catch, they'll do it with enthusiasm, even on the hottest days. So it's up to you to keep the weather in mind and limit the time your dog exercises in the heat. Choose cooler times of day for play or training sessions. Always provide plenty of cool fresh water, shade, and frequent rest periods when it's hot. And

never leave your dog in the car. They may miss you, but they'll be better off waiting for you at home. This article is intended solely as general guidance, and does not constitute health or other professional advice. Individual situations and applicable laws vary by jurisdiction, and you are encouraged to obtain appropriate advice from qualified professionals in the applicable jurisdictions. We make no representations or warranties concerning any course of action taken by any person following or otherwise using the information offered or provided in this article, including any such information associated with and provided in connection with third-party products, and we will not be liable for any direct, indirect, consequential, special, exemplary or other damages that may result, including but not limited to economic loss, injury, illness or death.



NEW TITLES !

Purdy attained his *Grand Champion* title at Bonanza Kennel Club. *GCH Glenn Eyrie's Dragonglass* is bred and owned by Jim and Sue Williams.

Aramis (pictured below) earned Rally Novice title at NCIWC Specialty. Carroy All for One, Aramis of Darragh CGCA, **RN**, by Kevin & Cindy Steele, Lynne Rosebrock, Robin McInerney. Bred by Lynne Rosebrock, Robin McInerney, Terry & Robin Burchett



DILLON BEACH 8/24/25

Mother Nature was finally cooperating and a Dillon Beach Day was planned !

It was especially important because I had promised our Swedish guest, from last year, that I'd plan a Dillon Day for this year.

I must admit though, I was a bit disappointed because, while driving out to the beach, we had to have WINDSHIELD WIPERS GOING !!!

The fog was soooo thick!

But, we prevailed and perfect weather soon arrived. 22 people, 10 Wolfhounds, 1 Deerhound, and "Little" enjoyed walks along the shore.

Our table was, as always, filled with delicious side dishes to compliment Mr. Hot Dog's famous Hot Dogs and Spam. Centered on the table was the wonderful "Beach Life" metal sign. This was a gift from Mo and Deb Aiken and it is a treasure.



It was such a pleasure to have Per Lundstrom join us again and to meet his beautiful wife, Lotta. Hope they come back soon.

Enjoy the pictures and let me know if you would like to be put on our Dillon Beach Day List!

Carol

Email: kgabriel38@comcast.net









Lost Coast Gathering / Show

Another Lost Coast Three-Day "Camping" Show weekend is behind us, and we all came home with happy memories!! Our group continues to grow. We had 21 Wolfhounds, 1 Deerhound, Luna, and Rickey. This Three-day Camping Show Adventure is a great place to eat, drink, and be merry. Constant conversation going on, with all of us getting to know each other better.

There is rooting ring side for all entrants!! As always, there was a table filled with beverages and snacks. Each evening, we enjoyed a fabulous BBQ'd dinner with all the trimmings. Poppy was, once again, reunited with her best friend, Preston (Sue's Grandson). Preston spent time with Poppy in the x-pen, gave her treats, and took her for walks. It is a joy to watch them. There were so many highlights and the Wolfhounds did us proud. A new Champion for Rick/Tricia, GCH Major points for Jim/Sue, and Anne, GCH Gold points for Bob/Angela, GCH Silver Points for Jim/Ylva, Majors for Jon/Louise, Trina, and Kevin/Cindy, CH points for Mike/Wendy. HOORAY!! For me, the highlight was being presented with an amazing gift. A Woven Tapestry, taken from a photo of Poppy and Rickey. I burst into tears. THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH.

From Cindy Steele: "At the Lost Coast KC Show, NCIWC had a great representation with three Wolfhounds competing in different Rally Classes. "Aramis", piloted around the ring by Kevin Steele, took the spotlight by securing 1st Place in Rally

Novice B. On the FastCat track, MANY fondly remembered Terry Burchett. "Finn" Jepson, "Genevieve" Chabrava, and "Elsa" Steele all achieved qualifying scores. An Honorary mention goes to "Rickey" Gabriel, who put on a spectacular show with those little legs tearing down the track, much to the delight of everyone watching !!"

We ALL look forward to this special weekend every year. My album of pictures started in 2006 which means next year we will be celebrating 20 years.

Carol



The Scottish Deerhound Entry

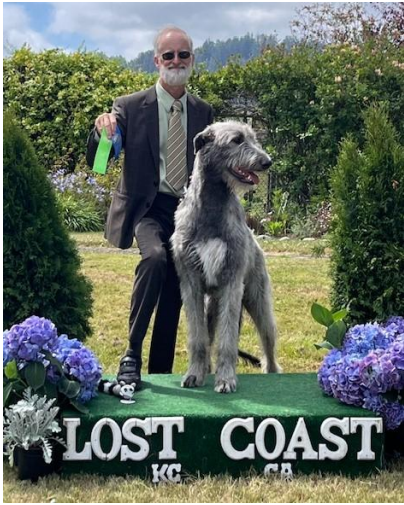












Therapy Dog Candidate?

Friendly, calm, and reliable are must-have traits

Not every dog is a good therapy dog candidate. To help people feel calm and relaxed, therapy dogs must be calm and relaxed themselves. "Dogs used for therapy work should be friendly and calm with humans of all ages, sizes, genders, race, and disability," says Janet S. Gray, director of Cornell Companions at Cornell University. "Dogs should also be calm in different environments and situations. They should be tolerant of other dogs and animals. Dogs should be comfortable being touched by many people. They should be well-trained and obedient, preferably at an AKC Canine Good Citizen level," says Gray.

The best therapy dogs are naturally calm and friendly and have had a good foundation of socialization with people, animals, and new environments. They also have basic obedience training. That doesn't mean your dog must be a perfect candidate right out of the box. "Some things can be a matter of timing," says Gray. "We see this with many young dogs that need to mature and try again."

Red Flags

. Gray says these traits are not a good fit for therapy work:

- ▶ dog that is aggressive
- ▶ Dogs that are fearful or anxious
- ▶ Hyperactive dogs
- ▶ Dogs that are easily excitable
- ▶ Dogs with a lack of training >
- ▶ Dogs that have certain health conditions

Training issues can be remedied with time, patience, and consistency. But the other traits on this list can cause your dog to be unpredictable, which is not ideal in a therapy-visit environment. Certain health conditions can also be problematic. For example, severe arthritis may prevent your dog from being physically able to

participate in therapy visits, and skin disease can be unpleasant for other to see and touch (or potentially contagious).

How to Get Involved

"There are several national therapy dog organizations that have local evaluators that certify and register therapy dogs," says Gray. "All the groups will test or evaluate the dog or animal team based on a simulated therapy animal visit. They also require a handler training (humans only), a health screening, and sometimes a background check."

Cornell Companions

Cornell Companions is sponsored by the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University and consists of volunteers who work or study at Cornell or live in the Ithaca area. They provide animal-assisted activities and animal-assisted therapy for anyone who needs it: seniors in nursing homes, children with disabilities, hospital patients, and stressed-out students during exam weeks. And it isn't just dogs! "Cornell Companions has llamas, cats, goats and bird in our program," says Gray.

Janet S. Gray is the director of Cornell Companions at COE/ University's College- of Veterinary Medicine.

Cornell Dog Watch July 2025

Paws for Reading

The Read to a Dog program is steadily gaining popularity in libraries, schools, and even some animal shelters. Numerous studies have highlighted the profound benefits of this initiative for children, particularly those who struggle with reading. Research indicates that reading to a dog can significantly boost reading motivation, enhance confidence, and improve oral reading fluency. Dogs, being non-judgmental listeners, do not interrupt or correct the readers, thereby fostering greater confidence and motivation in children. The presence of a calm and non-judgmental dog creates a relaxed atmosphere, allowing children to read at their own pace and stay focused more effectively. Additionally, reading to a dog can cultivate a sense of connection and empathy, encouraging children to read more expressively and engage deeply with the text.



Choosing the right dog for the Read to a Dog program is crucial. The ideal reading dog should be calm, quiet, confident, and friendly with strangers. While training, such as the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) certification, can be beneficial, it is not always necessary depending on the program. Good manners however are essential, and the dog must be responsive to the handler's directions. A suitable school or library dog should be willing to lie quietly for extended periods while children read.

Becoming a certified therapy dog involves rigorous testing. The dog and handler team are put through various scenarios, including visiting a bed-bound patient, interacting with a loud and unpredictable individual, enduring sudden disturbances like the opening of an umbrella, and lying quietly while being petted by several people simultaneously. Our most challenging task involved walking past food on the floor without sniffing or eating it. The team is assessed on how well the handler supports the dog during stressful situations, the dog's behavior and recovery, and the handler's ability to recognize and address the dog's stress symptoms appropriately.

Dogs entering public spaces need to be clean and well-groomed, freshly bathed, and brushed to minimize shedding. Hair around the pads of their feet should be trimmed to maintain traction on slippery floors, and toenails should be kept short to prevent scratching. It is important to note that library and school reading dogs are therapy



dogs, not service dogs. Therapy dogs do not have the same privileges as service dogs and are only allowed in places where they are working.

If you are considering involving your dog in this rewarding program, there are several organizations to contact.

In Solano, Napa, and Sonoma counties, you can reach out to Paws for Healing (<http://www.pawsforhealing.org/index.htm>) or LAPS (<https://lovinganimalsprovidingsmiles.org>).

In the Sacramento area, Capital Therapy Dogs (<https://capitaltherapydogs.org>) is a great resource.



In the San Francisco Bay Area, you can contact Furry Friends (<https://www.furryfriends.org>).

Irish Wolfhounds, with their calm, friendly, and gentle temperament, often make excellent therapy dogs.

Cindy Steele

NCIWC Calendar

If you have an activity to include in future calendars, please let me know -

Editor, Robin Burchett Tory_iw@att.net (925) 566-4171

January 2026

<i>Jan 1</i>	<i>Dillion Beach Gathering</i>	
<i>Jan 9, 10, 11</i>	<i>Show Santa Clara Valley KC</i>	<i>Turlock</i>
<i>Jan 17</i>	<i>Gathering Of The Cu</i>	<i>Salinas</i>
<i>Jan 18</i>	<i>OB Oakland Dog Training Club</i>	<i>Richmond</i>
<i>Jan 18</i>	<i>Monterey Beach Walk</i>	<i>Monterey</i>



The Hound's Bugle

Robin Burchett

2213 Greenbrier Street

Concord, CA 94520-1441