

Winter/Spring 2024



Quarterly Newsletter



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Many thanks to Carolyn Chow for this image!



SAY HELLO TO OUR NEW CHAMPIONS!

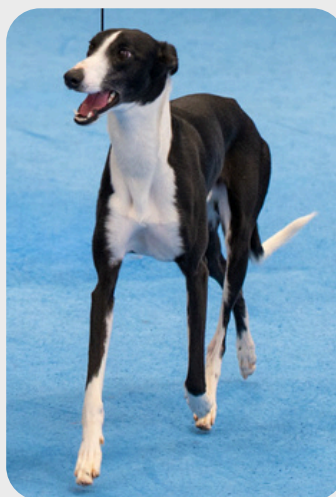
Congratulations to the following Windsprites who have earned new conformation championships in January at the Keystone Winter Specialty and the New England Winter Specialty!

CHAMPION (CH)

- CH Stone House Wind in the Willows "Rose"
 - *Owned by Sidney Hoblit*
- CH Blue Mist Time at Stone House "Time"
 - *Owned by Sidney Hoblit*
- CH Crystal Spirit Hazel & Ilmenite Flare Innovation "Hazel"
 - *Owned by Kim and Bill Wilson*
- CH Tova's Essential Worker "Morty"
 - *Owned by Kathy and Tim Burke*
- CH Tova's Mackerel Sky from Fairbairn "Kaibab"
 - *Owned by Andrea Cooper*
- CH Tova's Seeker on Fire "Nessa"
 - *Owned by Andrea Rogers*
- CH Blue Mist Velma "Velma"
 - *Owned by Amy, Jessica, & Valerie Stier*

JUNIOR CHAMPION (JCH)

- JCH Fairbairn's Matcha Maker "Enzo"
 - *Owned by Lori Hill*
- JCH Fairbairn's Magic Hour "Honey"
 - *Owned by Claire Conklin*



Many thanks to our show photographer, Jim Petack, for these images!

My Dog is the Best

An Essay by Matilda A, 9 years old

Lots of dogs are cute, cuddly and funny but... My dog is the best one, because: He will understand you, He is absolutely gorgeous, and most of all He is almost human.

One reason that my dog is the best dog ever is that He will understand you. For example once I hit my head on my bedroom door, fell down and started crying because it really hurt and then Sonic started doing CPR on my head but of course that did not help and I was still crying so he started whimpering and then he yelped because it was not working, but I got up and showed him I was okay, then he jumped, so his paws came next to my neck on both sides so it was like a hug.

Also if we take him out on a walk and it is a nice sunny day (or any type of day except for rain, Sonic does not like rain) he will be sniffing away having fun and when he is doing that he will put up his flag. Sonic has long fur under his tail and he lifts his tail when he is happy, and when he does that it kind of looks like a flag.

I also did a test of how many people in my class like/love my dog and the results were that 19/20 people like/love my dog and the 20th person does not like dogs in general.

**HIS EYES
ARE LIKE DEEP
DEEP POOLS OF
INFINITE
CUTENESS**



Another reason that my dog is the best dog ever is because he is absolutely gorgeous. For example his eyes are like deep, deep pools of infinite cuteness, which sometimes are wide open so he looks like a puppy (which he is) and sometimes his eyes are more closed so he looks older, but he will always be super cute.

Also if he needs to go out he will just sit by the door and wait for someone to notice him and open the door so he can do his business. He will not run away because I think he knows he can't survive in the wild/the streets of Menlo Park or further.

Also everything and every part of his body, shape, and fur are just so, so stunning, the way his black fur is glistening in the sunlight, and his body is shaped like a missile so he can be as fast as a cheetah. Even if his breath smells, he is the best dog. Another example is that he has beautiful ears. His ears look like pompoms because he has fur under his ears, also the color on his body is magical. On his back and his butt, his fur is black and on his stomach it is black with strands of light brown, under his chin it is white, and this is why he is so gorgeous.

Although my dog is the best dog ever because he will understand you, and because he is absolutely gorgeous, especially my dog is the best dog ever because he is almost human. An example for this is that he will speak to you. In the morning Sonic, when he comes down the stairs and he comes in where my family is eating breakfast. We see him and give him pets. Then go back to eating our breakfast, but he wants more than several pets he wants attention, so he starts howling, that's right not barking howling. And it is very funny so me and Elliot (my brother) pet him more and say good morning properly.

So if you want a dog almost as good as mine you should get a Windsprite! (see picture above)



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Part 1: Financing the Cost of Care

In a perfect world, emergency veterinary staff would never meet you and your dog. We wish all pets could stay happy and healthy! However, the reality is that most pets will have health concerns, minor or major, at least once in their lives. This is the first of a 2-part series with insights designed to decrease your stress and improve your pet's outcome should disaster strike.

A recent study surveyed dog owners to estimate the cost of dog ownership. It reported that pet owners can expect to spend \$19,000-55,000 over the course of a 15-year lifespan. However, there's a huge factor this number doesn't necessarily include: what may happen in the event of an emergency. Veterinary capabilities are continuously expanding, with advanced treatment options such as mechanical ventilation, dialysis, radiation therapy, and more all currently available. Some owners are not interested in this level of care for their pets, and that's fine—but for those who are, the biggest hurdle is often financial.

If advanced-level care is within your medical comfort zone, it's best to plan for a way to cover the cost long before you ever need to do so. Should you spring for pet insurance, or is there a better option? Depending upon a family's situation and medical goals, the answer to either question could be “yes.”

If you choose to keep a savings fund for your pet, you should first determine what you might need to have on hand in case disaster strikes. Veterinary care is still a fraction of the cost of human healthcare, but veterinary emergency or specialty care can cost \$4,000-12,000 or more, depending on the specifics of the condition and your geographic location. Be sure to have immediate access to either funds or a line of credit (e.g. Care Credit), as payment is typically due at the time of service.

If a pet savings account isn't for you, pet insurance may provide peace of mind and easier access to care, but matching coverage with your pup's needs is essential to ensuring your plan will be a true medical safety net for your dog. My clients have used a variety of insurance plans over the years, and I have learned that the devil is in the details.

My husband has wisely said he never wants to stand between me and the care my animals need. In a way, should our Windsprite, Luca, have a health crisis, pet insurance may be our marriage saver!

Emergency preparedness can empower you to make medical decisions based on what you truly feel is best for your dog's health and quality of life. Whether you choose pet insurance or a savings account, make an educated plan and consider all factors in advance to ensure your pup will have a financial safety net if the worst happens.

Variables That May Affect Pet Outcomes (for Better or Worse)

- **Is wellness care covered?** Depending upon your budget, that may be unnecessary, as these costs are typically more predictable. (Note that insurance covering wellness care is different from the “wellness plans” offered by many vet clinics.)
- **What is your deductible and what is your reimbursement percentage?** A recent patient was euthanized because their plan only reimbursed 70% after deductible. The owner was still priced out of an emergency procedure, even with insurance, because she couldn't cover the deductible plus 30% of the remaining charges. “Doing the math” before picking the plan may have led this owner to purchase a higher reimbursement option—and that may have made this high-level care feasible.
- **Does reimbursement have a cap? If so, is that per condition or per time period?** The premium for a plan with limited reimbursement is lower, but the coverage is also reduced. One dog's owner delayed necessary but non-emergent treatments to save a percentage of their yearly reimbursement in case of an emergency. If an emergency does not strike, the owner paid for reimbursement she didn't use.
- **Does your insurance company reimburse you after the fact or pay the veterinarian directly? What's the turnaround time for claims?** If your company does not pay their part of the bill to the veterinarian directly, you will need to pay the entire cost at the time of service and wait for reimbursement. A direct pay feature removes the need to spend thousands of dollars and wait days or weeks to get reimbursement from a company. For some owners, this can be THE feature that helps the most with access to care. (Not all veterinarians accept direct payment—check with yours in advance!)
- **How quickly can the company provide clear information about reimbursement?** Some insurance companies (most commonly those with direct pay plans) can provide an estimate of your anticipated costs within minutes or hours. This may or may not be as important as some of the other factors above, but it does help eliminate the, “Does my insurance cover this?” question that comes up frequently.



Written by Laura Pollock in
cooperation with Dogtor Luca,
Windsprite in Residence

Ariane Busch,
Buschperlen Silken
Windsprites

A Little Look into Windsprite Breeding in Germany



Windsprites, which are known as Silken Windsprites in Europe, are increasing in popularity here in Germany. The first Windsprites came to Europe by way of Switzerland, as early as the end of the 1980s. Sadly, there are now no living descendants of these animals. The European gene pool of the Silken Windsprite is strongly influenced by the first imports of the breed to Germany from the United States, which began in 2001. Despite many other Windsprite imports from overseas in the last 23 years, this genetic bottleneck of the early years in Europe is very clear. For example, in generations 8-10, most European Windsprites show an accumulation of “Windsprite Snowy Pal”, “Claybrook Phillips”, “Windsprite Northcorbin”, and the ancestors of these dogs in their pedigrees. These are just a few examples of several in Windsprite breeding history.

To increase diversity, there have been some isolated backcross litters with Whippets in Germany and the Czech Republic, although there are significantly fewer than in the USA. As the clubs with national recognition must adhere to the rules of the FCI, a worldwide canine organization, it was not possible for a long time to carry out a backcross with Whippets in Germany. Smooth Windsprites cannot be registered nationally in Germany. Efforts have been made over many years to change this and we expect that backcross with Whippets will soon be possible in the DWZRV. In all other clubs, without national recognition, it has always been possible, but still very rare!

Over the years that the breed has been present in Germany, interpersonal differences, disagreements about breeding goals, the use of backcross and general club strategies have led to breeding taking place in four different clubs. The largest population of Windsprites in Germany is registered in the nationally-recognized association Der Deutsche Windhundzucht- und Rennverband e.V. (DWZRV). The DWZRV is subordinate to the Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen (VDH), which is the German umbrella organization for dog breeding and dog sport. The DWZRV looks after all sighthound breeds in Germany and, therefore, Windsprites are only a small part of the club.

The other three clubs are currently without national recognition in Germany. They are the Silken Windsprite Club (SWC), the Deutscher Langhaar Whippet Club (DLWC) and the Interessengemeinschaft Windsprite (IG-Windsprite). Windsprites are also a nationally recognized breed in Austria, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland and the Netherlands, with their own clubs and registries. In Sweden and France there are also Windsprite breeders who are members of either the International Windsprite Club (IWC) or the IG-Windsprite.

These divisions are not ideal conditions for the very small gene pool of such a young breed. However, despite some deep rifts, there are breeders who are making an effort to exchange and cooperate between the clubs and who are trying to overcome old differences.



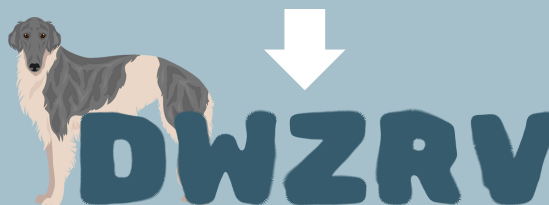
Fédération Cynologique Internationale
International Cynological Federation

A worldwide canine organization, housing
the clubs of many different countries.



Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen
German Kennel Club

A country-specific club based in Germany,
similar to the American Kennel Club (AKC).



Deutscher Windhundzucht- und Rennverband e.V.
German Greyhound
Breeding & Racing Association

A German association focused on dogs of
sighthound breed type.

Meet My Windsprite



JACKSON



RENNER



PAXTON



BRONSON

Meet Renner (9), Jackson (7), Bronson (5), Paxton (2)! These handsome gents are owned by Jim and Kathy Petack of Oley, PA. Each one is named after an actor. Their best features are their expressive faces and ears, always shifting in response to their people talking to them! Renner and Jackson love to lounge around the house, but Bronson and Paxton are very playful and enjoy games with their people and with each other. When they go for walks or play outside in the cold, they like to wear Chilly Dog coats. Jim's favorite compliment he's received about his Windsprites is, "They are stunning!"

This is a fun feature put together by Joyce Collins! Contact Jessa Michie via Facebook or email (northernlorewindsprites@gmail.com) in order to fill out a survey and submit your Windsprite for our next issue!



COMMUNITY CORNER

Please send thoughts, suggestions, and submissions for the newsletter to Jessa Michie, IWC Committee Chair, or to any other member of the Communications Committee on Facebook Messenger or via email at northernlorewindsprites@gmail.com!



A RAFFLE UPDATE AND CALL FOR DONATIONS

There have been some exciting changes to the way we're conducting the raffles at our specialty shows! We hope that anyone who participates in the IWC shows will donate to at least one of the raffles every calendar year. All proceeds go to the IWC Health Fund, which allows the club to offer support for health and rescue-related club expenses. It's a very important cause.

In an effort to make donating even easier, we've also created an [Amazon Wishlist](#). You can ship the items to one of the Raffle Coordinators (Sara Martin, Larisa Hawley, or Cat Seifert) or bring them to the show... BUT regardless of how you donate, please fill out the form!

Now, here's the really fun part! Anyone who donates will automatically be entered to win an exclusive donors-only raffle prize! (Insert Ooohs and Ahhhhs here!) If you aren't able to donate a purchased item, we also accept donations for homemade items and Windsprite art! Any donation will earn you an extra special entry into the donors-only raffle, but regardless of what or how you donate, please remember to fill out the [Donation Form](#) when you register for the show!

You can find the Amazon Wishlist and Raffle Donation forms on the IWC website or in the Friends of the International Windsprite Club Facebook group! We look forward to receiving your donations and can't wait to see you all at the specialty shows!

2024 Specialty Show Dates

IWC Mid-Atlantic Spring Specialty Show
May 17-19, 2024

Get Rev'd in Elkton, MD and Nottingham Park in Nottingham, PA

IWC New York Summer Specialty Show
July 12th-14th

Paws for Thought Farm in Groton, NY and Campville Commons in Campville, NY

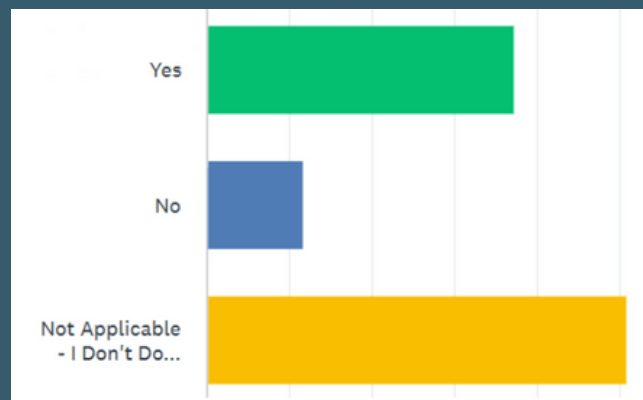
IWC New England Fall Specialty Show
October 18th-20th
Locations TBA

AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE IWC SHOW COMMITTEE

For those of you that attend our Mid Atlantic, NY or New England Regional Specialty Shows, you are probably aware of how long it takes for the Saturday events to run! This makes for a long day for humans, including judges, and our pups. Trying to squeeze Agility, Rally and Conformation into one day is a challenge for our ever-increasing number of entries.

A survey was distributed to assess the potential of holding Agility events on Fridays at specialties, rather than Saturdays. 51 members responded, 19 were in favor, 6 were not and the remaining 26 members do not participate in Agility. Thank you for taking time to answer the questions!

Would you still enter Agility if it was moved to Friday, rather than Saturday?



Based on the responses, a majority of members were comfortable with moving agility to a Friday on a show weekend. This would relieve pressure to get three events completed on a Saturday with an ever increasing number of entries for each of the events. Please note that NO CHANGES will happen in 2024. The Show Committee will be evaluating options and the impact of the potential move. Members will be provided with ample notice for any possible changes.

