

Fall/Winter 2024



Quarterly Newsletter



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Special thanks to photographer Carolyn Chow for the use of her photos!

Announcements

IWC BOARD ISSUES UPDATE TO CLUB BYLAWS

The Board of Directors of the International Windsprite Club met in December to address several matters requiring a discussion and vote on the part of the board members. Among the topics discussed were several amendments to the club's bylaws. The changes include adjustments to the timing and requirements surrounding board elections. Elections previously were scheduled to take place every other January.

Under the amended bylaws, elections will now take place in June. Additionally, the board added a requirement that anyone wishing to run for board election must be a member in good standing for a total of six years.

The new bylaws can be viewed in their entirety on Windsprites.org and additional details, including the board meeting minutes are available to members in good standing via the private IWC Members Facebook group.

If you are an IWC member who uses Facebook and does not have access to the private Facebook group, please send a message to Donna DeVoist on Facebook or reach out to internationalwindspriteclub@gmail.com to have an invitation sent!



A NEW IWC HEALTH COMMITTEE HAS BEEN FORMED

A group of IWC members, including an experienced breeder, veterinarians, PhD biologist, dog trainer, and multiple up-and-coming Windsprite breeders, assembled and applied for the creation of a health committee within the International Windsprite Club. The committee was approved by the board this month.

The committee will serve in an advisory capacity to the board and the membership of the breed club. Recommendations may be made based on research conducted by the committee, peer-reviewed scientific research, and conferring with outside experts. The committee will maintain a strict policy of transparency regarding data collection and information sources. This committee will fill a growing need to manage the increasing volume of health and genetic information, as well as demonstrating to current and future members a commitment to building evidence-based policies around the health of the breed as its popularity increases.

Examples of committee responsibilities in pursuit of the aforementioned goal include:

- Gather and track data relevant to breed health and share it on an annual basis.
- Curate educational health and behavior resources for Windsprite owners and breeders.
- Determine best practices for creating and maintaining genetic diversity for optimal breed health as the population grows.
- Develop formal breeder recommendations to encourage best practices and protect breed health.

The IWC Health Committee will consult with experts in genetics, biology, canine theriogenology, veterinary medicine, canine behavior, and canine training when appropriate. Any club members with expertise in these areas are welcome to contact the committee at any time. The IWC Health Committee will meet quarterly on Zoom to discuss and collaborate on current committee goals. Subcommittees may meet more frequently as necessary. Minutes will be available to club members after meetings.

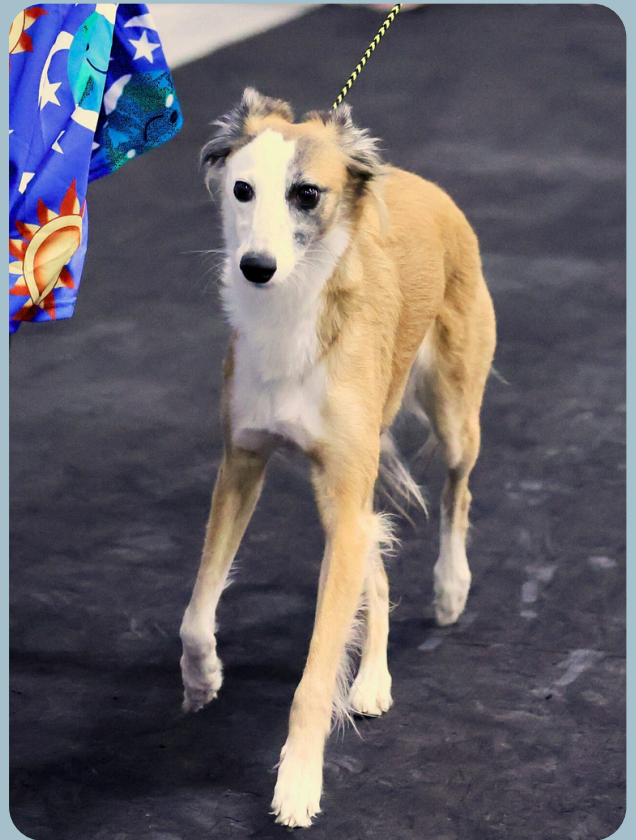
Recognizing our new Titleholders

The following Windsprites earned new titles at the New England Fall Specialty Show this October!

CONFORMATION

CHAMPION (CH)

- **Blue Mist Chaos Theory of Apsara “Chaos”**
 - Owned by Courtney Hatton
- **Tova’s The Rain in Spain of Ardmoor Farms “Chaco”**
 - Owned by Andrea Cooper
- **Brikal Bruno “Bruno”**
 - Owned by Lauren Green
- **Tova’s The Doctor of the Tardis “Mackie”**
 - Owned by Jean MacKenzie
- **Timber Mill’s Amazing Amadeus “Amadeus”**
 - Owned by Jean MacKenzie
- **Aurai Wild Air “Lark”**
 - Owned by Sharon McIntyre
- **Aurai Calamity Brook “Peridot”**
 - Owned by Oluademi James-Daniel
- **Tova’s Silver Lining from Fairbairn “Pitch”**
 - Owned by Jean MacKenzie
- **Tova’s Catchfire “Trouble”**
 - Owned by Jean MacKenzie and Andrea Rogers



STRAIGHT RACING

STRAIGHT RACING OPEN (SRO)

- **Crystal Spirit Powerful Jungle Dravite “Mowgli”**
 - Owned by Jesi Allen
- **Tova’s Black Bart “Eddie”**
 - Owned by Tim and Kathy Burke

STRAIGHT RACING EXCELLENT (SRX)

- **Tova’s Miracle Queen of Naboo from Moonshadow “Cricket”**
 - Owned by Jean McCord

STRAIGHT RACING EXCELLENT 2 (SRX2)

- **Tova’s Tinsel of the Hunt “Sprite”**
 - Owned by Amy, Jessica, & Valerie Stier

STRAIGHT RACING ENTHUSIAST VETERAN (SRE-V)

- **Tova’s Guinness of Lambourn “Guinness”**
 - Owned by Nancy Brownfield



Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis has been an increasing topic of discussion in the veterinary community over the past 2 years. We want to bring our Windsprite families up-to-date on the latest recommendations.

More Information

[Updated ACVIM Statement 2023](#)

[WSAVA Vaccination Guidance 2024](#)

What is leptospirosis?

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease recognized in a number of animal species worldwide. While many organs can be affected by leptospirosis, the most commonly affected organs in dogs are the liver and kidneys. Typical clinical signs can include vomiting, inappetence, abdominal pain, increased drinking and urination. In more severe cases, dogs may present with icterus (jaundice), absence of urine production, or hemoptysis (coughing up blood).

The prognosis for aggressively treated (hospitalized) dogs is variable. While some dogs make a full recovery, some will survive with lifelong alterations in organ function, some will not survive without dialysis, and some will succumb to the disease even with intensive treatment.

How does my dog (and how do I) get leptospirosis?

Rodents are considered the most likely source of most leptospirosis infections in dogs, but direct contact with rodents is not required for infection as the bacteria can survive and multiply in wet environments like puddles or even moist soil. Transmission directly between dogs has also been documented at dog daycares, boarding kennels, and shelters.

Leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease, meaning people can be infected, as well. Humans are usually infected from contaminated soil, water, or livestock. While dog-to-human transmission is rare, it has been documented.

What are the latest veterinary recommendations?

In October 2023, the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) released an updated Leptospirosis consensus statement. Twelve veterinarians, experts in nephrology, microbiology, epidemiology, and infectious diseases, reviewed currently available research—over 100 studies—and unanimously recommended that leptospirosis vaccines are administered to *all* dogs over the age of 12 weeks.

In 2024, both the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) and American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) updated their vaccine recommendations to include leptospirosis vaccine as a “core” vaccine (along with rabies, distemper, adenovirus, and parvovirus vaccines). A core vaccine is one that is recommended to be administered to all dogs due to the ubiquitous nature of the virus and its ability to cause severe illness and death.

Why is there a perceived controversy among the pet-owning public around leptospirosis vaccines?

Leptospirosis vaccines have long been a main target of anti-vaccine folks. I suspect this is due to the less obvious nature of clinical disease making lepto seem less important (a frothing rabid animal or profusely vomiting parvo puppy is quite attention-getting) and the immunogenicity of historic leptospirosis vaccines. Without getting into too much detail, effective vaccines against bacteria (vs viruses) can be more complicated to create, and a vaccine may contain many various proteins associated with a bacterium.

Historic vaccines contained a larger number of different proteins; as vaccine technology progressed, the number of unique proteins within each vaccine decreased. A more recent study has shown that the risk of an adverse vaccine reaction from a leptospirosis vaccine is now similar to or lower than the risk of a rabies or parvovirus vaccine.

- Brought to you by Laura Pollock and Dogtor Luca -



Meet my Windsprite!

MEET ELI, A YEAR AND A HALF OLD WINDSPRITE OWNED BY DARLENE ZAJKOWSKI!

Favorite high value treat:
Roast beef, london broil & chicken

Their quirkiest personality trait:
Branch manager

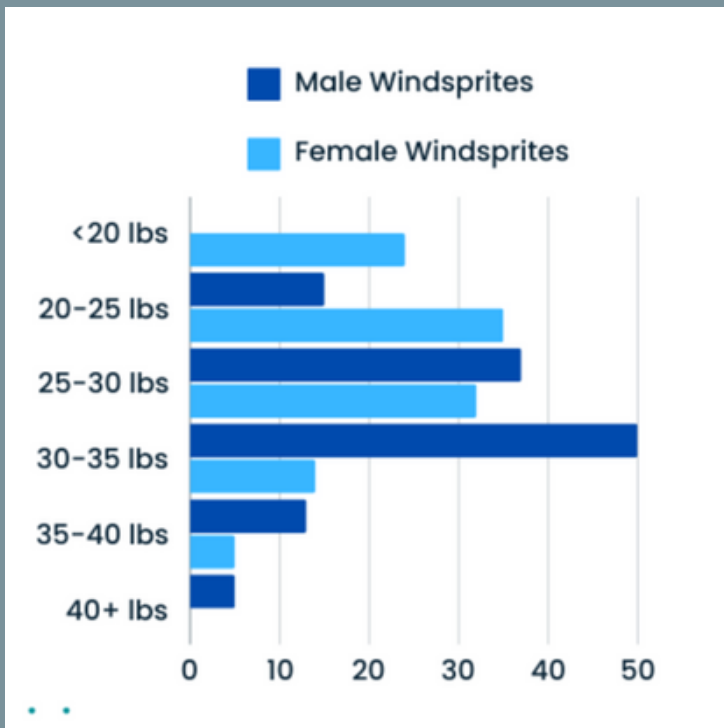
The areas where they thrive:
Frisbee, fetch and stealing hearts!

The most flattering compliment you've received about your Windsprite:
Eli makes most people stop right in their tracks and ask about his breed!

This is a feature put together by
Joyce Collins! Contact internationalwindspriteclub@gmail.com to
submit your Windsprite for our next issue!



How Much Does Your Windsprite Weigh?



An informal poll was conducted on the Friends of the International Windsprite Club Facebook group to find out how much Windsprites weigh!

Over 225 dogs are represented in the results. Based on this poll, we can see that Windsprites rarely top more than 40 pounds. The only dogs reported to be over 40 pounds were male. No female Windsprites over 40 lbs were reported. Similarly, no male Windsprites under 20 lbs were reported. However, there were quite a few females under 20 pounds!

Most Windsprites seem to weigh between 20 and 35 pounds, with males slightly outweighing females across the board.



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 to internationalwindspriteclub@gmail.com!

HELP
WANTED



MIDWEST WINDSPRITES GATHER AGAIN

Our growing contingent of Windsprite owners in the Midwest states gathered in Dubuque, Iowa this September, where we enjoyed two days together! Humans and canines had a wonderful time at Jayne McQuillen's indoor facility and at Thornberry Dog Park. We invite you to join the Midwest Windsprites group on Facebook to stay tuned for future events! A gathering is in the works for 2025 and details will be shared publicly as soon as possible. This is also a great opportunity to meet Windsprites in person!



SOUTHERN SPRITES ASSEMBLE

A new Facebook group is available for owners of Windsprites in the Southeastern USA! You can join Southern Sprites on Facebook to learn more about upcoming gatherings and get to know other Windsprite fans in the region.

2025 KEYSTONE SPECIALTY PREMIUM AVAILABLE NOW

Keep an eye on the Events page of the new website, Windsprites.org, for upcoming show dates and premiums!