

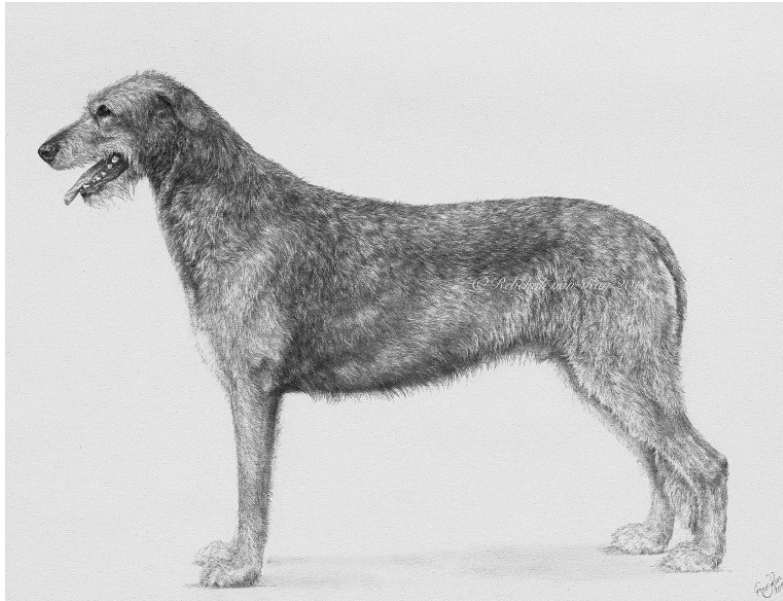


FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)
SECRETARIAT GENERAL: 13, Place Albert 1^{er} B – 6530 Thuin (Belgique)

17.04.2026/ EN

FCI-Standard N° 160

IRISH WOLFHOUND



ORIGIN: Ireland.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL VALID STANDARD:10.04.2026.

UTILIZATION: Up to the end of the 17th century Irish wolfhounds were used for hunting wolves, wild boar and deer in Ireland.

FCI-CLASSIFICATION: Group 10 Sighthounds
Section 2 Rough-haired Sighthounds
Without working trial.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: Irish Wolfhounds were already well established in Ireland in the first century A.D.

The first written account of the breed appears in 391 AD.

Irish Wolfhounds are mentioned throughout history intertwined with the great kings of Ireland.

The first breed standard was written in 1885 and a breed club formed. In Dublin at the kennel club show in 1879 the first classes were given to the Irish Wolfhound.

The Irish Wolfhound is a living symbol of Irish culture and is one of the five official symbols of Ireland and has been granted heritage status by the Government of Ireland.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: The largest and tallest of the sighthounds is a rough coated hound of great size and commanding appearance, including height at shoulder and proportionate length of body, very strong and muscular though gracefully built.

Easy and active movement, head and neck proudly carried, long tail and carried lower with a slight curve towards the extremity.

A smaller, lighter, parallel type (so called "of sport") is in no way either accepted or compliant with the breed standard.

It is desired to firmly establish a breed that shall have a minimum average height of 86 cm in the male, showing the required power, activity, courage and symmetry.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS:

- A good length of leg is required, but the back should be longer than the height.
- The height at withers approximately equal the height at loins.
- Head: the distance from the tip of the nose to the stop should be at least equal to the distance between the stop and the occiput.

BEHAVIOUR/ TEMPERAMENT: A Gentle kind loyal hound with a friendly nature towards people and other dogs. “A Lamb in the Home and Lion in the Chase”. A loyal companion.

HEAD: Long and level, proudly carried, the frontal bone of the forehead very slightly raised and very little indentation between the eyes.

CRANIAL REGION:

Skull: Not too broad.

FACIAL REGION:

Muzzle: Long and moderately pointed.

Teeth: Complete Dentition, scissor bite ideal, level acceptable.

EYES: Dark and oval.

EARS: Small, rose ears set on high.

NECK: Rather long, very strong and muscular, well arched, without dewlap or loose skin about the throat.

BODY: Long, well ribbed out.

Back: Rather long than short.

Loins: Slightly arched.

Croup: Great breadth across hips.

Chest: Very deep, moderately broad, breast wide.

Ribs: Well sprung.

Belly: Well drawn up.

TAIL: Long and slightly curved at extremity, of moderate thickness well covered with hair, the tail should be carried low standing, and the tip of tail lower than the level of the back during movement.

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS:

Shoulders: Muscular, giving breadth of chest and set sloping.

Elbows: Well under, neither turned inwards nor outwards.

Forearms: Muscular, heavily boned, quite straight with slight spring of pastern.

Forefeet: Moderately large and round, neither turned inward nor outwards. Toes, well arched and closed. Nails, very strong and curved.

HINDQUARTERS:

Thigh: Long and muscular.

Stifle (Knee): Nicely bent.

Lower thigh: Well muscled, long and strong.

Hock joint: Well let down and turning neither in nor out.

Hind feet: Moderately large and round, neither turned inward nor outwards. Toes, well arched and closed. Nails, very strong and curved.

GAIT / MOVEMENT: Easy and active.

COAT

Hair: Rough and hard on body, legs and head, hair over eyes and beard especially wiry.

Colour and markings: The only recognized colours are Grey, Brindle, Red, Black, Pure White, Fawn, and Wheaten.

White markings are only acceptable on fore-chest, toes, (not full foot) and tip of tail.

SIZE AND WEIGHT:

<u>Desired minimum height:</u>	males	79 cm
	females	71 cm

<u>Minimum weight expected:</u>	males	54,5 kg for 79 cm of size
	females	40,5 kg for 71 cm of size

This weight must increase proportionally with increasing size.
This applies to mature hounds.

FAULTS: Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

- Too light or too heavy a head.
- Too highly arched frontal bone.
- Narrow under jaw, misplaced canine teeth.
- Straight shoulder and over angulation on the rear.
- Narrow under jaw, misplaced canine teeth.
- Straight shoulder and over angulation on the rear.
- Weak hindquarters and a general want of muscle.
- Lack of balance between the back and front.
- Too short in body.
- Crooked forelegs, weak or straight pasterns.
- Twisted feet.
- Spreading toes.
- Back sunken or hollow or quite straight.
- Large ears and hanging flat to the face.
- Short neck; full dewlap.
- Too long of neck and without required muscular definition.
- Chest too narrow or too broad.
- Tail excessively curled or carried too high.
- Nose of any colour other than black.
- Lips of any colour other than black.
- Very light eyes. Pink- or liver-coloured eyelids.

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.

N.B.:

- Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.
- Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

SURFACE ANATOMY

