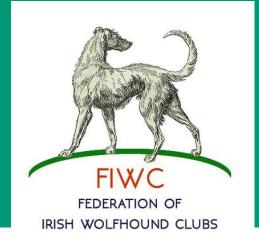


RULING COUNCIL

Gödöllő, 30/05/2024



AGENDA



1. President's address

- 2. Introduce new Delegates, reminding the rule of the Delegates
- 3. Minutes of the meeting of the Ruling Council, Czech Republic 2022
- 4. Chairman's report on the activities achieved
- 5. Breeding guidelines and the rule of the genomic research might play in future
- 6. Treasurer's Report
- 7. Determination of admission/expulsion full and associate members
- 8. Election of one Board Member
- 9. FIWC Congress next appointments
- 10. Miscellaneus
- 11. Closing words of the President



1. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS



President VELDA CLARK unfortunately hasn't been able to attend the meeting.



We warmly welcome the Honorary President JIM BEHAN, who is opening the meeting with his address.



2.1. CONFIRMED DELEGATES



FULL MEMBERS CONFIRMED DELEGATES	2024	2022	
AUSTRIA	Ute Spatt	Ute Spatt	
BELGIUM IWH CLUB	Marc Belis	Marc Belis	
CZECH REPUBLIC	Edita Beresovà	Edita Beresovà	
DENMARK	Tina Strunge Jensen	Tina Strunge Jense	
FINLAND	Outi Piisi	Outi Piisi	
FRANCE	Frederic Maison	Frederic Maison	
GERMANY IWC	Jürgen Kuhless or Frank Thiemann	Jürgen Kuhless	
HUNGARY	Csilla Juhasz	Csilla Juhasz	
IRELAND IWCI	Tony Dunne	Tony Dunne	
ITALY	Marcello Poli	Marcello Poli	
LATVIA	Larisa Blazevicha	Larisa Blazevicha	
LUXEMBOURG	Elsa Paulian	Elsa Paulian	
SLOVAKIA	Pavlína Polčičová	Pavlína Polčičová	
SLOVENIA	Polonca Zabukovšek	Polonca Zabukovšek	
SWEDEN	Per Lundström	Per Lundström	

ASSOCIATED MEMBERS CONFIRMED DELEGATES	2024	2022	
CANADA	Jocelyne Gagnè	Jocelyne Gagnè	



2.2. INTRODUCE NEW DELEGATES



FULL MEMBERS NEW DELEGATES	2024	2022	
ESTONIA	Kristin Kerem	No delegate	
GERMANY DWZRV	Beate Taschner	Maria Lück	
LITHUANIA	Ausra Jonikaite	No delegate	
NORWAY	Øivind Berg Larsen	Per Arne Flatberg	
THE NETHERLANDS	Gosewein van der Zalm	John Wauben	
FULL MEMBERS NO DELEGATES	2024	2022	
BELGIUM KBWC	No delegate	No delegate	
IRELAND IWSO	No delegate	Anne O'Keefe	
RUSSIA	No delegate	No delegate	

ASSOCIATED MEMBERS NO DELEGATES	2024	2022
USA	No delegate	Steve Levan
FULL MEMBERS CANDIDATES	2024	
MEXICO	Aldebaran Contreras Rivera	
SPAIN	No delegate	
SWITZERLAND	Beatrix Märki Casanova	
ASSOCIATED MEMBERS CANDIDATES	2024	
ENGLAND	Sue Cole	



2.3. THE RULE OF THE DELEGATES

Art. 17

Each member club shall be entitled to appoint one delegate as their FIWC representative. All communications between FIWC and members shall take place through the delegates; however, secretaries of the members shall also be kept informed.

Art. 18.2

All officially appointed delegates have to be notified by their club in writing to the Secretary of the Management Committee. **Changes of nominees have to be notified immediately**.

Art. 18.4

The officially appointed **delegates shall lose their voting rights when their member clubs have not paid the annual membership fee** according to Art. 29 to the treasurer of the management committee in due time.



3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RULING COUNCIL, CZECH REPUBLIC 2022



Draft of the minutes has been sent from the Secretary to all the Delegates before this meeting

Any objection, request for correction or addition?

Can we agree it?





4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES ACHIEVED

- 1. Management committee operations
- 2. Change of congress dates
- 3. Media
- 4. Enlargement of the membership base
- 5. Breeding best practices, genomic project

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4.1. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OPERATIONS



In 2022, the Management Committee underwent significant changes. Considering that the Federation is based in the Netherlands and has a bank account there, and that the 2024 Congress was to be organized by IERDIE, the new Dutch Delegate, John Wauben, was elected to the Board with the roles of Secretary and Treasurer. Shortly after, John Wauben resigned as Chairman of IERDIE and as a FIWC Board Member.

His responsibilities were reassigned to Outi Piisi and Tony Dunne. **A new Board Member must be elected today.**



4.1. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OPERATIONS



On November 1, 2022, the President, Gerry Clarke, suddenly passed away. As provided by the Statute, the new IWCI President, Velda Clark, took his place on the Federation's board.

The loss of Gerry and the transfer of Secretary and Treasurer duties have hindered the Board's operations. Nevertheless, it has met periodically via videoconference to carry out the tasks delegated to it.



4.2. CHANGE OF CONGRESS DATES

Following the Chairman's resignation, **IERDIE communicated its inability to organize the 2024 Congress.** The Magyar Agár Fajtagondozó Egyesület has agreed to take over the task, moving the assigned date forward by 2 years. We thank the Club and Csilla Juhasz for this.

The new assignment of the 2026 date will be discussed later in the agenda.





4.3. MEDIA | WEB-SITE

At the last Ruling Council meeting, it was decided to improve **the website**. In reality, it **had to be completely redesigned** as the one active at the time was deemed inadequate. Difficulties were encountered in finding a new webmaster, transferring credentials, and dealing with the hosting company. Finally, **Kristina Okuneva took on the role of webmaster**, creating a product of great graphic quality and rich in content.

https://www.fiwc.club



Welcome to the Federation of Irish Wolfhound Clubs

The Federation of European Irish Wolfhound clubs was founded in 1994 with the intention of fostering cooperation between those clubs that utilised the common Irish Wolfhound standard of the FCI. Some twenty years later we anticipate that Irish Wolfhound clubs outside of Europe will join with us; no longer will we be exclusively European so our logo and name must change to reflect our

wider world.

Delegates should make more effort to promptly **provide information**, making this medium more interesting and up-to-date.



4.3. MEDIA | IW WORLD

Five issues were published in 2022, two in 2023, while four are planned for the current year. Unfortunately, **the number of copies sold has dropped** to 250 per issue. **In the past, some clubs** (especially the Russian one) **purchased copies** for their members, but **now there are only individual subscriptions**.



Otherwise, the magazine will no longer be sustainable.

We thank Jocelyne Gagnè and Outi Piisi for their collaboration, but we hope for involvement from the delegates.



Third Edition

Irish Wolfhound Odyssey

'in search of Graham's hound'



Lois J. Thomasson

4.3. MEDIA | BOOKS

FIWC had reprinted the book 'IW Odissey' by Lois J. THOMASSON, which was previously sold out. Many copies are still in stock, and it would be helpful if clubs could purchase them for distribution to their members.



4.4. ENLARGEMENT OF THE MEMBERSHIP BASE

Chairman and Vice Chairman have cultivated **contacts with representatives of Clubs interested in joining the Federation** and others considering the option for the future.

Requests from 4 Clubs have been brought to the attention of the Management Committee. This will be discussed at the appropriate point on the agenda.



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4.5. BREEDING BEST PRACTICES, GENOMIC PROJECT

As decided in the Czech Republic, the Board discussed and approved a **document containing best practices** aimed at breeding typical subjects, with particular attention to health issues and genetic diversity, with **the goal of contributing to the longevity** of the subjects. Considering the different approaches and breeding constraints in various nations, these best practices represent **a minimum common denominator** to which all breeders sharing the spirit of the FIWC should commit.



5. BREEDING GUIDELINES AND THE RULE THE GENOMIC RESEARCH MIGHT PLAY IN THE FUTURE





5.1. GUIDELINES



We will now present the **summary document** that Outi Piisi has excellently prepared.

BREEDING GUIDELINES



A. Wick

By FIWC/Outi Piisi

WHY? – The wish expressed by the FIWC member clubs in 2022

GOAL – To preserve the breed and pass it on to future generations in as good a condition as possible.

TO BE NOTED IN PARTICULAR – The EU will publish a new law on animal welfare 2025/2026. The law will introduce many significant strictures regarding the breeding of purebred dogs.

These guidelines have tried to take into account the upcoming changes. The summary (main points) of the new law has been published in advance by the Finnish Kennel Club.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT WITH BREEDING FROM NOW ON?

Every breeder must remember that the hounds used in breeding must be tested before mating, data must be collected about the health status of the breed. Population genetics (the inbreeding coefficient of the combination and the amount of offspring of the sire) must remain within the recommended values.

Until now man has played the main role in animal legislation. Here it comes now a change: the main role is played by animals and their well-being in the new law. Our role is to support it.



IRISH WOLFHOUND

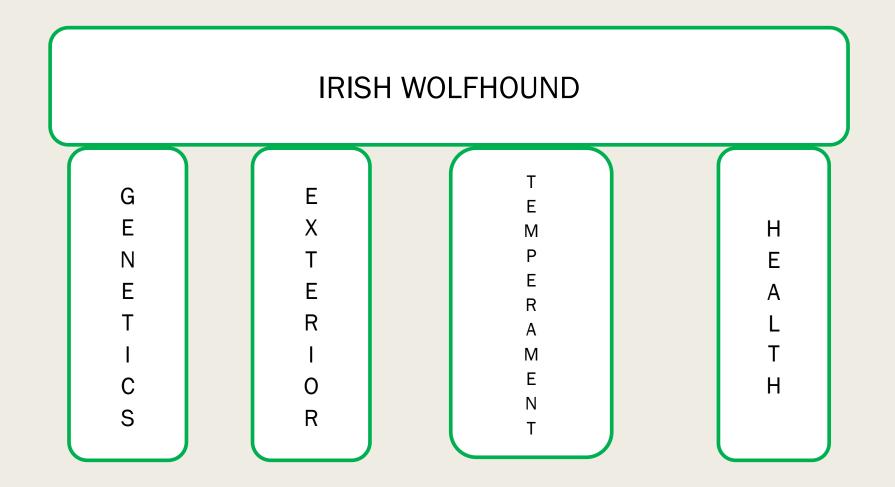


Photo: E. Murphy

"Of great size and commanding appearance, very muscular, strongly though gracefully built, movements easy and active; head and neck carried high; the tail carried with an upward sweep with a slight curve towards the extremity."

"Lambs at home, lions in the chase."

BREEDING GUIDELINES



Our main goal: to increase the life span of Irish Wolfhounds

PLANNING AND INITIAL RESEARCH



Temperament: "A Wolfhound's character is good when it don't need to be explained in any situation." Be honest with yourself and with your breeding stock!

Population genetics: The ideal Inbreeding Coefficient is 2-3 %, don't exceed 6,25 %!

Avoid popular sires! The recommendation is that one sire should have 5 % of offspring during one generation/life-time (short life span), in large population 2-3%.

In the European population, the maximum number of offspring of a stud dog: 3% -> 81; 5% -> 136 = the max. life-time number!

Health:

General vitality of the hound. This is not an officially measurable feature but a very important breeding feature. A vet is rarely needed, excluding vaccinations and veterinary tests. Normal female hormone function plus normal libido on both parts.

The basic level:

Minimum age to breed: 2 years for both genders. According to the information from the EU, these age limits for breeding will be true with the new legislation.

Veterinary check-ups:

Heart scans of both parents before mating (so called heart ultra with 5 minutes EKG.)

Shunt tests of puppies before selling them (the minimum age to test puppies is 7 weeks. In unclear situations, retesting can be done at 12 weeks.)

./..



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The second level:

A) Veterinary check-ups:X-rays of shoulder and elbow joints (in order to find OCD and ED)

Eye test:

ECVO's (European College of Veterinary Ophthalologistis) recommendations: A dog with a mild/low priority eye disease can be bred with a healthy (no symptoms of eye diseases) partner. In the test form, there are three options/grades: mild, moderate, or severe.

These guidelines on eyes below are from the Finnish Breeding Program for Irish Wolfhounds, approved by the Finnish Kennel Club. The guidelines are based on the ECVO's manual.

Dogs with a test result mentioned below can be bred with a healthy partner. PHTVL/PHPV: Grade 1. Distichiasis PPM: iris to iris mRD and gRD Uveal Cysts – This is from the ECVO's breed manual



"Low priority is valid for the following other lens opacities: Punctate, Suture line tips, Suture, line, Nuclear ring, Nuclear fiberglass-like/pulverulent."

Dogs with a test result mentioned below must be excluded from breeding programs: tRD PPM: iris to lens, iris to cornea PHTVL/PHPV: Grade 2-6 Cataractas: posterior polar and cortical Papilla hypoplasy/micropapilla PRA

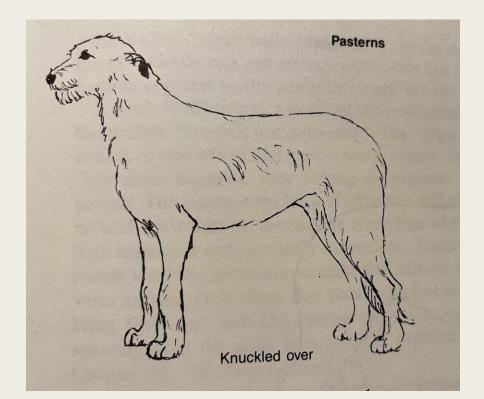
Breeders! If one puppy from a litter is found to have a (serious) eye disease, ask all the other siblings to go for an eye test.

B) Veterinary check-ups:
X-ray of hips (they will become mandatory in the new law)
X-ray of backs, if spondylosis is a problem in the line/local population



Exterior:

This is a matter of conscience. An Excellent from a show doesn't mean anymore anything. Because everyone get for sure an Excellent (even three CACs and a CH title) despite the real quality of the dog. Unfortunate but true.





A detail related to exterior which is unfortunately shown even in show rings: knuckling over wrists. This is a very serious fault in such a heavy breed as Irish Wolfhound. Never ever breed an IW with knuckled over front leg/legs!

Pic from the J. Samaha's book The New Complete Irish Wolfhound

DOCUMENTATION AND TRACEABILITY

Each club should establish a breeding committee/health group if it doesn't exist already. The main task for the group is to collect data of the Irish Wolfhound population in their own country.

Hopefully countries with more than one club should find out a reasonable way of cooperation. To collect data, if it's not done before, might be tough in the beginning. However – we must start somewhere.

Basic statistics each year: How many litters/puppies; how many males/bitches who form the breeding stock in the country; inbreeding coefficient/litter.

Health statistics (as much as possible):

Results of the heart scans Shunt test results Overall health statistics Epilepsy Bloat and torsion Seizures Cancer (type of cancer) Pneumonia Hypothyroidism If any problem becomes dominant, this should be shared to other breeders and also to other clubs.



SUMMARY

Do we want the EU authorities to decide the fate of our breed?

If NO, we must show we can decide the fate of Irish Wolfhounds by ourselves.

OUR TOOLS:

- 1) BREED TYPICAL TEMPERAMENT
- 2) GENERAL VITALITY OF THE HOUNDS
- 3) MAKE THE IMPORTANT VETERINARY TESTS COLLECT DATA – MAKE IT VISIBLE
- 4) AVOID MATADOR BREEDING
- 5) INBREEDING COEFFICIENT < 6,25 %
- 6) STARRING IRISH WOLFHOUND AND ITS WELFARE



Thank you!



- Today, we would like to launch a **genomic research project** whose objectives are described in the document which is distributed.
- The project will be managed by University of Milan researchers, specifically Professor Stefano Paolo Marelli and Dr. Maria Giuseppina Strillacci.

The scientific approach to population management probably is **the most effective way to organize breeding strategies** in order to maintain type, health and biodiversity in IW breed. **Inbreeding levels and their trends represent a basic step** in population characteristics understanding both at genealogical and genomic level.



It is possible to access to genomic data obtained from previous study performed about 10 years ago (n. 265 dogs) and compare their genome with those of the actual IW (**n. 96 samples collected for this study**), in order to highlight how/if breeders' selection has modified the genetic make-up of the IW breed.

We ask for the Delegates' **cooperation in collecting biological samples and data necessary** for the research.



The output of the present research will consist in **an objective definition of IW population structure** which will trace down effective strategies in genetic variability management and improvement, in homozygosity study and reduction and finally in breed conservation in general. Obtained results will be **a starting point for further investigations** aimed to study and improve breed population structure related pathologies and traits like hearth problem, skeletal problem, longevity and so on.





Connected via webcam from Milan, Prof. Stefano Paolo Marelli will explain the project in great detail.





6. TREASURER'S REPORT



FINANCIAL RESOURCES AT 1.7.2022	14.377,07 €
Membership fees	3.673,00€
Sales of publications	180,00€
Contribution to IW KLUB CZ for Congress 2022	- 1.950,00 €
Hosting web-site	- 435,64 €
Bank management expenses	- 450,28 €
FINANCIAL RESOURCES AT 28.5.2024	15.394,15 €

15.389,15 € Bank in NL **5,00 €** PayPal account <u>fiwc.treasurer2022@gmail.com</u>



7. DETERMINATION of ADMISSION/EXPULSION FULL AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS





7.1. IRISH WOLFHOUND CLUB OF SWITZERLAND FULL MEMBER

IWCS



This Club fulfils all the conditions, including art. 10, d, being direct member of its own country's national dog organization. It has been member of EIWC in the past, withdrew about 20 years ago.

The Ruling Council (art. 10, art. 19, f) shall decide on membership applications.

The Management Committee is in favor.



7.2. THE IRISH WOLFHOUND CLUB – ENGLAND – ASSOCIATED MEMBER



Application for membership has been sent to the Secretary on 2023, together with the requested paperwork (art. 10).

This Club fulfils all the conditions, including art. 10, d, being direct member of its own country's national dog organization. This is the first IW Club in the World to be established.

The Ruling Council (art. 10, art. 19, f) shall decide on membership applications.

The Management Committee is in favor.



7.3. CEGAS Y DLE – SPAIN – FULL MEMBER

Application for membership has been sent to the Secretary on 2023, together with the requested paperwork (art. 10).

This Club fulfils all the conditions, including art. 10, d, being direct member of its own country's national dog organization. This Club takes care for the Irish Wolfhound for a very short time.



The Ruling Council (art. 10, art. 19, f) shall decide on membership applications.

The Management Committee is not in favor, recommending of reconsider the request in the near future.



7.3. CEGAS Y DLE – SPAIN - FULL MEMBER

After a broad discussion, the following letter has been sent to Roxana Robitz, representing CEGAS Y DLE:

"In relation to your application for Membership of the FIWC.

This application was discussed in detail at our board meeting, and it was agreed that as CEGAS & DLE have only just been granted permission to hold breed specialty shows by the Royal Kennel Club of Spain as a result of the ongoing support and mentoring of The Irish Wolfhound Club of Ireland, it would be premature to grant you Federation membership at this point in time.

We would strongly recommend that the working relationship between Enrique Fernandez of CEGAS & DLE with The Irish Wolfhound Club of Ireland, the country-of-origin breed mother club, is developed and grown over the coming years to enable better knowledge and understanding of the breed, its history, breeding practices, and stockmanship throughout the Kingdom of Spain.

We hope that with strategic planning, results based on the ground evidence of this can be achieved in Spain over the coming years. Thus, leading to possible membership of the FIWC in years to come."



7.4. CLUB MEXICANO DEL LEBREL – MEXICO FULL MEMBER



Application for membership together with paperwork (art. 10) has been delivered into the hands of the Chairman on 2022. Is still messing the declaration of being direct member of its own country's national dog organization (art. 10, d).

This Club doesn't fulfil all the conditions. At the moment it cannot be joined.



8. ELECTION OF 1 BOARD MEMBER

According to the decision of the Ruling Council in CZ, the Management Committee consist of 6 elected people plus a member by right. Members in charge are:

Due to the resignation of John Wauben, a new member of the Management Committee must be elected to restore the number of members decided by the Ruling Council in 2022. Just one delegate submitted her candidacy in time before the meeting (art. 20):

- LARISA BLAZEVICHA
- **ANTHONY DUNNE**
- CSILLA JUHASZ
- FREDERIC MAISON
- OUTI PIISI
- MARCELLO POLI

• GOSEWEIN VAN DER ZALM (IERDIE)



9. FIWC CONGRESS – NEXT APPOINTMENT

The Magyar Agár Fajtagondozó Egyesület had to advance the organization of the Congress from 2026 to 2024 due to the withdrawal of IERDIE



It is confirmed that in 2027 the Irsk Ulvehundklubb Norge will organize a Special Congress in Norway to celebrate the jubilee of the Club's foundation



Club del Levriero is available to cover the vacant appointment in 2026 in Italy





APPLICATION FOR THE 2026 FIWC CONGRESS

BOLOGNA - ITALY

WHAT HAPPENS IN 2026 IN ITALY

In 2026, ENCI (Italian Kennel Club) is tasked with organizing the World Dog Show.

In 2026, it will be exactly **50 years** since ENCI officially recognized the **Club del Levriero**, entrusting it with the promotion and protection of 14 dog breeds, including the Irish Wolfhound. Why not celebrate this anniversary with the organization of the FIWC Congress?

Is it possible to create any synergy between WDS and FIWC Congress?



THE WORLD DOG SHOW 2026



The **WDS** will take place in Bologna from June 3rd to 7th, 2026, with **sighthounds being judged on Friday, June 5th and Saturday, June 6th, 2026**.

The event will be held at the **Bologna Fiere pavilions**, an exhibition area with a total of 375,000 m², featuring 18 pavilions. It is located in the metropolitan area of Bologna, in the northern part of the city and close to the ring road, with a dedicated motorway exit and a train station.

https://bolognafiere.it/en/location-2/bolognafiere/



BOLOGNA AND ITS CONNECTIONS

Bologna is strategically located in Northern Italy, a motorway hub for traffic from the Northwest via the border passes of Ventimiglia, Frejus, Mont Blanc, Chiasso (from France, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, etc.) from the North via Brenner pass (from Austria, Germany, Scandinavia, etc.) from the Northeast via the Tarvisio and Gorizia passes (from Austria, Hungary, Czechia, Slovakia, Slovenia, etc.)



BOLOGNA AND ITS CONNECTIONS

Its **Guglielmo Marconi Airport** is connected to 94 destinations, with 15 domestic, 78 international, and 1 intercontinental, served by over 40 airlines. It handles 10 million passengers annually, is about 8 km from the city center, and is connected to the central station by a people mover. All high-speed trains stop at **Bologna Centrale station**.





WHAT BOLOGNA OFFERS

Bologna is a city of art, culture, and commerce, known for nearly 40 km of porticoes, the longest in the world and recently named a UNESCO heritage site. Bologna is the capital of the Emilia-Romagna region, which has strong traditions of hospitality, particularly due to the tourist destinations on the Adriatic coast, such as Rimini, Riccione, etc.



https://emiliaromagnaturismo.it/en/towns/bologna



WHAT BOLOGNA OFFERS





It is also known for its traditional agricultural productions, such as Parmigiano Reggiano, Parma Ham, Balsamic Vinegar, and for the quality of its gastronomic specialties, such as Tortellini, Lasagne, Cotechino and Piadina.

AN OUT-OF-THE-ORDINARY PROPOSAL

The EIWC/FIWC Congress has always been held as a standalone event, not connected to other events, in dedicated green spaces outside cities, which have facilitated the gathering and camaraderie of breed fanciers.



This would be the first time that the Congress Specialty is held inside the pavilions of a trade fair district. The Ruling Council meetings and Congress would be organized in a location different from the exposition.





CONS OF THE PROPOSAL



- **Different locations for the Congress and Shows** might create some organizational difficulties for participants.
- The show inside trade fair pavilions might **dilute the friendly atmosphere** usually present at FIWC events.
- The presence of many participants linked to the WDS may make access to the Exposition more chaotic.
- Times may be **conditioned by the general WDS program**.



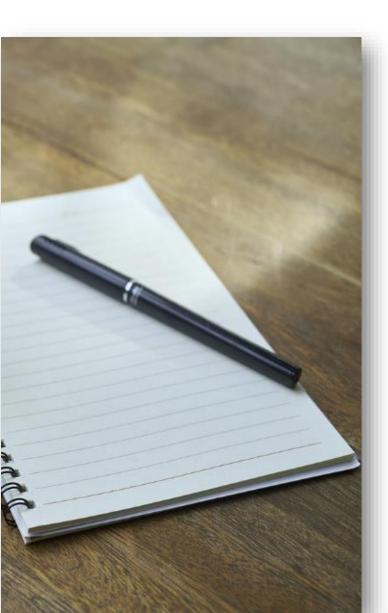
PROS OF THE PROPOSAL



- Easily accessible location, for both exhibitors and enthusiasts.
- Unique opportunity to compete for two prestigious titles (World Winner and FIWC Winner).
- Spacious and **comfortable pavilions**, air-conditioned during a typically warm period, and sheltered in case of bad weather.
- **Technical organization** of the show handled **by ENCI**.
- Strong link between Club del Levriero and ENCI, facilitated by Marcello Poli's presence on the ENCI board.
- Possibility to organize the **Congress and gala dinner at the same location**, allowing all enthusiasts to meet.

BROAD AGENDA





Thursday June 4th, 2026 - CONGRESS

- morning Ruling Council meeting Bologna surrounding area
- afternoon FIWC Congress Bologna surrounding area
- evening Gala dinner Bologna surrounding area

Friday June 5th, 2026 – SHOWS

- morning CACIB Show Bologna Fiere
- afternoon FIWC Specialty Bologna Fiere

Saturday June 6th, 2026- SHOW

• World Dog Show – Bologna Fiere

CACIB SHOW - June 5th, 2026

- Start at 8:30 am, expected end by 12:00 am.
- Judging without written reports, only awards of qualifications and rankings.
- Technical organization by ENCI.
- Choice of judges is the responsibility of ENCI.





FIWC SPECIALTY - June 5th, 2026

- Start at 1:00 pm, expected end by 7:00 pm or later, if necessary.
- Judging with written reports, awards of qualifications and rankings.
- Technical organization by ENCI.
- Choice of specialist judges (two or three) is the responsibility of Club del Levriero, in agreement with FIWC.





WORLD DOG SHOW - June 6th, 2026

- Start at 8:30 am, expected end by 3:00 pm.
- Judging without written reports, only awards of qualifications and rankings.
- Technical organization by ENCI.
- Choice of judges (two or three) is the responsibility of ENCI, in agreement with Club del Levriero.





YOUR DECISION

We truly hope the Ruling Council may consider our offer. In case of positive outcome, we'll warmly welcome you in Bologna.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

AND LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU IN ITALY!





10. MISCELLANEOUS



Updates on the adoption of the revised FCI breed Standard







10. MISCELLANEOUS

Any question?

Further topics to be discussed?



11. CLOSING WORDS OF THE PRESIDENT



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

ENJOY THE CONGRESS AND THE DOUBLE SHOW

