



## Tamara Ritzenthaler Ierne Irish Wolfhounds

My name is Tamara Ritzenthaler and I've been in love with Irish Wolfhounds since I was in the first grade. My first IW, Kaila, came from a newspaper ad in 1991. It may not have been the best way to acquire a wolfhound, but she opened up a whole new world for me and I have never regretted it. I met Lori Darnall and Cynthia Patterson the same year and joined the IWCA in 1992. I have since met many wonderful people and made lasting friendships. My family and I live in North Carolina with our four Irish Wolfhounds and our Wolfhound Minder, Gordy the Border Terrier. I've enjoyed many different activities with my hounds over the years including Conformation, Obedience, Lure Coursing, Therapy work, 4-H and rescue; I compete and breed under the kennel name "Ierne".

Outside of wolfhounds I'm active in rescue and am a member of the Mid Atlantic Hound Association and the Irish Wolfhound Association of the Mid South. I have a keen interest in both mix breed and all breed rescue and we often foster a variety of different breeds on their way to more permanent homes.

I'm married with two children; my younger son often helps with the dogs and at the shows. We enjoy traveling and love to hike, swim, scuba and snorkel; we enjoy interacting with the marine life in underwater environments. We take the opportunity whenever we travel to visit wolfhound breeders and see different dogs. This has helped me significantly in learning about our beautiful breed.

In my professional life I am a Regional Trainer for an International Veterinary Practice and am responsible for training and team development for 140 Veterinary Hospitals in the Southeast, including three upcoming in Puerto Rico. I work daily with many General Practitioners and Boarded Veterinarians. I train on Performance Assessment and Development, Problem Solving, Conflict Resolution, Communication Skills, Change Management, Organizational Culture Change, Professional Coaching and Strategic Planning.

I'm working with my team to bring the "Pet Peace of Mind" project to our area. This is an initiative targeting nonprofit hospice programs nationally. The program is designed to help hospices keep patients and their Pets together during a difficult time. The program supports the bond between hospice patients and their Pets by offering Veterinary services that enable patients to complete their end of life journey without worrying about their Pet's current or future needs.

I am overwhelmed by this invitation to judge the IWAGSM Match and appreciate the confidence you have shown in me. I look forward to meeting everyone and only hope I can do a good job for your club.

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