



FINC CONGRESS

EVENT PROGRAM

June 4th to 6th, 2026 Bologna - Italy



THURSDAY, JUNE 4th, 2026

DAY PROGRAM



AGENDA

10:00 - 12.30

THE RULING COUNCIL

Not only the delegates of clubs affiliated with the Federation may participate, but any people genuinely interested too. 14:00 - 18:00

THE CONGRESS

Three interesting topics by outstanding speakers.

Thursday, June 4th, 2026 | Day Program



THE DINNER PARTY

An opportunity for all breed enthusiasts to come together and enjoy the specialities of the Italian cuisine

PALAZZO DI VARIGNANA

Via Ca' Masino - 611A Castel San Pietro Terme (BO)

Thursday, June 4th, 2026 | Day Program

Located in the hills, 22 km from Bologna Exhibition **Centre.** A free shuttle bus will be available - while seats last - for both arrival and return after dinner, departing from and arriving at the square of Sidney Hotel, which is in front of Fiere di Bologna pavilions, at the following times:

THE TRANSFER MUST BE REQUESTED AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION FOR THE FIWC **CONGRESS AND/OR DINNER PARTY.**

The resort allows dogs, except in dining areas.





 Bologna > Varignana departure 9:30 Bologna > Varignana departure 13:30 • Varignana > Bologna departure 14:00 Varignana > Bologna departure 22:30

> A large number of covered parking spaces are available, ensuring that dogs remaining in vehicles will be sheltered, even on hot, sunny days.

CLICK HERE TO VISIT PALAZZO VARIGNANA

CONGRESS SPEAKERS & TOPICS

Thursday, June 4th, 2026 | Day Program

Irish Wolfhounds from 1900 to these days, interview with Mrs. Nagle (Sulhamstead) and developments in the UK

1 Maria Giuseppina Strillacci /Prof. Stefano Paolo Marelli

Genetic characterization of Irish Wolfhound dogs: a worldwide study of genetic variability and inbreeding

Chris Amoo



3 Sue Williams

100 years anniversary of IWCA, history and development of the breed in US

1 Maria Giuseppina Strillacci & Prof. Stefano Paolo Marelli

Thursday, June 4th, 2026 | Day Program

BIO:

Maria Giuseppina Strillacci is an Associate Professor at the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science (DIVAS) of the University of Milan. With a PhD in Animal Production and degrees in Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine, her expertise focuses on animal genetics applied to livestock improvement, with a particular emphasis on cattle, poultry, and companion animals. She is responsible for the molecular genetics lab and leads the bioinformatic analysis of her research group. Her current research focuses on the analysis of structural variants to identify genomic variation among breeds and their adaptation to changing environments.

She has gained solid academic and research experience, including a period as Honorary Associate/Fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has participated in numerous international and national research projects, collaborating with institutions in Mexico, Canada, Iran, and Israel. Her research interests include the evolution and biodiversity of animal breeds, gene expression analysis, the identification of candidate genes for hereditary diseases, and genomic structural variation. She is the author of over 69 publications in peer-review journals. She coordinates and participates in funded research projects, demonstrating leadership and skills in managing work groups. She possesses technical skills in both the laboratory (nucleic acid isolation, PCR, sequencing) and bioinformatic analysis (population genetics, sequence analysis, association analysis).

Thursday, June 4th, 2026 | Day Program

GENETIC CHARACTERIZATION OF IRISH WOLFHOUND DOGS: A WORLDWIDE STUDY OF **GENETIC VARIABILITY AND INBREEDING**

Wolfhound

(ROHs).

Here's what we found so far/first results? Genetic diversity is relatively low, with average heterozygosity around 0.3; there is no clear genetic sub-structuring within the population; some genomic regions were shared by 100% of the dogs, likely as a result of selection and mating practices over time; no ROHs longer than 16 Mbp were detected, which may reflect historical, rather than recent, inbreeding; genomic inbreeding levels (FROH) ranged from 11% to 41%, indicating moderate to high inbreeding.

We are now investigating potential links between causes of death and pedigree/genomic data. By connecting genetic insights with health outcomes, we aim to support better breeding strategies that prioritize genetic diversity and long-term health for this breed.

Abstract: Unraveling the Genetics of the Irish

The Irish Wolfhound (IW) is a canine breed characterized by phenotypic traits that differ significantly from the normotype of Canis lupus familiaris. Its giant size is one of its most distinctive features and, as noted in scientific literature, is associated with a shorter lifespan. This unique breed also carries a history of genetic bottlenecks, which have impacted its health and reduced its genetic diversity.

In our study, we analized 96 Irish Wolfhounds from 23 countries using high-density genomic tools to investigate their genetic variability and levels of inbreeding. We examined how similar or different these dogs are at the DNA level, focusing on genomic regions that are identical due to shared ancestry-known as "runs of homozygosity"

Thursday, June 4th, 2026 Day Program

1Maria Giuseppina Strillacci **& Prof. Stefano Paolo Marelli**

BIO:

Stefano Paolo Marelli is an Associate Professor at the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science (DIVAS) of the University of Milan with a PhD in Small Animal Production, including a period as visiting PhD student at the Scottish Agricultural College in Ayr Scotland, and a Master of Science degree in Animal Science. Stefano works on canine biodiversity and genetic since the nineties. His research topics are phenotyping and genotyping of canine and poultry breeds and population both under a morphological and behavioural point of view. His expertise is focused on ethnology, morphometrical analysis, behavioural characterization and welfare relate genes expression in small species. Stefano is author in more than 55 publications in peer reviewed indexed journals, he coordinates and participates in funded research projects. He is one of the founders of the VEtoGene (Veterinary for Ethology and Genetic) spin-off of the University of Milan. He is member of the Scientific Committee of ASPA and EAAP Companion Animals Commissions. He is Technical Consultant of ENCI (Ente Nazionale della Cinofilia Italiana) and member of the ENCI Scientific Committee and of the ENCI Central Technical Commission (ENCI, Academic Delegate, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health). Stefano is FCI judge for Jack Russell Terrier, Dachshunds and some herding breeds in group I, he is judge for CAE1 (good citizen dog) behavioural test.

Thursday, June 4th, 2026 Day Program

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BIO:

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Thursday, June 4th, 2026 | Day Program

IRISH WOLFHOUNDS FROM 1900 TO THESE DAYS, INTERVIEW WITH MRS. NAGLE (SULHAMSTEAD) AND DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UK

Abstract:

Our breed has been very fortunate. Mrs Nagle who had been a pillar of the breed since 1912 was still with us into the 80's, so we had someone who was still active and able to give a perfect insight into the breed and changes through to the 80's. Her thoughts and fears for the breed should always be seen as valuable tools to help us in the future. Not many breeds are as fortunate. With this in mind has the breed changed for good or bad? In what way? Have we kept true to the standard? Is our breed still bred to be able to do the job it was meant for? We have been involved with the breed for 38 years. We were fortunate to be friends with people who were very close to Mrs Nagle. One in particular Sheila Kemp entrusted us with a 3hr interview she did with Mrs Nagle. The tapes were a valuable source for the book Mission Accomplished. I feel it would be useful to talk about whether some of her fears for the breed have come to pass.

3 **Sue Williams**

Thursday, June 4th, 2026 | Day Program



BIO:

Dogs have been a part of my life since birth and specifically showing and breeding purebred dogs has been a part of my life since I received a Collie pup when I was 12 years old. After successfully breeding and showing rough and smooth Collies for almost 40 years, life changes required me to take a break. During that "break" I met my husband-to-be, who showed Irish Wolfhounds. I was again "hooked" (not just on my new husband, but the Irish Wolfhound breed), and I joined him in this adventure under the name, Glenn Eyrie. Since the first litter in 2011, and with a small breeding program of one litter about every 2-3 years, we have bred and owned twenty champions with six more youngsters on their way towards championship.

As a person who believes in giving back, and has trouble saying no, I have been the secretary, webmaster, and subsequently the President of the Northern California Irish Wolfhound Club for multiple years. I have been on the Board ofDirectors of the Irish Wolfhound Club of America for four years, and I am currently the President. I am also the lead editor of a team that produces the quarterly IWCA publication, Harp & Hound.

On a personal level, in addition to being married to Jim, I have two grown daughters and one grandson. I retired 10 years ago from a career in education as a vice president of academics at a college in the Napa Valley, California. I am deeply honored to be asked to speak at the Congress representing the Irish Wolfhound Club of America.

Thursday, June 4th, 2026 | Day Program

100 YEARS ANNIVERSARY OF IWCA, HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE BREED IN US

Abstract:

The Irish Wolfhound Club of America (IWCA) celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2026.Who brought the first wolfhounds over to the "colonies"? When and who were the first wolfhounds registered with the American Kennel Club?Who established the IWCA and how has it impacted the breed? What about the AKC Standard? Who were some of the American National Best of Breed winners, where did they come from and what impact did they have on the breed? And finally, what do American breeders see as positive and negative for the future of the breed? These and other insights will be explored in this interesting glance at the Irish Wolfhound in America.

THE DINNER PARTY

Thursday, June 4th, 2026 | Day Program

The menu will consist of three courses, featuring gourmet dishes inspired by traditional Italian cuisine. A vegetarian menu is available upon request, as well as dishes that accommodate any food intolerances of the guests.

with the meal.

Musical accompaniment is planned for select moments throughout the evening.

The price is fixed and includes beverages served

REGI-STRATION & FEES

Thursday, June 4th, 2026 | Day Program

REGISTRATIONS FOR CONGRESS AND/OR DINNER PARTY

Registration for participation can be made through the dedicated page on the Club del Levriero website:

FIWC Con (including

FIWC Dinn (three-cou beverages

Discounte Congress

CLICK HERE TO ENTER

DEAD LINE: 30.04.2026

THE SAME PAGE WILL ALSO BE USED TO BOOK THE SHUTTLE BUS.

ngress registration fee coffee break)	€ 25,00 per person
ner Party fee urse dinner, including s)	€ 60,00 per person
ed package: + Dinner Party	€ 75,00 per person (instead of € 85,00)

FRIDAY, JUNE 5th, 2026

DAY PROGRAM



WHERE? CENTRO FIERE BOLOGNA

Gate East Via Michelino - 40127 Bologna (BO)

Friday, June 5h, 2026 | Day Program

A dedicated pavilion will be reserved, providing some isolation from the typically chaotic WDS atmosphere. The rings will be fully carpeted. Chairs will be arranged around the rings for greater viewing comfort. A podium area will be set up for proper winner portraits.



CLICK HERE TO VISIT BOLOGNA FIERE

AGENDA

08:00 - 13:30

FIWC SPECIALTY

Titles and achievements: J. CAC, CAC in each adult class, Vet. CAC, FIWC Winner, BOB, BOS

14:30 - 18:00

ENCI WINNER CACIB SHOW

Titles and achievements: J. CAC, CAC in each adult class, Vet. CAC, J. CACIB, CACIB, Vet. CACIB, ENCI Winner, BOB, BOS

Friday, June 5h, 2026 | Day Program

REGI-STRATION & FEES

Saturday, June 6h, 2026 | Day Program

REGISTRATIONS FOR FIWC SPECIALTY

Registrations for FIWC Specialty must be made exclusively through the portal: (CLICK HERE TO ENTER

The registration fee for the FIWC Specialty is outlined in the table below:

FIWC SPECIALY/ **ENTRY**

1ST DOG

FURTHER DOGS (SAME OWNER)

VETERAN, MINOR PUPPY, PUPPY

BRACE

BREEDER GOUP

and the WORLD DOG SHOW.

After a short registration processing time, new members will be allowed for the discounted fee when registering their dogs for exhibitions. Membership fee 30€.

	UNTIL	01.02.26	01.03.26	01.04.26	01.05.26
	member	60,00€	72,00€	86,00€	120,00€
	non member	70,00€	88,00€	105,00€	142,00€
	member	54,00€	65,00€	77,00€	108,00€
	non member	66,00€	79,00€	94,00€	132,00€
	member	45,00€	45,00€	45,00€	45,00€
	non member	55,00€	55,00€	55,00€	55,00€
	member	30,00€	30,00€	30,00€	30,00€
	non member	36,00€	36,00€	36,00€	36,00€
	member	30,00€	30,00€	30,00€	30,00€
	non member	36,00€	36,00€	36,00€	36,00€

The same portal will be used for registrations for the ENCI WINNER CACIB SHOW

Important: there is a significant difference in fees between those reserved for ENCI Members and those for non-members. Those who wish to become ENCI Members can do so by joining the Club del Levriero via the following link:

CLICK HERE TO ENTER

SATURDAY, JUNE 6th, 2026

DAY PROGRAM



WHERE? **CENTRO FIERE** BOLOGNA

Gate East Via Michelino - 40127 Bologna (BO)

Saturday, June 6h, 2026 | Day Program

portraits.



A dedicated pavilion will be reserved, providing some isolation from the typically chaotic WDS atmosphere. The rings will be fully carpeted. Chairs will be arranged around the rings for greater viewing comfort.

A podium area will be set up for proper winner

CLICK HERE TO VISIT BOLOGNA FIERE

AGENDA

09:00 - 13:30

WORLD DOG SHOW

Titles and achievements: J. CAC, CAC in each adult class, Vet. CAC, J. CACIB, CACIB, Vet. CACIB, World Winner, BOB, BOS



Saturday, June 6h, 2026 | Day Program

Dogs winning J.CAC, CAC, or Vet. CAC at the FIWC Specialty, as well as J. CAC, CAC, or Vet. CAC at either the ENCI WINNER CACIB SHOW or WORLD DOG SHOW, will be awarded the title of Italian Junior Champion / Italian Champion / Italian Veteran Champion of Beauty.

According to Italian rules, to validate the Italian Champion title, a biological sample of the dog must be deposited at an accredited laboratory. Veterinarians will be available on-site to assist with this process.

JUDGES ASSIGN-MENTS

della Bassa Pavese Irish Wolfhounds

ASSIGNMENT: FIWC Specialty: males, best baby/puppy/junior/veteran World Dog Show: females, best of breed

1 Jocelyne Gagne Starkeeper Irish Wolfhounds

2

ASSIGNMENT: FIWC Specialty: females, best of breed World Dog Show: males, best baby/puppy/junior/veteran

Ludovica Salomon



3 **Chris Amoo** Sade Irish Wolfhounds **ASSIGNMENT:**

ENCI WINNER CACIB SHOW: males & females



1 Jocelyne Gagne Starkeeper Irish Wolfhounds

Bio:

In 1978 I acquired my first Irish Wolfhound that started me on my journey of learning about wolfhounds, sighthounds, and the dog world. The first Starkeeper litter was born in 1980. Since then, I have produced over 150 Irish Wolfhound show champions, obedience & rally titlists, lure coursing and racing champions in Canada, the USA, Italy, Russia and Australia. I am committed to breeding Irish Wolfhounds that are both typical examples of the breed and can perform in the field. As a judge I strive to recognize dogs that are functional. Given the amount of time I spent on the field, in my home and the show ring with sighthounds, I consider myself a sighthound specialist In 2017 I became an all breed judge. My judging assignments since 2000 have literally taken me around the world. I have had the pleasure of going over some outstanding dogs in the course of my travels across Canada, the USA, Mexico, South America, United Kingdom, many countries in Europe, Russia, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. In 2015 I judged at the Westminster Kennel Club Show. The dog world has provided me with ample opportunities and positive experiences in my areas of interest: dogs, travel and meeting interesting people. In giving back to the sport that has so enriched my life, I have developed a form and function educational presentation on the Irish Wolfhound. I was a contributor to the current Illustrated Standards for Irish Wolfhounds sponsored by the Irish Wolfhound Club of America and the Federation of Irish Wolfhound Clubs in Europe. I was the co-creator and co-presenter of the AKC Webinar on the Irish Wolfhound delivered to judges in 2021. After over 45 years I am still active in breeding and exhibiting Irish Wolfhounds and have had many successes in performance events, all breed and specialty rings with my hounds. So I know what it's like to be judged, as well as doing the judging. It's exciting for me to find quality dogs in my ring. I am very much looking forward to my assignment at the World Dog Show in Italy in 2026 and feel honoured to be invited.

2 Ludovica della Bassa P

Bio:

Ludovica got her very first dog at the age of 6, a Whippet, and she has owned West Highland White Terriers, English Setters, and bred Irish Wolfhounds, Giant and Miniature Schnauzers, Gordon Setters and Italian Spinoni. She has been breeding Irish Wolfhounds together with her mother under the DELLA BASSA PAVESE affix since when she was 10 years old. More than 50 Della Bassa Pavese Wolfhounds have earned the title of show champion. Passed to judge Irish Wolfhounds since 1999, she is now a judge for all the FCI Group 10 (sighthounds), Group 7 (pointing dogs), Group 4 (dachshund) and to date she has judged Irish Wolfhounds many times at Championship Shows and Specialty Shows in Italy, UK, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Canada and USA. She judged the breed at Crufts 2025. She is a veterinarian specialized in canine reproduction.

Ludovica Salomon della Bassa Pavese Irish Wolfhounds

3 Chris Amoo Sade Irish Wolfhounds

Bio:

I became involved in dog showing 46 yrs ago. We had great success with our first breed Afghan Hounds owning two Crufts group winners and breeding Crufts BIS winner 1987 Ch Viscount Grant. We became involved with Irish Wolfhounds in 1987. We started with a male from the Drakesleat kennel. Drakesleat Odyn, who became our first champion. Since then, we have owned/bred 30 champions. 9 Afghans and 21 Irish Wolfhounds. In Wolfhounds we have bred the current overall breed CC record holder Ch Sade Paris and the current bitch CC record holder Ch Sade Prudence. I have been fortunate to judge the breed at CRUFTS/ IWCA/ EIWC/ WORLD SHOW/ and IWC (twice) plus many other lovely shows around the world. It's an honour to be invited to talk about our breed. I look forward to it very much.

USEFUL INFORMATION

ABOUT BOLOGNA





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.)



CO

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**.

CONNECTIONS



HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Both the city of Bologna and its surrounding area offer a wide range of hotel accommodations at various price levels, from B&Bs to agritourisms to premium hotels. The WDS organization provides an initial list of hotels that have availability for the event period and accept dogs.

The most common hotel booking platforms, such as <u>www.booking.com</u>, offer a wide selection.

Palazzo di Varignana itself, which will host the Congress sessions on Friday, is a high-quality **** resort that accepts dogs.



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	+39 3336352535	no mail
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	+39 3393696429	no mail
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	+39 348801342	no mail
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	+39 3473328571	info@alpoderesantacristina.it
	+39 3338042043	no mail
	+39 3515354357	checkin@bolognarooms.com
	+39 3285853484	illeccio.stefania@gmail.com
	+39 519528358	no mail
Marconi	+39 3661097435	agriturismorioverde@gmail.com



BOLOGNA

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.



ABOUT BOLOGNA

TYPICAL FOOD

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**.









A special thank you to the Italian Kennel Club – E.N.C.I. – and its president, Mr. Dino Muto, without whose contribution, support, and collaboration this event would not have been possible.

LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU IN ITALY!

