

IRISH WATER SPANIEL ASSOCIATION

President: Mrs L Ferrans



SCHEDULE OF 20 CLASS UNBENCHED SINGLE BREED OPEN SHOW

(To be held under Royal Kennel Club Limited Rules & Regulations)

in conjunction with Birmingham National Championship Show

at **Stafford County Showground**
Weston Road, Stafford ST18 0BD

on **Saturday 9th May 2026**



Show Opens: 7.00am

Judging Commences: following IWS judging in the same ring - anticipated start time 1.00pm

Judge: Mrs Lindsay Belcher (Sosteli)

Jurisdiction and responsibilities

The Officers and Committee members of the society holding the licence are deemed responsible for organising and conducting the show safely and in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Royal Kennel Club and agree to abide by and adopt any decision of the Board or any authority to whom the Board may delegate its powers subject to the conditions of Regulation F17. In so doing those appointed as officers and committee members accept that they are jointly and severally responsible for the organisation of the show and that this is a binding undertaking (vide Royal Kennel Club General Show Regulations F4 and F5).

All judges at this show agree to abide by the following statement "In assessing dogs, judges must penalise any features or exaggerations which they consider would be detrimental to the soundness, health and well-being of the dog".

Postal entries close: Saturday 18th April 2026

**Entries may be made online up to 12 noon on Monday 27th April 2026
at www.highampress.co.uk**

Postal entries and fees to be sent to: Higham Press Ltd.,
New Street, Higham, Alfreton, Derbyshire DE55 6BP
Tel: 01773 832390 Email: admin@highampress.co.uk

Enquiries to the Show Secretary: Kirsty Biggs
Email: biggskirsty15@gmail.com

ONLY UNDOCKED DOGS AND LEGALLY DOCKED DOGS MAY BE ENTERED FOR EXHIBITION AT THIS SHOW

THE IRISH WATER SPANIEL ASSOCIATION

President: Mrs Lois Ferrans

Chairman: Mr David Morris

Show Secretary: Kirsty Biggs

Treasurer: Mrs Julie McCallum

Safety Officer: Mr David Morris

ENTRY FEES:

£7.50 Members; £8.50 Non-Members; All subsequent entries with same dog £2.00

Catalogues: £4.50 pre-paid with entries (limited number available at the show £5.50)

Breed Downloads: £3.50 each

Only available to exhibitors entering online via www.highampress.co.uk. This year we are giving exhibitors who enter online the opportunity to download a breed catalogue to their smartphone or tablet. Available from 7am on the day of the show.

Cheque/Postal Order payable to: **The Irish Water Spaniel Association**

Veterinary Surgeon:

Erik D'Arcy-Donnelly, BSc; BVSC; MRCVS and Dr A.G. Schemel MRCVS

EXHIBITORS PLEASE NOTE:

In accordance with Royal Kennel Club Guidelines, Exhibitors must display exhibit number/ owner identification on their crate, cage or container at all times.

Refreshments

Refreshments will be available from various vendors around the showground.

Photographs

Photographs will be taken after all judging has been completed. Winners of BIS, RBIS, BP and Best Veteran are kindly asked to make themselves available for these to ensure that their photos are included in the Association's Year Book.

Caravans/Motorhomes

Please see Birmingham National schedule for details of Caravan and Motorhome parking availability.

CLASSIFICATION

Judge: Mrs Lindsay Belcher (Sosteli)

1 Puppy Dog	11 Puppy Bitch
2 Junior Dog	12 Junior Bitch
3 Special Beginners Dog	13 Special Beginners Bitch
4 Novice Dog	14 Novice Bitch
5 Post Graduate Dog	15 Post Graduate Bitch
6 Limit Dog	16 Limit Bitch
7 Open Dog	17 Open Bitch
8 Veteran Dog	18 Veteran Bitch
9 Special Working Dog	19 Special Working Bitch
10 Good Citizen Dog	20 Good Citizen Bitch

Trophies

The Association's Members Open Show Trophies will be offered at this show.
Full details will be printed in the show catalogue.

Rosettes

for

Best in Show

Reserve Best in Show

Best Puppy in Show

Reserve Best Puppy in Show

Best Opposite Sex in Show

Best Veteran in Show will be selected from all unbeaten Veterans

1st - VHC in all classes

Donations & Sponsorship

All donations and offers of sponsorship will be gratefully received and duly acknowledged in the catalogue.

Exit Passes

All dogs will require an exit pass from this show. For any dogs entered at the IWSA Open Show that are not also entered at Birmingham National Championship Show exit passes will be provided free of charge on the day. For any dogs not entered at either show you will need to obtain a Spectator Dog pass from Birmingham National Secretary on the day at a charge of £5.00.

DEFINITIONS OF CLASSES

In the following definitions, a Challenge Certificate includes any show award that counts towards the title of Champion under the rules of any governing body recognised by The Royal Kennel Club. Wins at Championship Shows in breed classes where Challenge Certificates are not on offer shall be counted as wins at Open Shows. In the case of a dog owned in partnership and entered in Members' classes or competing for Members' Specials each partner must at the time of entry be a member of the Society. In estimating the number of awards won, all wins up to and including the seventh day before the first closing date shall be counted when entering for any class i.e. **Saturday 11th April 2026**. Wins in Variety classes do not count for entry in breed classes but when entering in Variety classes, wins in both Breed and Variety classes must be counted. First prizes awarded in any classes defined as Special do not count towards eligibility.

If an exhibitor reports before the judging of a class or classes that a dog has been entered which is ineligible, the exhibitor may choose one of the following options:-

(1) *Withdrawal*

The dog may be withdrawn from competition subject to the conditions of Regulations F(1)19.

(2) *Transfer*

- a) If a dog is ineligible for a class or classes as regards its colour, sex, weight or height the Show Secretary shall transfer it to the equivalent class or classes for the correct colour, sex, weight or height and, in the event of there being no equivalent class, Minor Puppy and Puppy excepted, to the Open class for the correct colour, sex, weight or height.
- b) For an exhibit entered incorrectly in a Minor Puppy class, Puppy class or Junior class, which is over age but under twelve calendar months of age, eighteen calendar months of age or twenty four calendar months of age respectively, the Show Secretary shall transfer the exhibit to the Puppy class, Junior class or Yearling class respectively for the correct colour, sex, weight or height and in the event of there being no Puppy, Junior or Yearling class to the Open class for the correct colour, sex, weight or height.
- c) For any reason other than the above, the Show Secretary shall transfer it to the Open class for the correct colour, sex, weight or height.
- d) If an exhibit arrives late and misses a class, even if it is the only class in which the dog is entered, the dog may not be transferred to any other class.

PUPPY: For dogs of six and not exceeding twelve calendar months of age on the first day of the show.

JUNIOR: For dogs of six and not exceeding eighteen calendar months of age on the first day of the show.

NOVICE: For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate/CACIB/CAC/Green Star or three or more First Prizes at Open and Championship Shows (Minor Puppy, Special Minor Puppy, Puppy and Special Puppy classes excepted, whether restricted or not).

POST GRADUATE: For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate/CACIB/CAC/Green Star or five or more First Prizes at Championship Shows in Post Graduate, Minor Limit, Mid Limit, Limit and Open classes, whether restricted or not where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed.

LIMIT: For dogs which have not become show Champions under The Royal Kennel Club Regulations or under the rules of any governing body recognised by The Royal Kennel Club, or won 3 or more CC/CACIB/CAC/Green Stars or won 7 or more First Prizes in all at Championship Shows in Limit or Open Classes confined to the Breed, whether restricted or not at shows where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed.

OPEN: For all dogs of the breed for which the class is provided and eligible for entry at the show.

VETERAN: For dogs of not less than seven years of age on the first day of the show.

SPECIAL BEGINNERS: For owners, handlers or exhibit not having won a Challenge Certificate or Reserve Challenge Certificate, or for those breeds not allocated Championship Status, Best of Sex or Reserve Best of Sex at a Championship Show.

SPECIAL WORKING: For dogs which have been placed at a Gundog Working Test or have attained their Show Gundog Working Certificate.

GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME CLASS: For dogs that have achieved their GCDS Bronze Award Certificate or above.

RULES and REGULATIONS

1. The show will open at 7.00am.
2. Dogs will be received at any time but it is the exhibitor's responsibility to ensure that exhibits are available for judging when required.
3. Judging will commence following IWS judging in the same ring - anticipated start time 1.00pm.
4. Exhibits may be removed from the show after their judging has been completed. The show will close half an hour after all judging has been completed.
5. **Entry Fees:** Members first entry £7.50 per dog. Non-Members first entry £8.50 per dog. All Subsequent entries with the same dog £2.00. Catalogues £4.50 in advance (limited number available at the show £5.50). Breed Downloads £3.50 each. Entries can be made online at www.highampress.co.uk.
6. There is no prize money on offer at this show.
7. The Committee reserves to itself the right to refuse entries.
8. Puppies under four calendar months of age on the first day of the show are not eligible for exhibition.
9. The mating of bitches within the precincts of the show is forbidden.
10. **Best Puppy in Show (if scheduled).**
Where a Best Puppy in Show competition is scheduled the Best Puppy in Show is a puppy which has competed and is unbeaten by any other puppy exhibited at the same show. A puppy is a dog of six and not exceeding twelve calendar months of age on the first day of the Show. The selection of Best in Show may follow the selection of Best Puppy in Show and Best Veteran in Show (if scheduled) respectively. Where the Best in Show is a puppy it may, at the discretion of the judge, be awarded Best Puppy in Show respectively. Where the Reserve Best in Show is a puppy which has only been beaten by an adult dog it may, at the discretion of the judge be Best Puppy in Show respectively. A Baby Puppy is a dog of four and less than six calendar months of age on the first day of the show. Baby Puppy classes may be scheduled at any breed club show. Any Variety Baby Puppy classes may be scheduled at any breed club show. Best Baby Puppy in Breed may be declared in each breed from the dogs entered in the Baby Puppy breed classes. There must be no progression to further competition.
11. **Best in Show.**
Best in Show must be selected from the exhibits declared Best of Sex. If a Reserve Best in Show is to be selected, the eligible dogs are those declared Best Opposite Sex and the Reserve Best of Sex to the exhibit declared Best in Show.
12. Exhibits will not be admitted to Best in Show competition after a period of ten minutes has elapsed since the announcement that exhibits are required for judging, unless they have been unavoidably delayed by previous judging not being completed on time, and then only with the special permission of the Show Management.
13. Exhibitors must not pick up dogs by their tails and leads when lifting them nor handle a dog in a manner which causes its feet not touch the ground when on the move. This is not acceptable. Exhibitors should note that such practice would constitute harsh handling and reports of such practice will be referred to the Committee under Royal Kennel Club Show Regulation F11.
14. All exhibitors must be familiar with Royal Kennel Club Regulation F (Annex B) Regulations for the Preparation of Dogs for Exhibition.
15. All dogs resident outside the UK must be issued with a Royal Kennel Club Authority to Compete number before entry to the show/event can be made. All overseas entries without an Authority to Compete number will be returned to the exhibitor/competitor.
16. **DOGS IN VEHICLES ON HOT DAYS.** Your dog is vulnerable and at risk during hot weather and The Royal Kennel Club offers the following guidance to help guide you through the do's and don'ts travelling to and whilst at Royal Kennel Club licensed events.
 - When travelling to a show please take a moment to consider whether the route to the show is on a busy holiday route, and leave earlier to avoid increased time in traffic jams.
 - If your vehicle is not air-conditioned seriously consider whether travelling to the show is a good idea at all.
 - The vehicle should be as fully ventilated as possible, and plenty of stops should be taken, with lots of water available to drink.
 - Ensure your dog is not sitting in full sunlight. There should be plenty of free flowing air around the dog.
 - When at the show, never leave your dog in the vehicle.
 - Keep the dog in the shade - take your own shade for example a large umbrella and always have plenty of water available to drink so your dog stays well hydrated.
 - Avoid your dog taking part in unnecessary exertion, or from standing in exposed sunlight for extended lengths of time. Remember, if you feel hot your dog is very likely to feel much hotter and dehydrated, and this could lead to dire results. Please look after your dog's welfare.
- WARNING: IF YOUR DOG IS FOUND TO BE AT RISK FORCIBLE ENTRY TO YOUR VEHICLE MAY BE NECESSARY WITHOUT LIABILITY FOR ANY DAMAGE CAUSED.**
17. Anyone whose dog is entered at a Royal Kennel Club licensed event should take all reasonable steps to ensure the needs of their dog(s) are met, and should not put a dog's health and welfare at risk by any

action, default, omission or otherwise. Breach of Royal Kennel Club Regulations in this respect may be referred to the Board for disciplinary action under The Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations. The use of pinch collars, electronic shock collars, or prong collars, is not permitted at any show licensed by The Royal Kennel Club. This shall apply at the venue or within the precincts of the show.

18. Not for Competition entries not accepted.
19. No modifications will be made to this schedule except by permission of the Board of The Royal Kennel Club, which will be followed by advertisement in The Canine Press wherever possible.
20. An exhibitor or competitor should ensure that contact details for any handler are available and must be provided upon request in any investigation of a breach of this regulation by such handler.
21. **CANCELLATION OR ABANDONMENT.** Entry fees will not be refunded in any circumstances where any Act of God or any other unforeseen reason causes the cancellation or abandonment of the show.
22. The committee will be most anxious for the care and safety of all dogs entered for exhibition but it must be clearly understood by exhibitors and any other persons that the committee will not be responsible for the entire or partial loss, or detention of, or damage to any dogs or other property whatsoever, or for any act or omission of themselves, their officers, agents and others.
23. No animal other than an exhibit duly entered at the show will be allowed within the precincts of the show during its continuance.
24. The owner, exhibitor, handler or other person in charge of a dog at Royal Kennel Club licensed events must at all times ensure that the dog is kept under proper control whilst at the licensed venue, including its environs, car and caravan parks and approaches.
25. A dog may be disqualified by the Board from any award, whether an objection has been lodged or not, if proved amongst other things to have been a) registered or recorded as having been bred by the scheduled judge, this shall not apply to a judge appointed in an emergency; b) exhibited without payment of appropriate entry fees.
26. Every exhibitor shall ensure that whilst the dog is being exhibited, its handler shall display the correct ring number.

Regulations For The Preparation of Dogs For Exhibition F (Annex B)

1. These Regulations must be observed when a dog is prepared for exhibition and/or exhibited at any Royal Kennel Club licensed event. Objections may be referred to the Board for disciplinary action under these Show Regulations and/or for disciplinary action under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.
 - (a) A dog found to have been exhibited in breach of these Regulations will automatically be disqualified from exhibition at the show and from any award gained thereat.
 - (b) Unless the exhibitor provides a satisfactory explanation for the dog being exhibited in breach of these Regulations then he/she may be subject to further penalties of either a fine or as listed under Rule A11.
2.
 - (a) No substance which alters the natural colour, texture or body of the coat may be present in the dog's coat for any purpose at any time during the show. No substance which alters the natural colour of any external part of the dog may be present on the dog for any purpose at any time during the show.
 - (b) Any other substance (other than water) which may be used in the preparation of a dog for exhibition must not be allowed to remain in the coat or on any other part of the dog at the time of exhibition.
3. No act or operation which alters the natural conformation of a dog or any part thereof may be performed except:-
 - (a) Operations certified to the satisfaction of the Board.
 - (b) The removal of dew claws of any breed.
 - (c) Operations to prevent breeding provided that such operations are notified to The Royal Kennel Club before neutered dogs are shown.Nor must anything be done calculated to in the opinion of the Board to deceive.
4. The Board without previous notice may order an examination of any dog or dogs at any show. Any examination thus ordered will be made by a person having executive authority who shall have a written directive from The Royal Kennel Club in their possession. Samples may be taken for further examination and analysis.
5. An individual has the right to lodge an objection to a dog only if he/she is the owner or handler of a dog competing in the same breed or class. An objection may, however, be lodged by an official of the show or by anyone so deputed by The Royal Kennel Club. It will be the responsibility of the individual who lodges the objection or the official (as appropriate), to substantiate the grounds for the objection. The Royal Kennel Club will substantiate the grounds for an objection made on its behalf.
6. Any objection by an individual related to an infringement of these Regulations must be made in writing to the show secretary at his/her office before the close of the show and the individual must produce evidence of identity at the time of lodging the complaint.

2026

IWSA Gundog Training Day (in conjunction with the Working Minority Retriever Club)

Sunday 22nd February 2026

Location – Crouch Farm, Highworth, Swindon, Wiltshire SN6 7QS

By Kind permission of the Freeman Family

For more details contact Judy Hempstead – cuvanawhiptails@yahoo.co.uk

Crufts – 5th to 8th March 2026 - IWSA represented at Discover Dogs all 4 days

Gundog Day Sunday 8th March 2026 - IWSA Breed Stand at the breed ring

Tuesday 10th March 2026 – IWSA Breed celebration Lunch at the Kennel Club

More details available soon iwsa.secretary@gmail.com

Agility Training Day with Anna Allen of A For Agility

Saturday 21st March 2026

Location – Staffordshire (close to venue for AGM the following day)

Contact Penny Willoughby for more details – penny4spaniels@gmail.com

IWSA Annual General Meeting

Sunday 22nd March 2026

Venue – Cotes Heath & Standon Village Hall, Station Road, Cotes Heath, Stafford ST21 6RS

IWSA & WMRC Training Weekend with GWT

Saturday 18th April 2026 – Training, Sunday 19th April 2026 – GWT

Venue – Gardners Farm, Ashburnham, TN33 9NZ

Contact Judy Hempstead – cuvanawhiptails@yahoo.co.uk

IWSA Spring Open Show

Judge – Mrs Lindsay Belcher (Sosteli)

Saturday 9th May 2026

Venue - Stafford County Showground ST18 0BD

(in partnership with Birmingham National Championship Show- to follow IWSA judging in the same ring)

Contact Kirsty Biggs – biggskirsty15@gmail.com

IWSA 53rd Championship Show

Judge – Mrs Hannah Denbigh (Malanis)

Special Awards Judge - TBC

Saturday 18th July 2026

IWSA Breed Celebration Open Day

Sunday 19th July 2026

Venue for both days - TBC

More details available soon. Contact Mrs Angie Biggs – iwsa.secretary@gmail.com

IWSA 54th Championship Show & Autumn Open Show

Sunday 18th October 2026

Championship Show Judge – Mr Ernie Lockett (Fayemm)

Autumn Open Show Judge – Ms Karen Powney

Venue – TBC

More details available soon. Contact Mrs Angie Biggs – iwsa.secretary@gmail.com

Details of further Training days and GWTs to follow once confirmed.

Directions to the Show

County Show Ground, Stafford ST18 0BD

LOCATION

Positioned in the heart of England, the Showground is easily accessible by road.

By Road

From the South

- M5, M6. Exit M6 motorway at junction 14. Follow A518 and signposts for Stafford Showground.
- M1, M6. Exit at junction 14 and follow signs for Stafford Showground and A518.

From the North

- The M6 is a major route for those travelling from the north. Exit at junction 14, as above.
- M1, via Derby A38, A50, A518. (The Showground is located on the A518).

By Air

- Airports - Birmingham International Airport is about 45 minutes from the Showground and both Manchester and East Midland Airports can be reached in little more than an hour.

Accommodation

- A wide selection of accommodation is available within easy reach of the Showground. Stafford town centre is just 3 miles away offering a range from simple B&B to four star hotels. For a detailed list please contact Stafford Tourist Information Centre (Tel. 01785 619619). It is recommended that exhibitors ensure that their chosen establishment will accommodate dogs prior to booking.

