

What Your Veterinarian Needs To Know

1 Wolfhounds are extremely sensitive to anaesthesia and tranquillisers.

Like all the Sighthound breeds, wolfhounds can have a problem with barbiturate anaesthetics, and this is because their ratio of bone to bodyweight is high. It is also true that large breeds generally require less anaesthetic per pound of bodyweight than smaller breeds because of the difference in their metabolic rate. When calculating the amount of anaesthetic to give, surface area should be used as the indication, not bodyweight. There are charts available for converting size and bodyweight to surface area in order to calculate the correct amount of anaesthetic required.

2. Be careful with the use of NSAIDs for your Wolfhound: any extended period after the three-day point, you may need an addition of a protective drug such as Cytotec or the likes to avoid ulceration of the gut lining.

3. Many Wolfhounds cannot tolerate the drug ATABRINE, sometimes used in giardia treatment. Serious neurological side effects may occur, possibly resulting in death.

4. Wolfhounds do not tolerate the wormer TASK. (*Reprinted from a US website; therefore, possibly not used in Australia.*)

5. Wolfhounds often have adverse reactions to flea products containing cholinesterase inhibitors. Read the labels!

6. Hypothyroidism is not uncommon in Wolfhounds, particularly in older dogs

7. Wolfhounds can be in severe pain and real trouble, without showing obvious signs, even to the point of no reaction to abdominal palpation with perforated intestines and peritonitis. Know the symptoms of Bloat and Pneumonia.

8. When IW puppies are allowed to grow too quickly, the cartilage in their joints may not attach to the bone properly. This problem is known as osteochondritis dissecans or OCD. Stick to the recommended growth rate of no more than four pounds per week. Don't overfeed and don't supplement with additional calcium. Feed a large-breed puppy diet rather than an adult or a regular puppy diet.

Be careful with over-exercising/playing while growing out a puppy (*you could wind up with OCD, Osteochondritis Dissecans*). OCD is a disease of the cartilage rather than the bones; it typically appears between the ages of 4 and 10 months.