

1. You just saw “the most breathtaking Irish Wolfhound” in a large cage at “Puppy Kingdom.”

A pet store or puppy mill or farm are probably the WORST places to buy an Irish Wolfhound (or any breed). There are many reasons:

- Selling puppies is strictly a money-making proposition for these businesses.
- The puppies have been taken from their mothers too soon, and haven’t been socialized and evaluated properly.
- These sellers have NO IDEA about the health of the pup and, just as importantly, that of its family.
- The price is often higher than what you would pay a reputable breeder.
- These sellers will rarely take responsibility for any problems that crop up - health, behavioral or otherwise.

2. You can’t - or don’t want to - add another category to your budget. Owning a dog is not inexpensive - especially a giant breed such as an Irish Wolfhound. All of his expenses will considerably exceed those of most breeds whether it be his veterinary care, food or housing when you are away.

3. Your idea of grooming consists of hosing your dog off in an outside tub every once in a while. Brushing an Irish Wolfhound, trimming its nails and keeping it flea, tick and heartworm free is not easy or inexpensive. Although a crisp, harsh coat is not difficult to manage if brushed weekly, there is a lot MORE dog to groom! Having an Irish Wolfhound groomed by a professional groomer would prove to be very expensive and your dog probably would not like it, anyway.

4. You are not willing to make a commitment for the lifetime of the dog. Finding another home for a huge Irish Wolfhound can be difficult - especially if you have failed to train him. If he is inexperienced about the outside world, the change could be very hard for him. Older dogs develop illnesses, just as older people do. Finding a new owner who wants to take on such burdens can be very difficult.



5. You have valuable furniture, rugs, antiques or flower beds. Irish Wolfhound puppies can be particularly destructive. They dig huge holes, can chew up an entire sofa in an afternoon or eat your car seats beyond recognition if left unsupervised.

6. You are a clean freak and don’t like dog hair. Irish Wolfhounds are big dogs, which means they have more hair than a small dog with a smooth coat. They have great big feet that can track in lots of mud and strong toenails that can scratch your favorite hardwood floors. Relegating a Wolfhound to a solitary life outside will cause him to very unhappy - he needs a companion to play with and to be part of your life.

7. You want a guard dog. An Irish Wolfhound’s stature and deep bark are usually enough to thwart an intruder, but other than that, he is likely to gently wag his tail while the family silver is being stuffed in a sack and carried out the door. We quite intentionally do not breed guard dog temperament in the Irish Wolfhound as it would be extremely dangerous in a dog of this size and would be out of character for the breed, in any event.

8. You think having an Irish Wolfhound will teach your children responsibility. An Irish Wolfhound is far too great a responsibility for a child, for all kinds of reasons. It is not a dog that can run loose in the neighborhood at your child’s side or that has much savvy when it comes to traffic. This means that you will need tall, strong fencing - you may feel that will ruin your home’s “curb appeal.”

9. You like to leave snacks on low tables for guests or may want to leave the kitchen during meal preparation. Irish Wolfhounds have been known to steal entire roasts or turkeys from the table in a matter of seconds. They can reach any counter you may have and even the top of the refrigerator!

10. You have a sedentary lifestyle. Unless you can provide a secure area in which your dog can run and exercise, you will need to plan on lots of walking, jogging, or biking in a safe area with your dog at your side. Irish Wolfhounds are sighthounds, which means if they see something that interests them they are likely to chase it. They can run *much* faster than you.