calculation for subsequent years. Longevity and mortality of Irish wolfhounds: 31. The maximum ages recorded for each sex occurred in animals whose exact dates were known - dog, 126 months (39/12/1935 to 9/2/1946), bitch 161 months (4/2/1940 to 13/7/1953). Although in these figures the infant mortality of dogs is significantly higher, and the expectation of life at all ages lower, than those of bitches, the large sex difference in mean longevity is mainly due to high mortality of dogs in the second and third years of life. This may well represent a real difference, in spite of the smallness of the samples. The Irish wolfhound is a sighthound breed, with a build in line with that of most sighthound dogs; long legged with a body that is relatively lean compared to their height, with a deep, broad chest. Their coats are medium length and rough and shaggy, and can be seen in a wide range of colours including black, grey, white, red and brindle. Historically used as a hunting sighthound for working roles, today the Irish wolfhound is much more commonly owned as a pet. In this article, we will look at the hereditary health and average longevity of the Irish wolfhound in more detail. Irish wolfhounds: The average lifespan of the Irish wolfhound is just 7 years, according to a Kennel Club survey of owners of dogs of the breed. However, this is a misleading figure as there are many cases where Irish wolfhounds live well beyond the age of 7 years. Many wolfhound owners report having Irish wolfhounds that have lived for more than 10 years, and in some cases even longer. The reason for this is likely to be a combination of genetic factors and environmental factors. The Irish wolfhound is a breed that is prone to certain genetic disorders, such as hip dysplasia and elbow dysplasia, which can lead to a shortened lifespan. However, with careful breeding and health screening, many Irish wolfhound owners are able to identify and breed away from these conditions, thus increasing the lifespan of their dogs. In addition, the Irish wolfhound is a breed that is known for its strength and endurance, which can contribute to a longer lifespan. Many wolfhound owners who work with their dogs as hunting companions report seeing their dogs live well beyond the age of 7 years. Overall, while the average lifespan of the Irish wolfhound is just 7 years, it is not uncommon for Irish wolfhounds to live well beyond this age.