

He had every opportunity of observing them himself, being much at Westport House during his youth." After making other observations, he goes on to say:—"The bone of the fore-leg is, I should say, the point that best distinguishes dogs of this class from all of the Greyhound class, whom in actual build they so much resemble. The massiveness of that bone is out of proportion altogether, and it certainly was not made for speed so much as for power and endurance. I think all the Scotch dogs that I have seen are deficient in this respect, and I attribute it to crossing with lighter-built breeds in order to obtain swiftness for deer-hunting. The epithet 'hairy-footed' in old Irish poems leaves no doubt as to the comparatively rough coat of the Irish Wolfdog."

That it is beyond reason that any dog should have stood 36 inches is not the case, as Lord Mount Edgcombe has a picture of a dog taken life-size which measures 36 inches to the shoulder. The skeleton of this dog (apparently a Great Dane), which is also preserved, would corroborate this measurement. A picture was also painted for the Marquis of Hastings in 1803 by Clifford de Tomson, which represents a dog standing 36 inches at shoulder—also apparently a Great Dane, of a buff-and-white colour. The picture measures $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet, so it will be seen the dog must of necessity have been gigantic. We have also had some enormous dogs "in the life" of late years. The great American dog exhibited to Her Majesty some eighteen years ago was said to stand 36 inches. Sir Roger Palmer's Sam was 34. Both were Boarhounds. Several of our Mastiffs have stood 33 and even 34 inches. The great dog brought from America by Mr. Butler, of New York, about four or five years ago, stood about the same height. He was a descendant of the dog shown to the Queen—also owned by Mr. Butler. On the Continent it is not uncommon to find dogs standing 33 and 34 inches, and a Boarhound has been brought to the writer's notice, belonging to a gentleman residing at Cologne, that was reported to stand 37 inches by

a gentleman well accustomed to large dogs. The tallest dog the writer has actually measured stood $34\frac{1}{2}$ inches on the shoulderblade—a giant indeed. With all these examples before us, and some of them within our reach, there is no reason why the Irish Wolfhound should not be restored to its original height of from 33 to 35 inches.

It is worthy of remark that whilst some people scout the very idea that the Deerhound is the descendant of the Irish Wolfhound, McNeill is proud to claim such descent for his favourite breed.

The assertion that has been frequently made by writers on the breed that he stood 4 feet high no doubt applied to the top of his head, as a 33 or 34-inch dog would stand nearly 4 feet at that part.

A friend of the writer's—a Deerhound breeder of considerable experience, and one who had well considered the Irish Wolfhound question—writes:—"I hold that the Irish Wolfhound was identical with the Scotch Deerhound, only even more massive and bigger still. Ireland seems to have been peculiar for the growth of big animals as well as big men. Look at the fossil elk, for instance. I have a pair of antlers in my hall—I believe the longest in existence—11 feet in a straight line across from tip to tip."

Major Garnier at one time turned his attention to Irish Wolfhounds, and produced one or two dogs of great size, but he was unable to carry his projects to an end, being suddenly ordered to the Cape.

He was thoroughly convinced that the recovery of this breed in its pristine grandeur and magnificence was only a question of time if the would-be breeders were steadfast in their endeavours. He had laid down for himself certain rules in breeding, which are given:—

"1. Quality is very much more dependent on the dam than on the sire.

"2. Bone or size, on the contrary, is far more dependent on the sire.