

hence his misconception on the matter. Mr. Betham's account is only inserted and confuted to remove any impression that certain of Hamilton Rowan's dogs were aught but Great Danes, which has been erroneously otherwise concluded. Mr. Betham confesses, it will be seen, that he is not acquainted with the Great Dane or Boarhound, which are common and plentiful in all Continental countries; he cannot, consequently, be considered a fair judge on the subject.

Youatt has this regarding the Irish Wolfdog:—"This animal is nearly extinct, or only to be met with at the mansions of one or two persons, by whom he is kept more for show than use, the wild animals which he seemed powerful enough to conquer having long disappeared from the kingdom. The beauty of his appearance and antiquity of his race are his only claims, as he disdains the chase of stag, fox, or hare, though he is ever ready to protect the person and property of his master. His size is various, some having attained the height of four feet, and Dr. Goldsmith states he saw one as large as a yearling calf. He is shaped like the Greyhound, but stouter; and the only dog the writer from whom this account is taken ever saw approaching his graceful figure, combining beauty with strength, is the large Spanish Wolfdog. The same writer says that his grandfather had an Irish Wolfdog that saved his mother's life from a wolf. She was paying a visit, attended by this faithful follower. He rushed on his foe just when he was about to make his spring, and after a fierce struggle, laid him dead at his mistress's feet. His name was Bran." (*Sporting Magazine*, 1837.)

The assertion, made by several authors, that the Irish Wolfhound disdains the chase of stag, fox, and hare is utterly absurd; as it is a well known fact that all dogs of the Greyhound breed will readily chase and attack any animal which flees from them, and to pursue which they are encouraged.

Literature and the powers of depicting an animal in its correct form were in such a crude and immature stage amongst the nobility and gentry of the land at the periods when we have our first accounts of the Irish Wolfdog, that it is not in the least to be wondered at that the imperfect descriptions given of the breed by such persons as were equal to the task were allowed to go uncontradicted by the only people in whose hands the breed was likely to be. From the accounts we have, however, we can clearly and distinctly gather that the dog has always been of Greyhound shape, of gigantic stature, and great power: in fact, such a dog as a cross between the Great Dane and present Deerhound would produce, as to form and bulk, but of superior size.

Richardson, to further his views regarding the probable size of the ancient Irish Wolfdog, tells us that certain canine skulls were found by Surgeon Wylde at Dimshanglin which were concluded to be those of the Irish Wolfdog; of these the largest was 11 inches in the bone, and from that fact he proceeds to argue that the living dog must have stood about 40 inches. To begin, he takes for his guide a Deerhound dog standing 29 inches, whose head measures 10 inches. To the 11 inch Irish Wolfhound skull he adds 3 inches for muzzle, hair, skin, and other tissues, thereby making the head of the living dog 14 inches: thus getting the height of 40 inches from it, as compared to the 29 inches from the 10 inch head. Here, however, he would appear to be in error, as $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 inches at the most would be enough to allow for tissues, &c., making the head $12\frac{1}{2}$ to 13 inches only, and so reducing the height to 36 inches; moreover, the measurement of 10 inches for the head of a 29 inch Deerhound is manifestly insufficient, as the writer can testify from ample experience. A Deerhound of that height should have a head of at least 11 inches; so, calculating on the same principles, the skulls would have been from dogs standing about 34 inches. This skull is