



# WELCOME TO IROQUOIS



## About Your Visit to the Iroquois Hounds.

Welcome to the Iroquois kennel, home to the famous Iroquois Hounds of Kentucky.

The Iroquois Hounds are foxhounds, which means they have been bred specially to hunt foxes and coyotes. There have been foxhounds here at Iroquois since 1880, when the Iroquois Hunt was founded by local landowner, General Roger D. Williams.

The kennel is located in the heart of the Iroquois Hunt country in Clark County. Some of you have already hunted with Iroquois and, hopefully, many more of you will get to in future. Going hunting is just about the best fun you can have on a horse and many of today's top 3-Day Event riders started off through hunting. Hunting teaches you all the skills you need to be a good rider.

Now, before we begin the tour of the kennel, let's meet the people who will be showing you round.

The first person you will meet today will be Michael Edwards. Michael is the kennelman here at Iroquois. Michael and his assistant, Toby, take care of the 70 hunting and the 23 retired hounds that live in the kennel. They know the name of every hound and what it is like. Every day, Michael and Toby clean the kennel; feed the hounds; check each one in case they need first aid; exercise them on houndwalks; and rotate them in and out of the big turn out paddocks so they all get several hours of play time each day. Together, they see that the hounds are fit and happy and ready to do their job.



The next person you'll meet is Lilla Mason. Lilla is the huntsman, one of very few women huntsmen in the United States - they are mostly men. On a hunt day, Lilla is in charge of taking

the hounds to places where they might find the scent of a fox or a coyote - these are known as 'coverts', but pronounced 'covers'. All the riders follow behind her and the hounds, so they get to watch it all happen. It is very exciting. Lilla might take as many as 20 hounds out at one time, so they need to be well trained and very obedient.



## The Iroquois Kennel

The kennel at Iroquois is very special, and very different from the kennels of other hunts.

Everything is done to make sure the hounds are happy.

There are 17 different runs, or sections, where the hounds live in separate groups. And unlike in other kennels, Michael lets each hound pick the group it wants to be with, so that no-one gets bullied. The hounds sleep together, eat together and play together, and this makes them work well as a team when they go hunting. They also get used to being around people, which makes them very friendly and interested in what you are doing, and also very obedient when Lilla asks them to do something on a hunt.



## When is a hound not a hound?

The rules about what makes a foxhound are very strict, like what makes a particular breed of horse. There are several different types, including American, English and Crossbred.

Most hounds can trace their ancestry back many generations, but in order to qualify as a foxhound its owners must know, at least, who the hound's great-grandparents were.

And because they are bred to do a special job, they all have to have certain characteristics. Can you guess what they are?

**Nose** - a good nose to smell the scent of coyotes and foxes is essential. **Voice** - a good voice is needed to tell other hounds they have found the scent. **Body** - they must be able to run for long distances without a break over rough country and through creeks.



At Iroquois, we have a mixture of English and Crossbred hounds. The English hounds also have Welsh blood in them - some of their ancestors came from Wales. And this gives their coats a rough, 'wooly' texture. We call them 'woolies'. The one pictured is called Sassoon and he is the son of Iroquois best ever hound, Grundy.

## What Else is There to See at the Iroquois Kennel?

Perhaps you can persuade Lilla to show you the horse barn, once you've finished seeing the kennel. There are some wonderful horses there.

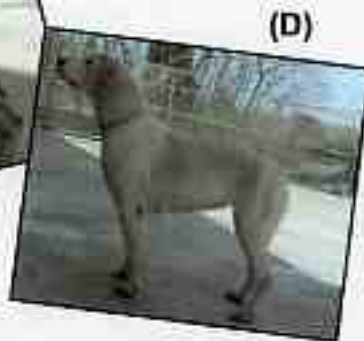
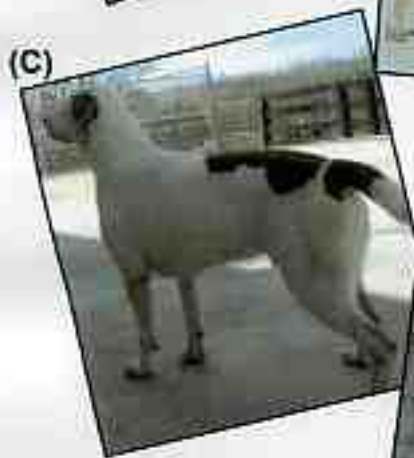
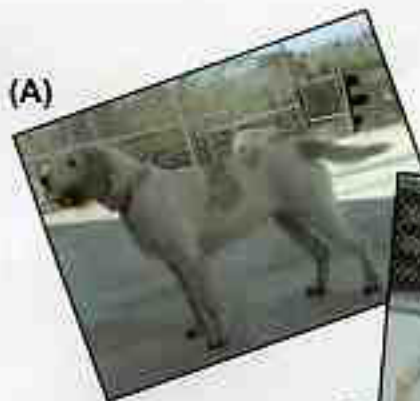
Ask her about what's involved in preparing them (and their riders) for hunting and what special pieces of equipment she has to carry as huntsman.

You might also like to see Mrs. Miller's goats. They are often down by the horse barn, too.



# THE KENNEL COMPETITION

See if you can match the following names to the pictures of some of the hounds you've seen today. (Finesse, Harlequin, Greystone, Stifle)



- A.....  
B.....  
C.....  
D.....

## The Hound Welfare Fund

One of the best things about the Iroquois kennel is the retired hounds. They are the ones that hunted for a long time, but then got hurt or became too old to keep up with the pack.



They have pride of place in the kennel, and in many cases are the grandmas and grandpas of the younger hounds.

In 2001 a special fund, 'The Hound Welfare Fund', was set up to make sure there was always money available to keep the retired hounds. Because, after all they have done for us in showing us such great sport out hunting, it is only right to give them a well-earned and comfortable retirement.