Background & Purpose
- Atrial fibrillation (AF) is an arrhythmia in which the heart beats fast with no identifiable pattern of atrial activation. Although AF affects a wide variety of animals, it has a particularly high prevalence in Irish Wolfhounds suggesting a genetic predisposition. We are conducting a genetic investigation into the cause of AF in Irish Wolfhounds in order to improve our understanding of this disease and thus inform prevention and treatment practices.

Participation Requirements
- Irish Wolfhounds that are older than 8 years old with or without atrial fibrillation
- NOTE: If your Irish Wolfhound has already had a completed cardiology evaluation (exam, echocardiogram and EKG), you may be able to participate by simple submission of a blood sample.

Procedures
- Complete cardiology evaluation, including a focused cardiovascular physical examination, an electrocardiogram, and an echocardiogram without the use of sedatives to determine if atrial fibrillation and/or other cardiac diseases are present.
- Blood collection for DNA extraction, which will be used for the genetic analysis of atrial fibrillation

Owner Responsibilities
- Coordinating a scheduled visit with the laboratory
- Bringing your dog to the scheduled appointment
- Covering costs incurred that are not related to the study

Benefits
- All costs associated with the study will be paid for by the study. Adverse effects are not expected from a cardiac screening. If adverse events occur directly as a result of the study and your dog requires further care (e.g. hospitalization, monitoring, treatment/medications etc.) the study will cover up to $3,000 of your dog's care.
- Identification of genes will allow us to better understand and guide medical care for your dog and future dogs affected with atrial fibrillation.