

THE NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND

DOG OF THE VIKINGS

Presentation by
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MY MISSION TODAY

To convince you about the athletic
NORWEGIAN MOOSE HUNTING DOG

VS

the well-handled, over groomed 'vanilla'
show dogs that people are mistaking for
the Norwegian Elkhound!



Ultimate Athlete in a Hunting Dog

- The Norwegian Elkhound is a hardy Arctic dog whose length of leg, functional angles, short-coupling, and harsh gray coat combine to create the ultimate athlete in a hunting dog.



Video of Hunting



Actively Hunting Today

- The athletic Norwegian Elkhound is still used today for hunting moose in Norway up until at least 10 years of age.
- To become a Norwegian champion they are required to hold a moose at bay for 1 hour on 2 hunting trips.
- About 25,000 moose are taken in Norway alone each year which is 50,000,000 lbs. of moose meat – a major source of meat!

Modifying the Early Imports

- In the 1950's the Norwegian Elkhound Association of America established a policy of bringing Foreign Judges to the U.S. to judge our National Specialties which were held every 3 years and since the 1970's every 2 years.
- These foreign breed experts pointed out some corrections needed in our breeding programs:

Early Changes Noted

- 1st judge pointed out that Elkhounds are first and foremost a square proportioned dog
- 2nd judge informed us we were breeding for too much chest and too little leg length in proportion to depth of chest
- 3rd judge informed us that we adopted the standard we had calculated bitch height wrong and it should be 19 ½ not 18 inches

- 4th judge informed us that Elkhounds tend to breed down quickly to a small size if not watched for
- 5th judge said we should have a square dog and to watch the length of loin
- More recently judges have pointed out:
 - the number of missing and tiny teeth
 - Incorrect long soft coats
 - Elkhounds should have a silver gray color with contrasting black

Video of Hunting



Forequarters

- Leg length appears to be $\frac{1}{2}$ height at the withers
- Leg length is actually 55% leg and 45% body if there were no hair underneath
- Mature dog should not appear weedy due to too much leg to chest
- Puppy should not appear at all heavy-chested for all Elkhounds will fill out in the chest area

8 week old Elkhound



Puppy Dog/ Adult Dog



Puppy/Adult Bitch



Veteran Bitch 11 years



Functional Characteristics

- The most angles you can get in a square dog
- Square shape for Agility
- Short coupling and well muscled loin
- Moderate angulation means not like an Irish Setter or German Shepherd
- Strong Topline

Gait Characteristics

- Elkhounds typical working gait over rough country is the “Dilt”
- An athletic dog moving at a trot
- Tends to single track as picks up speed
- Move at moderate speed
- Do not penalize if moves fast, but do not require an Elkhound to do so
- Good extension from good angles
- Level topline when moving
- All energy spent on moving dog forward
- At a trot the stride is even and effortless
- Uses a working lope going over shrubs and bushes



Common Faults in Gait

- Fronts set too far forward
- Short upper arm
- Wide fronts
- Swinging fronts
- Out at the Elbows
- Straight Shoulders
- Pacing due to square profile and poor angles
- Crossing in rear
- Hitching movement in rear
- Straight stifles
- Balanced front and rear – commonly fools many judges
- Rolling from side to side on shoulder area and on sides

Temperament Considerations

- Bold and energetic
- Good temperament towards other dogs as they may hunt together
- Neither sex should be aggressive in ring
- Elkhound may put ears back when judge goes over the dog – that is OK
- Friendly towards hunters
- Do not try to stare down – perceived as a threat
- Do not try to be playful – Elkhound will most likely move or jump up
- A well built Elkhound can go from standing to in your arms kissing in a second of time
- If you make sudden movements do not be surprised if Elkhound does too as instinct is to move away from moose quickly if it moves towards the hunting dog.

DON'T PENALIZE FOR

- Black mascara line from eye to just below ear



DON'T PENALIZE FOR

- Double curl in tail



DON'T PENALIZE FOR

Moderate chest in puppies



DON'T PENALIZE FOR

- Small ears



DON'T PENALIZE FOR

- Tightly curled tail producing a part or nest in back hair



DON'T PENALIZE FOR

- Small amount of white on chest 1 ½" X 1 ½"



DON'T PENALIZE FOR

Untrimmed Norwegian Elkhounds



DON'T PENALIZE FOR

- Darker dogs with light colored legs and underside, gray undercoat and harness markings
- Rapid movement if done by an athletic dog, but this should not cover up poor movement such as a dog taking too many steps with lack of reach and drive
- Fill under the eyes

Common Weak Points or Faults

- Heavy chested dogs with too much depth of chest and spring of rib
- Lack of forechest or prosternum
- Forward set fronts
- Weak pasterns
- Low set tails
- Dysplastic hips popping in and out of hip socket
- Long in coupling
- Weak top lines
- Light eyes which give a wolflike appearance

Common Weak Points or Faults

- Cream colored instead of silver-gray which tends to have a higher percentage of the darker guard hairs
- Oval shaped heads
- Heads lacking fill under the eyes
- Soft, large and very wide ears – also too thin in texture
- Lack of black pigment in coat on ears, muzzle and saddle
- Loose skin on the throat
- Missing teeth and incorrect scissors bite
- Lack of athleticism
- Domed heads who tend to hunt close to the Moose and can be easily injured

Contrasting Similar Breeds

- Swedish Elkhound
 - Ring around eyes
 - Cream color instead of silver gray
 - Heavy bone
 - Larger size
 - Heavy head type
 - Used more in snow in winter

Black Elkhound

- Black undercoat
- Smaller size
- Lighter bone
- Narrower head

Red Elkhound

- Color appears Reddish Blonde

When applying for Hounds

- The Elkhound may seem out of place in the Hound group as it is actually a Spitz breed and is classified as such in Europe.
- The Elkhound is not a breed that hunts in packs.
- However when applying think of combining the Elkhound with the Basenji and the Rhodesian Ridgeback

Basenji / Elkhound Similarities

- Square dog
- Athletic extension in gait
- Curled tail down center of back
- Level topline
- Good length of neck
- Prick ears facing forward
- Layback of shoulder important
- Short coupled
- Well muscled loin
- Similar chest to leg ratio 45/55

Rhodesian Ridgeback/Elkhound Similarities

- Similar in function when hunting
 - Holds lions vs moose in place for hunter

Moderate angulation in the rear

Layback of Shoulder needed

Athleticism is very important

Athletic extension in gait











**ARE YOU READY TO BEGIN JUDGING
THE NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND?**



JUDGING

THE NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND

- Observe head with ears up
- Look for almond-shaped eye
- Check for scissors bite
- Do not need to check # of teeth, but if you do will often find missing – not what we want
- Want full lower jaw
- Parallel plains
- Moderate stop
- Small ears not too wide at base with good thickness
- Black ears and muzzle preferred



Move on to body

- Good length of neck
- Adequate bone in legs
- Round cat foot
- Well laid back shoulder
- Upper Arm is length of Shoulder Blade
- – about 6 inches in males 5 ½ inches in bitches
- Spring of rib
- Full development of chest
- Coat texture
- Lighter undercoat hairs should be silver
- Check amount of weight being carried



Continuing on with body

- Amount of hair on underside
- Well muscled loin
- Short coupling
- Curl and set of tail
- Angle of croup
- Let down of stifle
- Front of rear feet in line with rear of dog
- Short hocks
- Muscle condition of rear





Priorities

- Square Dog
- Short Coupling and Muscle tone of loin
- Strength of rear muscles
- Strong easy movement
- Athletic Appearance
- Strong Front
- Water Resistant Coarse Outer Hairs

Deceptive Handling and Grooming Techniques

- Excessive trimming -shaving of underside to give leg length
- Pulling tail down back to give shorter appearance
- Pulling back legs out for level topline
- Reverse combing of hair on topline to give sloping appearance to topline
- Trimming of black guard hairs to give lighter color
- Whitener on leg hair

Move on Loose lead – athletic gait
with moderate speed







Your Elkhound Picture

Think athletic, hardy, durable and able to resist extremes of weather and terrain, and you will find the best dogs that appear in your ring!

**ARE YOU READY TO BEGIN JUDGING
THE NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND?**

Class 1 of 4 males



Class of 4 Bitches



Class 2 of 4 males











Special Information

- Next National is April 2008 in Minneapolis MN which will have mentoring
- Breed Mentors throughout the country
- 14 Regional Specialties
- Contact me at 603-889-5823 Home or 603-438-9053 cell with urgent questions
- E-mail Address is Somerrijuj@aol.com

