

KUSA



Official Breed Standard

Norwegian Elkhound (Hound Group)



A Breed Standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function with soundness essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be mindful of features which could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed.

NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND

(Effective 31.03.2016)

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Powerful; compact body; square outline and proud carriage; coat close and abundant but not open; upstanding pointed ears; tail tightly curled over back.

CHARACTERISTICS

A hardy hunting Spitz with a bold energetic disposition.

TEMPERAMENT

Friendly, intelligent and independent without any sign of nervousness.

HEAD AND SKULL

Wedge-shaped, comparatively broad between ears; stop, not large, forehead and back of head slightly arched; foreface broad at root (not pinched in), evenly tapering whether seen from above or side, never pointed; bridge of nose straight and approximately the length of forehead; tight-fitting skin on head, no wrinkle.

EYES

Not prominent, slightly oval, medium size, dark brown, giving frank, fearless and friendly expression.

EARS

Set high, small, firm and erect, pointed and very mobile; slightly taller than width at base; when alert, outer edge should be vertical.

MOUTH

Jaws strong with perfect, regular scissor bite i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

NECK

Medium length, powerful, carrying the head high; a rich ruff on close-fitting skin but no dewlap.

FOREQUARTERS

Legs straight with good, not coarse, bone and strong pasterns; shoulders sloping; elbows closely set in.

BODY

Powerful; short, strong back; loin short and wide with very little tuck up; chest deep and broad; well curved ribs; topline straight and level; distance from brisket to ground not less than half the height at withers.

HINDQUARTERS

Legs firm, strong and powerful; little but definite bend at stifle and hock; straight when viewed from behind.

FEET

Comparatively small, slightly oval; tightly closed, well arched toes with protective hair between thick pads; turning neither in nor out. Nails firm and strong.

TAIL

Strong, set on high; thickly coated without plume; tightly curled, preferably over the centre line of back.

GAIT/MOUMENT

Demonstrates agility and endurance; stride at the trot even and effortless, back remaining level; as speed of trot increases, front and rear legs converge equally in straight lines towards a centre line beneath body.

COAT

Close, abundant, weather resistant; soft, dense, woolly undercoat and coarse, straight outer coat; short and smooth on head and front of legs, slightly longer on back of front legs, longest on neck, back of thighs and tail; not trimmed.

COLOUR

Grey of various shades, with black tips to outer coat; lighter on chest, stomach, legs, underside of tail, buttocks and in a harness mark; ears and foreface dark; a dark line from eye to ear desirable; undercoat pure pale grey. Any pronounced variation from the grey colour, sooty colour on lower legs, spectacles or white markings undesirable.

SIZE

Ideal height at shoulder: Dogs: 52 cms (20½ ins) Bitches: 49 cms (19½ ins)

Weight approximately 23 kgs (51 lbs) and 20 kgs (44 lbs) respectively.

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect on the health and welfare of the dog and the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

NOTE

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

Only clinically and functionally healthy dogs with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.



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