



ELKHOUND (ELGHUND) DESCRIPTION

Since before 4000 B.C., the Norwegian Elkhound has faced icy weather, rugged terrain, dangerous animals... and still performed as a superior hunter, herder, guard and companion. Comrade to the Vikings, guardian of lonely farms and saeters, herder of flocks and defender from wolves and bear, a hunter always and roamer with hardy men, the Norwegian Elkhound comes down to us through more than six millennia with all his Nordic traits untainted, a fearless dog and friendly, devoted to man and the chase. A very rugged and robust dog built for endurance, bred and trained as a hunter and tracker, the Elkhound displays a keen and very acute sense of smell and hearing. Every physical characteristic is the expression of a need. His compactness, his muscled robustness, his squareness, his width and depth are true expressions of nature's requirements for a dog that would hunt day after day, all day long, in rugged country, where stamina rather than extreme speed is called for. The words brave, independent, dependable and determined describe their personalities. As pets, they are intelligent, friendly and reliable.

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The Elkhound is a dog of medium size which presents a square profile. The females are ideally between 18.5 and 19.5 inches high; the males are some 2 inches taller. The dog is as long as tall, and the height is about half leg and half body. The Elkhound's muzzle is wider at the base than at the nose, giving the head a wedge-shape, the pointed ears are very mobile when erect, and the tail is curled tightly over the back.

You are still interested in a Norwegian Elkhound ?

Then read on -

“If you love the outdoors, are a confident and fun person then the Elkhound is definitely the right dog for you, because you will need to make time to exercise and train him/her.

Elkhounds molt twice a year so if you are fastidious house proud person, be prepared for lots of dog hair on your clothes and furniture. Elkhounds do need regular grooming at these periods.

Beware, Elkhounds are prone to rapid weight gain and must not be overfed or given too many treats or tit-bits.

Beware, if you have super sensitive neighbours who don't like noisy dogs, train at an early age that barking is only allowed when someone comes to the door.

Please remember that young Elkhounds can be quite robust and boisterous in play so take care with young children who could easily be knocked over.

Remember any puppy is like a baby, they need regular feeding, playing and sleeping.

If you are still interested in our lovely breed, remember you are buying a dog for life it will require patience, love and understanding but the rewards you get far outweigh the input you make. You will have a faithful, loving friend and protector for life.

If you are first time owner of a Norwegian Elkhound then there is an excellent 16 page downloadable booklet entitled “Norwegian Elkhounds as Pets”, which will give valuable information on the breed, this is available on the Norwegian Elkhound Club of Great Britain’s web site.

If you intend to show your dog we strongly recommend you join the Norwegian Elkhound Club of Great Britain or the Elkhound Association of Scotland who have their own Code of Ethics in addition to those of the Kennel Club, details may be obtained on both Clubs by clicking on the relevant link on our Links Page. However, we strongly recommend that even if you do not wish to show your dog but are merely looking for a companion then you read and abide by both sets of Code of Ethics, after all it is only common sense and courtesy.

Some of the best information about Norwegian Elkhounds is found in books that are now out of print. These may still be available from publishers, authors, or on eBay, Public Libraries are also good sources as is the internet with many interesting web sites about the breed. (see our links page)

May we recommend for your reading pleasure:

THE ELKHOUND, Kitty Heffer, 1969, Reprinted by the British Elkhound Club, 1985

THE ELKHOUND IN THE BRITISH ISLES, Anne Roslin-Williams, 1993
Publisher: Witherby & Co. Ltd. 32-36 Aylesbury St., London EC1R OET.

MY 60 YEARS WITH NORWEGIAN ELGHUNDS, Olav Campbell, 1988
Publisher: Show Quality Publications, 14465 St. Croix Tr. N., Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047.

THE NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND, Dr. Nina P. Ross, 1995
Publisher: Doral Publishing Inc, 8560 Salish Lane 300, Wilsonville, OR 97070-9612

THE NEW COMPLETE NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND, Olav Wallo, 1987
Publisher: Howell Book House, Macmillan Publishing Company, 4 Crinan St, London, N1 9XW

NORWEGIAN ELKHOUNDS, Anna Katherine Nicholas, 1983,
Publisher T.F.H. Publications Inc Ltd, 11 Ormside Way, Holmethorpe Ind Estate, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 2PX

BORN TO WIN, BREED TO SUCCEED, Patricia Craige, 1997,
Publisher: Doral Publishing, 10451 Palmeras Drive, Sun City, AZ 85373

