



GROUP II: HOUNDS

NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND

RECOGNIZED: 1928

Effective: January 2004

The breed standard outlines the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed, and ensures that a dog can carry out its original purpose. Breeders and judges should be mindful to prioritize dogs that are healthy and sound in both mind and body.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Norwegian Elkhound is a typical northern dog, of medium size, with a compact, proportionately short body, with a thick and rich, but not bristling, grey coat, with prick ears, and with a tail that is curled and carried over the back.

TEMPERAMENT

His temperament is bold and energetic.

SIZE

Height at the withers: Dogs about 52 cm (20.5 in); bitches about 49.5 cm (19.5 in)

COAT

Thick, rich and hard, but rather smooth lying. On head and front of legs, short and even; longest on neck and chest, on buttocks, on hind side of forelegs and on underside of tail. It is made of longer and harder covering hairs, dark at the tips, and of a light, soft, woolly undercoat.

COLOUR

Grey, with black tips to the long covering hairs; somewhat lighter on chest, stomach, legs, underside of tail and around anus. The colour may be lighter or darker, with a slight shading towards yellow; but a pronounced variation from the grey colour disqualifies. Too dark or too light individuals should be avoided; also, yellow markings or uneven colouring. There should be no pronounced white markings.

HEAD

“Dry” (without any loose skin), broad at the ears; the forehead and back of the head only slightly arched; the **stop** not large, yet clearly defined. The **muzzle** is of medium length, thickest at the base and seen from above or from the side, tapers evenly without being pointed. The bridge of the **nose** is straight; the **lips** are tightly closed; and the **teeth** meet in a scissors bite. **Eyes** not protruding, brown in colour, preferably dark, lively, with fearless energetic expression. **Ears** set high, firm and erect, are higher than they are wide at the base, pointed (not rounded) and very mobile. When the dog is listening, the orifices are turned forward.

NECK

Of medium length, “dry” (without any loose skin), strong, and well set up.

FOREQUARTERS

Legs firm, straight, and strong; elbows closely set on.

BODY

Powerful, compact, and short, with broad, deep chest, well-sprung ribs, straight back, well-developed loins, and stomach very little drawn up.

HINDQUARTERS

Hind legs with little angulation at knees and hocks. Seen from behind, they are straight. Feet comparatively small, somewhat oblong, with tightly closed toes, not turned out. There should be no dewclaws on hind legs.

TAIL

Set high, short, thickly and closely haired, but without brush; tightly curled, not carried too much to one side.

FAULTS

Any departure from the aforementioned ideals shall be considered faulty to the degree in which it interferes with the health and well-being of the dog and the breed's traditional purpose.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Pronounced variation from grey colour.