

NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND (BLACK)

A Breed Standard is the guideline that 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 that could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare, or soundness of this breed.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/02/2019

ORIGIN

Norway.

UTILISATION

Hound for elk-hunting.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. For interest, from Wikipedia: The Black Norwegian Elkhound]

Historically this "little brother of the Grey Elkhound" has descended from the local Spitz dog population in the border areas between Norway and Sweden, and has existed as its own breed since the middle of the 19th century. The breed name "Elkhound" comes directly from its original Norwegian name "Elghund," meaning "elk dog". In literature, the breed is mentioned by the English naturalist, Llewelyn Lloyd. In 1828 he hunted bear near the border areas between Norway and Sweden. He was particularly pleased with two dogs he borrowed: "Hector was black, had upright ears and a curled tail, and Pajas, for whom 13 bears had been shot, was coal black with a bushy tail". Norwegian Black Elkhound has previously been threatened with extinction. The breed has retained its good utility properties and characteristic exterior for over 100 years. There is now increasing demand for Black Elkhounds and the breed has remained stable over the past 20 years.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

A typical Spitz, squarely built, black hair lying rather close to the body, erect pointed ears, tail curled over the back. Proud rise of neck, muscular, and athletic.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- Height of withers = length of body.
- Length of muzzle = length of skull.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Fearless, energetic, and brave.

HEAD

Wedge-shaped, tapering to nose. Clean and rather light, comparatively broad between ears.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Nearly flat.

Stop: Distinct, but not abrupt.

Facial Region:

Nose: Black.

Muzzle: Bridge of the nose straight.

Lips: Tightly closed.

Jaws and teeth: Scissor bite. Complete dentition.

Eyes:

Not protruding. Preferably dark brown.

Ears:

Set on high, pricked, height slightly greater than width at the base, pointed.

NECK

Of medium length, firm, without loose skin.

BODY

Topline: Straight from the withers to the croup.

Withers: Well-developed.

Back: Straight and strong.

Loin: Well-developed, broad, and straight.

Croup: Broad, well-muscled.

Chest: Relatively deep, with good spring of ribs.

Underline and belly: Slightly tucked-up.

TAIL

Set on high. Short, thick, with thick and close coat, but not with a flag. Tightly curled over the back, but not carried on either side.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Firm, sinewy, and strong, but not heavy.

Shoulder: Sloping.

Upper arm: Moderately sloping.

Elbow: Well-set, turned neither in nor out.

Forearm: Straight.

Metacarpus (pastern): Moderately sloping, seen from the side.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Moderately angulated in stifle and hock. Parallel, seen from behind. Dewclaws not desired.

Upper thigh: Muscular and broad.

Stifle (knee): Moderately angulated.

Lower thigh: Of medium length.

Hock joint: Moderately angulated.

Metatarsus (rear pastern): Moderately sloping, seen from the side; parallel, seen from behind.

FEET

Forefeet: Rather small, somewhat oval, compact and not turned outwards.

Hind feet: Rather small, somewhat oval, compact.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Light and effortless. Parallel, seen both from the front and behind.

COAT

Hair dense and rough, but lying close to the body. On head and front of legs, short and smooth; longer on chest and neck, back of legs, and the underside of tail. The coat is composed of a longish and coarse topcoat and a soft, woolly, and black undercoat.

COLOUR

- Shining black.

* A little white on chest and feet may be tolerated.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 46cm – 49cm (approx. 18" – 19"). Ideal height 47cm (approx. 18½")

Females: 43cm – 46cm (approx. 17" – 18"). Ideal height 44cm (approx. 17").

N.B. Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

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 upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

- Pincer bite, irregular bite.
- Lacking undercoat.
- White hairs, white on the tail.
- White socks.
- Stressed, nervous, barking.

Severe faults:

- Naturally short tail.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Bite over- or undershot.
- Height at withers under 3cm (approx. 1") or above 4cm (approx. 1½").

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FCI Standard No 268: NORSK ELGHUND SORT (NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND [BLACK])

FCI Classification: Group 5 – Spitz and primitive types.

Section 2. Nordic Hunting Dogs.

With working trial only for the Nordic countries (Sweden, Norway, Finland).