

NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND (GREY)

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

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

ORIGIN

Norway.

UTILISATION

Dog for elk-hunting.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

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

In Medieval times, it was known as a "dyrehund", meaning "animal-dog" in Norwegian, and was highly prized as a hunting dog, but rarely seen or bred outside of Norway until its appearance in England in the 19th century.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

A typical Spitz. Compact and short body, squarely built. Elastic, good rise of neck. Erect ears. Coat thick and abundant, but not bristling or long. Tail is tightly curled over the back.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

Squarely built. Length of skull and length of muzzle identical.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Fearless, energetic, brave.

HEAD

Wedge-shaped, relatively broad between the ears. Lean.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Slightly arched.

Stop: Marked, not too pronounced.

Facial Region:

Nose: Black.

Muzzle: Gradually tapering, either seen from above or from the side. Bridge of nose straight.

Lips: Tightly closed.

Jaws and teeth: Scissor bite. Complete dentition.

Eyes:

Not prominent, dark brown in colour.

Ears:

Set-on high, firm, and upstanding, relatively small. Height slightly greater than their width at the base, pointed and very mobile.

NECK

Of medium length, firm, good rise of neck, abundant ruff without loose skin.

BODY

Strong, short in the couplings.

Topline: Straight from the withers to the tail set.

Withers: Well-developed.

Back: Strong, muscular and straight.

Loin: Well-developed.

Croup: Strong and broad.

Chest: Broad and deep, good spring of ribs.

Underline and belly: Almost straight.

TAIL

Set on high, strong. Relatively short. Thick coat but not with a flag. Firmly curled over the center line, not carried on either side of the back. The tip cannot be straightened out on the adult dog.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Strong and firm, straight.

Shoulder: Sloping.

Upper arm: Moderately sloping.

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

Forearm: Straight, seen both from the front and from the side.

Carpus (wrist): Straight, seen from the front, moderately sloping, seen from the side.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Strong, lean, and muscular. Parallel, seen from behind. Moderately angulated.

Upper thigh: Muscular and broad.

Stifle (knee): Moderately angulated.

Lower thigh: Of medium length.

Hock joint: Moderately angulated.

Metatarsus (rear pastern): Must not reach behind the set of tail when standing.

FEET

Forefeet: Rather small, compact, toes pointing forwards.

Hind feet: Relatively small. Oval in shape, compact, toes pointing forward.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

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

SKIN

Firm, without wrinkles on the head.

COAT

Hair of medium length; thick, coarse, abundant outer coat without curls. On head and the front of legs, short and smooth; longest on neck, thigh, back of legs, and tail. Soft undercoat.

COLOUR

- Grey, of various shades.
- * The colour is made by the black tips of the hair of the outer coat.
- * Lighter on chest, belly, legs, and on the underside of the tail, under the tail set, and in the "harness marking".
- * The harness marking is about a 5cm (approx. 2") broad stripe from the withers to the elbow, where the outer coat lacks black tips.
- * The ears and the front of the muzzle are dark (dark mask).
- * The dark line from the eye to the set-on of ears delimits the mask.
- * Light grey undercoat.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 52cm (approx. 20½").

Females: 49cm (approx. 19").

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.

- Round or domed skull.
- Pointed or short muzzle.
- Pincer bite, irregular bite.
- Light eyes.
- Too big or too broad ears.
- Tail too short, not firmly curled, tail carried on the side.
- Flat feet.
- Too long or too short undercoat.
- Colour in brown or yellow. Dark undercoat. Sooty colour.
- White on tail tip. White on chest.
- Weak or nervous temperament.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Over- or undershot bite.
- Yellow or blue eyes.
- Ears not erect.
- Naturally short tail.
- Dewclaws on hindlegs.
- Any variety in colour other than grey.
- Height at withers under 3cm (approx. 1") or over 4cm (approx. 1.5") from the ideal height.

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FCI Standard No 242: NORSK ELGHUND GRÅ (NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND [GREY])

FCI Classification: Group 5 – Spitz and primitive types.

Section 2. Nordic Hunting Dogs.

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