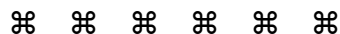


Norwegian Elkhounds



The gray Norwegian Elkhound is the best known of the several Scandinavian hunting spitz breeds. For centuries these dogs served as family guardians and useful hunters and herders on isolated Norwegian farms. Today in Norway these dogs are still highly valued for their qualities of family loyalty and for their abilities as hunters of big game, especially the Norwegian 'elg' known to us as 'moose'. Outside of Scandinavia, their work as family companions is their greatest contribution to our quality of life. The Norwegian Elkhound is happiest when at work or play with their human families.



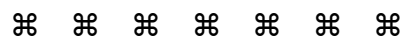
Breed Characteristics



The Norwegian Elkhound is a versatile dog, intelligent and loyal to the family and useful as a home guardian, hunter and an ideal family companion. In Norway, the breed's native land, the Elkhounds are valued especially for their abilities as hunters of moose. The Norsk word for moose is "elg" which has caused the English speaking world to call them "Elkhounds" which is a mistranslation. In America, they have been used as successful hunters of raccoons, bear, mountain lions, deer and birds but their main role in this country has been to serve as family companions. The breed's long and close association with humans has developed their superior intelligence, loyalty and friendliness.

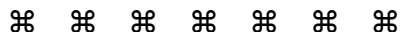
Appearance: The Elkhound is a handsome dog with a dense, silvery gray coat with dark, expressive eyes. Their tails are carried tightly curled over their backs and their mobile pointed ears express their moods and happiness.

Size: Medium sized but sturdy in build, the Elkhound weighs about 50 pounds for males and 45 pounds for females. Their height at the top of the shoulder is about 20 ½ inches for males and 19 ½ inches for females.



Temperament: The personality of the Norwegian Elkhound has been created by centuries of living and working with people. As hunters the dogs are independent and persistent workers. At home, they are excellent watch dogs that will bark and look fierce to intruders but rarely are driven to bite. While protective, they are accepting of invited guests and prefer to be part of family activities. They are particularly friendly and gentle with children and have also been trained as service dogs for handicapped people. Elkhounds are excellent trackers and have served in search and rescue teams. Elkhound owners also enjoy training their dogs for competition in obedience trials, agility trials and rally trials. Norwegian Elkhounds can also compete in dog shows sponsored by national and breed kennel clubs where the dogs are judged by the Breed Standard established by the Norwegian Elkhound Association of America.





Responsibilities of Owning Norwegian Elkhounds

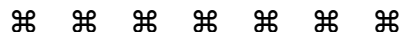
Choosing to own a dog is a serious commitment for any family or individual. Before deciding to make a Norwegian Elkhound part of your life, take time to learn as much as possible about the breed and choose carefully the breeder from whom you obtain your dog. Weigh the rewards and obligations of owning an Elkhound carefully.

Elkhounds are healthy, hardy dogs that often live twelve to fourteen years. Are you prepared to keep a dog for its lifetime? Regular outdoor exercise is essential to their well being and a fenced yard is a safeguard against their natural instincts to hunt and explore.

Elkhounds like all dogs, require consistent, patient training in basic manners, housebreaking, walking on a leash, coming when called, greeting guests without jumping and barking. Local obedience schools and trainers offer classes for dogs and owners in the basics of good dog citizenship.

Elkhounds require regular grooming of their dense coats especially during the periodic times of shedding. Bathing is not often a necessity as they are clean dogs with little or no 'doggy odor'.

Elkhounds need regular veterinary check ups and basic preventive health care such as vaccinations and nutritional advice. Care should be taken to keep them trim and fit. A fat Elkhound is not a healthy Elkhound.



How to Find a Healthy, Happy Norwegian Elkhound

People who raise dogs because of their own love of the breed offer the best sources of healthy, well socialized puppies or adult Elkhounds. They can be contacted through the resources listed below.

Ask what activities the breeders engage in with their dogs. Owners who compete in AKC shows, agility and obedience trials and service work with their dogs will value and insist on sound temperament in their parent dogs.

Ask what health screenings have been done when selecting the parents. Norwegian Elkhounds have very few genetic problems but knowledgeable breeders will screen their dogs to minimize the incidence of hip dysplasia, eye anomalies or metabolic disorders. Information about these tests can be found at the web site of the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals.

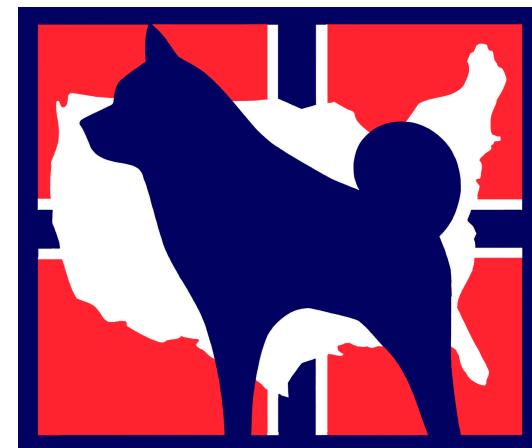
INTERNET RESOURCES

The American Kennel Club www.akc.org

Norwegian Elkhound Association of America www.neaa.net

Orthopedic Foundation for Animals www.offa.org

Norsk Elghund Forbundet www.elghundforbundet.no



Prepared by

**The
NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**
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Regional Club Affiliates
Choosing a Breeder
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