

NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND Illustrated Guide



JUDGES STUDY MATERIAL

The official Norwegian Elkhound Association of America, Inc. approved educational material.



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Painting by artist Jan Petter Bratsberg
Painting owner Bjorn Bjerketvedt
Grim the Elkhound

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The
Norwegian Elkhound
A
Comprehensive Study

*Prepared and presented by the
Norwegian Elkhound Association of America, Inc.*

neaa.net/judge-educ-info.html

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Illustrations by Linda Shaw©

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History

After a long journey through history, the Norwegian Elkhound found its way into the American Kennel Club hound group and utility ring. A study of its perseverance as a utilitarian for the peoples of Scandinavia is the key to the understanding of its form and function.

As the glaciers that covered Scandinavia during the Ice Age began to recede, people followed the slowly developing flora and fauna that replaced the icy terrain. These migratory people, referred to as *Veidefolket*, lived off the valleys and waters of this rugged land that was rich with game and fish. Archaeological excavations have uncovered Stone Age tools and weapons, as well as evidence of wild dogs referred to as *Torvmosehund*, thought to be the forerunners of the Norwegian Gray Elkhound breed.

A burial site dating ca. 5,000-4,000 B.C. at Vistehulden, Norway, held the remains of two dogs with skeletal features similar to present-day Elkhounds. Pottery with hunting scenes in *bas relief*, unearthed from a grave at Valloby, leave little doubt that Elkhound-like dogs existed in Norway before the time of Christ.

The first benched dog show in Norway was held in 1877, with 124 hunting dogs entered, including 15 Elkhounds. The second show was held in 1880 with an entry of 180, including 28 Elkhounds. Both of these shows were sponsored by the Norwegian hunting and fishing club. The *Norsk Dyrehundklub* was established by a group of Norwegian hunters and sportsmen in 1899. The first show where classes were divided for the Gray Elkhound and the Black Elkhound was in 1900. There are several other Elkhound breeds in northern Europe and Scandinavia recognized as *elg* [hereafter referred to as moose, its North American counterpart] and bear dogs. These spitz-type dogs are used to hunt large game. Examples are the Swedish Jamthund and the White Elkhound. The Jamthund, a taller, rangier version of the Gray Elkhound, developed in much the same way. Its head and expression, accentuated by white markings on the muzzle, differ considerably. The White Elkhound, having a clear white coat, was approved by the Swedish Kennel Club in 1993. It tends to be larger than the Gray and is built more like the Jamthund.

With the increase in the sport of showing dogs, a standard of excellence was needed to insure uniformity of judging and to guide breeders in producing higher quality dogs. The *Norsk Dyrehundklub* completed the breed standard for the Elkhound in 1906. Breed standards were written for other Elkhound breeds, as well, i.e., Swedish Jamthund, Karelian (Finnish) Bear Dog, and East and West Siberian (Ostsibirsk) Laika, Svart Elhund, Swedish White Elkhound, and Halleforshund, by the kennel clubs of their countries of origin.

Breed standards are written to preserve the breeds, not to change them. The Gray Elkhound standard describes what the quality Gray Elkhound looked like in 1906, what it should look like today, and how it should look in the future. Norway has maintained emphasis on the hunting ability of the Gray Elkhound as well as its breed conformation. Norwegian Elkhounds bred and shown in the United States should be as similar as possible to the original Gray Elkhound that was bred and utilized for hunting bear and moose in Norway, not an Americanized version of its counterpart.

Three Elkhounds were registered in the AKC studbook in 1913. Lady Helga, an Elkhound bitch, is on record as the first Elkhound shown in the USA at a 1913 Los Angeles show. Elkhounds were first shown at Westminster in 1924, competing in the miscellaneous class.

In 1930, a group of Elkhound fanciers met informally to discuss the formation of a parent club. The Norwegian Elkhound Club of America was formally admitted to the American Kennel Club in November of 1935. The Norwegian standard was accepted as the official standard to be used by breeders in the USA and in compliance with AKC events. A continuing effort has been made by the NEAA to preserve the Elkhound as it came down through history, a comrade, guardian and hunter, much like its ancestors that roamed the rugged, ice-covered lands of Scandinavia.

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## In Norway

The moose population in Scandinavia has been expanding since the 1930s, with approximately 40,000 harvested each year. About 25,000 are taken in Norway alone. The economic impact of moose hunting is significant. In addition to the fact that the meat of the moose is a staple in the Scandinavian diet, millions of dollars per year are spent on hunting equipment, the buying of permits, and the leasing of hunting areas.

The moose harvest is under the management of the forestry service. The service decides the sex, age, and number of moose that may be taken from each allowable area. Permits are issued for a specified number of moose within a given area. Hunters rely on their Elkhounds to track and hold the moose at bay until it is in position for the kill. The Elkhounds help keep the animals within the allowable area, as well as being helpful in tracking wounded animals. All hunting teams must have at least one approved dog available for the tracking of wounded animals.

In most hunting trials, the Elkhound is given six hours to hunt. He is rated in five categories, with 100 being a perfect score. The dog is expected to initiate a wide search for the moose without losing contact with his handler. In his confrontation with a moose, the dog should bark to hold the moose and to signal his handler. If the moose begins to move, the dog stops barking and follows silently. When the moose stops, the confrontation begins again.

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The Norsk conformation judging system differs from the AKC system. Dogs are given a 1, 2, or 3 rating. A 1 is awarded if, in the judge's opinion, the dog is excellent or very good in all aspects. A 2 rating is given for a good or acceptable specimen. A 3 is given for lack of quality. All dogs are measured in the show ring using a wicket. Dogs are excused if they do not allow the judge to examine them. Dogs measuring 1 cm (.4 in.) under or 2 cm (.8 in.) over the accepted height at the withers are not given a CC. Dogs with a 1 rating compete for class placings. Class winners compete for a championship certificate. There are ten NKC shows a year in Norway where a NKC's national CC may be awarded. In addition, the Norwegian Elkhound Association's local clubs arrange shows with CCs.

First, second, and third ratings are offered in field trials. To become a show champion, the dog must win three certificates at dog shows from three different judges. In addition, the dog must earn one first prize in a field trial. In order to become a hunting champion, the dog must achieve two first prizes in a field trial, one having been achieved on a two-day field trial and one first prize based on quality in a dog show. For a dog to hunt on the steep, rocky terrain and endure the harsh winter weather, he must possess stamina, athletic prowess, and intelligence, coupled with the correct coat and other traits as stated in the breed standard.

Unless the Elkhound is structured according to the standard, he will not survive as a hunter. There is a purpose for each part of the whole. He will be weighted down by a wet, open coat and lack of proper undercoat, possibly freezing to death in frigid temperatures. He will not have the athletic prowess to jump over rocks, go up/down steep inclines, and/or hold his prey at bay if he is short on leg, straight in stifle, short in neck, straight in shoulder, and/or too deep-chested.

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Standard

The official standard of the Norwegian Elkhound as approved by the AKC on December 13, 1988, is as follows:

General Appearance. The Norwegian Elkhound is a hardy, gray hunting dog. In appearance, a typical northern dog of medium size and substance, square in profile, close coupled and balanced in proportions. The head is broad with prick ears, and the tail is tightly curled and carried over the back. The distinctive gray coat is dense and smooth lying. As a hunter, the Norwegian Elkhound has the courage, agility and stamina to hold moose and other big game at bay by barking and dodging attack, and the endurance to track for long hours in all weather over rough and varied terrain.

Size, Proportion, Substance. Height at the withers for dogs is 20 ½ inches, for bitches 19 ½ inches. Weight for dogs about 55 pounds, for bitches about 48 pounds. Square in profile and close coupled. Distance from brisket to ground appears to be half the height at the withers. Distance from forechest to rump equals the height at the withers. Bone is substantial without being coarse.

Head.

Head. Broad at the ears, wedge-shaped, strong and dry (without loose skin). **Expression.** Keen, alert, indicating a dog with great courage. **Eyes.** Very dark brown, medium in size, oval not protruding. **Ears.** Set high, firm and erect, yet very mobile. Comparatively small; slightly taller than their width at the base with pointed (not rounded) tips. When the dog is alert, the orifices turn forward and the outer edges are vertical. When relaxed or showing affection, the ears go back, and the dog should not be penalized for doing this during the judge's examination. Viewed from the side, the forehead and back of the skull are only slightly arched; the stop not large; yet clearly defined. The muzzle is thickest at the base and, seen from above or from the side, tapers evenly without being pointed. The bridge of the nose is straight, parallel to and about the same length as the skull. Lips are tightly closed and teeth meet in a scissors bite.

Neck, Topline, Body.

Neck. Of medium length, muscular, well set up with a slight arch and with no loose skin on the throat.

Topline. The back is straight and strong from its high point at the withers to the root of the tail. The body is short and close-coupled with the rib cage accounting for most of its length. Chest deep and moderately broad; brisket level with points of elbows; and ribs well sprung. Loin short and wide with very little tuck-up. Tail set high, tightly curled, and carried over the centerline of the back. It is thickly and closely haired, without brush, natural and untrimmed.

Forequarters. Shoulders sloping with elbows closely set on. Legs well under body and medium in length; substantial, but not coarse, in bone. Seen from the front, the legs appear straight and parallel. Single dewclaws are normally present.

Feet. Paws comparatively small, slightly oval with tightly closed toes and thick pads. Pasterns are strong and only slightly bent. Feet turn neither in nor out.

Hindquarters. Moderate angulation at stifle and hock. Thighs are broad and well muscled. Seen from behind, legs are straight, strong and without dewclaws. Feet as in front.

Coat. Thick, hard, weather resisting and smooth lying; made up of soft, dense, woolly undercoat and coarse, straight covering hairs. Short and even on head, ears, and front of legs; longest on back of neck, buttocks and underside of tail. The coat is not altered by trimming, clipping or artificial treatment. Trimming of whiskers is optional. In the show ring, presentation in a natural, unaltered condition is essential.

Color. Gray, medium preferred, variations in shade determined by the length of black tips and quantity of guard hairs. Undercoat is clear light silver as are legs, stomach, buttocks, and underside of tail. The gray body color is darkest on the saddle, lighter on the chest, mane and distinctive harness mark (a band of longer guard hairs from shoulder to elbow). The muzzle, ears and tail tip are black. The black of the muzzle shades to lighter gray over the forehead and skull. Yellow or brown shading, white patches, indistinct or irregular markings, “sooty” coloring on the lower legs and light circles around the eyes are undesirable. Any overall color other than gray as described above, such as red, brown, solid black, white or other solid color, disqualifies.

Gait. Normal for an active dog constructed for agility and endurance. At a trot the stride is even and effortless; the back remains level. As the speed of the trot increases, front and rear legs converge equally in straight lines toward a centerline beneath the body, so that the pads appear to follow in the same tracks (single track). Front and rear quarters are well balanced in angulation and muscular development.

Temperament. In temperament, the Norwegian Elkhound is bold and energetic, an effective guardian yet normally friendly, with great dignity and independence of character.

Summary. The Norwegian Elkhound is a square and athletic member of the northern dog family. His unique coloring, weather resistant coat and stable disposition make him an ideal multipurpose dog at work or at play.

Disqualification. Any overall color other than gray.

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# Interpretive Comments on the Norwegian Elkhound and Standard

*Prepared by the Norwegian Elkhound Association of America, 1989. Revised 2005.*

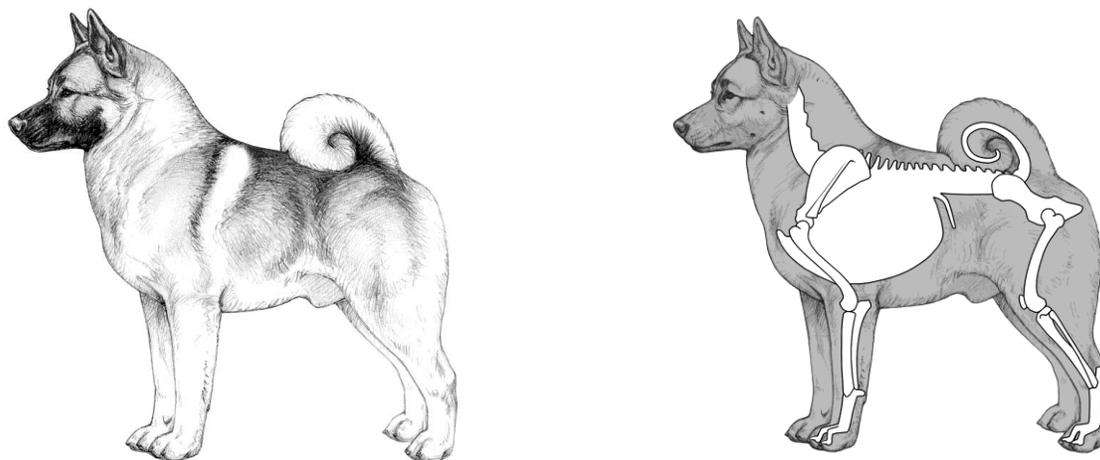
## Introduction:

The Norwegian Elkhound is a hunting dog. As such, he is a dog of function, not fashion. Nearly every breed standard is descriptive of the mental and physical features needed by an Elkhound to function in his unique manner of hunting in the northern climate. An Elkhound is an independent hunter, free of direct command of his master, to silently trail moose and hold the game until the hunter can approach. He holds the game at bay by barking and being an annoyance rather than a threat. He usually approaches the moose head on, circling the quarry, offering himself as a target. To avoid the lightning strikes of the moose, the dog must be able to jump instantly in any direction using his agility to escape harm's way. The Elkhound is expected to be able to hold a moose at bay in this manner for over an hour. Dogs are usually hunted singly or occasionally in pairs. Elkhounds are expected to have the stamina and agility to hunt day after day, in terrain that varies from marsh to hilly timber growth, and in weather conditions of cold rain, snow or sleet, and freezing temperatures. When evaluating a dog, one should always ask, "Is this Elkhound capable of performing as a hunting dog?" An Elkhound is expected to be an active hunting dog to the age of ten or eleven years.

## *What to Look For*

### General Appearance:

A dog of medium size, balanced with a square profile along with short coupling. A dog that is agile and efficient in movement with a bold and energetic manner. Distinctive gray coat, prick ears, and curled tail. An athletic hunting dog that has to endure cold and wet weather, over rough and varied terrain.

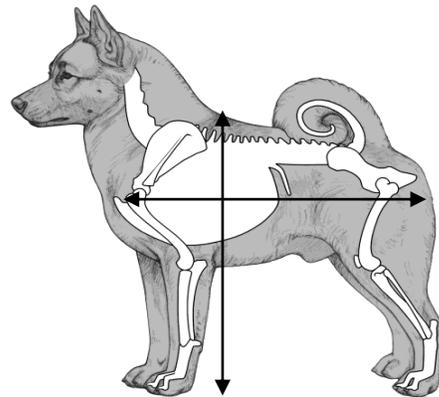


### Size, Proportion, Substance:

**Height:** The ideal height for a dog is 20 1/2 inches; bitch 19 1/2 inches. An Elkhound that is one inch under these heights is too small to be an effective hunting dog in rugged terrain, especially snow conditions. Also, a dog that exceeds 21 1/2 inches is likely to lose maximum agility.

**Weight:** Dogs should be shown in a *lean, hard condition*. One must be able to easily feel the ribs.

**Proportion:** An Elkhound should exhibit a *square profile* in that the distance from the forechest to the rump equals the height at the withers. The appearance is that of a short-back, short-loined dog. His characteristic appearance is due to a somewhat proportionately longer rib cage coupled with a short loin. In profile the medium leg length appears to be half the height at the withers.

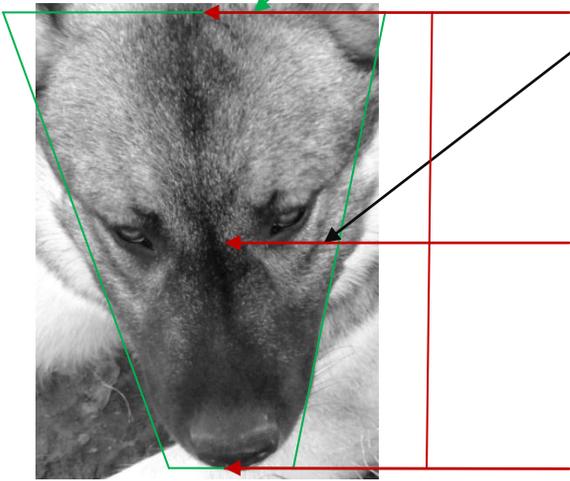


**Substance:** Bone density is proportionate to the size of the dog.

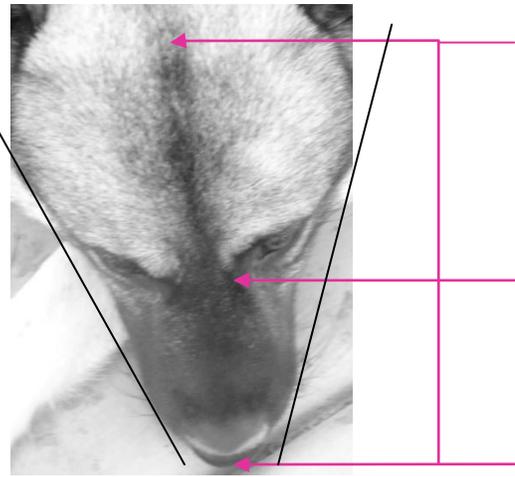
**Head:** The head should be a broad wedge shape at the ears, with good fill below the eye; strong muzzle, medium in length and tapering to a blunt nose. Viewed from the side the bridge of the nose is straight (without bump or dish); the stop is not large, yet clearly defined, due to the eyebrows; only slightly arched skull and a strong underjaw. Viewed in profile, the topline of the skull and the muzzle lie in two approximately parallel planes. **Males** must have a *strong masculine* appearance in the head; **bitches** a *feminine* appearance without being refined.



The head should be a **broad wedge shape at the ears**, with **good fill below the eye**; strong muzzle, **medium in length** and tapering to a blunt nose. The **nose should be approximately the same length as the back skull**.



**CORRECT MALE HEAD**

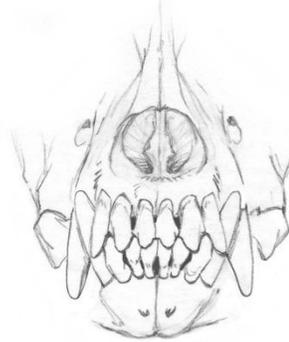


**INCORRECT HEAD (BITCH) – MUZZLE TOO SHORT**

The skin covering the head is tight, free of wrinkles; lips close tightly, and the **teeth meet in a scissors bite**.



**CORRECT SCISSOR BITE**



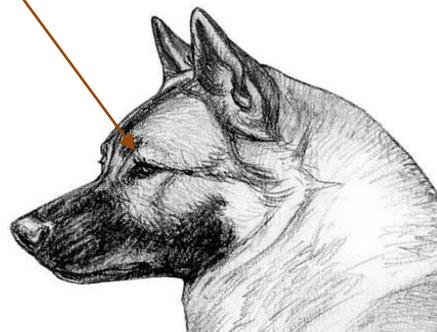
**CORRECT SCISSOR BITE**



**INCORRECT UNDERSHOT BITE**

**Expression:** The expression is that of a keen, alert, courageous, yet friendly dog. Elkhounds use eye contact when holding a moose at bay to anticipate threatening actions by their prey. Hence, when evaluating expression it is not advisable to stare at a dog for any prolonged length of time.

**Eyes:** The **very dark brown color** and oval shape give a calm and friendly expression. The eye is set deep enough to be well protected from injury.



**Ears:** The ears should be high set, firm and erect; yet very mobile. When alert, **the outer edges are vertical**, giving a smooth outline to the head. Ears are triangular in shape being slightly taller than their width at the base. Ears are often laid back when gaiting or when one approaches to touch the head, the latter a normal showing of affection, especially from bitches, and should not be penalized.



**LOW SET EARS**



**CORRECT EAR SET**

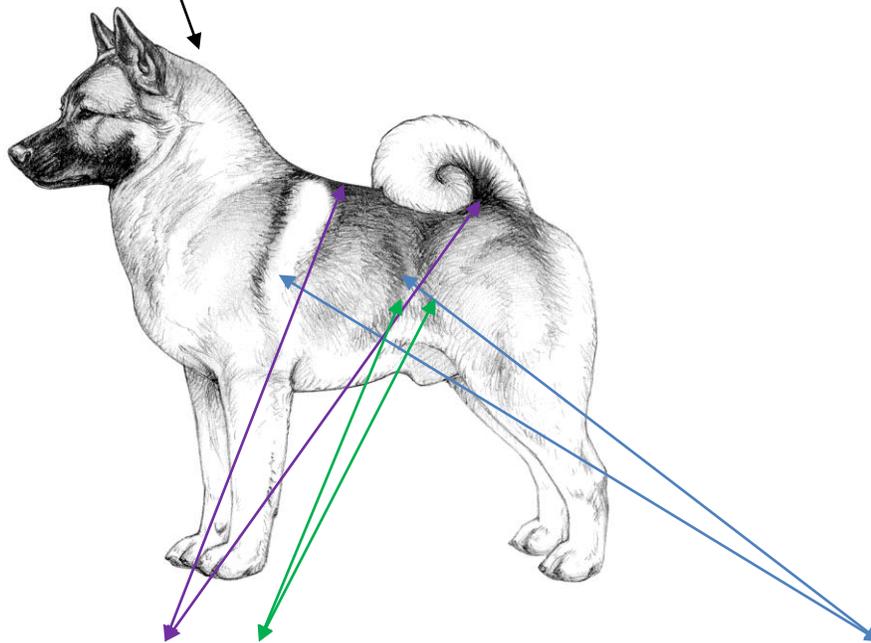


**HIGH SET EARS**

**Neck, Topline, Body:**

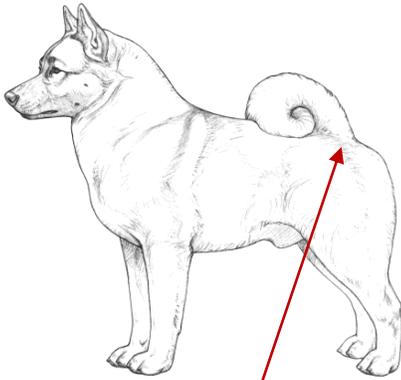
**Neck:** A well set-up and **arched neck** lends itself to the carriage of the dog. An Elkhound is a wind scent hunter, hence carries his head high most of the time.

**Topline:** The back is straight and strong. The topline from the high point at the withers has only a very slight slope to the root of the tail. The loin is wide and well-muscled.

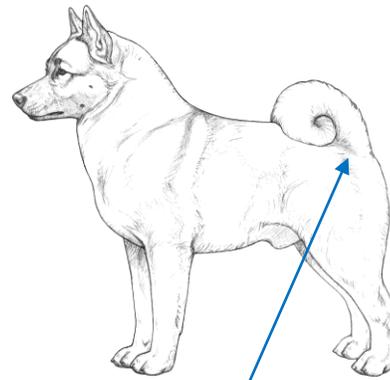


**Body:** The body is that of a **short-back, short-loin** dog. Its characteristic appearance is due to a rather **long rib cage** for the size of the dog, and a short loin which ideally is about two and one-half inches in length and should not exceed three inches.

**Tail:** Set high, tightly curled over the centerline, thickly and closely haired.



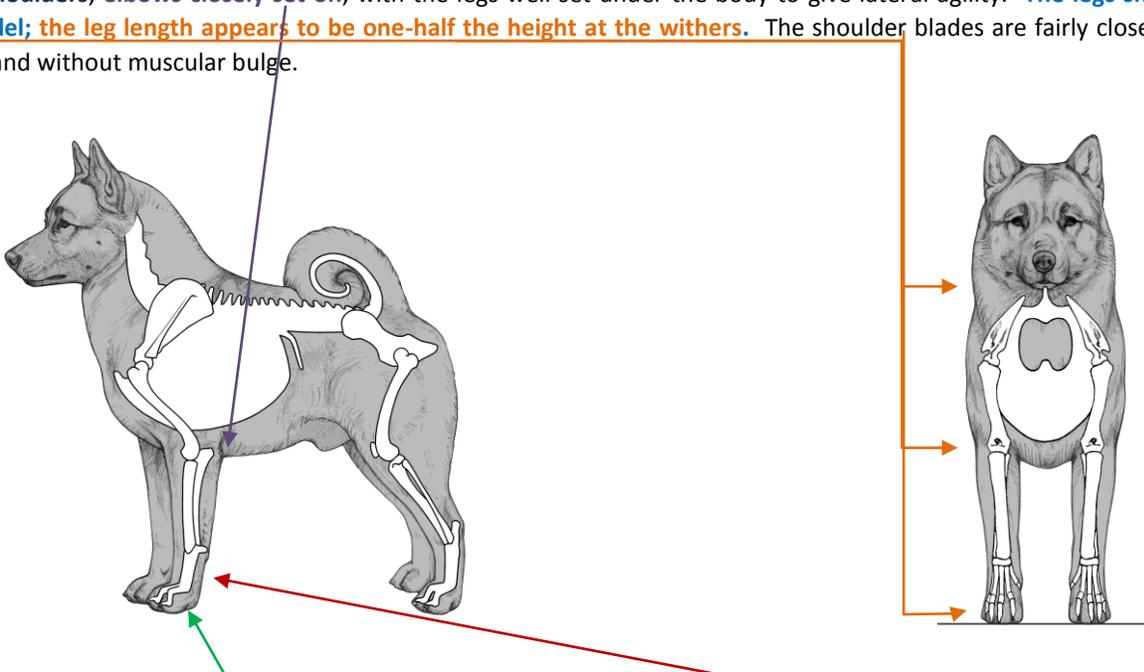
**CORRECT TAIL SET**



**INCORRECT LOW SET TAIL**

**Forequarters:**

Sloping shoulders, elbows closely set on, with the legs well set under the body to give lateral agility. **The legs should be straight and parallel; the leg length appears to be one-half the height at the withers.** The shoulder blades are fairly close together at the top, flat, and without muscular bulge.

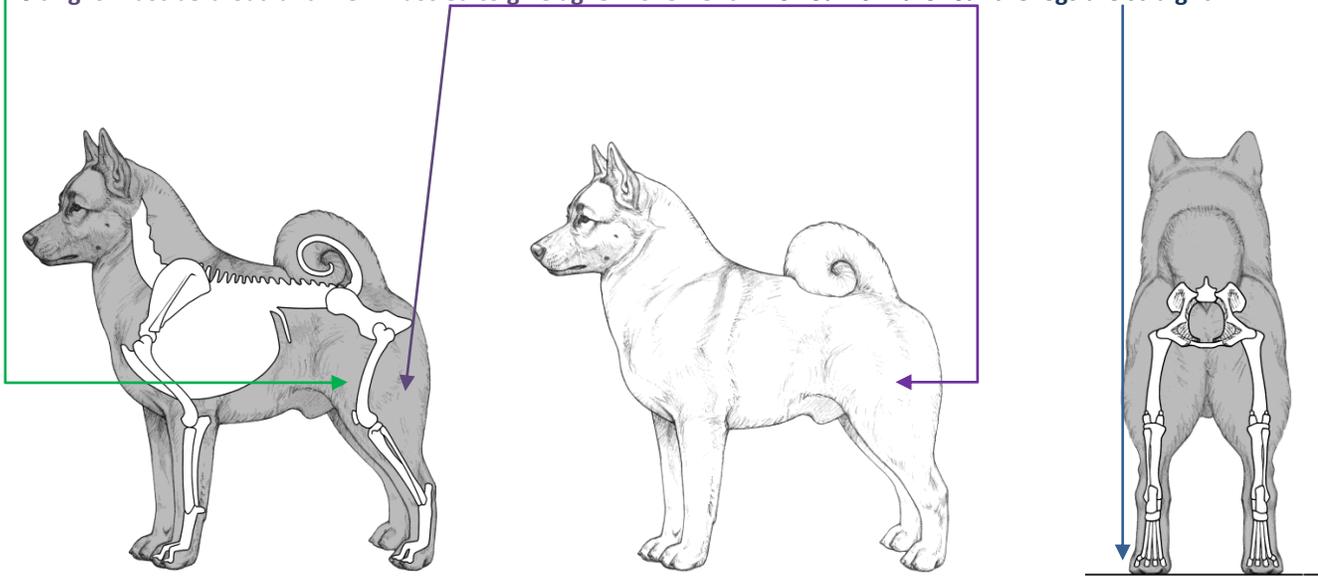


**Feet:** Paws are slightly oval with tightly closed toes. Strong pasterns, only slightly bent, with feet straight forward.

**Chest:** The chest is deep, moderately broad with ribs well-sprung and reaching the elbow. The distance from the brisket to the ground, on an untrimmed dog, appears to be half the height at the withers.

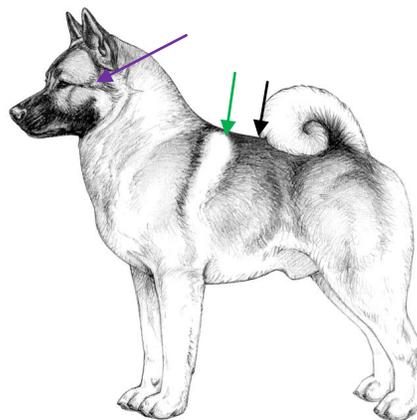
## Hindquarters:

**Moderate angulation** when viewed from the side with a vertical line falling from the point of the rump to the perpendicular hocks. The **thighs must be broad and well-muscled to give agile movement**. Viewed from the rear **the legs are straight**.



## Color:

Medium gray, with muzzle, ears and tip of tail black. The black of the muzzle gradually blends into darker or even silvery gray as it nears the area of the eyes and ears. The clean gray color blends evenly to the **lighter harness mark** and **darker saddle**. The undercoat, legs, stomach, buttocks and underside of tail are clear light gray. The overall impression is that the dog is shades of gray with distinctive darker markings. Individuals may vary from light to dark gray but the markings must be distinct and the color clear. Not mentioned in the standard, but a **desirable** face marking is **the mascara line: a black line that runs from the corner of the eye toward the base of the ear**.

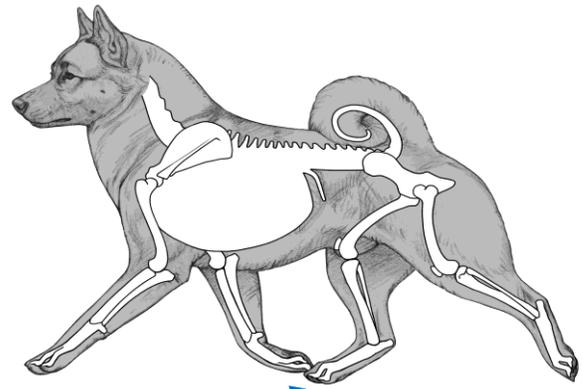
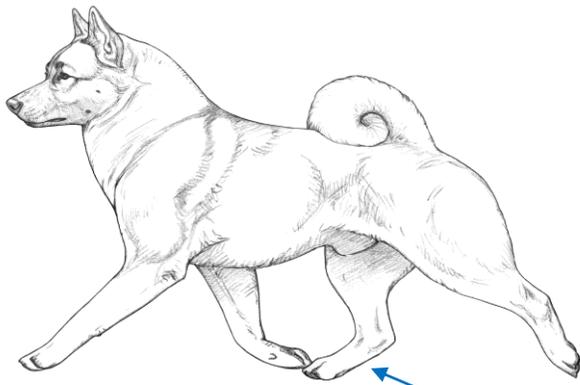


## Coat:

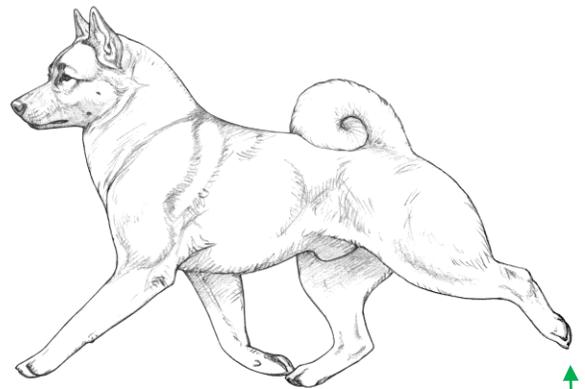
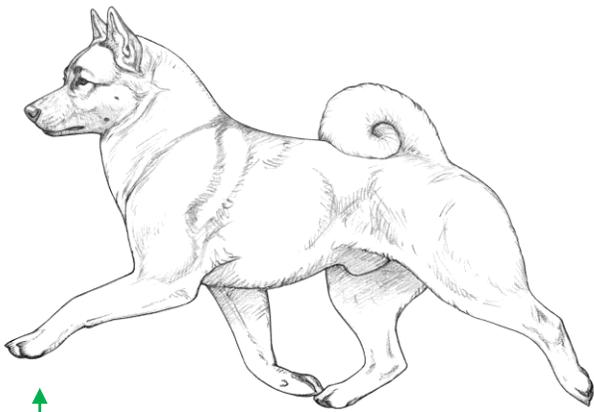
The outer coat or guard hairs are hard and smooth lying. The undercoat is dense and soft; the combination makes a thick coat. The coat must be resistant to wet, cold freezing weather.

**Gait:**

The basic gait of the Elkhound is as described in the standard. The "balance" of the front and rear assemblies cannot be overstressed. An Elkhound must be agile, a result of adequate angulation, and powerful enough to bounce, jump backwards, spin, and turn without having to crouch. He must be able to traverse very rough terrain in a variety of gaits for many, many hours.

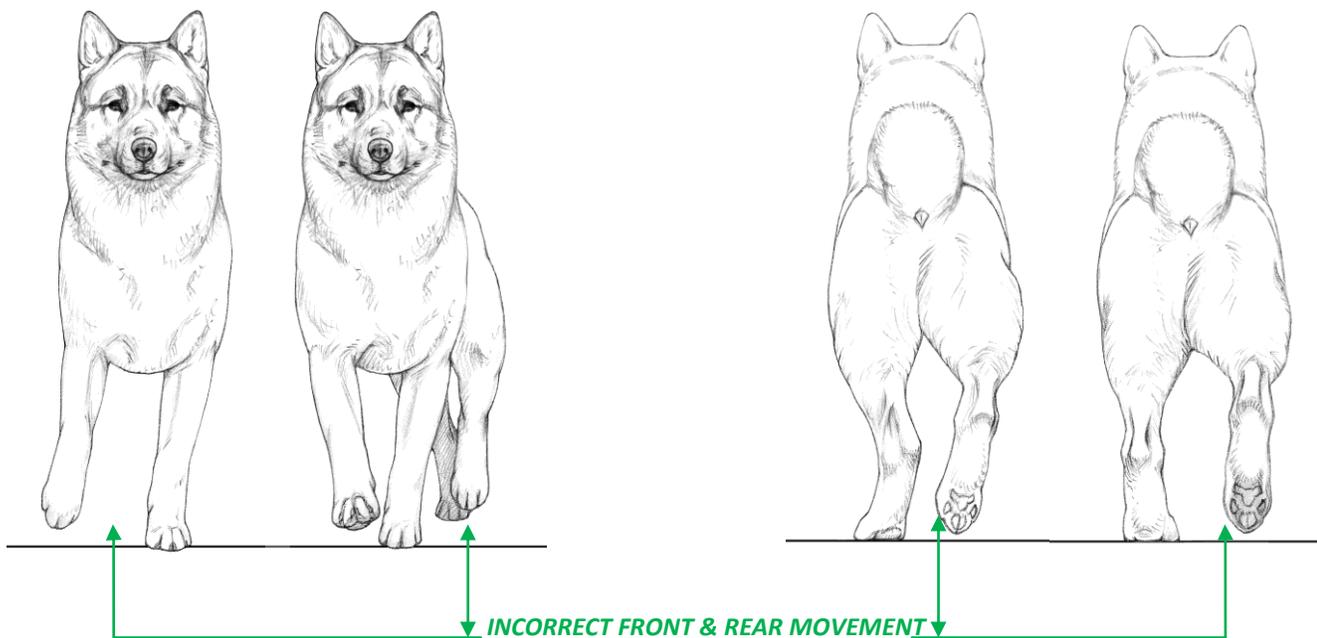
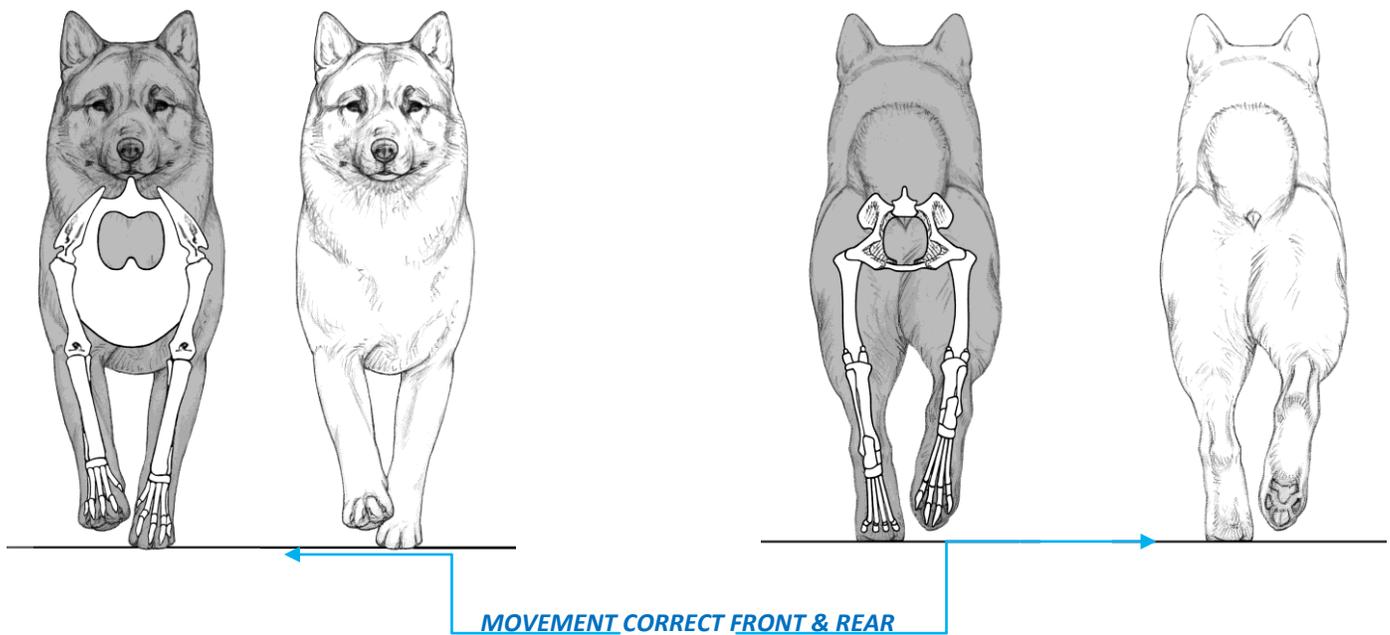


*CORRECT SIDE GAIT*



*INCORRECT SIDE GAIT*

As the speed of the trot increases, front and rear legs converge equally in straight lines toward a centerline beneath the body, so that the pads appear to follow in the same tracks (single track).



**Temperament:**

While appearing bold and energetic, an Elkhound must basically be a friendly dog. They are natural guardians and adult Elkhounds should have great dignity and a calm manner.

**Summary:**

Look for the Elkhound with the fullest measure of breed type and picture this individual hunting in the unique manner of the breed under conditions of difficult terrain and weather. Endurance and agility are absolutely necessary.

## FAULTS

### General Appearance:

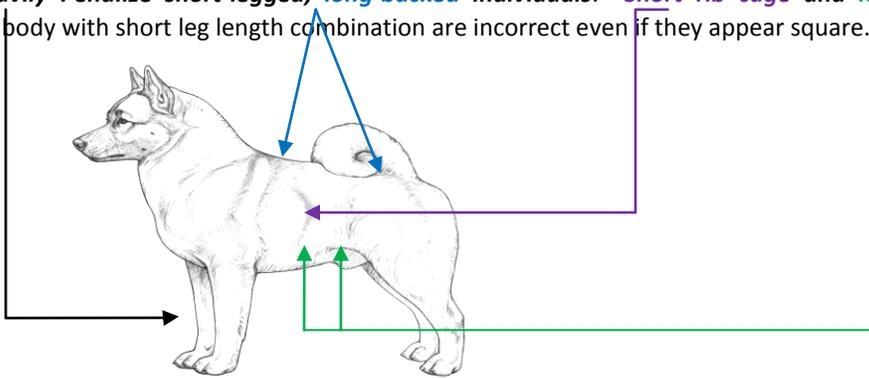
**Penalize** short-legged, long backed or otherwise cloddy or racy, weedy-appearing individuals. Avoid choppy or labored movement and obese individuals. Shy or aggressive dogs are of improper temperament.

### Size, Proportion, Substance:

Height: **Penalize** dogs and bitches that are one inch or more under the standard or over 21 1/2 at the withers. A dog is not of correct type unless the proper leg length to body ratio is present.

Weight: **Penalize** overweight or obese dogs.

Proportion: **Heavily Penalize short-legged, long-backed individuals.** **Short rib cage and long loin** combinations as well as excessively deep body with short leg length combination are incorrect even if they appear square.



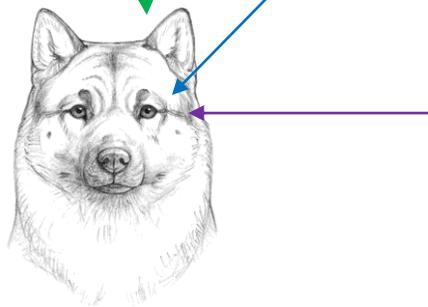
Substance: Both weedy and coarseness are incorrect.

### Head:

**Head:** **Penalize** narrow wedge, domed skull, and long or pointed muzzles: lack of fill (indent) below the eye. Both a pronounced stop and lack of stop are incorrect, as is a weak underjaw. The only correct bite is a scissors bite. Males lacking a masculine appearance and dogs or bitches that have a "foxy" look to the head are incorrect. **Loose skin or wrinkles** on the head are undesirable.

**Expression:** **Penalize** the head, ear, and eye faults that show a lack of breed type, hence lack of ideal expression.

**Eyes:** **Penalize** the yellow-colored or protruding eye. **A round eye** or **light brown color** is incorrect and does not give the ideal expression.



**Ears:** **Penalize** ears that are weak or low set. Large ears or thin leather are incorrect. A flare at the outer base of the ear, which spoils the shape, is undesirable as are ears where the tips nearly touch each other. A dog that does not get his ears up at all in the show ring is not exhibiting a bold manner.

**Neck, Topline, Body:**

**Neck:** *Penalize* a short neck. Pronounced loose skin on the throat (wet neck) is incorrect.

**Topline:** *Penalize* the long, soft, or swayed back.

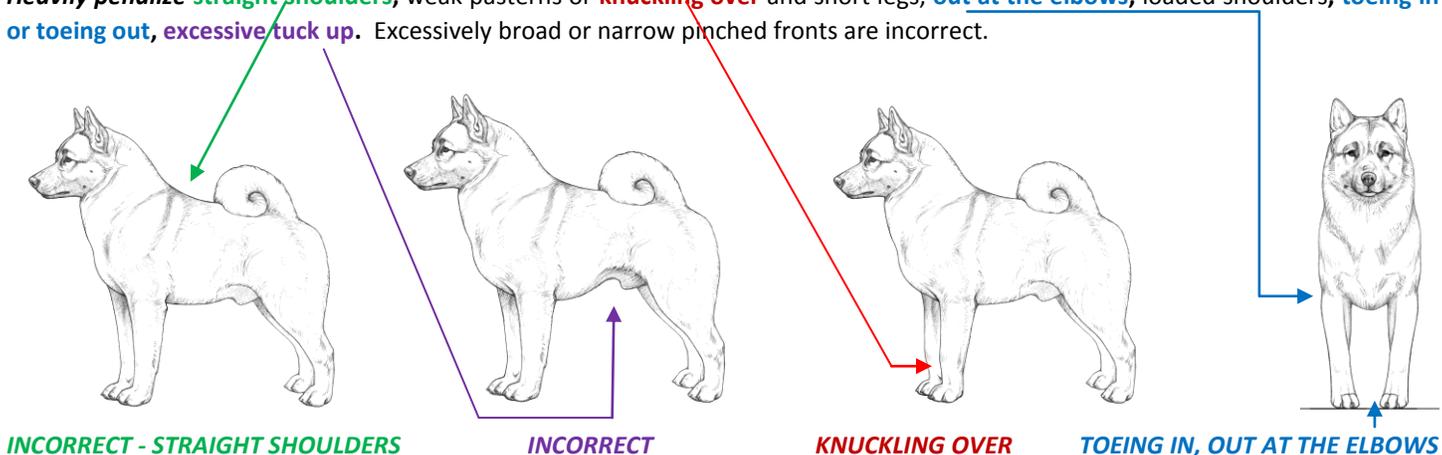
**Body:** *Penalize* those dogs that do not exhibit the square profile or correct proportion. These variations from the square profile, and the proportions that make the correct square, lead to Elkhounds that do not have the lateral agility needed for their unique type of hunting.

**Tail:**

*Penalize* a low set tail. Lack of curl, side curl, and brush are incorrect. The tail should not be trimmed to remove the brush.

**Forequarters:**

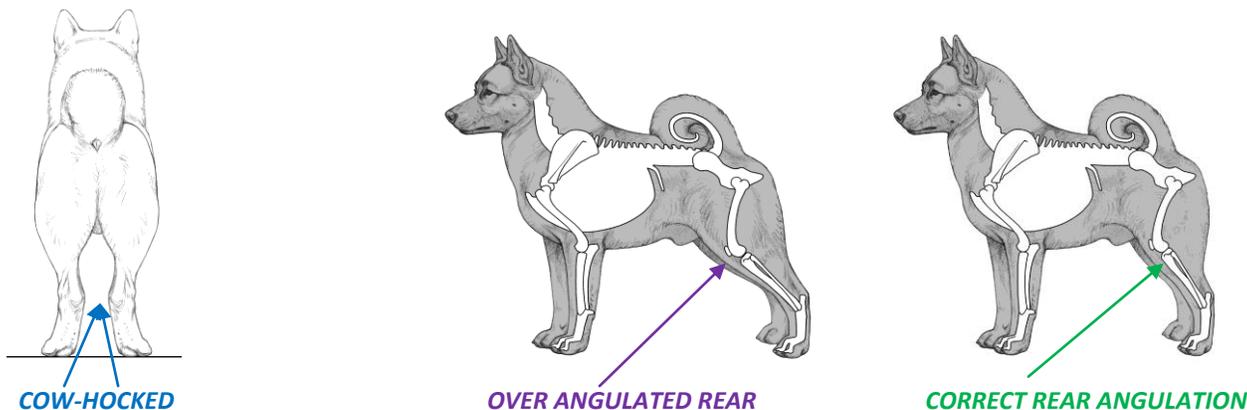
*Heavily penalize* straight shoulders, weak pasterns or **knuckling over** and short legs, **out at the elbows**, loaded shoulders, **toeing in or toeing out**, **excessive tuck up**. Excessively broad or narrow pinched fronts are incorrect.



**Feet:** *Heavily penalize* splayed toes. Feet should not turn in or out. Cat foot or hare foot shaped paws are incorrect as are flat feet or thin pads.

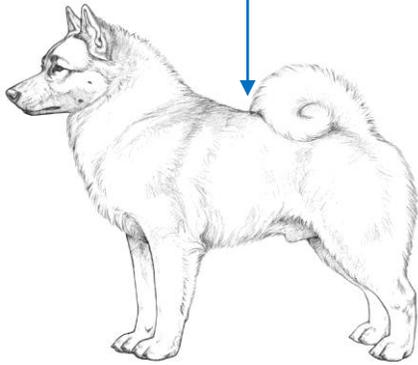
**Hindquarters :**

*Heavily penalize* cow-hocks, straight stifles or **over-angulation**. Lack of muscular development in the thighs is undesirable.



**Coat:**

**Heavily penalize** the *long, soft, or open coat and lack of undercoat*. This type of coat absorbs water and will freeze in a rain that turns to freezing temperatures.



**INCORRECT COAT**

**Color:**

**Penalize** the dog whose color deviates from gray, such as brown or yellow on either the outer or undercoat. In case of doubt of the true color of the coat on a shedding dog, part the hair and examine the color of the new coat at the skin. White patches, indistinct or irregular marking, "sooty" coloring on lower legs, and light circles (eye glasses) around the eyes are undesirable.

**Gait:**

**Heavily Penalize** choppy or labored movement and lack of front or rear extension. Lack of balance is incorrect. It should be noted that a dog that is incorrect in both front and rear assemblies may appear balanced due to two structural faults. Moving too wide or too close is incorrect. The latter should not be confused with single tracking.

**Temperament:**

**Penalize** shy or aggressive individuals. Males, if brought face to face, may give drawn up posture, but neither dogs nor bitches should show aggression in the show ring.

**Summary:**

Penalize those individuals lacking breed type and athletic appearance.



*All illustrations are the property of the Norwegian Elkhound Association of America and are not to be used for personal gain.*

## Footnotes for Judges

### **Look for the following Elkhound traits:**

Square dog  
Athletic dog  
Long rib cage with short loin and well-muscled  
Water-resistant, coarse outer hairs  
Curled tail with base centered over the back  
Silver-gray color with contrasting black  
Dark brown eyes  
Natural, unaltered condition  
Athletic gait which comes from strength, not necessarily speed

### **Examining a Norwegian Elkhound:**

View overall expression  
Check for scissor bite  
Look for strong lower jaw  
Examine shape of skull  
Ear size and placement  
Feel thickness of ear  
Color of ears and muzzle  
Adequate forechest  
Bone density in legs  
Layback of shoulder  
Spring of rib  
Depth of chest—actual point of elbow and not by coat on underside  
Coat texture  
Amount of weight – feel ribs  
Lighter undercoat hair  
Well –muscled loin  
Short loin  
Set of tail and tightness of tail curl  
Let-down of stifle  
Length of hocks  
Hocks in a line with untrimmed hairs on rear  
Muscle condition of rear assembly

### **Norwegian Elkhounds in the ring:**

Okay if Elkhound puts ears back during exam.  
Staring at the Elkhound may be perceived as a threat.  
Don't encourage playfulness; an Elkhound will most likely move or jump.  
A well-built Elkhound can go from a stand into your arms in a second.  
Do not stretch out the tail; some have tail bones fused in a curve at the end.  
How well a dog baits is immaterial in the hunt.  
Thick coats are deceptive. Use your hands.

Do not penalize a dog for putting his ears back as long as they are erect at some point.  
Measure shoulder angle and proportions.  
Look for well let down stifle.  
Feel coat texture for coarse guard hairs.  
A natural, unaltered condition is essential.  
Look for actual squareness, not appearing square due to incorrect body structure.  
Square due to a short loin, not a short rib cage, is correct.  
Move with strength, purpose, and efficiency, without excessive movement.  
Leg length appears to be ½ the height at the withers, due to the hair below the chest; should be 55% leg to 45% body.  
Mascara line from corner of eye to outer edge of ear is desirable.  
Elkhound reacts to sudden movement instinctively.  
Approaching an Elkhound from rear or side may cause it to move.  
Disqualify if overall color is other than gray as described in standard.

### **Faults to eliminate: (Note: although we do not want you to fault judge the Elkhound, we do want you to be aware of these traits we are trying to eliminate in our breed.)**

Upright straight shoulders and/or short upper arms causing awkward inefficient gait.  
Lack of forechest or prosternum.  
Large soft, poorly placed and shaped ears, with insufficient leather to keep them from flopping as the dog moves.  
Heavy-chested dog with too much depth of chest and too much spring of rib.  
Short rib cage – long loin.  
Head lacking fill below the eyes.  
Oval shaped head  
Domed head  
Loose skin on the throat (wet neck).  
Missing teeth  
Too much white, on legs, chest, and underside.  
Open, soft coat without coarse guard hairs.  
Lack of black on ears, muzzle, and saddle.  
Cream color instead of shades of gray on the body.  
Light circles (eye glasses) around the eyes.  
Weak topline  
Short neck  
Weak pasterns  
Low set tail: loose, limp tail carried to the side.  
Light eye color  
Lack of athleticism

**Related Articles:**

***Boy Av Glitre*** by Johnny Aarflot

***Comments on the Standard*** by T. Hemsén

***Judging the Norwegian Elkhound*** by Mary O. Jenkins

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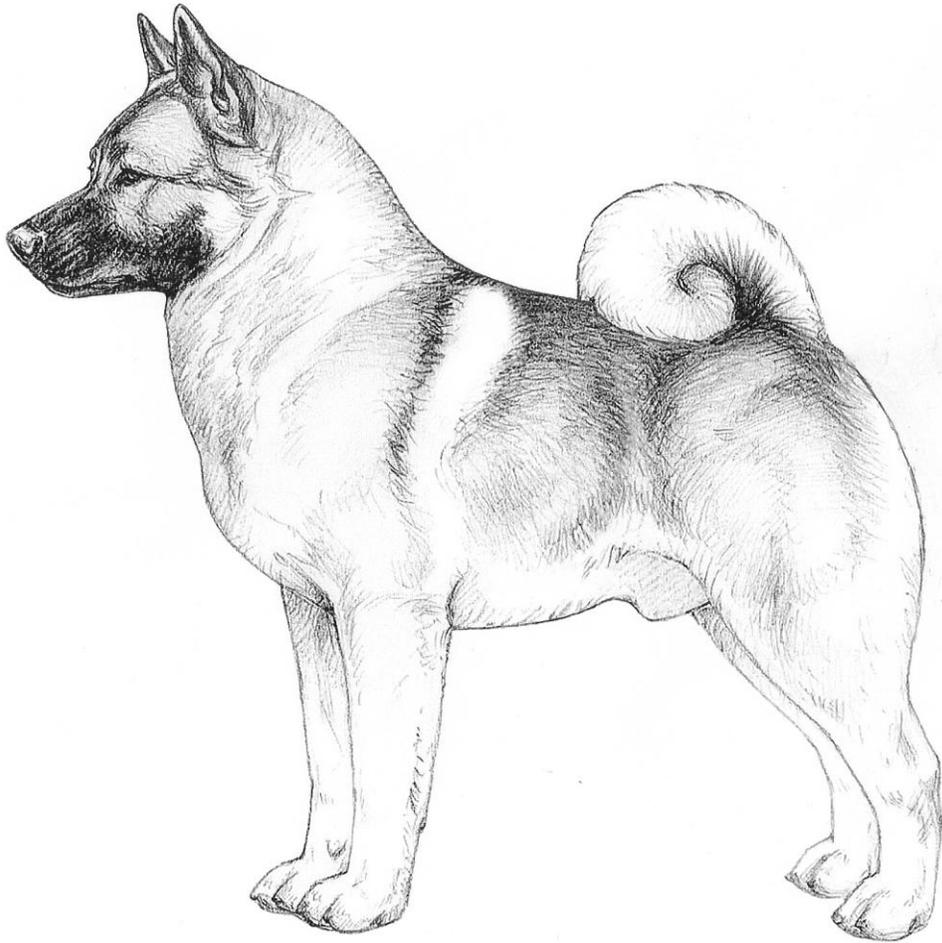
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