

Norwegian Elkhound Notes July 7th 2024

Boston ch show took place on July 4th having taken the place of the now defunct East of England. The judge for an excellent classification for Elkhounds was Frank H Whyte (Kazval) who unfortunately had quite a small entry of 9 dogs. It was of course a weekday show and we have no CCs so entries were bound to be down. Limit dog was the only class with more than one dog. Best Dog was Treena Maun's Ch Bowerhinton Bassanio and Best Bitch and Best Puppy went to Bowerhinton Bright Flame at Starceylon owned by Mr C & Mrs L & Miss A Tyson. Res Best Dog was the Simms' Aftonlee Aros at Elverdal and Res Best Bitch was Threadgold's Ch Norvin Joyeux Noel. Best Veteran was Hennessey's Bowerhinton Bombette with Mr Astbury taking Best Special Beginner with Seasara Heartbreaker.

It was lovely to see that Colin Maun was able to be present after his stay in hospital. We're all wishing you well Colin.

Although it's a month since the Pet Abduction Act became law, I have seen very little mention of it in the Press so I was pleased to see that Moneysupermarket has made a point of adding it to their newsletter along with advice on how to keep your pets safe. They said, "The Pet Abduction Act is an adjustment to the law surrounding the prosecution of people found guilty of the abduction of a pet in England and Northern Ireland. Previously pets were considered property under UK law, but the new law recognises cats and dogs as more than just inanimate objects. The abduction of a pet is distressing and causes emotional harm not only to the owner but to the pet as well. As such, the crime of abducting a pet is being treated more seriously and comes with harsher consequences. This type of conviction is now considered a criminal offence, and anyone found guilty will face up to five years in prison, a fine, or both. The Pet Abduction Bill was initially introduced in December 2023 and passed its third reading in the House of Lords 24th May 2024. The Bill received Royal Assent on the same day and was made an Act. "

I'm no longer able to physically get to shows, so I was extremely disappointed when I read Vanessa's notes in Our Dogs this week to see that the practice of stacking Elkhounds is creeping into the ring. I wonder whether this has come from the States or perhaps from another breed. As Vanessa points out, Elkhounds are shown naturally; freestanding as nature intended. She quotes numerous articles which mention stacking, all of which say it is severely frowned upon. Elkhounds are so easy to train to stack themselves without help from a handler. Our Hattie, the breed record holder would march into the ring, stand perfectly and never move a muscle. In fact, if I ever saw stacking done when I was judging, it would make me wonder just what the handler was trying to hide- a low set tail that wouldn't stay up? An over angulated dog that naturally wanted to stretch its back legs out? - legs that are too wide set? It actually made me look for faults because it looks so unnatural. I do hope the practice doesn't catch on. It may be correct for other breeds but not for Elkhounds. Sincere sympathy goes to the family of Maria Stuart from Australia where her Nankuri kennel was very well known and successful. Maria passed away last week.

My apologies to Barbara Barganska. When I gave the results for Windsor I didn't even think to look at the Stakes classes where she did really well. So here are her Stakes results now.

Junior Stakes Mr S Parsons Reserve - Barbelka Dauntless Spirit (ai)

A.V. Hound/Terrier Brace Stakes Mrs V F D Williams-Wegmann 1st Place Ms B M Barganska

A.V. Hound/Terrier Puppy Bitch 3rd Place Barbelka Dauntless Spirit (ai), (29 entries)

Shows are now coming thick and fast. The next is the Hound show on July 20th where Tim Ball is judging. Entry numbers have not yet been published. Then there's Leeds where Ms Dianna Spavin is the judge. Good luck and safe journeys to everyone.

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