

Norwegian Elkhound Notes Feb 2nd 2025

I have no breed news this week except to remind everyone it's soon the AGM and Contest of Champions on Feb 15th. The details and Agenda have been sent out to all members. It's too late now to enter or to order a meal but non members are still very welcome to come along and watch. Your dogs can come too.

We have had problems with our mail here for the whole of January when we had only one delivery of just two letters. Thankfully one of them was telling me there'd been a problem with my car insurance payment on December 23rd and it was being cancelled. I'd paid on Dec 3rd but they didn't try to take payment until the 23rd. However, before that date Peter had lost his bank card and was still waiting for the new one in the post. Because of the lack of mail, I didn't find out until January 23 so I've no idea how long I could have been without insurance. It also meant that I didn't receive Our Dogs or my two subscription magazines at all in January so I couldn't see the top dog tables or any show news. I had to change my Our Dogs subscription to digital (How can I do the crossword online?) and luckily I also found one of my magazines available online which I was very pleased about because an article in that magazine from January 18th carried the piece that this week hit the front page of Our Dogs. In an article entitled "Money Makers – Seven brilliant ways to earn some extra cash", Woman's Weekly advised people that to make some extra pocket money, you could breed your pet dog. I was, like hundreds of others, absolutely incensed and immediately wrote to the magazine editor, to Our Dogs and to the Kennel Club. It was the most irresponsible article I have ever seen in print so I was delighted to read that this week's Our Dogs had run with the story and showed just how many people had complained. The majority of complaints concentrated on how many dogs are already in Rescue Centres but only the magazine editor, in their apology, commented on what I had pointed out; i.e. the costs and dangers of breeding dogs, the health issues, the need for health tests, the things that can go wrong and the hard work involved in rearing, socialising, training and finding homes for a litter of pups. I still vividly remember in the 1980s, Marion Foster's Llychlyn Silver Gelda dropping dead a week before whelping. I was disappointed when I couldn't find a response from the Kennel Club. It would have been a perfect opportunity to point out just how much hard work goes into making sure dogs are bred with as few health risks as possible. They have an excellent section on their website full of advice for first time breeders although even that says very little about health testing or how to find suitable permanent homes.

I must thank Our Dogs too for giving me contact details for someone in the CEO's office at Royal Mail which has now resulted in an enquiry and we finally have had post delivered last week – although I could have done without the gas bill. The little village near us hadn't had any post from early November until the last week in January. I know emails have taken over from letters these days but there are still very important things that come by post like new bank cards, legal letters, some bills, hospital appointments etc so a reliable service is still important.

So if you wrote to me and didn't get a reply, apologies. It wasn't my fault...Remember the days when breed notes had to be posted to the dog papers? People now expect instant news, even before shows end.

That reminds me to say once again, please make sure the NECGB has your up to date, working email address. We simply can't afford the cost and unreliability of the postal service. Our Dogs has been told that 100 missing issues a week is perfectly acceptable! It all means reprinting and double postage. Is it any wonder people don't always receive their Journal or Club magazine or

notification of Club events? Hard copies of the NECGB magazine have apparently now been sent to to everyone for whom we don't have emails so if you didn't get yours, please contact the secretary. Everyone else was sent a link to the digital version.

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