

Norwegian Elkhound Notes 22nd Feb 2026

The NECGB Contest of champions took place on Saturday. There were 61 entries from 22 dogs and 28 bitches. The judge who remains secret until the day was Beth Benner.

Here are the final results. Would you please let me know if anything is wrong?

Puppy winner Stephenson's Kamgaard Kyffin at Brawdor

Bitch Puppy Clark's Bowerhinton Bowtruckle Rollsupreme

Special Yearling Winner Clark's Bowerhinton Bowtruckle Rollsupreme

Dog Middleton's Graythor Broadway

Special Beginner winner Mr N Cuss Norvin Orkla

Bitch Mrs V Howland's Bowerhinton Bethechange at Fjordfen

Stud Book Winner Cowper's Kamgaard Kross the Sea at Rothenborg

Bitch Clark's Bowerhinton Bowtruckle Rollsupreme

Veteran Winner M Hennesey's Bowerhinton Bombette

Dog Simms' Ch Seasara Earl Grey

Champion of Champions Cowper's Ch Graythor Augustus at Rothenborg

Bitch Tyson's Ch. Bowerhinton Bright Flame at Starceylon

Many thanks to Sarah for putting up with me getting them wrong and asking questions.

The NEAS Open show will take place on 15 May, judged by Luke Johnston (Danluke). The schedule is available on Fossedata.

Crufts entry has been published. 49 dogs have made 50 entries.

The KennelClub has posted their updated Health Initiative for all breeds.

"Just over a month ago the RKC set out its new Breeding for Health Framework, which outlines the key issues affecting pedigree dog health and begins a series of major projects for 2026. We have also been taking active steps to ensure that the Royal Kennel Club and our breeder community are contributing constructively to wider national discussions about conformation and health of all dogs. These efforts reinforce our commitment to support responsible breeding and ensure our community leads the way in safeguarding the future of healthy, happy, pedigree breeds.

Today, I want to share with you another significant development in this area, with new peer reviewed research from the University of Cambridge due to be published at 7pm tonight. This study, funded by the Kennel Club Charitable Trust, evaluates Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS) across 14 additional breeds – beyond the original Bulldogs, French Bulldogs and Pugs – using the existing Respiratory Function Grading methodology. The findings confirm that the Respiratory Function Grading Scheme (RFGS) can now be extended to all the additional breeds included in this new research.

This expansion of the RFGS reflects a collaborative effort between the Royal Kennel Club, the academic research team and the breeder community. Breed representatives have been involved throughout the process since October last year, and their insight has helped shape how the expanded scheme will be introduced and how each breed will be supported.

The additional breeds are Affenpinscher, Boston Terrier, Boxer, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Chihuahua, Dogue de Bordeaux, Griffon Bruxellois, Japanese Chin, King Charles Spaniel, Maltese, Pekingese, Pomeranian, Shih Tzu and Staffordshire Bull Terrier.

From today, owners of these breeds can access the expanded RFGS through trained veterinary assessors listed on the RKC website. Free testing will also be available at Crufts from Thursday 5 March to Saturday 7 March on a walk-up basis in the relevant breed halls, with no advance booking needed. Results of these free voluntary assessments at Crufts will be shared in confidence with the owners only.

The purpose of the expanded scheme is to support informed breeding decisions over the long term. It represents a meaningful step forward in improving respiratory health across a wider group of breeds. Thank you to the many breeders, owners and volunteers who contributed to the research and to everyone who continues to support this important work.

As we look ahead to Crufts, I also want to make you aware of the launch of **Crufts Club** at the show this year. Crufts Club is designed to help us reach a new generation of dog owners who may not yet be familiar with the Royal Kennel Club or the value of pedigree knowledge.

Crufts Club is aimed at anyone with a companion dog in the UK, and it will not affect our existing community or the status of Royal Kennel Club membership. We are not registering crossbreeds on the pedigree register, and nothing about our core work changes as a result of this launch.

Crossbreeds will continue to be represented through Scruffts and through participation in activities such as agility at Crufts, just as they are now. Crufts Club simply gives us a way to welcome and educate a wider audience of dog owners, and the income it generates will help us invest further in dog activities that benefit our Members and the wider community.

As ever, our focus remains on supporting responsible breeders and protecting the long-term health and future of pedigree dogs. Crufts Club sits alongside that work rather than changing it, and it gives us a way to strengthen the wider environment in which our community operates.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Crufts and to continuing this important work together.

With best wishes,

Ian Seath
Chairman"