

Norwegian Elkhound Notes 29th March 2026

NOTE: entries close on 3 April 2026 on Fosse Data for the NECGB Champ show.

I have been without computer for several days and even when I got a new laptop onto which all my old data that had been cloned, I wasn't able to open any Word documents. No problem I thought, I can still use the old one - until I got the blue screen of death. It wouldn't even boot up. In trying to get that fixed, the shop managed to lock my copy of Office. Anyway, the good news is I managed to find a lifetime copy of Office 2021 which includes a copy of Publisher which will not stop working in October. Ms has changed all such programmes to subscription only; you can't buy anything outright now. If you find your copy of Office will become subscription only, give me a shout and I can let you know where to buy an older copy cheaply or instead, download Libre Office which is free.

We have been trying for over a month to find a publishing programme that can produce the Journal but without success. You can't even use Word because it can't create a pdf which is high enough resolution for printing and all the free desktop publishing programmes I tried were far too difficult for any volunteer to use. At least we now know how we can carry on using Publisher.

A couple of weeks ago I warned about a few possible dangers now we are into Spring so, since there is no show news I thought I'd add a bit more detail.

Spring Cleaning.

Keep cleaning products away from pets, as they can contain toxic chemicals. If you think your pet has consumed or licked a cleaning product, please call the vet for advice. There is plenty of advice online about safe, natural products that can safely be used for cleaning such as lemon juice, white vinegar and bicarbonate of soda. From personal experience I know that bicarb sprinkled on dry carpets and left overnight before vacuuming can remove odours and help clean them. Certain proprietary carpet deodorisers and also essential oils used in sprays or burners, have a reputation for making dogs ill or causing allergies. Remember they do lie with their faces on the carpet so they inhale cleaners or lick them off their feet. Use something that would be safe for a crawling baby.

Allergies. This is also the time of year when dogs can develop allergies. They can get hayfever just like humans so if you see runny noses or eyes, contact your vet. Don't just use a human antihistamine. Allergic skin conditions can lead to itchy, red skin, usually caused by a reaction of the immune system to allergens in a pet's environment. Symptoms of allergic skin disease in dogs include red skin, scratching, licking and chewing, persistent ear or skin infections, hair loss and runny, red eyes or noses. Fleas and ticks will soon be rampant again so keep the treatments up to date.

Grass seeds. Grass seed injuries happen when foxtail seeds get trapped in fur and pierce the skin. Check your pet's feet and ears regularly and look for symptoms like shaking their head and ears, licking toes, swollen paws and red lumps. Grass is already starting to grow again and flower. Grass seeds can easily migrate from where they went into the skin and can be very difficult to find.

Bulbs. Many dogs love to dig up the garden, but as I said, some spring flowers and bulbs can be toxic if eaten. Keep them out of reach and get in touch with your vet if your dog consumes a flower or bulb. Daffodils are poisonous to dogs if they eat the flowers or bulbs, or if they drink water from a vase with daffodils inside. Symptoms of daffodil poisoning can include an upset stomach and vomiting, and you may also notice that your dog is very sleepy and wobbly. A dog that has been poisoned by daffodils may also have fits.

Wasp and bee stings

Most stings cause mild pain and irritation, and you can try scraping out the sting (without squeezing it!) with a credit card, washing the area in water and applying ice. If your dog has a bad reaction get

them to the vet immediately. Anaphylaxis is extremely dangerous and I once had a dog that had a huge seizure when she ate a bee among grass and was stung in the mouth.

The Blue Cross on <https://www.bluecross.org.uk/advice/pets/wellbeing-and-care/pet-friendly-garden> has a section on how to create a dog friendly garden.

Don't forget too that slugs and snails can carry lungworm so don't leave toys outside.

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