Norwegian Elkhound Notes 25th May 2026

Well, the weather certainly changed for Bath Show. There were one or two absentees so I wonder whether a few thought it was just too hot. It's been 30c here and hotter tomorrow.
The Judge was Miss H Wayman who decided on Jill Cowper's Ch Graythor Augustus at Rothenborg for DCC and BOB. Res DCC went to Hennessey's Laakso Esko at Elskerdeg.
Bitch CC was Helen and Kath Tress's Treskha Tanqueray with Barbara Barganska's Barbelka Dauntless Spirit taking Res BCC.
Best Puppy went to Tanja Mortimer's Laakso Lumi. Best Veteran was Jacquetta Brown's Ch Laakso Cara and Best Special Beginner was Cockbill's Cealdstan After Eight.

Windsor Show has come up with an innovation for their show in June. On every day there will be Afternoon Tea available for £25 each for non-members. On the Friday night there's a Curry night for £17.95 and Saturday Night a BBQ at £14 each. It could be a very sociable weekend.

Unfortunately, the hot weather brings with it the possibility of very unwelcome visitors- **Fleas**.
The flea season has extended now with the warmer, wetter climate. For the first time in over 30 years. I discovered a flea in December. I had stopped treating for fleas for many years because my dogs don't now mix with others and rarely go where there may be fleas. She can only have picked it up at the vets. Don't do it. They are a nightmare to get rid of, even just one single flea can cause an infestation right through your house. To get rid of them you really need to understand the life cycle.
The dog flea life cycle consists of four stages—egg, larva, pupa, and adult—which can complete in as little as 14–21 days or last several months depending on environmental conditions. Only adult fleas live on the pet, while 95% of the infestation (eggs, larvae, pupae) exists in the home environment. They only go onto your dog when in need of a meal. Flea killers don't kill the pupa stage so if you don't catch them really early you can end up with hundreds of the little blighters.
1. Egg Stage (1–10 Days}. ***Location****: Adult females lay eggs on the dog, but these are not sticky and quickly fall off into carpets, bedding, and furniture.* ***Volume****: A single female can lay up to 50 eggs per day.* ***Hatching****: Eggs hatch within 1–10 days, depending on warmth and humidity.*

2. Larva Stage (5–15 Days) ***Behaviour****: Larvae emerge from eggs and avoid light, hiding deep in carpets, bedding, and floorboards.* ***Feeding:*** *They feed on "flea dirt" (from adult fleas, which is dried blood) and organic debris. These tiny black specks are what you see in your dog's coat.* ***Developmen****t: After 5–15 days, the larvae moult twice before spinning a cocoon to enter the pupa stage.*

3. **Pupa Stage** (Days to Months) ***The Protective Cocoon****: Larvae spin a cocoon that is sticky, allowing it to hide under carpets and debris.* ***Hardiness****: Inside the cocoon, the flea is protected from most insecticides.*
Emergence: *They can remain dormant for several months or up to a year, emerging only when they detect heat, vibrations, or CO2 signalling a nearby host*

4. **Adult Stage** (1–4 Weeks**)** ***Feeding and Mating****: Once they emerge, adult fleas must find a host within a few hours to feed on blood.* ***Reproduction****: Once on a dog, they mate, and females begin laying eggs within 24–48 hours.* ***Life Span****: Adult fleas can live on the pet for several weeks.*
If your dog is scratching a lot, check for fleas but many dogs don't show this allergic reaction to flea bites. Deep grooming to the skin should show up any flea dirt which turns red when combed onto damp paper.

Breaking the Life Cycle
To effectively eliminate fleas, you must treat the home and all pets for at least 3 months, as pupae can continue to hatch over several weeks.
Keep your dog on year-round preventatives. Ask your vet for advice on the best type to use. Our heavily coated dogs probably do better on an oral type. Spot-ons have to be very carefully applied directly onto the skin in an area the dog can't lick - not easy among that coat and possibly not the best method for Elkhounds.
Remember dog flea treatments must not be given to cats. They contain 10 times the dose that cats should have.
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