

New Puppies are here

Tora is doing fantastic, she has 9 new puppies, 6 Males and 3 Females, she started on Saturday Dec 3rd, and finished up early in the a.m. Sunday Dec 4th. The new kennel is terrific, it stays very comfortable and the pups can relax and stretch out. Tora is eating well, and so are the pups, they are fat little rascals already. I took Tora to Bram on October 1st and 2nd, they sure combine well together, Tora raised 7 last litter, all terrific pups, this is an excellent group of 9, all nice and even. Our feed and conditioning program for Tora is pretty amazing, although she has slightly less condition this time around it seems she was putting a bit more of course into the pups. It always amazes me where they find the room to carry all them, these are not little pups, they are good sized, almost as long as her foreleg, and easily as big around. They all have tons of energy and can motor around pretty fair, a terrific litter no doubt.



Tora is content in the new kennel, it's very comfortable and quiet, she is a really good momma, these little rascals have it made.

Tora has some strong pups



Tora had some strong pups last time around, and this time is no doubt the same, that one little guy in the photo by her back leg, he already has his tail up while he is scrapping with his brothers for position, go figure. 6 Big boys, some major commotion coming when these boys get play fighting, no doubt, and 3 lovely females, this is great. No wonder the Elkhound is one of the most ancient breeds, and Tora she is prolific. Bram, he was right up to the task, he is a good Male for Tora to combine with. That soft floor we used last time, we used again, what a great thing, my knees really enjoyed it. I usually stay out in the kennel when she is whelping to just keep an eye out and it takes a fair bit of time, so I am glad we put it down, Tora she enjoys it as you can see also.

Tora is very quiet, she is relaxed, her pups are really content, virtually there is no sound in the kennel at night, everybody is doing great. The only one moving is me putting wood on the stove, although I don't need fire too often, it's been nice out, -11 only.

Takoda keeps a close eye on the kennel

Woe be the Coyote, Tomcat, or Fox that comes through these days smelling the new pups. Takoda he ranges at a very fast pace around this place these days when he senses the new pups coming. He has his spot out near the gate in his shed, and he runs a pretty tight ship at the best of times, put a group of new pups on his turf and he is a machine. Big breeding males are not to be messed with and stray dogs run an awful risk coming into his territory, they pretty much wouldn't make it home for sure.

Takoda is the father to Tora, this group of nine are his grand pups, his own litter isn't on the ground yet, Mia is a few days away from whelping yet, possibly a week or so.

Mia and Takoda started hooking up exactly 7 days after Tora, but they keep at it for a week straight, so it could be as many as 14 days after Tora came in that Mia does, although if my guess is correct, Mia will try to be as close to Tora as possible. Mia is a dominant female and sure hates to be outdone, so she won't be wasting any time that is for sure.

Takoda is getting back into his fine form, he has put back most of the weight he lost through breeding, a few pounds to go perhaps, although right now he is pretty close to his usual. He is a solid muscle dog, no fat on that boy, ever, he runs to the lean ratio all the time. He is a moving machine, still burns around just like a pup with me, we have a great time.



The weather has been very good, we had a cold snap previous, but this has been nice, -11 the other night, and today is -4 only, we had some snow, but overall terrific for the pups.

Takoda does double duty, training Kamp as well for us

Takoda is the best trainer we could have, young Kamp, our boy's new female is here for a while yet till he comes home for the holidays. Kamp is a beauty, full Norwegian, old world strain on her mom's side, and some serious quality on her dad's side. She is a complete outcross to our lines, a perfect match for Jaegar, our daughters big Male. Takoda is a pup trainer extraordinaire. Young Kamp, she is not used to his personality, I can guarantee you that much, she hasn't been around anyone like him before. She was having quite the time trying to sort this out, this is new, nothing like the adult dogs she knew. There is no lifting your lips here, lot's of confidence is allowed, he let's you play, but Takoda doesn't allow any lip curl. He is fair as can be though and has a great time and Kamp was soon burning around having a fun time with him. Kamp will be a big girl, stout and strong, she is old world Norwegian Elkhound, so we are truly excited. Kamp is one of the best young females we have seen in a very long time.



We won't keep Kamp with Takoda full time, my boy will raise her, so she will be socialized, she can come back for some protection training no doubt, but she will be a social urban Elkhound, just like Jaegar, tough as nails and ready to hike each day, but able to go through airports and walk around University Campus as well.

Mia, one great female Elkhound

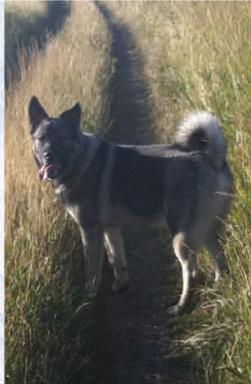
You can say what you like about Tora being a great female and prolific, well, make no mistake she is a daughter of one of the best females in Canada, Mia. Mia is shown here in Early November, she is in great shape, about to have her 6th litter. She was not to be outdone by Tora, we actually didn't think she was going to cycle so soon, normally she is every six months like clock work, she had cycled back in the summer and we took her to mate with Bram, however she was not going to have a litter with him she must have thought. Nobody for her but Takoda!

All her litters have been with Takoda, and so, she never caught with Bram, go figure. Anyway, after Tora cycles, Takoda is making a racket on account of Tora, now we never thought he was also making a racket as he was catching a scent of Mia coming into heat. The old breeders say that certain female Elkhounds can cycle at will. They need to be the dominant ones, have to be in excellent shape, and if there is a young female in heat near them they can come into heat even if it's only been a couple months since the last heat. So, needless to say, we didn't plan on her mating with Takoda again but that is just fine as you couldn't find better dogs than those produced by Mia and Takoda.



The photo above illustrates Mia's incredible strength and ability to stay in condition. She is such an easy keeper, always stays in top shape. Mia has produced 24 pups so far and every single one has turned out to be a great dog.

A few photos of Tora's last litter



The photos on the left are all pups together at 8 weeks, then a 3 shot of Ryker, a dark Male from Tora and Bram, and then 4 Pups in Kamloops with all the great folks and the three down the right are of Kaia, a beautiful female with Paula and Steve.