

Kamia Kennels Litter Update

Mia and Tora are both moving a lot slower these days, both showing some pretty big bellies. Tora has been putting on the weight, she seems to be gaining more weight than Mia, as Mia is amazing at keeping her condition relatively the same all the time, but Tora seems to be instinctively aware as a young female she may need some extra conditioning. They both are eating like wolves right now, Takoda he doesn't take any chances of getting too close to their dish these days, they are definitely not sharing. He seems very aware these two have a short fuse on just about anything, but particularly around the food, he is just busy getting done his before them.



Tora—February 4th, 2011

The two females are content these days to just roam close around, they walk down the trail areas a bit but basically they are content to stay close to the shed and kennel. The weather has really been nice the last couple days, 3 to 5 degrees.

Mia is pretty content to enjoy the day



Mia is a slight bit shorter and not quite as large as Tora so her belly really looks big these days, and also she is ahead of Tora a few days, maybe a week. Mia is in great shape, she has good condition and she is also bulking up this last little while. Mia is really enjoying the sunny days and the warm stretch we have had just recently. In the last 48 to 72 hours it changed roughly 40 degree's in temperature, what a difference and good timing for them.

I am switching the food up a bit now, I include some puppy Orijen into the females rations, also providing some real good quality fish oil every other day now as well. The puppy ration includes a higher ratio of minerals and vitamins, as well as a higher protein content, although they are on a good ration, we like to include the puppy for the last few weeks. This last couple of weeks now I will provide the best possible ration we can to ensure the pups are really strong and that the two females will have everything they need.

Both females are strong and active



Even though they both are carrying extra weight, and it's much tougher getting around like they used to, they both are so strong and active they still like the evenings to roam around the trail and climb up and around, they just have a much slower pace now.

Keeping these females strong all year really assists them now, they have plenty of muscle and strength combined with some excellent stamina so they do very well through this stage.

From this point on I won't take them all together again, they will basically just go individually at this point. They can all mingle around the yard and if they still want to go out for short trail expeditions I will take the females individually. They walk pretty slow and they are stopping fairly often so going with more than one at a time now is hectic, somebody is stopping it seems all the time.

The weather finally broke, we had some really cold days and the dogs are all enjoying this nice break. It's also a lot better to walk around outside I don't need 40 lbs of gear on.

This time around I am going to try to save my own knees a bit, I put down this interlock foam floor. I tend to spend a fair bit of time when the pups are coming and first born down on the floor, and even with some hay and blankets, my knees still felt a bit sore. This stuff is great, both Mia and Tora think it's terrific, nice and soft. It will be a bit of insulation as well, even though I can keep it nice and warm in there, the floor can still remain cool, but with this down it will be excellent.

I started putting them into their whelping kennels individually tonight as well, Takoda was feeling a bit put out, he didn't get the fancy colored floor tiles, he just got the plain grey ones.

I will have his pen this time in the same building so he can keep an eye on both females and just to make sure nothing bothers them. He will be basically able to roam the kennel at night, while they are penned in to theirs. Takoda takes his role pretty serious at all times but he ramps things up a bit when there are pups around, I pity whatever was to step in to the kennel by mistake.



Takoda gets some time alone



Takoda is a happy guy when he gets time alone on the trails with me, nothing to slow him down, he can just go as he pleases. He spends 85% of his time off the trail, even though it's a perfectly good trail he prefers the unbeaten path. These dogs have an uncanny nose and ability to pinpoint smell in snow. When we were out Takoda stopped in the row trees, swung his head back and forth a couple times made a small circle and boom, went straight down about two feet digging. He took about 4 to 5 minutes in total, almost straight down and came out with a field mouse, proud as could be. Only me to share it with so he wasn't able to show off to Mia or Tora, they both would have had it first anyway, but he was pleased with his skill. This area is pretty good for us, no traffic, the park is behind us, the valley to the far left leads to the Blindman

Valley, and to the right
 the Red Deer River.

This trail runs from the
 Provincial Park
 directly behind our
 home and leads
 straight east for miles.
 It's a machinery road
 so little if any traffic.



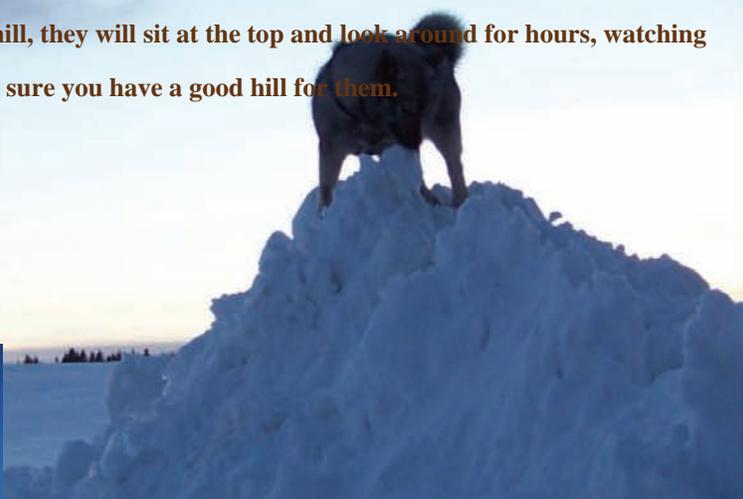
Elkhounds are excellent trail dogs, they love to roam, have a very strong work ethic so you need to be able to get them out and about throughout life and all seasons. They need the exercise.

Elkhounds and climbing

Elkhounds love to climb and scale just about anything. Even though we don't live exactly in the rocky outcrops and rugged coastal regions native to a Norwegian Elkhound, any chance our dogs get to live their instinctive heritage they do. Trips to the deep lakes in the mountains or just a big pile of snow, it all works for an Elkhound, they love it.

Tora is a stable solid climber, she jumps up and onto things and makes her way around with ease. She is a really agile dog with extremely good balance. She loves this kind of stuff where there is a big pile of snow, or climbing up hay bales, basically anything that makes a hill.

In every yard with an Elkhound there should be some climbing hills, dirt piled up, or pile the snow in winter, some wooden ramps, whatever you can have that allows them to have some fun climbing and going up and down. Elkhounds will get hours of enjoyment on a hill, they will sit at the top and look around for hours, watching the territory. Make sure you have a good hill for them.



*Tora on snow pile top right—End of January 2011
 Takoda, Tora, Mia—End of December 2010 Left side
 Takoda and Merv—Summer 2009 Rocky Mountains*

Feeding your Elkhound to it's natural heritage

An old German guy told me when I was a young man, "Feed Makes The Breed", now, I don't entirely agree with him, however he was right on in that without the healthy high quality natural feed, any breed of dog will not perform. Elkhounds for centuries thrived on natural feed, Moose meat, game birds, berries, and tons of fish and other wild game.

We strive to feed along the natural lines, we try our best to provide a wide range of fresh meat, which includes beef, chicken, lamb, if we have wild game we use it, Bison and Deer are available to us, and we make sure to include fish. Smelts, Salmon, Trout, and Mackerel. Tripe is another include that we are sure to have around on a regular basis.

Pottenger told all of us through his work with the cats, that nothing contributes to the decline of the breed and health of the animal as much as the feed. Elkhounds are a strong genetic breed, centuries old, by keeping a strong healthy line of dogs, you ensure that the traits and characteristics are passed down.

Things like bone structure have been well documented, the better the feed, the closer to natural, basically raw, the better the bone structure and development in the dog. The skull, the teeth, the jaw strength, we work to provide the raw bones and high quality nutrient rich foods that maintain the old world Elkhound.

I use a big grinder and below I show a ration getting ready. This ration has some chicken in the bowl already, a couple carrots, we have a couple of our own home grown organic apples, there is some regular ground beef, and the fish this round is Mackerel, cut up ready to go through the grinder. I purchase frozen whole Mackerel, it is a very nutrient rich fish, much like the Salmon we use. The next batch I may have some Salmon, Turkey, lamb or wild game, some berries we picked. We always have some sides of ribs around and just throw out ribs whole for them to eat. Also I will use the Turkey, and Chicken legs and Chicken legs and back attached sometimes straight out, no grinding, Takoda he can turn a Turkey drumstick into liquorice in seconds, same with Tora. Mia she savours hers and takes her time.

We feed the pups raw beef ground from about 4 weeks old, we stay with typically one protein source while they are with us, we always recommend that you continue a raw diet if possible, with some other high quality no grain based food if not raw. No matter if you feed processed or not, including Smelts, and Ribs, and any other fresh bones and raw food is always a good thing. Never worry about changing the food source back to natural, this is no problem. The more you can feed raw the better. Don't forget to let them have access to some berries and Tripe, no matter what you feed. Never cook your bones, always raw, and don't feed frozen bones, thaw them first.

Don't overdue the roughage, they like carrots, they like apples, but don't get carried away, too much roughage is no good for an Elkhound, just let them free range a carrot if your not sure, they will quit eating it when they are ready.



Elkhounds are one of the oldest breeds of dogs, feed naturally to instinctive foods that they have been raised on for centuries to maintain the healthy aspects and characteristic traits they have.

Your new pup is going to be in everything, be sure nothing will be available that they could get into that might cause a problem.

We have to be doubly careful that the items found around here are safe for dogs, pups can get into stuff in a second, they are going everywhere. So we try our best to be sure our items like lawn care, de-icer, cleansers and cleaning supplies are Elkhound friendly.

The nose on an Elkhound can smell 1 part of blood per million in water. We try very hard to use no chlorine or ammonia based cleaning supplies around the dogs. We use the oxygen and peroxide cleansers, they are superior and don't harm the sensitive nose of the young or old dogs.

Ammonia based cleansers are very intense and damaging to the sensitive nose of an Elkhound and we do our best to retain that natural ability to detect a Moose three miles away by allowing the Elkhound the freedom to be in an area, kennel or other, free from chemical type or irritant type products. This keeps the nose strong, the ability to air scent like the ancient Elkhounds, truly spectacular.

A food grade peroxide will be one of the best disinfectants you can possibly find, you can dilute or use full strength for cleaning and oxygen based cleansers are really good for bedding and toys and wiping items down as well.

Keep fresh, no chlorine water available and try to keep the bedding with as little dust as you can and your dog will be happy and content for many years.



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Ashten, with Takoda and Mia, and a healthy inquisitive big litter of puppies. Look at that Tegan left of Takoda eyeing up that squirrel, she is about ready to take that from him.