

# ELKHOUNDS - A GREAT BREED

## Breeding Elkhounds using Old World Principles



Bram and Tora—Dec 19th, 2010



Takoda and Mia —Dec 15th, 2010



Tora

Mia



Bram



Takoda

Our spring breeding program is in full swing, our new female, Tora, was matched up with an outstanding young Male, Bram. A dark Silver male with excellent confirmation and breeding, Bram comes from a long line of Champions in Norway. Bram's grandfather is in Norway, Bram is only the first generation born in Canada. Tora and Bram make a terrific pair and really compliment each other. Takoda and Mia combine once again for another litter, this pair produces outstanding offspring, this is a proven combination and they always have terrific pups, with great temperament and stable friendly personalities. We can hardly wait till end of February.

*Tora and Mia cycled within days of each other, so the litters will be very close together, most likely Mia will have her litter around the Feb 23- 25th Mark, and Tora just a few days, perhaps the 28th of February to the 2nd of March 2011 range.*

## Centuries of history

Tora and her littermates below, April 2009 | Tora's litter coming Mar 2011



Here at Kamia Kennels we strive to bring forward the quality traits that have been preserved in these dogs and breed for soundness and quality and at all times keeping the heritage of this great dog going strong in Canada.

These are Old World Elkhounds, stable as the day is long, hardy and strong, keepers of the gate, guardians of the home and yard, companions and friends. Elkhounds have few if any defects, have changed very little from the very early days, and for the most part look, function and remain the same as they have for centuries.

*We are very excited about the upcoming litter from Tora and Bram, we feel we have been very fortunate to have such an outstanding female, and Bram is the perfect match up for her. He is a nice dark silver male full of energy and excitement.*

## Shadow Returns

Shadow returned for a visit this past summer of 2010. We initially called Shadow "Mr. Silver" as a pup, he was pure Silver in color, as you can see he retained that beautiful coat.

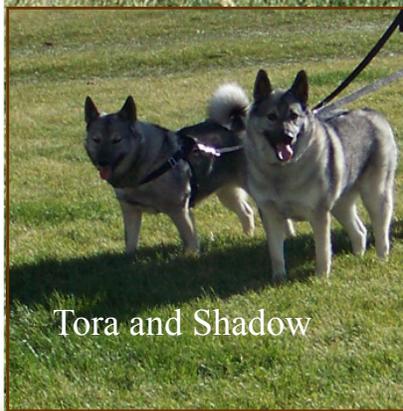
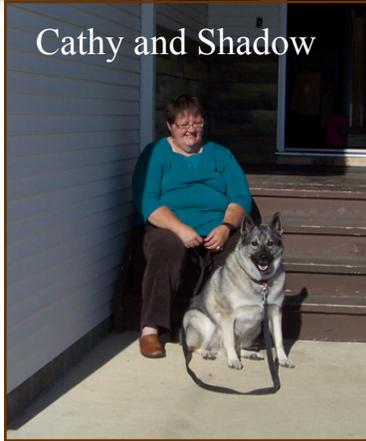
Cathy has done a wonderful job with Shadow, he is very well behaved.

Shadow is definitely a one owner dog, he didn't really want to have much to do with any of us.

Shadow is a big fella, he dwarfed his little sister Tora. The males from Mia and Takoda have all been outstanding, and Shadow is a good representation of that combination.

We want to thank Cathy for coming down, and for taking such good care of Shadow. She has a true pal and he as well.

Cathy and Shadow



Tora and Shadow



*As a companion and loyal friend, few dogs equal the Elkhound, Shadow is a representation of that quality, he focused on Cathy all the time, paying attention to her, not really minding us at all, just like an Elkhound should be, aloof to others, loyal to the handler.*

## Ancient Northern Dogs

**Instincts are preserved in Elkhounds today**



I am shown here with my male Elkhound, Takoda. We are out in the Kanaskis area south west of Bragg Creek, Alberta, an absolutely beautiful part of Alberta. It's late fall and the leaves are all turned, it was a great day.

An Elkhound is a terrific dog to take hiking, especially into bear country, they are an air scent dog, so catch wind of things that could cause me harm, way before I would ever know, and he let's me know, and Takoda isn't shy about it.

He is a big boy, he thinks he is the King of the forest and he smells something out of line he gets in front, hair up, it's pretty neat. This is not the type of dog that runs between your legs when they sense something out of place, they fully expect to be the frontline defense. For centuries, traveling through brush country, remote areas, Elkhounds have accompanied the countryman and these skills and traits they possess have been honed to perfection. It's hard to fully explain, but you just seem to enjoy hiking in the remote areas more with an Elkhound than without.

*"I use a leash on remote trails as a courtesy to others hiking, if I know I am in an area with no one else, then no problem, I can let Takoda range, but the Kananaskis area you will encounter others, and other dogs, so in those regions I keep him by me."*  
Merv Carlson

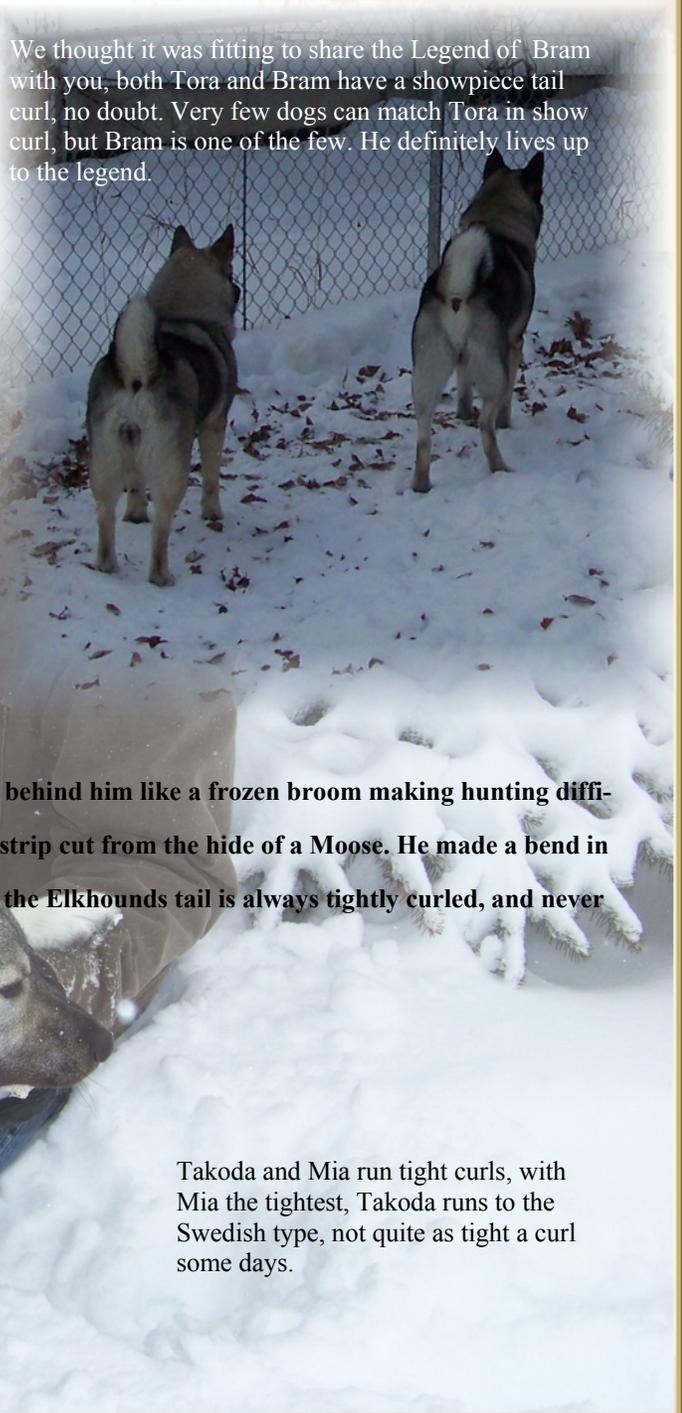
# Elkhound Legends

## The curled tail of the Elkhound

### The Legend of How the Norwegian Elkhound Got His Curled Tail

Way back many centuries past there was a young and skillful woodsman and hunter, his name they say was Tore Ullin. He was known far and wide to be an honest man, and very good with dogs, and his Elkhound, Bram, was always to be found by his side. Each summer there was a dance and festival that folks came from miles to attend. From Kvernbro Valley came Kransen. No one liked him, he was an evil man, bad to the core they say. On the second day of the festival Kransen provoked a fight with Tore. No one knows why, some say Kransen had made a threat to harm Bram, others say it was drink, even others say a woman. In the fight Kransen was killed by Tore. Unjustly, Tore became a hunted man. He fled into the night with his Elkhound Bram to a distant, beautiful valley. Tore and Bram hunted together and lived in caves in the mountains for years, escaping the slain Kransen's vengeful clan. In the deep snow and frost Bram's tail often became encrusted with ice and snow. It dragged behind him like a frozen broom making hunting difficult. One day Tore took Bram's tail and tied it over his back with a leather strip cut from the hide of a Moose. He made a bend in the last couple inches of his tail to tie the leather to. From that day forward the Elkhounds tail is always tightly curled, and never fully straightens out that last couple inches, even when they let it down.

We thought it was fitting to share the Legend of Bram with you, both Tora and Bram have a showpiece tail curl, no doubt. Very few dogs can match Tora in show curl, but Bram is one of the few. He definitely lives up to the legend.



Takoda and Mia run tight curls, with Mia the tightest, Takoda runs to the Swedish type, not quite as tight a curl some days.

*Mia and Takoda directly above wrestle me for a snow bone  
Top Right Tora and Bram are alerted to something coming near*

## GREAT GREY DOGS

### Mela - Norwegian Elkhound Female Visits Us

#### Mela (Lower Left) - Norwegian Elkhound Female Born March of 2010

Mia and Tora enjoyed a visit from Mela this past fall. Unfortunately circumstances for Mela's owners changed and they were unable to properly care for her and it was a situation beyond their control. They contacted us and we informed them that we would immediately begin to assist them, and arrange a new placement for Mela. I had a good family waiting in Pincher Creek, I contacted them, and they were so pleased to have Mela. She has had two very good homes, and is settled into her new place with a couple of new playmates just fine.

Our best thoughts go out to Matt and Elissa, and their young son Jackson, they truly had the best interests of Mela at heart when they contacted us about placement for Mela.



Many thanks to Brian, Cathy, and Theo, they are providing a great new home for Mela.



Mela



*"A couple sometimes has things occur beyond control, it's a tough situation some times, and a young couple did a heroic and selfless act, they knew they could not keep Mela with what had occurred and made the best decision for her. Our greatest respect goes to them." Merv Carlson*

# Nanook, Tula, and Sofii

## Nanook takes a ferry ride, we visit with Tula and Sofii



Tula

Sofii



I had a great opportunity this past summer while taking Nanook out to his new home, to pass right by Tula and Sofii.

Tula and Sofii are both full sisters to Tora, Nika, Tegan, Reba, and Maui. Both are terrific young females, nice to be around, smart and intelligent, and great family companions.

Clint and Jenn live in the Creston Valley, a beautiful area and they along with their family, provide Tula with an excellent place to call home.

Sofii is just a ferry ride across Kootenay Lake, to Nelson BC.

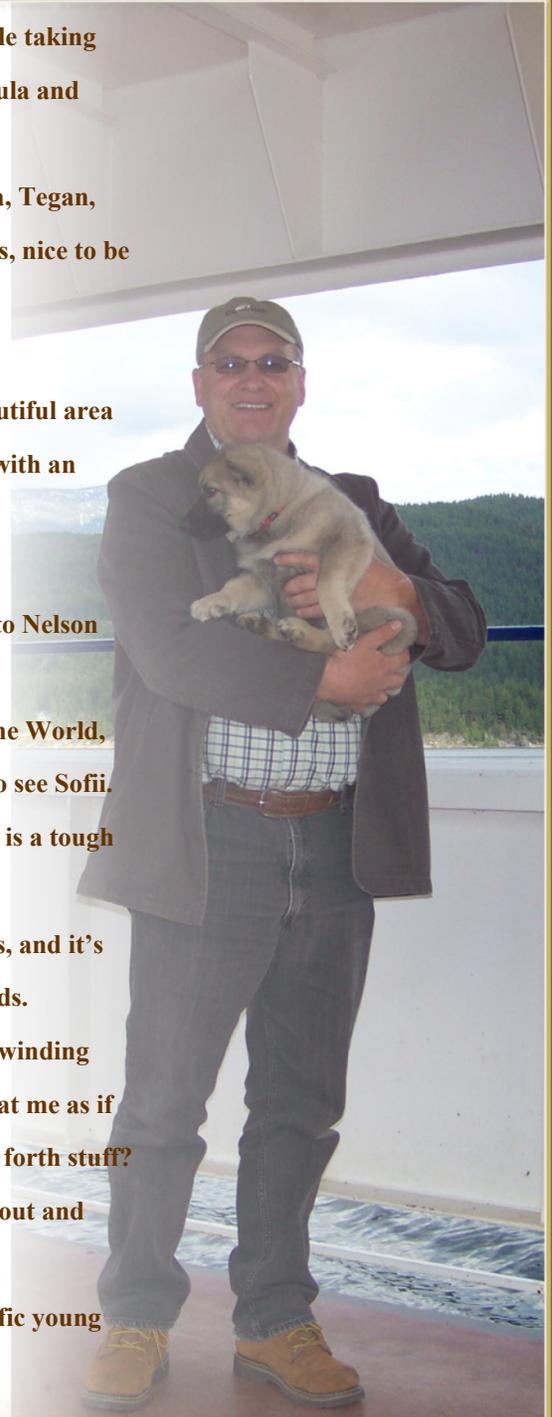
This ferry ride is the longest free ferry ride in the World, Nanook and I were traveling in fine style over to see Sofii. June and her family have Sofii well trained, she is a tough little female, just like her sister Tula.

Both Jenn and June have been long time friends, and it's great to see them both with such great Elkhounds.

Nanook was a terrific traveler, the road is very winding from Creston to the ferry, Nanook was looking at me as if to say, hey buddy, what's with all this back and forth stuff?

He enjoyed himself on the ferry, everybody got out and admired him, he was such a show off.

I'll have more on Nanook to follow, he is a terrific young Male.



*We enjoyed our visit through the Kootenay region, Tula and Sofii are doing well.*

# Outstanding Female Elkhounds

**Kari, Cinnder, Petra and Mela**



Elkhound females average 8 pups per litter, and most females will nurse these with no trouble at all. Mia always has fat pups, she really is an excellent mother. Mothers will tend to start weaning them off around the 5th to 6th week, still letting them nurse but getting more agitated with them, as they are getting pretty rough by that time. We begin feeding the pups in around that 4 week mark, we feed raw, and for the most part its all meat. We use primarily beef and stay pretty much with one protein source throughout until the mid 6th week and we start to introduce some Orijen, so that when they go to the new home they are accustomed to it, as some folks won't feed raw.

*Kari, Cinnder, Petra, and Mela, 4 young female Elkhounds out of Mia and Takoda*

# ELKHOUNDS CAN SURVIVE

## **Digging—A dog needs to dig, make sure to leave a spot for that**

All dogs instinctively want to dig, and all Elkhounds are very good at hunting mice and such. They can smell and hear them and will dig right down to them in no time. One thing about an active Elkhound, you should never have to clip the nails. None of our dogs have ever had their nails clipped, they wear them down, easy. Digging is a powerful instinct for a dog, it's like a remedy of sorts for all kinds of things, always allow an area in your yard for your dog to dig. It will soothe an age old drive, leading to a more balanced dog, calmer, more at ease. There is very little that can match the workout for intensity than digging down a foot or so after a mouse, or digging a good hole to hide that bone. I have heard of guys suggesting not to let your dog dig, those guys must have some pent up dogs with some long nails. You want a dog that is relaxed, calm, stable with a set of shoulders to make Hulk Hogan envious, then let them dig.



*The more you work and train your dog relating to natural instincts, the easier it is, the happier the dog, and your life with the dog is enhanced—Elkhounds like to track things down, play tracking games with them*

# Snow Dogs are Strong Dogs

## Deep Snow and Elkhounds Just Like Sharks and Water

Elkhounds are snow dogs, they are much happier in snow, than not. Sometimes I wonder if they have a head, as I never get to see it in deep snow, it's always buried under while they check out some scent. In really deep fresh snow, right before dusk, you get a couple of them circling around in tall grass it reminds me of a couple sharks, all I can see is the tail, they are barely out of the snow and they move fluid and steady, it's really neat, just the curl of the tail up is about all you see. If you want a strong dog, walk it daily in deep snow, they have a blast, and it's a major workout, 1 hour in deep snow is like 4 hours on the trails.



*Elkhounds are double coat dogs, a thick really warm dense inner coat, and then a longer outer coat, a guard coat, longer with black tips, this wards off the debris, water, mud, etc. and keeps the inner coat clean. This is a very soft coat to touch, people sometimes knit with the inner coat when it comes off in the spring.*

Elkhound females make a truly great companion. Takoda is able to pass on his terrific ability to communicate with the handler to his offspring, giving all his females that wonderful trait of paying attention to you.

There is nothing better than having a dog be independent, yet mindful and watching and interacting with you at the same time. These females all have that ability.

Takoda passes his protection and guarding down as well. These are not shy timid females, they don't mind letting you know something is out of place, or new, or danger is present.

The 2011 spring litter between Takoda and Mia will produce a few more females just as outstanding the the others.

We have some early photos coming in on Kari, we look forward to photos of Petra, and we need to get a few on Reba and Maui up yet.



# TAKODA AND A FEW OF HIS GIRLS

SOFII

CINDER

TEGAN

TULA

NIKA

LEXI

MELA

## Mia Rules!

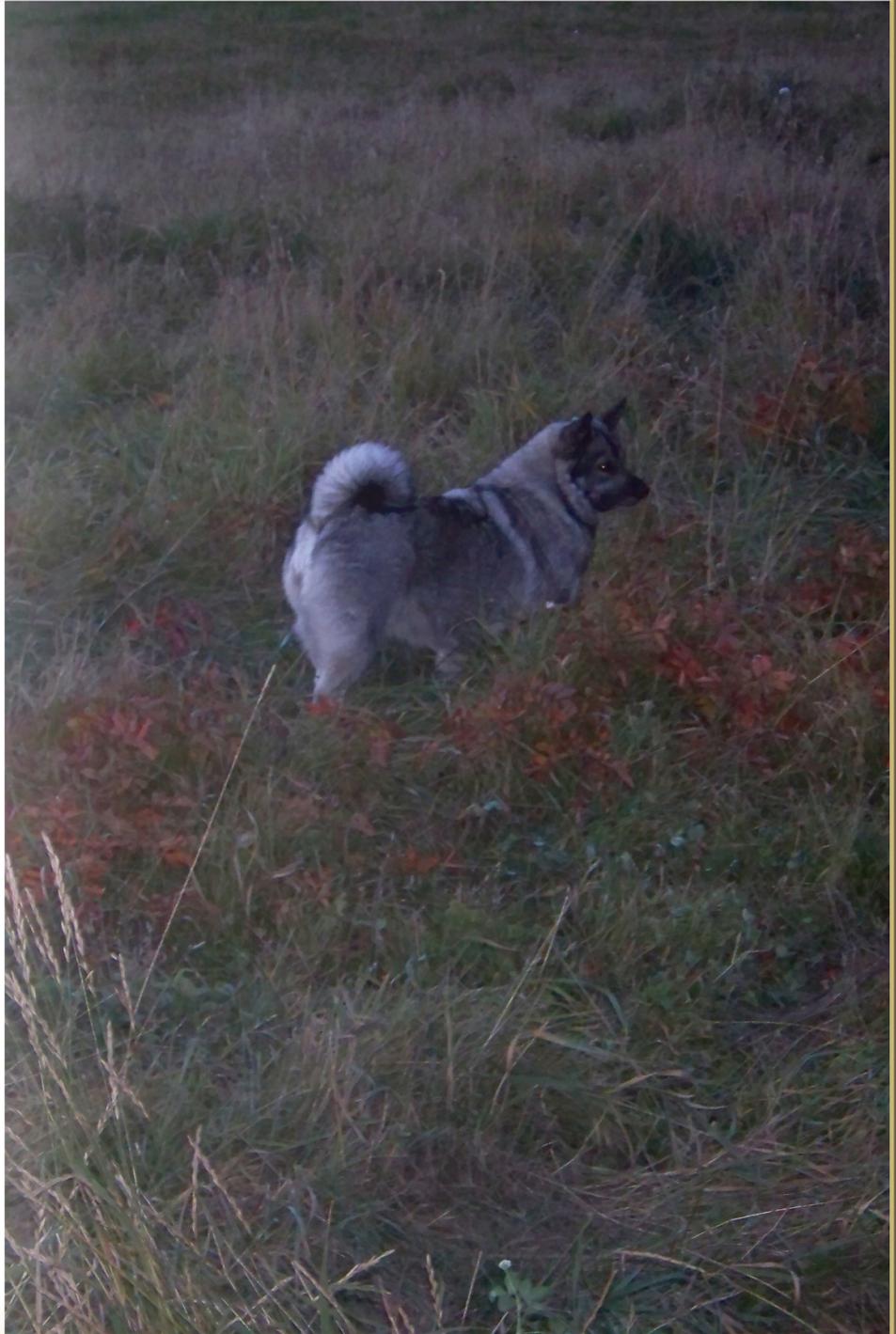
Elkhounds are independent dogs. Mia is a perfect example of this independence. She does her own thing, oh yes, she will mind us, but if she is busy doing something when you call her, be prepared to wait till she is good and ready.

Elkhounds are aloof to strangers, Mia again, follows this tradition, she will tolerate most people, but she doesn't really stick around and visit. Mia guards her territory, other dogs have made the mistake of thinking she may back down, this is not the case, especially with her, or Elkhounds as a whole. She stands her ground. All Elkhounds are normally disdainful to others, they don't bother other dogs as such, but don't tolerate any misbehavior either.

These dogs are almost impossible to knock off their feet, Mia makes a cat look clumsy. She is almost as wide across the shoulders as she is tall. Elkhounds are very muscular, agile, and quick, they needed to be able to dodge and stay clear of the hooves of Moose in heavy underbrush and they have an uncanny ability to move up and over and around in brush.

Elkhounds are easy keepers, Mia is a testament to that, she maintains her condition flawlessly.

Mia is what Elkhounds are all about!



*Mia maintains her great condition and muscle tone easily, she gets back to her peak condition after weaning in short order. She is a powerful female, solid as a rock, very quick and agile, and a very dominant dog.  
Mia surveys her territory above as a 4 year old in her prime.*

## Tora begins her role as a new breeding female

Tora has exceeded all our expectations and has really come into her own this last summer. She is a magnificent female, outstanding in all aspects. She is a pleasure to be around, a very social female. We are so pleased to have found Bram, as he will bring to the pair some old World traits the same as her. Bram is an excellent dark young male, combined with Tora and her background this will produce some absolutely incredible pups. Bram has an excellent stance, he stands proud, he is right on the breed standard for Males at or near the 50+ lbs, and 22 inches. He is not as wide and thick as Tora but with the combination of the two, these will be some very stout strong dogs. You couldn't ask for a better pair, they really compliment each other.



Our Sincere Thanks goes out to Cathy and Blaine for contacting us about Bram and for working with us on this mating. Bram is an outstanding young Male and we are very excited about these pups.

# A HUGE THANK YOU FROM US

**Thank You to all the families that put their confidence in our breeding program to provide their families with new loyal companion dogs.**

A special thank you as well goes out to Cathy and Blain for working with us with Bram and Tora. Also, a big thanks to Cathy for coming down with Shadow, we had a great visit. Things worked out great for Mela, she is settled into her new home down in the Crowsnest Pass region, our thanks to Brian and Cathy, and Matt and Elissa.

We had a great visit out in the Creston and Nelson area with Jenn and June's families, Tula and Sofii were good hosts to Nanook, their little brother, who we are sure to be hearing more on this upcoming year, Joanna and Kosmas are providing a great home for the big fella.

Shelly and Brett, Thank you, Kari is turning out to be every bit as good as Nika, thanks to both of you. You have two terrific females.

We will be sure to get some information on Petra in the upcoming year from David who is making a great home for her in Manitoba, and a big thank you to Amber, Andrew and MacKenzie, they have been sending lots of photos and write-ups on Cinnder, a lovely dark female. 2010 has been a great year for Elkhounds and 2011 looks to be even better with new spring litters from Mia and Tora. Thanks again everyone and have a year in 2011.

