

EXAMINING A NORWEGIAN LUNDEHUND

By Cindy Stansell, JEC

The Norwegian Lundehund Association of America has standardized a very specific examination to better assess the polydactyl feet which are unique features of the breed and essential for their original function. The standard examination is to count the toes of each foot by very gently touching the toes while they are on the table. This allows you to verify that:

- there are a minimum of six toes on each foot,
- five toes touch the table in the front and four toes touch the table in the rear, and
- the “toes” are actual toes. Sometimes they are dew claws which hang loosely and are only connected to the skin and do not contain bone. These would be less efficient for the original task which needed maximum gripping and braking surface.

After you have finished the table examination, please ask the exhibitor to lift the dog so you can assess that there is a pad associated with every toe. This also helps you to determine whether it is an actual toe for actual toes have corresponding pads. For ease of remembering, we teach that the pads form a “constellation” on the front feet and a Lundehund “swoosh” in the rear. If the dog is recalcitrant, you can either have the dog put back onto the table and lift any foot that was not inspected for pads, or you can ask the exhibitor to go “down and back, “and you will examine pads after the “down and back.” I have found that the second method is less stressful on an inexperienced dog.

If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Stansell, NLAA Judges' Education Chair at 919-606-6569 or Stansell.cs@gmail.com