

GERMAN SPITZ (MITTEL)

A Breed Standard is the guideline that describes the ideal characteristics, temperament, and appearance of a breed, and ensures that the breed is fit for function, with soundness essential. Breeders and Judges should, at all times, be mindful of features that could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare, or soundness of this breed.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/07/2023

ORIGIN

Germany.

UTILISATION

Watch dog and companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

German Spitz dogs are descendants of the stone age "Peat Dogs" (Torfhunde) and the later Lake-dwelling Spitz (Pfahlbauspitz); it is the oldest breed of dog in Central Europe. Numerous other breeds have been developed from them.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Spitz breeds are captivating on account of their beautiful coats, made to stand off by plentiful undercoat. Particularly impressive are the strong, mane-like collar round the neck (ruff), and the bushy tail carried boldly over the back. The foxy head with alert eyes, and the small pointed, closely set ears, give the Spitz its unique characteristic, cheeky appearance.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- The ratio of height at withers to body length is 1 : 1.
- The ratio length of the muzzle to length of the skull of the Medium Size Spitz is approximately 2 : 3.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

The German Spitz is always attentive, lively, and extraordinarily attached to its owner. It is very teachable and easy to train. Its natural distrust of strangers and lack of hunting instinct make it the ideal companion, family dog, and watch dog for home and farm. It is neither timid nor aggressive. Indifference to weather, robustness, and longevity are its most outstanding attributes.

HEAD

Cranial Region:

Skull: The Spitz's medium-sized head, seen from above, appears broadest at the back and tapers wedge-shaped to the tip of the nose.

Stop: Moderate to marked, never abrupt.

Facial Region:

Nose: The nose is round, small, and pure black. The nose of brown Spitz dogs is dark brown.

Muzzle: The muzzle is not over-long and stands in pleasing proportion to the skull (approximately 2 : 3).

Lips: The lips are not exaggerated; they are close-fitting to the jaws and do not form any folds to the corner of the mouth. They are completely black. The lips of brown Spitz dogs are brown.

Cheeks: The cheeks are gently rounded, not protruding.

Jaws and teeth: The jaws are normally developed and show a complete scissor bite with 42 teeth, corresponding to the dental formula of the dog, i.e. the upper incisors closely overlapping the lower ones and set square to the jaws, strong canines fitting exactly into each other. The lack of a few premolars shall be tolerated in Medium Spitz. Pincer bite is permissible.

Eyes:

The eyes are of medium size, almond-shaped, slightly slanting, and dark. The eyelids are black. Brown Spitz dogs have dark brown eyelids.

Ears:

The small ears are set high and relatively close to each other, triangular pointed; they are always carried upright, stiff at the tips.

NECK

The medium-length neck is set broadly on the shoulders, slightly arched without dewlap and covered by a thick, profuse coat, forming a large ruff.

BODY

Topline: Merges in a gentle curve with the short, straight back. The bushy, sweeping tail, which partially covers the back, rounds off the silhouette.

Withers: The high withers drops imperceptibly.

Back: As short as possible, straight, firm.

Loin: Short, broad, and strong.

Croup: The croup is broad and short, not falling away.

Chest: The deep chest is well-sprung, the forechest well-developed.

Underline and belly: The chest reaches back as far as possible; the belly has only a slight tuck-up.

TAIL

The tail is set-on high and of medium length. It reaches upwards and rolls forward over the back, straight from the root. It lies firmly over the back and is covered with very bushy hair. A double curl at tip of tail is tolerated.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Straight, rather broad front with well-developed bone strength.

Shoulder: The shoulder is well-muscled and firmly connected to the chest. The shoulder blade is long and well laid back.

Upper arm: The upper arm, which is approximately the same length as the shoulder blade, forms an angle of 90° to the shoulder blade.

Elbow: The elbow joint is strong, close-fitting to the chest, and turns neither in nor out.

Forearm: The forearm is of medium length in relation to the body, sturdy, and completely straight. The back of the forearm is well-feathered.

Metacarpus (pastern): The strong, medium-length front pastern stands at an angle of 20° from the vertical.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: The hindquarters are very muscular and abundantly feathered to the hocks. The hind legs stand straight and parallel.

Leg: Thigh and lower leg are of about equal length.

Hock joint: The hock is of medium length, very strong and vertical to the ground.

FEET

The feet are as small as possible, round, and closed, with well-arched, tight nails, so called 'cat-feet'. The pads are coarse. The colour of nails and pads is as dark as possible.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

German Spitz dogs move straight ahead with good drive, fluidity, and springy action.

SKIN

The skin covers the body tightly without any wrinkles.

COAT

Medium Spitz dogs have a double coat:

- Long, straight, and firm, off-standing topcoat and short, thick, cottonwool-like undercoat.
- Head, ears, front side of front, hind legs, and the paws are covered by short, thick (velvety) hair.
- The rest of the body has a long, rich, hairy coat. Not wavy, curly, or shaggy, not parted along the back.
- Neck and shoulders are covered by a thick mane.
- The back side of the front legs is well-feathered, the hind legs have ample feathering from croup to hocks.
- The tail is bushy.

Hair must not look like it has been modelled.

COLOUR

Medium Spitz: White, black, brown, orange, grey-shaded, other colours.

- **White:** The coat should be pure white. Little trace of yellow, which often occurs, especially on the ears, tolerated.
- **Black:** Black Spitz dogs must have a black undercoat and a black skin. The colour on top must be a shining black without any white or other markings.
- **Brown:** The brown Spitz should be uniformly dark brown.
- **Orange:** The orange Spitz should be evenly coloured in the medium colour range. Lightening up of the orange colour on the chest, the tail and the trousers is permitted.
- **Grey-shaded:** Grey-shaded is a silver-grey with black hair-tips. Muzzle and ears are dark in colour, round the eyes well-defined "spectacles" shown as a delicately pencilled black line slanting from outer corner of eye to lower corner of ear, coupled with distinct markings and shading forming short, but expressive eyebrows; mane and ring on shoulder lighter; fore- and hind legs silver-grey without any black markings under the elbows or stifles, except slight pencilling on the toes; black tip of tail; underside of tail and trousers pale silver-grey.
- **Other colours:** The term "other colours" applies to the following colours: cream, cream-sable, orange-sable, black and tan and parti-colour. Parti-coloured dogs must have white always as basic colour. The patches must be uniformly in one colour: black, brown, grey-shaded, orange, orange-sable, cream, or cream-sable. They should preferably be distributed over the whole body.

SIZE

Height at withers:

35cm (approx. 13½") with a tolerance of approximately 5cm.

Each variety of the German Spitz should have a weight corresponding to its size.

N.B. Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

Severe faults:

- Faults in construction.
- Head too flat.
- Distinct apple head.
- Flesh-coloured nose, eyelids and lips.
- Dentition faults, missing incisors.
- Too big or too light eyes.
- Protruding eyes.
- In grey-shaded Spitz, missing of distinct markings of the face.
- Faults in movement.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Gap in fontanel.
- Overbite, underbite, crossbite.
- Ectropion or entropion.
- Ears not fully erect.
- Definite white markings or spots in all non-white Spitz dogs.
- Any colour not mentioned in section "Colours".

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FCI Standard No 97: DEUTSCHER SPITZE (GERMAN SPITZ) - MEDIUM

FCI Classification: Group 5: Spitz and Primitive types

Section 4.1. European Spitz

Without Working Trial