

FINNISH LAPPONIAN DOG

[FINNISH LAPPHUND]

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 01/02/2021

ORIGIN

Finland.

UTILISATION

Originally a herder and watchdog used in the work of keeping reindeer. Today, also popular as a companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

For hundreds of years, the Sami people have used dogs, of the same type as the Finnish Lapponian Dog, as reindeer herders and watchdogs in the northern parts of Fennoscandia and Russia. The first standard of the Lapponian Herder was established by the Finnish Kennel Club in 1945. The breed's name was changed to Lapponian Dog in 1967. In the 1970s, the type and characteristics of the breed became stabilised, and the standard has been revised several times. The breed name was again changed into Finnish Lapponian Dog in 1993. The breed type has become homogeneous in a short time and today the breed is very popular mainly as a companion and utility dog in the whole of Finland.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Smaller than medium-sized. Strongly built for his size, slightly longer than the height at the withers. The coat is long and dense.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- The depth of chest is approximately half of the height at the withers.
- The muzzle is slightly shorter than the skull.
- The skull is slightly longer than its width, the depth is the same as the width.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Intelligent, courageous, calm, and docile. Friendly and faithful.

HEAD

Strong in outline, rather broad.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Broad, the skull is slightly convex. The forehead is rather domed. The frontal furrow is clearly defined.

Stop: Clearly defined.

Facial Region:

Nose: Black or brown, according to coat colour

Muzzle: Strong, broad, and straight; viewed from above and in profile, evenly, but only slightly, tapering.

Lips: Tight.

Jaws and teeth: The jaws are strong. Scissor bite.

Cheeks: The zygomatic arches are well-pronounced.

Eyes:

Oval-shaped, dark brown, according to coat colour. The expression is soft and friendly.

Ears:

Medium-sized, carried erect or semi-erect, set rather apart, rather broad at the base, triangular in shape and very mobile. Also, the inner side is covered with hair. It is equally acceptable that one ear is erect and the other semi-erect.

NECK

Medium in length, strong, and covered with profuse hair.

BODY

Withers: Muscular and broad, only slightly pronounced.

Back: Strong and straight.

Loin: Short and muscular.

Croup: Of medium length, well-developed, only very slightly sloping.

Chest: Deep, rather long, reaching almost to the elbows, not very broad. The ribs are slightly arched; the forechest clearly visible, not very strong.

Underline and belly: Only slightly tucked-up.

TAIL

Set rather high, medium in length, covered with profuse and long hair. The tip of the tail may have a J-formed hook. When moving, the tail is curved over the back or side; in rest, it may hang.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Powerful with strong bones. Viewed from the front, straight and parallel.

Shoulder: Slightly oblique.

Upper arm: As long as the shoulder blades. The angle between shoulder and upper arm is rather open.

Elbow: Approximately at the level of the lower edge of the ribcage, pointing straight backwards.

Forearm: Rather strong, vertical.

Carpus (wrist): Flexible.

Metacarpus (pastern): Of medium length, slightly oblique.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Strong-boned, powerful, viewed from behind, straight and parallel. The angulation is clearly marked with no exaggeration.

Upper thigh: Of medium length, rather broad with well-developed muscles.

Stifle (knee): Parallel, rather well-angulated.

Lower thigh: Relatively long and sinewy.

Hock joint: Moderately low, rather well-angulated but not excessively.

Metatarsus (rear pastern): Rather short, strong, and vertical.

FEET

Well-arched, oval rather than round, covered with dense hair. The pads are elastic. Dense hair between the pads.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Effortless. Changes easily from trot to gallop. The legs move parallel. When working, agile and fast.

SKIN

Tight, without wrinkles.

COAT

Hair profuse. The males, especially, have an abundant mane. The outer coat is long and harsh. On the head and on the front side of the legs, the coat is shorter. There has to be an undercoat that is soft and dense.

COLOUR

- All colours are permitted.

* The basic colour must be dominant.

* Colours other than the basic colour can occur on the head, neck, chest, underside of the body, on legs, and tail.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 49cm (approx. 19").

Females: 44cm (approx. 17½").

With a tolerance of ±3cm (approx. 1"). The type is more important than the 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.

- Lack of sexual dimorphism.
- Light head.
- Insufficient stop.
- Over-angulated or too-straight rear angulation.
- Tail carriage continuously lower than the topline.
- Lack of undercoat.
- Flat coat.
- Curly outercoat.
- Basic colour not dominant.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Overshot or undershot mouth.
- Kinked tail.
- Full drop-ears.

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FCI Standard No 189: SUOMENLAPINKOIRA (FINNISH LAPPONIAN DOG)

FCI Classification: Group 5 – Spitz and Primitive types

Section 3.4 Nordic Watchdogs and Herders

Without Working Trial