

GREENLAND DOG

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 01/01/2018

ORIGIN

Greenland. (Patronage: Denmark)

UTILISATION

Sledge dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The Greenland Dog is one of the world's oldest breeds and has, since ancient times, been the Inuits' only sledge dog. Selection of specimens for breeding has been based mainly upon qualities like sturdy strength, hardiness, and endurance, but an attractive appearance has also been kept in view. With its robust nature, the Greenland Dog is a dog especially for people who enjoy open-air life. He is an excellent companion for people who like strolling in woods or mountains with their dog pulling or carrying their gear.



GENERAL APPEARANCE

A very strong polar Spitz, built for endurance and strenuous work as a sledge dog under Arctic conditions. Some variation in size is allowed, assuming working ability and harmony are not affected.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- The body is short rectangular with the ratio of height at withers to body length as 10 : 11. Females are allowed a slightly longer body.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

The predominant temperamental qualities of the Greenland Dog are energy, mental strength, and boldness. He is a passionate and tireless sledge dog. To people – also strangers – he is friendly and, while acting as sledge dog, not closely attached to any particular person, and therefore is not suitable as a guard dog. On hunting seal and polar bear he will show a strong hunting instinct.

HEAD

Cranial Region:

Skull: The skull is broad and slightly arched, broadest between the ears.

Stop: Definite, but not strongly marked.

Facial Region:

Nose: Big and dark, corresponding to coat colour, always liver brown in dogs with red or brown coat, and always dark in dogs with sable coat. May turn pink during winter ("winter-nose").

Muzzle: Broad at base, and tapering towards the nose, but not pointed.

Lips: Thin and tight, lying close to the very powerful teeth.

Jaws and teeth: Powerful jaws with regular, sound, and strong teeth. Scissor-bite.

Eyes:

Dark eyes are preferred, but colour should be according to coat colour. They are slightly slanted and neither deep set nor protruding. Expression is frank [*ed. honest*] and bold. The eye-rims are closely fitting.

Ears:

Rather small, triangular, with rounded tips, carried firmly erect. The ears are very mobile and expressive.

NECK

Very powerful and rather short.

BODY

Strong and rather compact, just slightly longer than the height at the withers.

Topline: Level or only slightly sloping.

Back: Straight.

Loin: Broad.

Croup: Slightly sloping.

Chest: Deep and broad, but not barrel-shaped.

Underline and belly: Following the line of the brisket. A slight tuck-up accepted.

TAIL

Set on high, thick, and bushy. Carried in a curve or lightly curled over back.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Seen from the front, the forelegs are perfectly straight, with powerful muscles and heavy bone.

Shoulder: Moderately laid back.

Upper arm: Straight and strong, somewhat longer than the shoulder blade.

Elbow: Fitting close to the body, but able to move freely.

Forearm: Straight and strong.

Carpus (wrist): Strong and flexible.

Metacarpus (pastern): Strong and elastic, only slightly sloping.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Seen from behind, the hind legs are perfectly straight. Very muscular hindquarters, with powerful bone and moderate angulation.

Upper thigh: Powerful and very muscular.

Hock joint: Broad and strong, moderately angulated.

FEET

Rather big, powerful, and rounded, with strong nails and pads.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

An efficient, harmonious, fluent, and tireless trot is most essential to a sledge dog. In the ring, the dog should be shown on a loose lead in a moderate trot, to display good reach in front and good drive from behind. Seen from front when walking, a Greenland Dog does not single track, but as the speed increases, the legs will gradually converge inward until the feet follow the center line.

COAT

Double coat, i.e. a soft, dense undercoat and an outercoat of dense, straight, and coarse hair, without curl or wave. On the head and the legs, the hair is rather short; on the body it is longer and more pronounced. The coat is longer on the underside of the tail, giving it a bushy appearance.

COLOUR

- Any colour – solid or parti-coloured – is permitted

* Except albinos and dogs with merle-markings, which should be disqualified.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 60cm and upwards (approx. 23½" and upwards).

Females: 55cm and upwards (approx. 21½" and upwards).

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.

- Light in bone.
- Short legs, body low set.
- Timid temperament.

Severe faults:

- Condition that affects the dog's soundness in a negative way.
- Coat long and soft.
- Ears not carried firmly erect.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Albinism.
- Merle markings
- Eyes of different colour.
- Blue eyes.

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FCI Standard No 274: GRØNLANDSHUND/ QIMMEQ QIMUTTOQ (GREENLAND DOG)

FCI Classification: Group 5: Spitz and Primitive types.

Section 1. Nordic Sledge Dogs
Without Working Trial