

## NORWEGIAN BUHUND

*A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.*

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/07/2026

### ORIGIN

Norway.

### UTILISATION

Farm dog and herder.

### BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The Norwegian Buhund can be traced far back in Norwegian history. The breed type has probably existed since before the Viking Age, and is thus more than a thousand years old. Remnants have been found in Viking burial mounds giving evidence of a little spitz type dog living with humans. The word buhund means farmstead dog and is mentioned in The Norse King Sagas by Snorri Sturlason. One of the stories there is about when Olav Tryggvason was in Ireland and met a farmer and his very clever Buhund Vige. Olav was so impressed by the dog's herding abilities and wanted him. The farmer gave the dog to Olav, and in exchange he received a gold ring and Olav's friendship. The Buhund is a versatile all-round breed, but for the farmer it has been mostly used as a guard and herding dog. The first standard was approved by the Norwegian Kennel Club in 1926.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

A typical Spitz, a little under middle size, squarely built, with an alert and frank [*ed. open, honest*] expression. Erect, pointed ears. Tail carried firmly curled over the back.

### IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

Well balanced. Depth of chest is equal to half the height at the withers. Body length approximately equal to the height at the withers. Length of the body is measured from the point of shoulder to the point of the buttock.

### BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Courageous, energetic, and friendly.

### HEAD

Harmonious, not too heavy. Wedge-shaped, clean. Gender characteristics must be clearly defined

#### Cranial Region:

**Skull:** Almost flat, parallel with straight nasal bridge. Well filled out under the eyes.

**Stop:** Well-defined, but not too pronounced.

#### Facial Region:

**Nose:** Black.

**Muzzle:** About the same length as skull. Neither too narrow nor too heavy. Nasal bridge straight.

**Lips:** Tightly closed, black.

**Jaws and teeth:** Scissor bite. Complete dentition.

#### Eyes:

Oval, colour as dark as possible. Black eye-rims.

#### Ears:

Medium-sized, pointed, carried strongly erect.

## NECK

Medium-long, clean, strong with proud carriage.

## BODY

**Topline:** Straight from the withers to the set on of tail.

**Withers:** Well developed and the highest point of the topline.

**Back & loin:** Short, strong, and straight.

**Croup:** As little sloping as possible.

**Chest:** Deep with good spring of ribs.

## TAIL

Set high, tightly curled, carried over the center of the back, not too much to the side.

## LIMBS

### Forequarters:

**General appearance:** Lean with strong bone.

**Shoulder:** Slightly oblique.

**Upper arm:** Slightly oblique.

**Elbow:** Tight to the chest.

**Forearm:** Straight.

**Metacarpus (pastern):** Slightly oblique.

### Hindquarters:

**General appearance:** Moderate angulation.

**Upper thigh:** Powerful; well-muscled.

**Stifle:** Moderate angulation.

**Lower thigh:** Powerful and well-muscled.

**Hock joint:** Moderate angulation.

**Metatarsus(rear pasterns):** Powerful, strong.

## FEET

Oval in shape, compact.

## GAIT / MOVEMENT

Efficient, parallel, with good drive. Firm topline.

## SKIN

Tight to the body without wrinkles.

## COAT

### *Hair:*

Thick, hard and smooth-lying outer coat. Rather short on head and front of legs. Longer coat on neck, chest, back of thighs and tail. Soft and dense undercoat.

### *Colour:*

- **Wheaten (biscuit):** Ranging from rather light to yellowish-red. With or without dark-tipped hairs, but must not influence the main colour. Mask permitted. Clean and clear colour preferred. As little white as possible.
- **Black:** Preferably solid black (without too much bronzing). As little white as possible.

## SIZE

### Height at withers:

**Males:** 43cm – 47cm (approx. 17" – 18½").

**Females:** 41cm – 45cm (approx. 16" – 17½").

### Weight:

**Males:** approx. 14kg – 18kg.

**Females:** approx. 12kg – 16kg.

*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.

- General appearance too fine or too coarse, lack of elegance.
- Dog standing lower at withers than loin.
- Liver- or pink-coloured nose.
- Pincer bite.
- Light eyes; protruding eyes.
- Poorly curled tail. Hanging tail. Feathering unwanted.
- Paddling or mincing in front.
- Short, ineffective step.
- Wavy or too-long coat.
- Shyness.

**Disqualifying faults:**

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Over-or undershot mouth.
- Ears not erect.
- Any colour but the ones mentioned above.
- Dogs more than 1cm under, or 2 cm above the ideal height.

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**FCI Standard No 237: NORSK BUHUND (NORWEGIAN BUHUND)**

**FCI Classification: Group 5 – Spitz and primitive types**

Section 3. Nordic Watchdogs and Herders

Without Working Trial