

SAMOYED

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 has an effective date of 01/07/2026

ORIGIN

Northern Russia and Siberia.

UTILISATION

Sledge- and companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The name Samoyed derives from the Samoyed Tribes in Northern Russia and Siberia. In southern parts of the area they used white, black, and brown parti-coloured dogs as reindeer herders; in the northern parts the dogs were pure white, had a mild temperament and were used as hunting and sledge dogs. The Samoyed dogs lived close to their owners; they even slept within the shelters and were used as heaters. The British zoologist, Ernest Kilburn Scott, spent three months among Samoyed Tribes in 1889. Returning to England, he brought with him a brown male puppy called "Sabarka". Later he imported a cream-coloured bitch called "Whitey Petchora" from the western side of the Urals, and a snow-white male called "Musti" from Siberia. These few dogs and those brought by the explorers are the base for the western Samoyed. The first standard was written in England in 1909.



GENERAL APPEARANCE

Medium in size, elegant, a white Arctic Spitz. In appearance gives the impression of power, endurance, charm, suppleness, dignity and self-confidence. The expression, the so called "Samoyed Smile", is made up of a combination of eye shape and position, and the slightly curved up corners of the mouth. The sex should be clearly stamped.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- The length of the body is approximately 5% more than the height at the withers.
- The depth of the body is slightly less than the half of the height at the withers.
- The muzzle is approximately as long as the skull.

BEHAVIOUR/TEMPERAMENT

Friendly, open, alert and lively. The hunting instinct is very slight. Never shy nor aggressive. Very social and cannot be used as guard dog.

HEAD & SKULL

Head powerful and wedge-shaped.

Cranial Region:

Skull: viewed from the front and in profile only slightly convex. Broadest between the ears. Slightly visible furrow between the eyes.

Stop: Clearly defined but not too prominent.

Facial Region:

Nose: Well developed, preferably black. During some periods of the year the pigment of the nose can fade to a so called "winter nose"; there must however always be dark pigment at the edges of the nose.

Muzzle: Strong and deep, approximately as long as the skull, gradually tapering towards the nose, neither snipey nor heavy and square. The bridge of the nose is straight.

Lips: Close fitting, black and rather full. The corners of the mouth are slightly curved forming the characteristic “Samoyed Smile”.

Jaws/teeth: Regular and complete scissor bite. The teeth and the jaws are strong. Normal dentition.

Eyes:

Dark brown in colour, well-set in the sockets, placed rather apart, somewhat slanting and almond-shaped. The expression is “smiling”, kind, alert and intelligent. The eyerims are black.

Ears:

Erect, rather small, thick, triangular and slightly rounded at the tips. They should be mobile, set high; due to the broad skull well apart.

NECK

Strong and of medium length with a proud carriage.

BODY

Slightly longer than the height at the withers, deep and compact but supple.

Withers: Clearly defined.

Back: Of medium length, muscular and straight; in females slightly longer than in males.

Loins: Short, very strong and defined.

Croup: Full, strong, muscular and slightly sloping.

Chest: Broad, deep and long, reaching almost to the elbows. The ribs are well sprung.

Underline: Moderate tuck-up.

TAIL

Set rather high. When the dog is alert and in motion the tail is carried bent from the root forward over the back or side, but may be hanging at rest, then reaching to the hocks.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Well placed and muscular with strong bones. Viewed from the front straight and parallel.

Shoulder: Long, firm and sloping.

Upper arm: Oblique and close to the body. Approximately as long as the shoulder

Elbow: Close to the body.

Carpus: Strong but supple.

Metacarpus (Pastern): Slightly oblique.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Viewed from behind straight and parallel with very strong muscles.

Upper thigh: Of medium length, rather broad and muscular.

Stifle: Well angulated.

Hocks: Rather low and well angulated.

Metatarsus (Rear pasterns): Short, strong, vertical and parallel.

FEET

Oval with long toes, flexible and pointing straight forward. Toes arched and not too tightly knit. Elastic pads. Hindfeet: As front feet. The dewclaws should be removed (except in countries where it is forbidden by law).

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Powerful, free and tireless in appearance with long stride. Good reach in the forequarters and good driving power in the hindquarters.

COAT

Hair:

Profuse, thick, flexible and dense polar coat. The Samoyed is a double coated dog with short, soft and dense undercoat and longer, harsher and straight outer coat. The coat should form a ruff around the neck and shoulders framing the head, especially in males. On head and on front of legs, hair is short and smooth; on outside of ears short, standing off and smooth. Inside the ears should be well furred. On back of the thighs the hair forms trousers. There should be a protective growth of hair between the toes. The tail should be profusely covered with hair. The coat of the female is often shorter and softer in texture than that of the male. The correct coat texture should always have a special glistening sheen.

Colour:

Pure white, cream or white with biscuit. (The basic colour to be white with a few biscuit markings.) Should never give the impression of being pale brown.

SIZE**Height at withers:**

Males: 57cm (approx. 22") with a tolerance of ± 3 cm;

Females: 53 cm (approx. 20.8") with a tolerance of ± 3 cm.

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.

- Visible faults in structure.
- Light bone.
- Males not masculine and females not feminine.
- Pincer bite.
- Yellow eyes.
- Soft ears.
- Barrel ribcage.
- Double twisted tail.
- Low on the legs.
- Badly bow-legged or cow hocked.
- Wavy or short coated throughout, long, soft or coat hanging down.
- Aloofness.

Serious faults:

- Clearly unpigmented areas on eyerims or lips.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Eyes blue or of different colours.
- Overshot or undershot bite.
- Ears not erect.
- Coat colour other than permitted in the standard.

***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.*



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FCI Standard No 21: SAMOIEDSKAĪA SABAKA (SAMOYED)

FCI Classification: Group 5 – Spitz and primitive types.

Section 1. Nordic sledge dogs.

Without Working Trial.