

SIBERIAN HUSKY

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 01/01/2022

ORIGIN

United States of America.

UTILISATION

Sled dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. for interest – from Wikipedia: *The Siberian Husky*]:

The Siberian Husky was originally developed by the Chukchi people in eastern Siberia. Then called Chukotka sled dogs, they were brought to Nome, Alaska in 1908 to transport gold miners to the Yukon, as part of the Klondike Gold Rush. At this time, "Esquimaux" or "Eskimo" was a common pejorative term for native Arctic inhabitants, with many dialectal permutations including Uskee, Uskimay and Huskemaw. Thus, dogs used by Arctic people were the dogs of the Huskies, the Huskie's dogs, and eventually simply the Husky dogs. Canadian and American settlers, not well-versed on Russian geography, would distinguish the Chukotka imports by referring to them as Siberian Huskies. Smaller, faster, and more enduring than the 45kg to 54kg freighting dogs then in general use, they were used in the 1925 serum run to Nome to deliver diphtheria serum from Nenana. This was a group effort by several sled dog teams and mushers, with the longest (422km) and most dangerous segment of the run covered by Leonhard Seppala and his sled team lead dog "Togo". Another dog, "Balto", Gunnar Kaasen's lead dog in his sled team, was portrayed as a wolf-dog in the film, "Balto". In honour of these heroic dogs, a bronze statue was erected at Central Park in New York City. The plaque upon it is inscribed,

"Dedicated to the indomitable spirit of the sled dogs that relayed antitoxin six hundred miles over rough ice, across treacherous waters, through Arctic blizzards from Nenana to the relief of stricken Nome in the winter of 1925. Endurance · Fidelity · Intelligence."



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Siberian Husky is a medium-sized working dog, quick and light on his feet, and free and graceful in action. His moderately compact and well-furred body, erect ears, and brush tail suggest his Northern heritage. His characteristic gait is smooth and seemingly effortless. He performs his original function in harness most capably, carrying a light load at a moderate speed over great distances. His body proportions and form reflect this basic balance of power, speed, and endurance. The males of the Siberian Husky breed are masculine but never coarse; the bitches are feminine, but without weakness of structure. In proper condition, with muscle firm and well-developed, the Siberian Husky does not carry excess weight.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- In profile, the length of the body from the point of the shoulder to the rear point of the croup is slightly longer than the height of the body from the ground to the top of the withers.
- The distance from the tip of the nose to the stop is equal to the distance from the stop to the occiput.
- Length of the leg from the elbow to ground is slightly more than the distance from the elbow to the top of withers.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

The characteristic temperament of the Siberian Husky is friendly and gentle, but also alert and outgoing. He does not display the possessive qualities of the guard dog, nor is he overly suspicious of strangers or aggressive with other dogs. Some measure of reserve and dignity may be expected in the mature dog. His intelligence, tractability, and eager disposition make him an agreeable companion and willing worker.

HEAD

Cranial Region:

Skull: Of medium size and in proportion to the body; slightly rounded on top, and tapering from the widest point to the eyes.

Stop: Well-defined.

Facial Region:

Nose: Black in black, grey, sable, or agouti dogs; liver in red dogs; black, liver, or flesh-coloured in pure white dogs. The lighter-streaked "snow nose" is equally acceptable.

Muzzle: Of medium length and of medium width, tapering gradually to the nose, with the tip neither pointed nor square. The bridge of the nose is straight from the stop to the tip.

Lips: Well-pigmented and close-fitting.

Jaws and teeth: Closing in a scissor bite.

Eyes:

Almond-shaped, moderately spaced, and set a trifle obliquely. Eyes may be brown or blue in colour; one or each or parti-coloured are acceptable. Expression: keen, but friendly, interested, and even mischievous.

Ears:

Of medium size, triangular in shape, close-fitting and set high on the head. They are thick, well-furred, slightly arched at the back, and strongly erect, with slightly rounded tips pointing straight up.

NECK

Medium in length, arched, and carried proudly erect when dog is standing. When moving at a trot, the neck is extended so that the head is carried slightly forward.

BODY

Back: Straight and strong, with a level topline from withers to croup. Of medium length, neither cobby nor slack from excessive length.

Loin: Taut and lean, narrower than the ribcage and with a slight tuck-up.

Croup: Slopes away from the spine at an angle, but never so steeply as to restrict the rearward thrust of the hind legs.

Chest: Deep and strong, but not too broad, with the deepest point being just behind and level with the elbows. The ribs are well-sprung from the spine but flattened on the sides to allow for freedom of action.

TAIL

The well-furred tail of fox-brush shape is set on just below the level of the topline, and is usually carried over the back in a graceful sickle curve when the dog is at attention. When carried up, the tail does not curl to either side of the body, nor does it snap flat against the back. A trailing tail is normal for the dog when in repose. Hair on the tail is of medium length and approximately the same length on top, sides, and bottom, giving the appearance of a round brush.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: When standing and viewed from the front, the legs are moderately spaced, parallel, and straight. Bone is substantial but never heavy.

Shoulder and arm: The shoulder blade is well laid back. The upper arm angles slightly backward from point of shoulder to elbow, and is never perpendicular to the ground. The muscles and ligaments holding the shoulder to the rib cage are firm and well-developed.

Elbow: Close to the body and turned neither in nor out.

Carpus (wrist): Strong, but flexible.

Metacarpus (pastern): Viewed from the side, pasterns are slightly slanted. Dewclaws on forelegs may be removed.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: When standing and viewed from the rear, the hind legs are moderately spaced and parallel.

Upper thigh: Well-muscled and powerful.

Stifle (knee): Well-bent.

Hock joint: Well-defined and set low to ground.

Metatarsus (rear pastern): Dewclaws, if any, are to be removed.

FEET

Oval in shape but not long. The paws are medium in size, compact and well-furred between the toes and pads. The pads are tough and thickly cushioned. The paws neither turn in nor out when the dog is in natural stance.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

The Siberian Husky's characteristic gait is smooth and seemingly effortless. He is quick and light on his feet, and when in the show ring, should be gaited on a loose lead at a moderately fast trot, exhibiting good reach in the forequarters and good drive in the hindquarters. When viewed from the front to rear while moving at a walk, the Siberian Husky does not single-track, but as the speed increases the legs gradually angle inward until the pads are falling on a line directly under the longitudinal center of the body. As the pad marks converge, the forelegs and hind legs are carried straightforward, with neither elbows nor stifles turned in or out. Each hind leg moves in the path of the foreleg on the same side. While the dog is gaiting, the topline remains firm and level.

COAT

The coat of the Siberian Husky is double and medium in length, giving a well-furred appearance, but is never so long as to obscure the clean-cut outline of the dog. The undercoat is soft and dense, and of sufficient length to support the outercoat. The guard hairs of the outercoat are straight and somewhat smooth lying, never harsh nor standing straight off from the body. It should be noted that the absence of the undercoat during the shedding season is normal. Trimming of whiskers and fur between the toes and around the feet to present a neater appearance is permissible. Trimming the fur on any other part of the dog is not to be condoned and should be severely penalised.

COLOUR

- All ranges of the allowable colours, which are black, grey, agouti, sable, red, and white.
- May be solid-coloured.
- May have multiple shades.
- May have white markings.
- A variety of symmetrical or asymmetrical markings and patterns are common, including piebald.

* No preference should be given to any allowable colour, marking or pattern.

* Merle or brindle patterns are not allowable and are to be disqualified.

- Merle is defined as a marbling effect of dark patches against a lighter background of the same colour, and is not to be confused with a colour patch of banded guard hairs amid white, as is seen in dogs with allowable piebald.
- Brindle is defined as darker and lighter single-coloured guard hairs producing a vertical tiger-striping, not to be confused with banded guard hairs and a different colour undercoat, which may produce some apparent horizontal striping.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 53.5cm – 60cm (approx. 21" – 23½").

Females: 50.5cm – 56cm (approx. 20" – 22").

Weight:

Males: 20.5kg – 28kg

Females: 15.5kg – 23kg

Weight is in proportion to height. The measurements mentioned above represent the extreme height and weight limits with no preference given to either extreme. Any appearance of excessive bone or weight should be penalised.

SUMMARY

The most important breed characteristics of the Siberian Husky are medium size, moderate bone, well-balanced proportions, ease and freedom of movement, proper coat, pleasing head and ears, correct tail, and good disposition. Any appearance of excessive bone or weight, constricted or clumsy gait, or long, rough coat should be penalised. The Siberian Husky never appears so heavy or coarse as to suggest a freighting animal; nor is he so light and fragile as to suggest a sprint-racing animal. In both sexes the Siberian Husky gives the appearance of being capable of great endurance. In addition to the faults already noted, the obvious structural faults common to all breeds are as undesirable in the Siberian Husky as in any other breed, even though they are not specifically mentioned herein.

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.

- Skull: Head clumsy or heavy; head too finely chiselled.
- Stop: Insufficient.
- Muzzle: Either too snipey or too coarse; too short or too long.
- Jaws/Teeth: Any bite other than scissor bite.
- Eyes: Set too obliquely; set too close together.
- Ears: Too large in proportion to the head; too wide-set; not strongly erect.
- Neck: Too short and thick; too long.
- Back: Weak or slack back; roached back; sloping topline.
- Chest: Too broad; "barrel ribs"; ribs too flat or weak.
- Tail: A snapped or tightly curled tail; highly plumed tail; tail-set too low or too high.
- Shoulder: Straight shoulder; loose shoulder.
- Forequarter: Weak pasterns; too heavy bone; too narrow or too wide in the front; out at the elbows.
- Hindquarter: Straight stifles, cow-hocks, too narrow or too wide in the rear.
- Feet: Soft or splayed toes; paws too large and clumsy; paws too small and delicate; toeing in or out.
- Gait/Movement: Short, prancing, or choppy gait, lumbering or rolling gait; crossing or crabbing.
- Hair: Long, rough, or shaggy coat; texture too harsh or too silky; trimming of the coat, except as permitted above.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Dogs over 60cm and bitches over 56cm.
- Merle and brindle patterns.

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FCI Standard No 270: SIBERIAN HUSKY

FCI Classification: Group 5: Spitz and Primitive types.

Section 1. Nordic Sledge Dogs

Without Working Trial