

ARCTIC SPITZ BREED STANDARD

Overall Impression

The overall impression is of a small but powerful northern-breed dog with substantial bone, small erect ears, and with typical 'husky' markings.

Size

Toy typically 5-9 pounds and under 10" at the shoulder.

Mini over 9 pounds and up to 15" tall.

Standard 15-18" tall and generally between 18-25 pounds.

Dogs are heavy for their height, with substantial bone. First generation (F1) outcross or crossbred dogs should not be penalized for excessive size as long as they are smaller than 35 pounds or 20".

Small but sturdy should be the watchword. Fragile or fine-boned substance at the expense of weight is faulty, but so is an excessively heavy dog which cannot move athletically. When weight and height place the dog in different size categories,

height should be used for judging purposes. A larger or smaller dog is not more correct by the standard, as long as they are within standard.

Temperament

The Arctic Spitz is a joyful, affectionate dog with great humor and character. Shyness of any sort is to be SEVERELY penalized. Dogs should be outgoing, confident, but non-aggressive and social with people and other dogs. Exuberance should not be penalized or mistaken for aggression. Extremely shy dogs and aggressive dogs of any level shall be disqualified.

Color & Markings

All colors and patterns allowed. Ideally a white or cream ground with markings on the head, face, and back in the typical 'husky' pattern, including a generally symmetrical mask. The markings may be of any color but merle and brindle are not preferred. Solid color dogs other than white are not preferred. Particolor patterns or irish markings are acceptable. 'Pinto' markings (including split-face) are less preferred but should not be penalized. Nose color should harmonize with the coat color with darker pigment to be preferred. Eyes may be any color or combination of colors. Color and markings should not be considered more highly than a dog's general conformation and

breed type overall – no good dog is a bad color.

Coat

The coat must be double, with a soft undercoat and guard hairs which stand off from the body. Three coat varieties are allowed, Standard (similar to a Siberian), plush (Longer coat on the body and a distinct tail plume and ruff, similar to a Pomeranian, American Eskimo, or German Spitz), and woolly (Similar to plush, but significantly longer).

All three types are short on the face. Furnishings on the feet are allowable but should not be profuse (and may be trimmed for neatness if present.) The coat should be long enough to pad the outline of the dog even in standard coated dogs, but a coat which completely obscures the dog's profile is excessive and should be penalized. The coat should not be cut or clipped other than minor trimming for neatness around the toes and tail. An excessively short double coat is a severe fault, as is cottony or excessively soft coat. A flat 'spaniel' coat is a disqualification.

Neck, Topline, Body

The body is short-coupled and slightly longer than tall. Dogs possess substantial bone for their size. The rib cage is well sprung and the chest is relatively deep and let down between the forelegs. There is an appearance of significant forechest

and posternum with moderate substance and profuse fur. The topline is firm and level from the withers to croup. The croup is slightly sloped away from the spine. The neck is carried proudly, arched, strong, and of medium length. Tail may be curled over the back or carried out behind in motion like a banner, but when uncurled, should reach to the hock. If curled, the tail should be long enough to form a loose three-quarters circle.

Fault: excessively long body, weak or roached topline, tail 'piggy', kinked or too short, or tightly curled.

Head

The expression is keen but sweet, with a hint of mischief. The eyes are almond shape, set obliquely, and of any color. Eyes should not be excessively round and are of moderate size. The muzzle is full, of medium width, and gradually tapers to the nose. The muzzle makes up approximately 1/3 of the skull length. The stop is moderate. The surface of the skull is fairly wide and slightly rounded. Ears should be small, triangular, and set on the corners of the skull. Bite should be level or scissors. Excessively small teeth or weak underjaw are faults. Snipey or fine muzzles should be faulted.

Movement

Movement should be free, springy, and floating. While showing they should be kept on a loose lead. Goosestepping and stilted movement are severe faults.

Forequarters

The elbows are the same length from ground to elbow as there is from elbow to wither. Elbows are parallel and tight to the body. When viewed from the front the legs are straight and moderately spaced. The shoulder blades lay below the high point of the spine and at a laid-back angle. Pasterns are slightly sloped and strong. Dewclaws may be removed or left natural. Faults-weak pasterns, too heavy or light boned, too narrow or too wide when viewed from the front, toed in or out, out at the elbow.

Hindquarters

The rear assembly is strong, well-muscled, and has ample bone. When viewed from the rear the legs should be straight and parallel. The width from hip to hip should be the same as the width from shoulder to shoulder. Hind and front angulation correspond. The knees face forward and turn neither in nor out. The rear legs have moderate angulation at the hock and stifle. The hock is short, parallel to each other when viewed from the front or rear, and perpendicular to the ground. The hock is approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ the total height of the dog's rear.

Dewclaws may be removed. Faults- straight stifle, cow-hocks, long hocks, slipped hocks, too heavy or too light.

Feet

Feet should be tight, neat, relatively large, and oval in shape. Trimming of fur for neatness is acceptable. Feet should not be flat or splayed.

Disqualifications: Aggressive behavior, smooth or flat coat, dwarf or appearance of being dwarf. In intact males, the absence of two normal and descended testicles is also a disqualification.