

The Finnish Lapphund

A reindeer herding breed from Lapland

I. History and purpose

- Originated in Lapland, the northern regions of Norway, Sweden, Finland
- Not derived from other breed, a pure descendant of primitive dogs
- Initial registry established in Finland in early 1920s

II. Breed Type and Style

- The general outline of the breed is that of a spitz type, but with modifications toward a herding function



Type is distinct yet variable

- Color variation is celebrated, some variation in heads is tolerated.
- Males should look masculine. Female feminine without being weak.



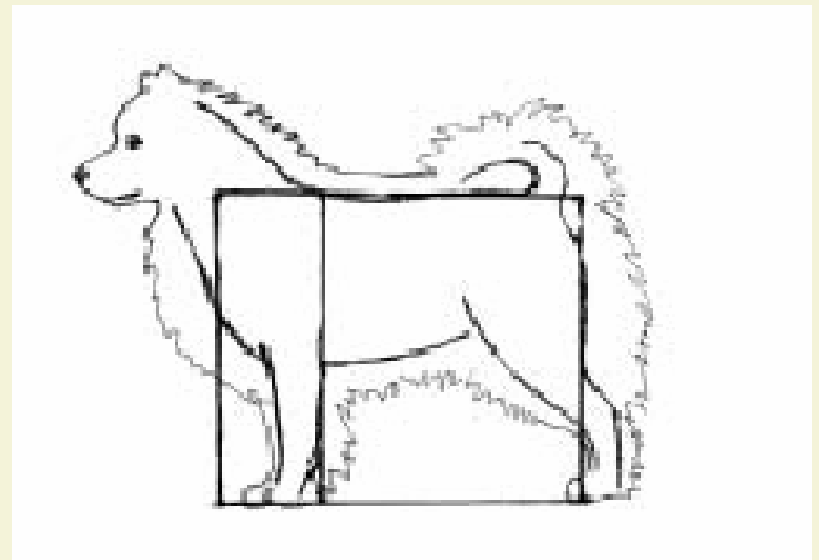
III. Balanced, sound, strong

- A breed of moderation
- Body is NOT short – longer back allows for flexibility.
- Well muscled and strong boned. “Heavier than expected for its size”.



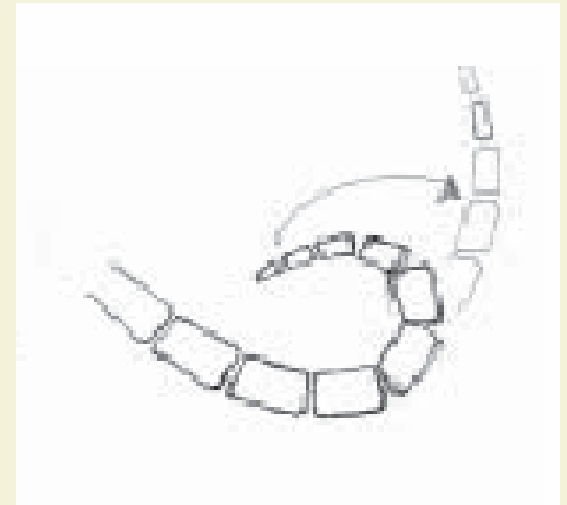
They bounce for a living

- Not a typical low herding style, the dogs bounce and bark
- Topline should be level, but not perfectly straight



IV. The tail

- Not tight to the back
- Over the back when moving, may drop when standing
- Set slightly lower than topline
- Never kinky, but may have J hook



Acceptable j-hook in tail



Unacceptable fused bones, or kink

V. Temperament

- Much softer than often expected in a spitz breed
- Always tolerant of humans, typically tolerant of other dogs.
- Often submissive, not shy – particularly bitches



VI. Head and expression

- General impression is soft, even in males – teddy bears
- Markings are NOT essential
- Bite is scissors, full dentition is expected but not important



Eyes and Ears

- Eyes are almond, not round
- Dark for preference
- Ears are medium, set rather broadly
- Ears may be pricked or tipped, not dropped.



Sketches are incorrect
photo is correct



Proportions of the skull

- Stop is well defined
- Skull is square
- Overall head is somewhat of a wedge
- Muzzle is longer than square, never a short face, but not over long.



Inger Möckelind

The head in profile

- Muzzle is shorter than skull
- Muzzle has depth – well developed underjaw
- There is a slight dome to the skull



VII. Structure -- Standing

- Front layback equals rear angulation
- Stifle well let down but not over done
- Hocks shorter than half the height
- Elbows in, forechest noticeable



VIII. Movement

- Single tracking
- At trot, legs on each side move in the same plane
- Feet point forward



Side gait

- Good reach and drive
- NOT low moving but head should drop
- Tail over the back
- Keep in mind that “natural” gait is a gallop



IX. Coat

- Presented naturally
- Feet trimmed to tidy
- Coat profuse and double, stand off
- Coarse, weather resistant
- Males have more ruff



X. Color

- Variety is the spice of life!
- Primary color greater than 50% of BODY
- Secondary color on extremities only



Acceptable Primary Colors

- Any solid color
- Some shading is allowed in a “solid” color coat
- Browns are self-colored



The banded coat patterns

- These are considered “solid colors”
- Wolfsable
- Domino
- Fawn Sable



Secondary Color Patterns

- No markings is fine!
- Tan pattern markings
- Partial tan markings
- Irish white
- Spectacles



More Pattern Markings



Unacceptable colors

- Tan with black saddle – primary color in wrong place
- Piebald – markings on body
- Brindle – not solid, not banded
- There is no merle in the breed



Finding the Ideal Lappy

- Sound
- An Arctic survivor
- Friendly
- Gentle
- Not to be faulted for submissive behavior



Questions?

