KUSA

Official Breed Standard

Canadian Eskimo Dog (Working Group)

A Breed Standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function with soundness essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be mindful of features which could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed.

ORIGIN AND PURPOSE:

The Canadian Eskimo Dog is an aboriginal breed of dog that has gone through many name changes. As a breed, The Canadian Kennel Club has, in the pas referred to the dog as the "Eskimo", "Exquimaux Husky", "Esquimaux Dog", and "Husky". The Inuit of Artic Canada called the dog "Qimmiq". The breed has an 1100 to 2000 year history of being interdependent with the Thule culture of Inuit (Eskimo people) who, following the Dorset culture, occupied the coastal and archipelago area of what is not Artic Canada. Although within the spitz family of dogs, the Canadian Eskimo Dog's origin prior to this is lost in the Inuit prehistory which includes the migration of the Mongolian race from the Asian continent to North America. The existing strain of Canadian Eskimo dog originated from stock primarily bred by the Eskimo Dog Research Foundation in the Northwest Territories. The foundation's work over a six-year period was primarily funded by the Governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories and involved the purchase of specimens from the remnant population of dogs kept by the Inuit of the Boothia Peninsula, Melville Peninsula and parts of Baffin Island. The Canadian Eskimo Dog, as a primitive dog, is primarily a carnivorous breed, whose natural diet consisted of seal. Walrus, fish or caribou. For centuries this breed was used as a draught animal and was capable of pulling between 45 and 80 kg. per dog, covering distances from 15 to 70 miles per day. He was also used as a hunting dog, to locate seal breathing holes for the Inuit hunters. As a hunting dog he would also attack and hold at bay musk ox and polar bear for the Inuit hunters. In the summer the dog was used as a pack dog carrying up to 15kg.

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

The Canadian Eskimo Dog is a powerfully built, moderately sized dog with a thick neck and chest and medium length legs. Typical of the spitz family of dogs he has a wedge shaped head held high with thick erect ears. The eyes are obliquely set giving a serious appearance. The dog has a bushy tail carried up or curled over the back. Of almost equal height at the hips as at the withers, medium to large boned and well muscled the dog displays a majestic and powerful physique giving the impression that he is not built for speed but rather for hard work. During the winter the body is thickly clothed with an outer coat of straight or erect hair; below is dense underfur which enables the animal to easily withstand the rigors of high latitudes. A mane like growth of longer hair over the neck and shoulder will appear on male specimens. The whole conformation of the Canadian Eskimo Dog should be one of strength, power and endurance balanced with agility, alertness and boldness. The female of the breed will usually have a shorter coat than the male and

will always be significantly smaller than the male. As young bitches, they will be finer boned giving, among other things, a narrower head which tends to produce a friendlier looking face than with males. Both males and females of the breed are known to have a rapid growth rate reaching working size around seven months. However, the maturing process extends to at least three years of age giving them a very majestic appearance. Puppies have often been described as miniature adults, with erect ears and a curly tail at the young ages between three to five weeks. There may be occasional periods during the adolescent growth stages when the ears may not be fully erect but it is important to note that the ears of the Canadian Eskimo Dog do not have the same gradual growth of becoming erect around four months of age as is seen in some other breeds.

TEMPERAMENT:

The temperament of the Canadian Eskimo Dog should reflect the tough, hardworking breed that he is. He is not to be viewed as a domestic pet but rather as a primitive dog originally domesticated by Inuit for specific tasks in a harsh arctic environment. In general disposition, the mature Canadian Eskimo Dog is gentle and affectionate with the average individual enjoying attention. Even with total strangers the dogs are rarely standoffish. Usually they will exhibit a rather quiet friendliness and harmless curiosity or become completely distant. The dog is very pack oriented and if raised as a group, dominant and subordinate roles will be acted out under the leadership of a totally dominant or boss dog. Behaviour within a group or pack is usually well structured and controlled but it is not uncommon to see battle scars or torn ears on dogs originating from kennel areas where the dogs are raised in groups or packs. Compared to modern domestic breeds, the Canadian Eskimo Dog has an almost over response to any stimulus whether it be food, work, fighting or play. For this reason, the dog should be a companion for adults and is not to be considered a child's pet.

SIZE:

Height of males should range from 58-70 cm (23-27 ½ in) at the withers and approximately the same height at the hip. Weight of males in working condition will generally range from 30-40 kg (66-88 lb) in relation to the height. Height of females should be 50-60 cm (19 ½-23 ½ in) at the withers and approximately the same height at the hip. Weight of females in working condition should range from 18-30 kg. (40-66 lb)

COAT & COLOUR:

Subject to an annual moult, usually in August or September, the coat is thick and dense with guard hairs being hard and stiff. This outer coat will vary from 7-15 cm (3-6 in) in length. In males it will occur in a mane like growth over the shoulder and neck making the male appear much larger in size and taller at the withers than he actually is. The undercoat is very dense to give excellent protection during the most extreme winter conditions. During the moult this underfur will come loose in clumps over a period of a few days. Females will usually have a shorter coat overall, partially because of the additional moult that will occur following the birth of pups. No one colour or colour pattern should dominate the breed with the colour and colour patterns of the Canadian Eskimo dog ranging from:

(a) An all-white body with pigmentation around the eyes, nose and lips (e.g. not albino).
(b) White body with only the smallest amount of red, buff (including cinnamon shades), grey or black around the ears or eyes.
(c) White bodies with either red, buff, cinnamon, grey or black head marks around ears and eyes or the entire head and the occasional small patch of the same colour on the body usually around the hip or flank.
(d) Red and white, or buff and white, or cinnamon and white or black and white with about 50/50 distribution of the two colours, on various parts of the body.
(e) Red body or buff body or cinnamon body with white on chest and/or legs and underside of body.
(f) Sable or black body or dark grey body with white on chest and/or legs and underside of body

occasionally extending around part of the neck in a collar like fashion.
(g) Silver grey or greyish white body.
(h) Buff to brown undercoat with black guard hairs.
Very common to dogs with solid colour to most of the head is a mask like shading of white around the eyes and/or muzzle with or without white spots over the eyes. On very rare occasions the spots over the eyes as well as cheek marks will be buff coloured thus adding a third colour to a normally two coloured animal. Pigmentation of the nose will vary from black to light brown (especially on lighter coloured dogs with red, buff, or cinnamon on the body). Butterfly noses have, on occasion, appeared with the light brown nose.

HEAD:
Over all the Skull would be described as massive but well-proportioned being broad and wedge shaped. Although often described as wolf-like in appearance the head of the Canadian Eskimo Dog has a more elevated forehead. Immature females will have a much narrower skull than the male. The **muzzle** is tapered and of medium length.

MOUTH:
The jaws are heavy and powerful possessing large teeth with well-developed canine teeth. The incisors meet in a scissor bite. The teeth are perfectly adapted for the dog's instinctive approach to ripping and tearing his meat or fish. **Lips** are black or brown with pink.

EYES:
The eyes are generally dark coloured but hazel or yellow coloured eyes will appear in the breed. They are small, wide spaced and placed obliquely in the head which tends to impart
much more of a wild and deceitful appearance than the dog deserves.

EARS:
The ears are short, thick and have slightly rounded ends. They are carried erect, turned forward and are covered with dense short hair. Width of the forehead between the ears on the males will be from 13-15 cm. (5-6 in). On the females the distance will be from 11-14 cm. (4 ½-5 ½ in).
The natural voice is a howl, not a bark. When in a group the dogs often give voice in a chorus of strangely woven tones and this is one of the thrilling sounds of the Arctic. A number of dogs will produce a mass crescendo persisting for varying periods until as if cued by a special note all will abruptly stop.

NECK:
The neck is short, straight, thick and very muscular.

FOREQUARTERS:
The dog has broad shoulders obliquely set with moderate muscling. The forelegs are straight but may give the appearance of being bowed because of the well-developed triceps muscle above and behind the elbow and the pronounced muscle on the forearm itself. Feet are large, nearly round, well arched with thick pads being well furred between; however, under extremely cold winter conditions, this fur will grow to be very long so as to cover the bottom of the pads.

BODY:
The body should further accentuate the overall power and endurance of the dog through a deep, wide and well muscled chest to a well-developed loin. There is very little curve to the flank. Interestingly, the spinal column when felt through the furred body is well pronounced. Above all the body should be muscled and

not fat. The skin of the dog should feel thick and tough. Females will have a smaller and less muscled body than the males.

HINDQUARTERS:
The hips may appear as pronounced and bony as the spine, and are about the same height as the withers. The legs will be very muscular with the width of the thigh being carried well down towards the hock. The stifles are well bent. The hind feet are similar in design to the front but slightly longer. From the rear the legs will appear straight with the hocks turning neither in nor out.

TAIL:
The tail is large and bushy and generally carried up or curled over the back. Mature bitches may on occasion carry their tails down.

GAIT:
The working gait of this dog is a powerful and brisk trot with the rear legs moving in line with the front legs on the force motion but showing some abduction during the forward movement of the stride. This may be especially pronounced in mature male dogs with many miles in harness. This gait may appear awkward to the untrained eye but is a result of a wide stance caused by well-developed thighs. This particular gait is a well-balanced efficient stride for heavy pulling day after day. The movements of the dog should in no way appear as a choppy or paddling motion. The females are much faster and freer in movement than the heavier males and are capable of breaking stride from the natural trot and running or galloping for much longer distances than the males.

FAULTS:

Head: Square muzzle or loose lips, round or bulging eyes.
Legs: Thin, fine bones or cow hocked.
Neck: Long and thin.
Coat: Short, off prime.
Body: Narrow chest, overall lack of muscle, excess fat, sloping back, coarseness or lack of finer bones in bitches.
Feet: Flat or open.

Disqualifications :
Blue eyes, dewclaws on rear legs; floppy ears, the exception being battle torn ears; clipping or altering the coat by scissoring; no evidence at all of a curled or upright tail in male dogs (recognising that a tail may occasionally be kept down as a sign of subordination or stress); excessive undershot or overshot jaw.

Scale of Points

General appearance and gait	25
Head	5
Teeth	5
Body	15
Coat condition and texture	20
Coat colour	0
Legs	10
Feet	20
TOTAL	**100**

THE KENNEL CLUB

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Not recognised FCI.
Fedco 2/89
Most recent changes to this Standard has an effective date of 01.02.2017

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