

KEESHOND

A Breed Standard is the guideline that 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 that could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare, or soundness of this breed.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/01/2018

ORIGIN

Germany.

UTILISATION

Watchdog and companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 97]

German Spitz dogs are descendants of the stone age "Peat Dogs" (Torfhunde) and the later Lake-dwelling Spitz; it is the oldest breed of dog in Central Europe. Numerous other breeds have been developed from them. In non-German speaking countries, Wolfsspitz dogs are known as Keeshonds.



GENERAL APPEARANCE

Short, compact body, confident carriage. Fox-like head with small, pointed ears; alert expression; large ruff; well-feathered tail curled over back. Clear differentiation in size between the sexes, with males obviously masculine but never coarse; bitches feminine without weakness of structure.

CHARACTERISTICS

Sturdy, intelligent, and adaptable. Ideal companion, good watchdog.

TEMPERAMENT

Confident, alert, and friendly. Always ready to raise the alarm.

HEAD

Well-proportioned, wedge-shaped when seen from above; from side showing definite stop. Dark muzzle equal to length of flat skull. Neither coarse nor snipey. Nose black.

Eyes:

Dark, medium size, almond-shaped, obliquely set. Well-defined 'spectacles' shown as a delicately pencilled black line slanting from outer corner of eye to lower corner of ear, coupled with distinct marking and shading forming expressive short eyebrows.

Ears:

Dark, small ivy-leafed in shape. Erect, velvety texture. Well-set on head, neither too wide nor meeting.

Mouth:

Jaws strong, with a perfect, regular, and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Lips black.

NECK

Moderately long and arched, covered with thick, profuse coat forming large ruff.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders well-sloped. Straight front of medium width, with good bone.

BODY

Short, compact; length from withers to tail equal to height at withers, well-sprung in rib. Good depth of brisket.

HINDQUARTERS

Strong muscled, hind legs straight when viewed from behind. Hock showing slight angulation when viewed from side, profuse, light-coloured trousers down to hocks.

FEET

Well-padded, round, cat-like, tight, cream in colour; black nails.

TAIL

Moderately long, high-set, tightly curled over back, double curl highly desirable.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Clean, brisk, straight, and sharp.

COAT

Harsh, off-standing, straight. Dense ruff, well-feathered on forelegs and profuse trousers, not feathered below hock. Soft, thick, light-coloured (not tawny) undercoat. Never silky, wavy, or woolly, nor forming a parting on back. Any shortening of the coat that alters the natural outline should be penalised, with the exception of feet and pasterns, which may be lightly trimmed.

COLOUR

- A mixture of grey and black.
- * Undercoat very pale grey or cream (not tawny).
- * All shades of grey acceptable, body hairs black-tipped.
- * Shoulder markings well-defined and all markings definite.
- * Forelegs and hocks cream with no black below wrist or hock.
- * Pencilling acceptable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 46cm (approx. 18").

Females: 43cm (approx. 17").

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.

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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 97: DEUTSCHER SPITZ – WOLFSPITZ (KEESHOND)

FCI Classification: Group 5 – Spitz and Primitive types.

Section 4.1. European Spitz.

Without working trial.