NORSK BUHUND

(Norwegian Buhund)

FCI-Standard N^{0} 237



Illustrated breed guide

Published by the Norwegian Buhund Club 2026



C.I.B. NORD UCH NVet CH NJub CH NJV-13 SEJV-13 SEV-13 NV-14-15-16-17-18-19 NORDV-14-18 DKV-14 EUW-15-16 BEV-16 BENELUXW-18 WW-18 NVV-23 NORDVV-23 NORDV-23 NJUBVV-23 NJUBV-23 Kimura's Peer Gynt (11 years old)

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Photo: Arvid J Stueland

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PREFACE

The first breed guide for judging the Norwegian Buhund was prepared by the Norwegian Buhund Club in 2021, in Norwegian language. In September 2024 the breed guide was revised, based on a minor revision from the Norwegian Kennel Club (NKK). The English translation was fulfilled in 2025.

The main author of this breed guide is Terje Lindstrøm, co-authors are Kathrine Ø Lindstrøm, Astrid Indrebø and Børge Espeland. We want to thank Liss Mortveit for her contribution to the breed history, and to all breed lovers who have contributed with photos.

The intention of this illustrated breed guide is to give complimentary detailed knowledge and understanding of the standard. It is the hope of the Norwegian Buhund Club (NBK) that the compendium will contribute to the understanding of the breed type, primary for judge students and judges authorized for the breed, but also for breeders and others who want to acquire additional knowledge concerning the breed standard of this magnificent breed. Sketches of anatomy or bite are not included, as the reader is expected to have basic knowledge concerning functional anatomy.

The first breed standard of the Norwegian Buhund was approved by the Norwegian Kennel Club 19.10.1926, based on proposal from Carl Omsted and Jon Sæland. The first revision was made 04.04.1973, and some rather surprising changes were decided: Muzzle rather short, neck rather short, rather steep hind legs and a wish for short movements.

In March 1995 the Council of Europe published *The European convention for the protection of pet animals (ETS 125*). Based on the 1973 breed standard, the Norwegian Buhund was used as an example of an unhealthy breed in the chapter *Guidelines for revision of breeding policies*, due to very steep line of hind legs that might result in difficulties in movement as well as joint degeneration.

All the changes mentioned above in the 1973 standard, were reversed in the next revision of the standard (NKK 1997, FCI 1999). A minor revision was made in 2024.

It is important always to remember that the Norwegian Buhund is a versatile all-round and functional breed: an excellent herding dog, but also an all-rounder used by the farmer for guarding as well as hunting, and in more recent time as a big game tracking dog as well as a dog for obedience and agility – and most important the Buhund is an excellent family dog for active people. Please to keep this in mind when you are judging - and emphasize that the Norwegian Buhund must be a healthy, active and functional breed, both in conformation and mentality.

THE EDITORIAL TEAM



Terje Lindstrøm has been a breeder for more than 40 years, and since 2000 a breeder of Norwegian Buhund together with his wife Kathrine. He has held several positions in the Norwegian Kennel Club (NKK): vice president of the NKK board as well as in the NKK Health Committee and chairman of the NKK Judges education committee. He has held numerous positions in multiple breed clubs. In 2012 was awarded with NKK silver badge of honour for his work for the organisation. For several periods he has been the president of the Norwegian Buhund Club (NBK), and was awarded with the title honorary member of NBK. Terje has been a FCI conformation judge since 1996 and has been invited to judge dogs worldwide. He has been the NKK representative in FCI Judges Commission and Show Commission. Terje was very close to qualify as all-round judge when he tragically died due to cancer, after being sick for only a few weeks, in June 2025.



Kathrine Ø Lindstrøm has been Terjes wife and companion for 26 years. She is a breeder from the bottom of her heart, full of knowledge of everything that concerns breeding: pedigrees, combinations, health as well as socialisation and training. She has lots of knowledge of anatomy and functional health and an excellent eye for spotting both advantages and disadvantages in conformation of dogs. And she is an excellent photographer and is responsible for a lot of the photos in this book.

Their breeding of both Norwegian Buhund and Rottweilers, with the prefix Kimura, is known worldwide for health and conformation. They have exported the breed to a lot of countries, giving a major contribution to the knowledge and love for the breed worldwide. In 2008 Terje and Kathrine received certificate of honour from NKK in 2008 for their excellent breeding.



Astrid Indrebø has a PhD in veterinary medicine. She has been employed by the Norwegian Kennel Club as veterinary scientific director and head of the Health Department and from 1996 until she retired some years ago. She has been breeding Newfoundlands for nearly 40 years and has been a FCI conformation judge since 2005. For more than 30 years she has been lecturing in the education of new judges and breeders. She has been invited to speak at seminars for veterinarians, judges and breeders in many parts of the world and has written books for veterinarians, breeders and judges. Astrid has been the president of FCI Breeding commission as well as the NKK Health committee, member of the NKK board and is at present vice president of the Norwegian Buhund Club – and a happy Buhund owner. She received certificate of honour from NKK for excellent breeding in 2015, and was awarded with NKK gold badge of honour in 2021.



Børge Espeland has been breeding Golden Retrievers for more than 40 years, and for a period he was owner and eager exhibitor of Norwegian Buhund. He has been a FCI conformation judge since 2003. Børge has held positions in numerous breed clubs, including the Norwegian Conformation Judges Association and the board of the Norwegian Buhund Club. At present he is the chairman of NKK Judges education committee.

THE HISTORY

The Norwegian Buhund can be traced far back in Norwegian history. The breed type has probably existed since before the Viking Age and is thus more than a thousand years old. Remnants have been found in Viking burial mounds giving evidence of a little spitz type dog living with humans. Viking tradition, as in many other cultures, was to bury a man or woman together with their most precious belongings, and these dogs were obviously highly valued. The Buhund is a versatile all-round breed, but for the farmer it has been mostly used as a guard and herding dog. The first standard was approved by the Norwegian Kennel Club in 1926.

The history of the Buhund is closely connected to humans, first of all to the farmer. The word "buhund" is mentioned in The Norse King Saga by Snorri Sturalson 800 years ago (1179-1241). One of his stories tells about when Olav Tryggvason, a famous Norwegian Viking king, was in Ireland. Here he met a farmer and his very clever Buhund named Vige. Olav was so impressed by the dog's herding abilities and wanted him. The farmer gave the dog to Olav, and in exchange he received a gold ring and Olav's friendship.

The word "bu" is Norse for farm or property and reflects the role of the Buhund as an important farm dog. The Buhund was one of the first herding dogs in Norway. In addition, his task was to alert when strangers, animals as well as humans, entered the farm. He was also an excellent hunting dog. In late 1800 and early 1900, however, import of other breeds became popular. These breeds were often mixed with Buhund. As a result, the Buhund as a type nearly disappeared.

In the early 1920s, Jon Sæland, national consultant for breeding of goats and sheep, started a systematic work for the breeding of a Norwegian herding dog. The Buhund had been known for centuries as an excellent herding dog both for sheep, goats and cattle as well as reindeer, and Sæland wanted to help the breed forward. He introduced the dog at an exhibition for small cattle, and in Mars 23rd 1925 the first dog show for Buhund took place. Sæland was judging, and with the help of four sheep farmers, more than 50 so called Buhunds were judged. Most of them did not qualify. Only six were awarded, and eight more bitches were approved for breeding. One male excelled in particular – a dog named Flink. This dog received the registration number 1 and was the only dog that was awarded with first price. Flink 1 is today considered as the ancestor of today's Buhunds and the model for the first breed standard, worked out by Jon Sæland and Carl Omsted.

The breed standard was approved by the Norwegian Kennel Club (NKK) in 1926 and emphasized the dog's characteristics as a herding and guard dog. He should be hardy and combative, but never aggressive. As a herding dog he should be persistent and faithful, as a guard dog alert and brave. He should bark when strangers entered the farm, people as well as animals, and he should be herding the farmer's livestock. These are qualities found and valued in the Buhund today.

After the first Buhund show in 1925, shows were arranged yearly in connection to exhibitions for small cattle. In 1926 six Buhunds participated for the first time in a dog show arranged by the Norwegian Kennel Club, and the breed was highly appreciated by the audience. The same year the first studbook of the breed was published, and the

Norwegian Buhunds who were awarded with at least sufficient were registered in the studbook of the Norwegian Kennel Club.

The Norwegian Buhund Club was founded in the summer of 1939, and official approved by NKK as a breed club in October the same year. Through the work of Jon Sæland, the dog had once again become a popular breed and was the most common herding dog in Norway until early 1950s.



Flink 1925

At the National Speciality in Trondheim in 1946, 135 Buhunds participated. Numerous writings specified the importance of the anatomy of the breed which should be linked to the dog's function. Among other things, it was important that the breed should not be too small in size or mentally weak, as this would have negative impact in the dog's important work as a herding and guard dog.

In mid-1950s, import of English herding dogs became more common, and the targeted work for the breed had its ups and downs. In 1978 the studbook was closed, but was reopened in 1988. The purpose of reopening the studbook was to register in NKK the Buhunds that were registered elsewhere, mainly in Buhund-klubben/Norge, in order to increase gene pool. Buhund-klubben/Norge kept their own register. This club was not approved as a breed club by NKK, and consequently these dogs could not be bred to the Buhunds registered in NKK. From January 1st 2000 the studbook closed once more, but it was still possible to apply for exemption for registration. In 2001, the two breed clubs the Norwegian Buhund Club and Buhund-klubben/Norge were merged with a common goal: to strengthen the work for preservation of the breed.

The population of Norwegian Buhund in Norway is approximately 1300-1500 dogs. For the last 10 years, the average annual registration of puppies in NKK is 165.

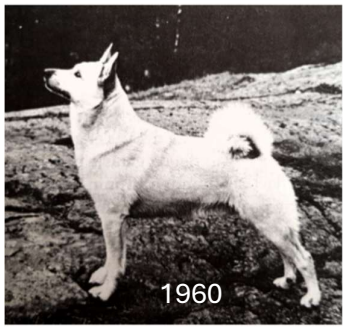






Historic photos & development







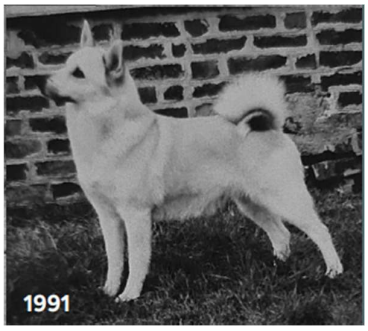
















1925: Flink
1960: Lasse
1970: Caro
1972: Balder
1979: Bugardens Priskilla

1983: Nordweilers Goliat
1989: Leitegård Josefine
1990: Jibes Pauline Håkondotter

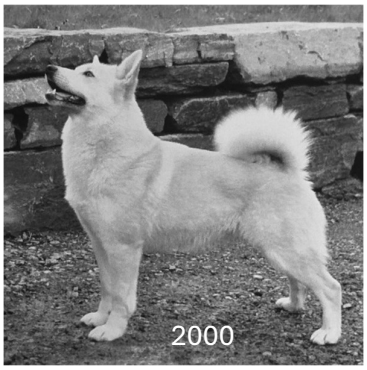
1991: Treholmen's Freia
1994: Fjelldalgård's Silje
1995: Treholmens Bamse











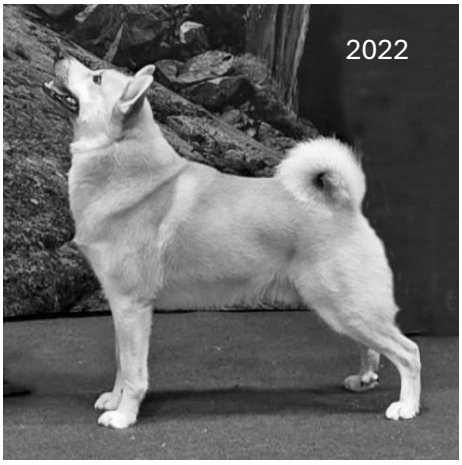












1996: Vikingborgens Jesper Gromgutt
1997: Skadsemgaardens Mia
1998: Vaulartuns Floke
2000: Vaulartuns Lille Lille (black)
2000: Kimura's Amanda
2010: Kimura's Leonora
2011: Vaulartuns Bobben
2012: Kimura's Peer Gynt
2017: Skaubos Gunda
2019: Kimura's Frøydis
2022: Kimura's Kyrre



Photos: Arvid J Stueland



BREED STANDARD

Country of origin: Norway
FCI-classification: Group 5 – FCI no. 237
Date of publication of the official valid standard:
NKK 14.02.2024, FCI 24.03.2026/EN





GENERAL APPERANCE

A typical Spitz, a little under middle size, squarely built with an alert and frank expression. Erect, pointed ears. Tail carried firmly curled over the back.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

Well balanced. Depth of chest is equal to half the height at the withers. Body length approximately equal to the height at the withers. Length of the body is measured from the point of shoulder to the point of the buttock.

BEHAVIOUR/CHARACTER

Courageous, energetic and friendly.

IMPORTANT DETAILS

- Well balanced
- Moderate angulations
- Tightly curled tail (the trademark of the breed)
- Pointed, strongly erect ears
- Thick, hard smooth-lying coat
- Effortless and effective movement





EXCELLENT TYPES



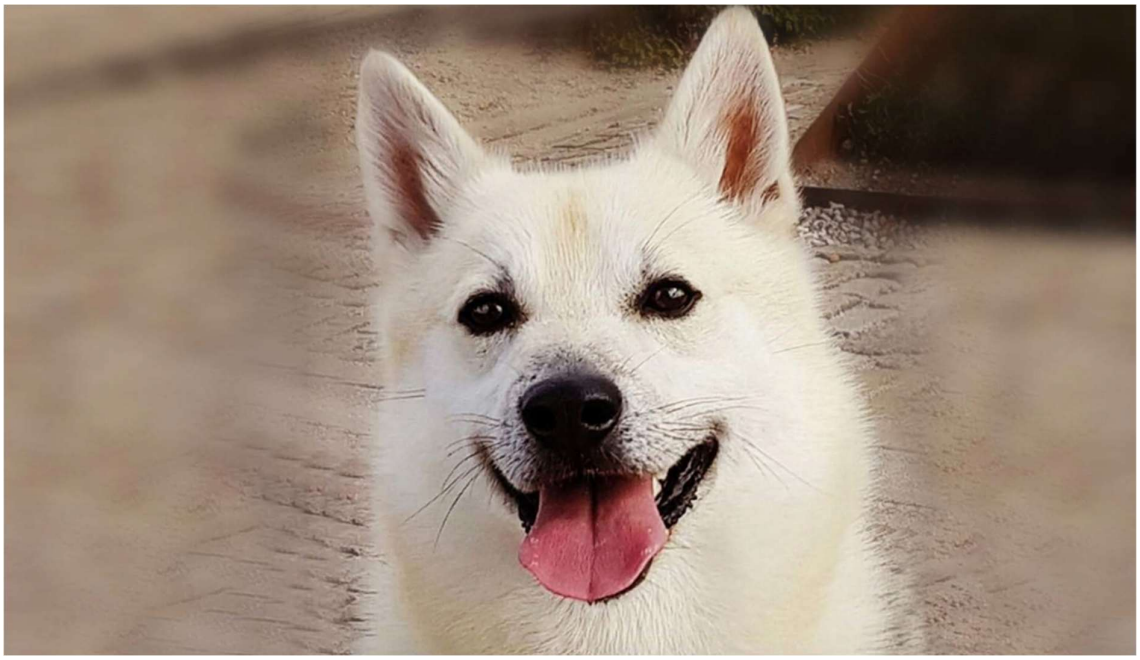






HEAD

Harmonious, not too heavy. Wedge shaped, clean. Gender characteristics must be clearly defined.



CRANIAL REGION

Skull: Almost flat, parallel with straight nasal bridge. Well filled out under the eyes.

Stop: Well defined, but not too pronounced.

COMMENTS

- The head is well balanced, wedge shaped with courageous expression
- Length of the scull = length of the muzzle, muzzle rather shorter than longer







FACIAL REGION

Nose: Black

Muzzle: About the same length as the skull. Neither too narrow, nor too heavy. Nasal bridge straight.

Lips: Tightly closed, black.

Jaws/Teeth: Scissor bite. Complete dentition.

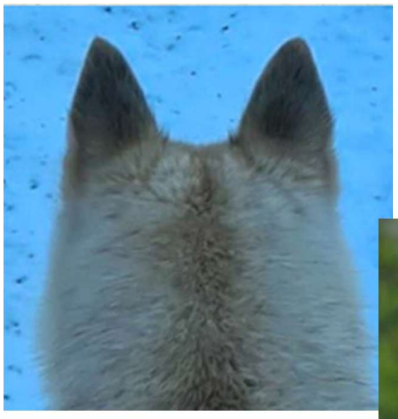
Eyes: Oval, colour as dark as possible. Black eye rims.

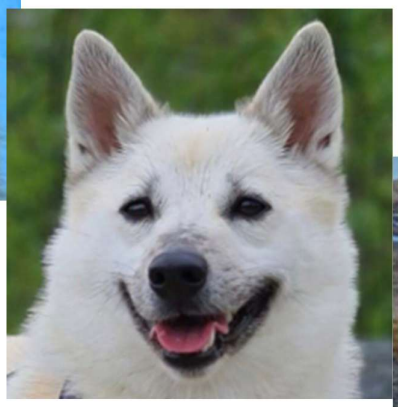
Ears: Medium size, carried erect.

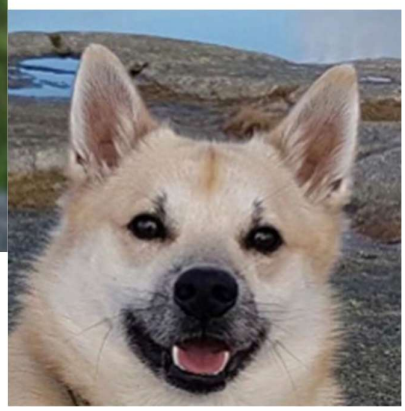
COMMENTS

- Well pigmented
- Nose always black
- Tightly closed lips
- Dark, oval eyes – well-fitting eyelids
- Tight, pointed medium sized ears Height slightly greater than width at base, set broadly on skull
- Over- or undershot is disqualifying fault

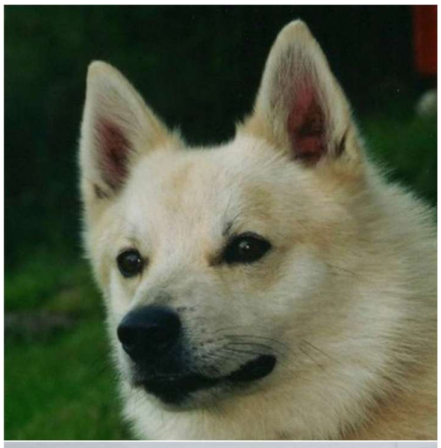
Note: Some teeth deficiency occurs, this should be noted in the critique.







MALE HEADS



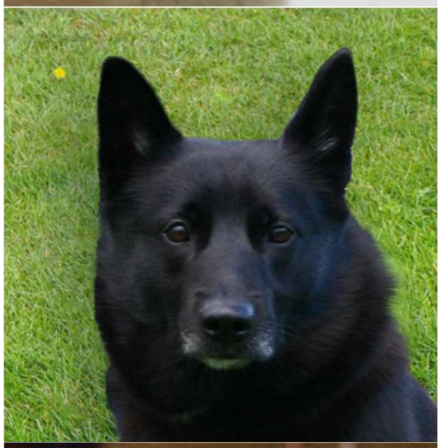
COMMENTS

- Excellent masculine head and expression
- Well pigmented
- Well-placed correct ears
- Correct eye shape and colour
- Tightly closed lips
- Slightly flat stop



COMMENTS

- Masculine very good head
- Well pigmented
- Tightly closed lips
- Dark, somewhat round eyes
- Slightly rounded skull
- Somewhat too pronounced stop
- Slightly wide-set ears



COMMENTS

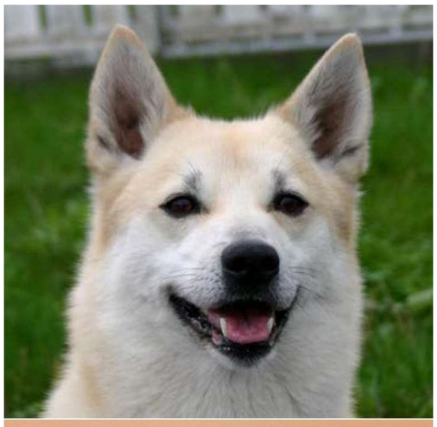
- Masculine head
- Well-placed ears, a bit large
- Somewhat round eyes
- A bit cheeky
- Could be better filled out under the eyes



COMMENTS

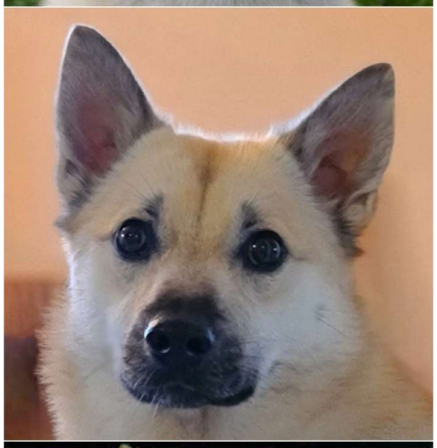
- Powerful masculine head
- Slightly rounded skull – a bit too pronounced stop and skull front
- Black blaze – this is not desirable
- Black mask is OK, but not more than this

FEMALE HEADS



COMMENTS

- Feminine, excellent head and expression
- Well pigmented
- Correct ears
- Correct eye shape and colour
- Tightly closed lips



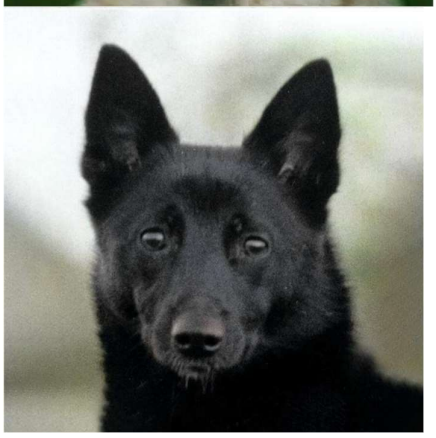
COMMENTS

- Powerful bitch head with sufficient gender identity
- Slightly wide-set ears
- Very good skull and muzzle
- Dark, round, slightly protruding eyes
- Well pigmented



COMMENTS

- Feminine, very good head
- Somewhat large ears
- Well pigmented
- Could be better filled out under the eyes



COMMENTS

- Feminine, somewhat narrow and elongated head
- Big ears
- Round, dark, slightly protruding eyes
- Could be better filled out under the eyes
- Muzzle a bit snipy

NECK

Medium long, clean, strong with proud carriage

COMMENTS

- Correct length of the neck is essential for the dog's balance, general appearance and function
- The neck should have medium length with proud carriage
- The neck should smoothly flow into a well-defined withers and a straight and strong back



Correct neck length and carriage



Too short neck

BODY

Topline: Straight from the withers to the set on of tail
Withers: Well developed and the highest point of the topline
Back: Short, strong and straight
Loins: Short, strong and straight
Croup: As little sloping as possible
Chest: Deep with good spring of ribs

COMMENTS

- The body should be well balanced – not too heavy and not too light
- The withers should be well developed and the highest point of the topline
- Wide and well-developed loins – not too long or narrow
- Approximately square
- Muscular and well-balanced with functional angulations
- Topline short and strong with well-developed withers
- Well-developed oval chest
- Tail centric over the back, single or doble curl





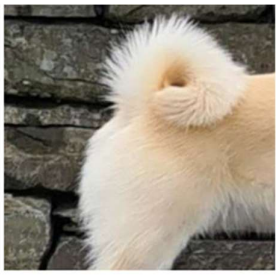


TAIL

Set high, tightly curled, carried over the center of the back, not too much to the side

EXCELLENT TAILS







TAILS WITH MINOR FAULTS

Can be awarded champion quality if the dog is otherwise of excellent type

1 and 2: The same dog from different views

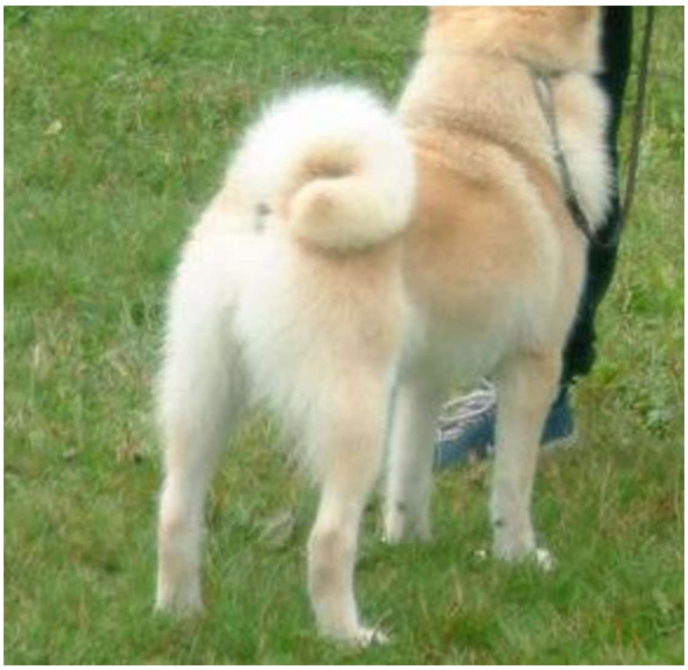






TAILS WITH FAULTS

Open tails should not be awarded champion quality









LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS

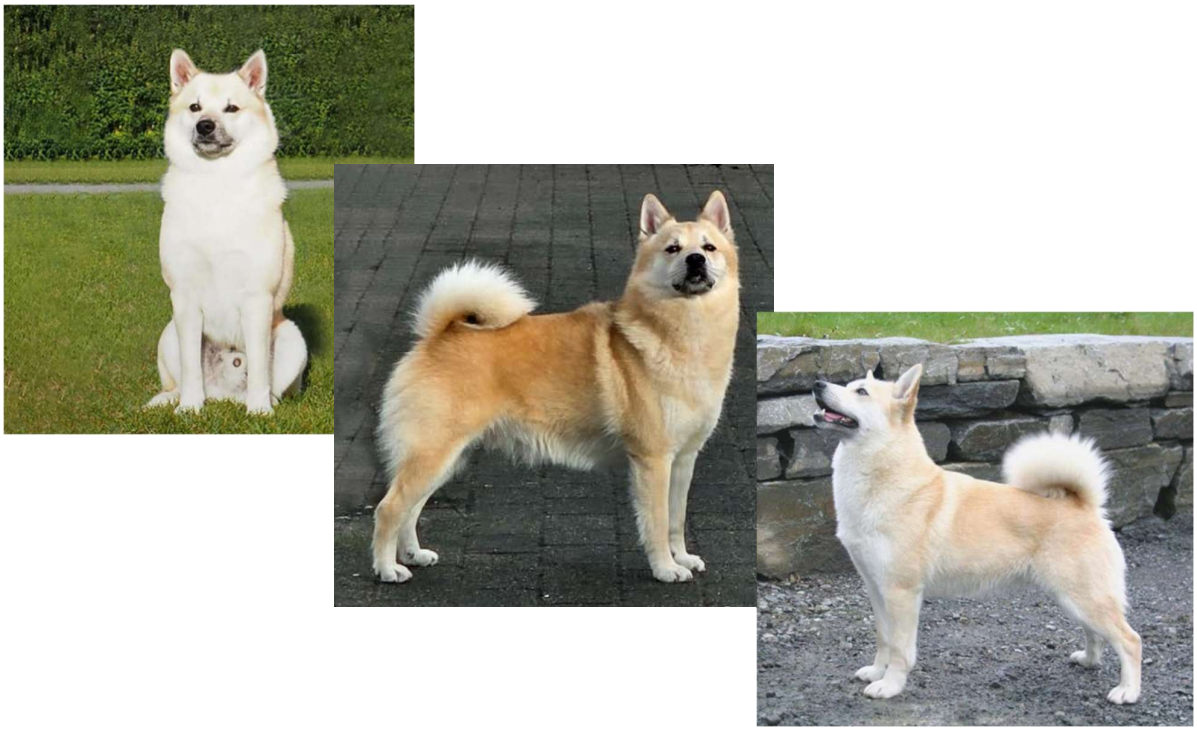
General appearance: Lean with strong bone
Shoulder: Slightly oblique
Upper arm: Slightly oblique
Elbows: Tight to the chest
Forearm: Straight
Pastern: Slightly oblique
Forefeet: Oval in shape, compact

HINDQUARTERS

General appearance: Moderate angulation
Upper thigh: Powerful, well muscled
Stifle: Moderate angulation
Lower thigh: Powerful and well muscled
Hock joint: Moderate angulation
Metatarsus (rear pasterns): Powerful, strong
Hind feet: Oval in shape, compact

COMMENTS

- Seen from front and back: straight and strong legs
- Side view: slightly oblique pasterns
- Compact paws
- Upper arm close to the chest



GAIT/MOVEMENTS

Efficient, parallel with good drive. Firm topline.

COMMENTS

- The Norwegian Buhund is a herding dog that should be able to carry out his work for many hours. Functional and efficient movements are crucial
- Correct conformation with the right balance of the front and back is of major importance for functional and energy-effective movements
- Typical trotter
- Solid overall with tight topline

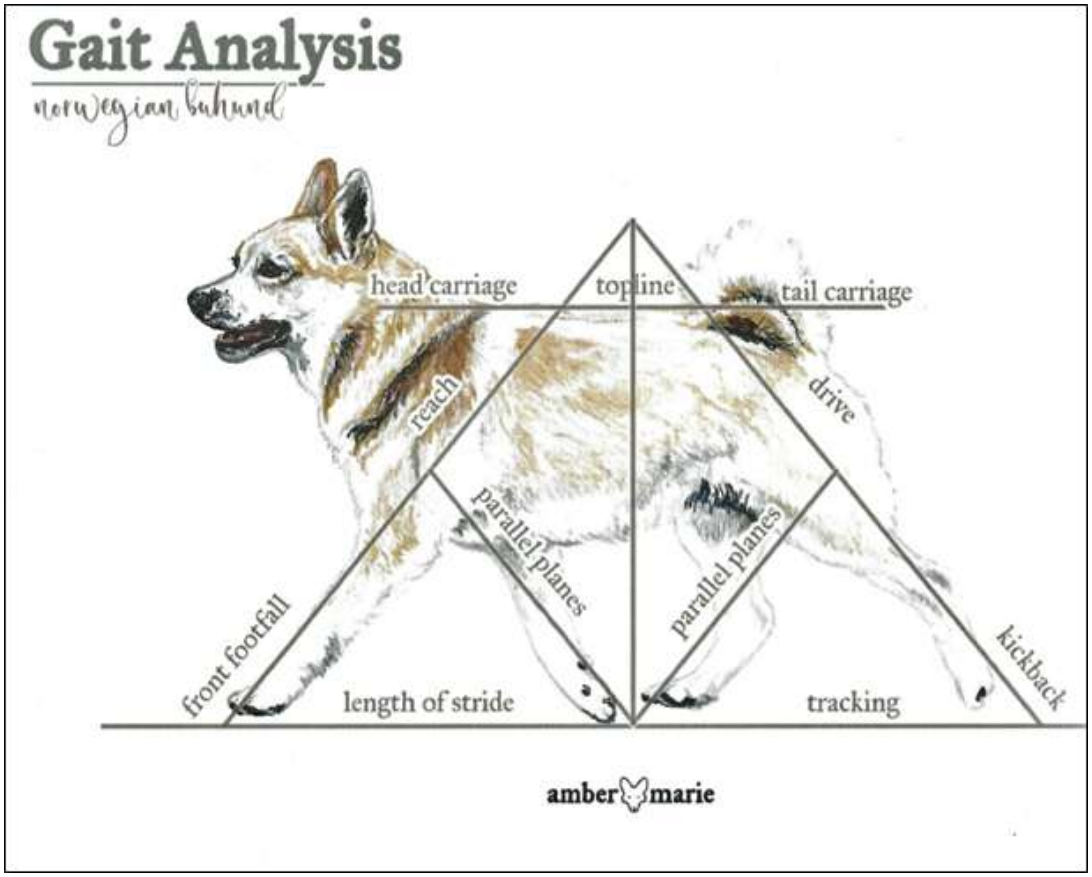


Excellent movements – firm and correct topline






Photo: Carina Berentsen


Gait Analysis
norwegian buhund
head carriage
topline
tail carriage
reach
drive
parallel planes
parallel planes
front footfall
length of stride
tracking
kickback
amber marie

COAT AND COULOR


Photo: Arvid J Stueland

SKIN

Tight to the body without wrinkles.

COAT

Hair: Thick, hard and smooth-lying outer coat. Rather short on head and front of legs. Longer coat on neck, chest, back of thighs and tail. Soft and dense undercoat.

COLOUR

Wheaten (biscuit):

Ranging from rather light to yellowish red. With or without dark hair tips but should not influence the main colour. Mask permitted. Clean and clear colour preferred. As little white as possible.

Black:

Preferably solid black (without too much bronzing). As little white as possible.

COMMENTS

- The coat should not be wavy, dry or long
- The base colour should be clean
- In the wheaten variant with dark hair tips, the dark hair tips should be evenly distributed
- Grey or wolf-coloured coat is unwanted and disqualifying, but must not be confused with the wheaten variant with dark hair tips (in earlier standards named “varglett “)

WHEATEN

Ranging from rather light to yellowish red





WHEATEN WITH DARK HAIR TIPS

Permitted colour (in earlier standards called “varglett”)



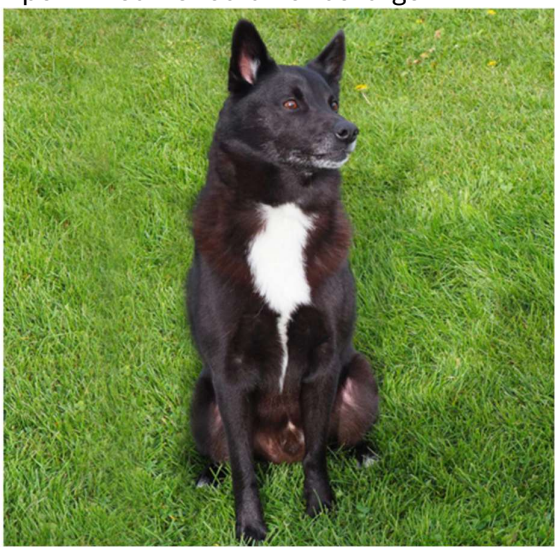


BLACK

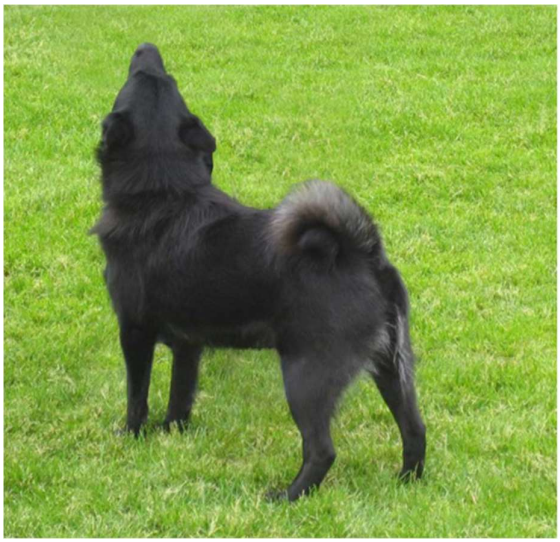
Correct black colour



Large white marking in the chest is permitted – should not be larger



Grey coat on the tail/pants is permitted



Large white collar disturbs the general appearance and is undesirable



UNWANTED COLOURS

Large white collar – disturbs the general appearance



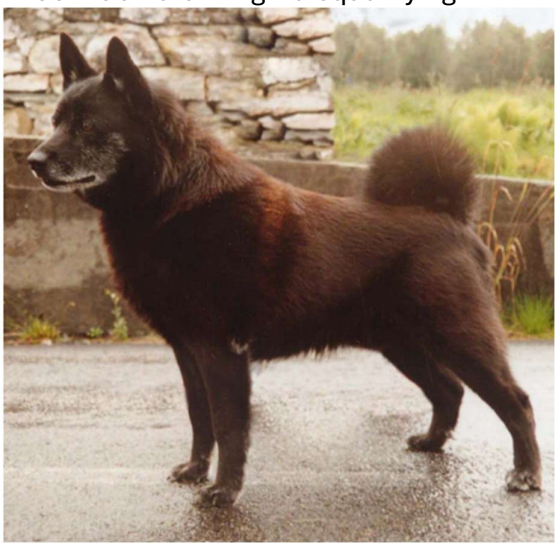
Unwanted spotted colour



Too much black hair - disqualifying



Too much bronzing – disqualifying



SIZE AND WEIGHT

Height at the withers:	Males: 43-47 cm / Females: 41 – 45 cm
Weight:	Males: 14 – 18 kg / Females: 12 – 16 kg

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.

- General appearance too fine or too coarse, lack of elegance
- Dog standing lower at withers than loin
- Paddling or mincing in front
- Short, ineffective step
- Shyness
- Liver or pink coloured nose
- Light eyes
- Protruding eyes
- Pincer bite
- Poorly curled tail. Hanging tail. Feathering is unwanted
- Wavy or too long coat

COMMENTS
- Length of the body = height at the withers

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs
- Any dog clearly showing physical of behavioural abnormalities<
- Over- or undershot
- Not erect ears
- Any colour not mentioned above
- Dogs more than 1 cm under or 2 cm above the ideal height

NB!
- Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum
- Only functionally and clinically heathy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding

Faults in conformation and details





Promising puppies





5 ½ WEEKS



6 MONTHS



4 MONTHS



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