

GERMAN SPITZ



ORIGIN: Germany

UTILIZATION: Watch and Companion dog.

STANDARD BASED ON FCI STANDARD 11/12/2019

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: German Spitz dogs are descendants of the stoneage «Peat Dogs» (Torfhunde) «*Canis familiaris palustris* Rüttimeyer» and the later Lake Dwelling Spitz (Pfahlbauspitz); it is the oldest breed of dog in Central Europe. Numerous other breeds have been developed from them. The white Spitz (Keeshond) is the official animal of Amsterdam.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: Spitz breeds are captivating on account of their beautiful coats, made to stand off by plentiful undercoat. Particularly impressive are the strong, mane-like collar round the neck (ruff) and the bushy tail carried boldly over the back.

The foxy head with alert eyes and the small pointed, closely set ears give the Spitz its unique characteristic, cheeky appearance.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS: The ratio of height at withers to body length is 1: 1. The ratio length of the muzzle to length of the skull of Giant Spitz, Medium Size Spitz and Miniature (Toy) Spitz is approximately 2 : 3.

BEHAVIOUR AND CHARACTER: The Spitz is always attentive, lively and extraordinarily attached to its owner. It is very teachable and easy to train. Its natural distrust of strangers and lack of hunting instinct make it the ideal companion and family dog and watch dog for home and farm. It is neither timid nor aggressive. Indifference to weather, robustness and longevity are its most outstanding attributes.

HEAD:

CRANIAL REGION: The Spitz's medium-sized head, seen from above, appears broadest at the back and tapers wedge-shaped to the tip of the nose.

Stop: Moderate to marked, never abrupt.

FACIAL REGION:

Nose: The nose is round, small and pure black. The nose of the brown Spitz dogs is dark brown.

Muzzle: The muzzle is not overlong and stands in pleasing proportion to the skull (approximately 2:3).

Lips: The lips are not exaggerated, close fitting to the jaws and do not form any folds to the corner of the mouth. They are completely black. The lips of brown Spitz dogs are brown.

Jaws/Teeth: The jaws are normally developed and show a complete scissor bite with 42 teeth, corresponding to the dental formula of the dog, i. e. the upper incisors closely overlapping the lower ones and set square to the jaws. Strong canines fitting exactly into each other. The lack of a few premolars shall be tolerated in Medium Size Spitz and Miniature (Toy) Spitz. Pincer bite is permissible.

Cheeks: The cheeks are gently rounded, not protruding.

EYES: The eyes are of medium size, almond-shaped, slightly slanting and dark. The eyelids are black. Brown Spitz dogs have dark brown eyelids.

EARS: The small ears are set high and relatively close to each other, triangular pointed; they are always carried upright, stiff at the tips.

NECK: The medium length neck is set broadly on the shoulders, slightly arched without dewlap and covered by a thick, profuse coat, forming a large ruff.

BODY:

Topline: Merges in a gentle curve with the short, straight back. The bushy, sweeping tail, which partially covers the back, rounds off the silhouette.

Withers: The high withers drops imperceptibly.

Back: As short as possible, straight, firm.

Loin: Short, broad and strong.

Croup: The croup is broad and short, not falling away.

Chest: The deep chest is well sprung, the fore-chest well developed.

Underline and belly: The chest reaches back as far as possible; the belly has only a slight tuck up.

TAIL: The tail is set on high and of medium length. It reaches upwards and rolls forward over the back, straight from the root. It lies firmly over the back and is covered with very bushy hair. A double curl at tip of tail is tolerated.

FOREQUARTERS:

General appearance: Straight, rather broad front with well-developed bone strength.

Shoulder: The shoulder is well muscled and firmly connected to the chest. The shoulder blade is long and well laid back.

Upper arm: The upper arm, which is approximately the same length as the shoulder blade, forms an angle of 90 degrees to the shoulder blade.

Elbow: The elbow joint is strong, close fitting to the chest and turns neither in nor out.

Forearm: The forearm is of medium length in relation to the body, sturdy and completely straight. The back of the forearm is well feathered.

Metacarpus (Pastern): The strong, medium length front pastern stands at an angle of 20 degrees from the vertical.

Forefeet: The forefeet are as small as possible, round and closed, with well arched and tight nails, so called cat feet. The color of pads is as dark as possible.

HINDQUARTERS:

General appearance: The hindquarters are very muscular and abundantly feathered to the hocks. The hind legs stand straight and parallel.

Thigh and lower leg: Thigh and lower leg are of about equal length.

Stifle (knee): The stifle joint is strong with only moderate angulation and is turned neither in nor out in movement.

Hock/hock joint: The hock is of medium length, very strong and vertical to the ground.

Hindfeet: The hindfeet are as small as possible, round and closed, with well arched and tight nails, so called cat feet. The pads are coarse. The color of nails and pads is as dark as possible.

GAIT/MOVEMENT: Spitz dogs move straight ahead with good drive, fluidly and springy. Dogs double-track.

SKIN: The skin covers the body tightly without any wrinkles.

COAT:

Hair: Giant Spitz, Medium Size Spitz and Miniature Spitz dogs have a double coat: Long, straight and firm standing off top coat and short, thick, cotton-wool-like undercoat. Head, ears, front side of front and hind legs and the paws are covered by short, thick (velvety) hair. The rest of the body has a long, rich, hairy coat. Not wavy, curly or shaggy, not parted along the back. Neck and shoulders are covered by a thick mane. The backside of the front legs is well feathered, the hind legs have ample feathering from croup to hocks. The tail is bushy.

Hair must not be trimmed.

COLORS

German Giant Spitz: White, black, brown. Only in black and brown Giant Spitz dogs, white spots on the chest, the paws and the tip of the tail are permissible.

German Medium Spitz: White, black, brown, orange, grey-shaded, other colors.

German Miniature (toy) Spitz: White, black, brown, orange, grey-shaded, other colors.

White Spitz: The coat should be pure white. Little trace of yellow, which often occurs, especially on the ears, is tolerated.

Black Spitz: Black Spitz dogs must have a black undercoat and a black skin. The color on top must be a shiny black without any white or other markings in the miniature (toy) and medium sizes. White markings on tip of tail, chest and paws allowed in giant.

Brown Spitz: The brown Spitz should be uniformly dark brown. White markings on tip of tail, chest and paws allowed in giant.

Orange Spitz: The orange Spitz should be evenly colored in the medium color range. Lightening up of the orange color on the chest, the tail and the trousers is permitted.

Grey-shaded. Grey-shaded is a silver-grey with black hair-tips. Muzzle and ears are dark in color, round the eyes well defined shown as a delicately penciled black line slanting from outer corner of eye to lower corner of ear, coupled with distinct markings and shading forming short but expressive eyebrows; mane and ring on shoulder lighter; fore- and hind legs silver-grey without any black markings under the elbows or stifles, except slight penciling on the toes; black tip of tail; underside of tail and trousers pale silver-grey.

Other colored Spitz: Cream, cream-sable, orange-sable, black and tan, and parti-color. Parti-color dogs must have white as basic color. The patches must be uniformly in one color, either black, brown, grey-shaded, orange, orange-sable, cream or cream-sable. Patches are preferably distributed over the whole body.

SIZE AND WEIGHT:

Height at the withers. Weight corresponding to size.

Giant Spitz: 16-20 inches

Medium Size Spitz: 12 up to but not including 16 inches

Miniature (TOY) Spitz: 8 up to but not including 12 inches

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.

SEVERE FAULTS:

- Faults in construction.
- Head too flat.
- Distinct apple head.
- Flesh-colored nose, eyelids and lips.
- Dentition faults, missing incisors.
- Too large and too bright eyes.
- Protruding eyes.
- In grey-shaded Medium and Miniature (Toy) sized spitz, missing of distinct markings of the face.

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

- Faults in movement.
- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioral abnormalities.
- Gap in fontanel.
- Overbite, underbite, crossbite.
- Ectropion or entropion.
- Ears not fully erected.
- Definite white markings or spots in all non-white Medium or Miniature (Toy) non-white Spitz.
- Any color not mentioned under "Colors".
- Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

**The German Spitz Club
of America**

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