

GERMAN SPITZ



GENERAL APPEARANCE: The German Spitz, a descendant of the stone-age “Peat Dogs,” is the oldest breed in Central Europe and is the progenitor of many other breeds. Its natural distrust of strangers and intelligence make it the ideal companion, family dog and watch dog for home and farm. Their beautiful double coat, ruff and bushy tail carried boldly over the back combined with the foxy wedge head, alert eyes and the small pointed, closely set ears give the Spitz its unique characteristic. The German Spitz possesses indifference to weather and robustness and enjoys longevity.

SIZE, WEIGHT, AND BODY PROPORTIONS:

Weight is corresponding to size. *Height* at the withers: Large Spitz (Grossspitz): 16-20 inches, Medium Spitz (Mittelspitz): 12 up to but not including 16 inches, Small Spitz (Kleinspitz): 8 up to but not including 12 inches. *Proportions:* The height at withers equals the body length from the point of shoulder to the buttocks.

HEAD: The skull is slightly crowned. The fontanel should be closed. An apple head is a serious fault. The medium, wedge-shaped head, as seen from above, is broadest at the back and tapers to the tip of the nose. *Expression:* The expression is alert, intelligent and lively. *Stop:* Moderate to marked, never abrupt. *Nose:* The nose is round, small and solid black except the nose of brown dogs is dark brown. Flesh colored noses are a serious fault. *Muzzle:* The muzzle is slightly shorter than the back skull in a ratio of 2:3. *Lips:* The close-fitting lips are well pigmented and are completely black with the exception of brown dogs which are brown. *Teeth:* Scissors bite preferred; level bite permissible. Complete dentition. Missing teeth is a serious fault except the lack of two premolars is permissible in the Medium Size and Small Size. ***Disqualification: Overshot, undershot and wry bite.*** *Cheeks:* The cheeks are gently rounded, not protruding to maintain the wedge-shaped head. *Eyes:* The eyes are of medium size, almond-shaped, slightly oblique and dark brown except that the brown dog may have a lighter brown eye. ***Disqualification: Other than a brown eye.*** The eyelids are black, except that brown dogs have dark brown eyelids. Missing eye pigment is a serious fault. Protruding or large eyes are a serious fault. *Ears:* The small ears are set high and relatively close to each other, triangular, pointed; they are always carried upright, stiff at the tips. ***Disqualification: Ears not fully erect.***

BODY

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. *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, and firm. *Loin:* Short, broad and strong. *Croup:* Broad and

short, not falling away. *Chest*: The deep, broad chest is well sprung and reaches as far back as possible; the forechest well developed. *Underline*: A slight tuck up. *Tail*: The tail is set on high and of medium length. It reaches upwards and curls 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 permissible but not preferred.

FOREQUARTERS:

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. *Pastern*: The strong, medium length front pastern stands at an angle of 20 degrees from the vertical. *Forefeet*: The forefeet are cat feet: small, round and compact, and well arched. Pads are tough and thickly cushioned. The color of pads and nails is as dark as possible.

HINDQUARTERS: The hindquarters are very muscular and abundantly feathered to the hocks. The hind legs are straight and parallel. *Thigh and lower leg*: Thigh and lower leg are approximately equal in length. *Stifle*: The stifle joint is strong with only moderate angulation and is turned neither in nor out. *Hock*: The hock is of medium length, very strong and vertical to the ground. *Back feet*: Same as front.

COAT: A double coat. Outercoat is long, straight and off-standing. Undercoat is short, thick, and soft. The head, ears, front side of front and hind legs and the paws are covered by short, thick hair. The rest of the body has a long, rich coat which is not wavy, curly, shaggy, nor parted along the back. Neck and shoulders are covered by a thick mane (ruff). The backside of the front legs is well feathered. The hind legs have feathering from croup to hocks. The tail is bushy. Trimming the toes and around the feet for neatness is allowed. Trimming on any other part of the dog is a serious fault.

COLORS

Large size (Grossspitz): White, black, brown. In black and brown only, white spots on the chest, the paws and the tip of the tail are permissible.

Medium and Small Sizes (Mittelspitz and Kleinspitz) : White, black, brown, orange, grey-shaded, cream, cream-sable, orange-sable, black and tan, and parti-colored.

White should be pure white. However, a trace of biscuit or cream, especially on the ears, is permissible.

Blacks have a black undercoat and outercoat and a black skin. The outercoat should be a shiny black without bronzing. No white is allowed in medium or small sizes. White markings on tip of tail, chest and paws allowed in the Standard size.

Browns should be uniformly dark brown. White markings on tip of tail, chest and paws allowed only in the standard size.

Oranges should be evenly colored in the medium color range. The chest, the tail and the trousers may be a lighter shade of orange.

Grey-shaded are a silver-grey with black hair-tips. Muzzle and ears are dark in color. The eyes are well defined with 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. The mane and ruff may be lighter. The legs are silver-grey without any black markings, except slight penciling is permissible on the toes. The tail is black-tipped and the underside of tail is a pale silver-gray.

Parti-colored dogs must have white as the main 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.

Disqualification: any other color, marking or pattern.

GAIT/MOVEMENT: The German Spitz double tracks and moves straight ahead with good drive. The gait is fluid and springy. A balanced front and rear is important.

TEMPERAMENT: Attentive, alert, intelligent and extraordinarily attached to its owner. He is easy to train. He is neither timid nor aggressive. Excessive shyness is a serious fault.

GENERALLY

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.

Disqualifications: Other than a brown eye. Overshot, undershot and wry bite. Ears not fully erect. Any color, marking and patterns other than described.