

AKC with proposed changes in blue

GENERAL APPEARANCE: The Icelandic Sheepdog is a Nordic herding Spitz, slightly under medium sized, **sturdy** with **erect** ears and a curled tail. Seen from the side the dog is rectangular. The expression is gentle, **intelligent** and happy. A confident and lively bearing is typical for this dog. There are two types of coat, **short and long**, both thick and **very** weather **resistant**. There is a marked difference in appearance between the sexes.

SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE. Ideal Height **at the withers:** Dogs 18"; Bitches 16 1/2". Rectangular and strong. Seen from the side, the dog is rectangular, the length of the body measured from the point of shoulder to point of buttock is greater than the height at the withers. The depth of the chest is equal to the length of the foreleg.

HEAD: Strongly built with close fitting skin. Triangular when seen from above or the side. Skull - Slightly longer than muzzle and somewhat domed. Stop - clearly defined though neither steep nor high. Nose - black. Dark brown **on** chocolate brown and some cream dogs. The nasal bridge is well-developed, **strong** and straight. Muzzle - slightly shorter than skull, tapering evenly towards the nose to form a blunt triangle when seen from both above and from the side. Lips: Black, close fitting. Dark brown **on** chocolate brown and some cream dogs. Bite: Scissor bite. Teeth - Complete dentition **preferred**. Cheeks - **Clean and** flat. Eyes - **Almond shape of** medium size. Dark brown. **Can be** slightly lighter in chocolate brown and some cream dogs. Eye-rims are black. Dark brown in chocolate brown and some cream dogs. Ears: Erect and of medium size, **set well apart without being low set. Close to equilateral triangle.** With firm edges and slightly rounded tips. Very mobile, reacting sensitively to sounds and showing the dog's mood. Faults: **Blue, yellow** or round eyes **and very light eyes**.

NECK, TOPLINE, BODY; Neck - moderately long, **clean** and muscular with no loose skin. The neck is slightly **arched** and the head is carried **well**. Body - rectangular and strong, **fairly short loin and** in harmony with general appearance. Back - level, muscular and strong. Loins - broad and muscular. Croup - moderately short and broad, very slightly sloping and **well muscled**. Chest - long, **deep** and well sprung. Belly - **only a** slight tuck up. Tail - high set, curled over and touching the back

FOREQUARTERS: When seen from the front the forelegs are straight, **parallel** and strong. Angulation - Shoulders are well laid back, oblique and muscular. Dew Claws - Required and may be double. Forefeet - slightly oval, toes well-arched and tight with well-developed pads. Faults - No dewclaws.

HINDQUARTERS: When seen from behind the hind legs are straight, **parallel** and strong. Thighs -broad and **well muscled**. Dew Claws - Required. Well-developed double dewclaws desirable. Hind feet- same as forefeet. Faults - No dewclaws.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: The Icelandic Sheepdog is a Nordic Herding Spitz, slightly under medium size, **sturdy**, with **erect** ears and a curled tail. Seen from the side the dog is rectangular. The expression is gentle, intelligent and happy. A confident and lively bearing is typical for **the breed**. There are two types of coat, **short and long**, both thick and **very weather-resistant**. There is a marked difference in appearance between the sexes.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS: **Seen from the side the dog is rectangular, the length of the body from point of shoulder to point of buttock is greater than the height at withers.**

Depth of the chest is equal to the length of the foreleg. Muzzle slightly shorter than skull.

SIZE:

Ideal height at withers:	Male:	46 cm.
	Female:	42 cm.

HEAD: Strongly built with close fitting skin. Triangular when seen from above or the side.

CRANIAL REGION:

Skull: Somewhat domed.

Stop: Clearly defined though neither steep nor high.

FACIAL REGION:

Nose: Black, dark brown on chocolate brown and some cream dogs.

Muzzle: Well developed **and strong**, nasal bridge straight. Muzzle slightly shorter than skull. Tapering evenly towards the nose to form a blunt triangle when seen from both above and from the side.

Lips: **Close fitting. Black**, dark brown **on** chocolate brown and some cream dogs.

EYES: **Almond shaped, of medium size.** Dark brown, **can be** slightly lighter in chocolate brown and some cream dogs. The eye-rims are black **or** dark brown **on** chocolate brown and some cream dogs. **Showing a mild expression.**

EARS: Erect and of medium size. **Set well apart without being low set. Close to equilateral triangle** with firm edges and slightly rounded tips. Very mobile, reacting sensitively to sounds and showing the dog's mood.

NECK: Moderately long, **clean** and muscular. Slightly arched, **carrying the head well.**

BODY: Strong and in harmony with general appearance.

Back: Level, muscular and strong.

Loin: Broad, muscular **and fairly short.**

Croup: Moderately short and wide, slightly sloping and well muscled.

Chest: Long, deep and well sprung.

Underline and Belly: Only a slight tuck up.

TAIL: High set, curled over and touching the back.

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS:

General appearance: When seen from the front the forelegs are straight, parallel and strong. Normal angulation.

Shoulders: Oblique and muscular.

Dew claws: May be double.

Forefeet: Slightly oval, toes well arched and tight, with well developed pads.

HINDQUARTERS:

and muscular. Dew Claws – Required and may be double. Forefeet - slightly oval, toes well-arched and tight with well-developed pads. Faults – No dewclaws.

HINDQUARTERS: When seen from behind the hind legs are straight, parallel and strong. Thighs -broad and well muscled. Dew Claws – Required. Well-developed double dewclaws desirable. Hind feet- same as forefeet. Faults – No dewclaws.

GAIT: Displays agility and endurance with good driving action covering the ground effortlessly.

COAT: Double coat, thick and extremely weather resistant. Coat length ranges from short to long. There are two types: Short haired - The outer coat of medium length, fairly coarse, with a thick, soft undercoat. The hair is shorter on the face, top of head, ears and front of legs. It is longer on the neck, chest and back of thighs. The tail is bushy and the hair length is in proportion to the coat. Long haired - The outer coat is longer and fairly coarse, with a thick, soft undercoat. The hair is shorter on the face, top of head, ears, and front of legs, longer on the neck, withers, chest and back of thighs, with fringes on the back of the forelegs. The tail is very bushy and the hair length is in proportion to the coat. Presentation is to be in a natural, unaltered condition. Specimens where the coat or whiskers have been altered by trimming or clipping shall be so severely faulted as to be effectively eliminated from the competition. Coat quality is more important than length.

Color: The allowed colors are Fawn and or Red in various shades ranging from cream to reddish brown, Chocolate Brown in various shades, Shaded Grey, and Black. White always accompanies the color. Lighter shading often occurs on the underside of the dog anywhere from the throat to the tip of the tail. On Shaded Grey and quite often on Fawn and Reds, a dark mask, dark tips to the outer hairs and dark hairs in the coat may occur as an overlay or sable appearance. Black and Chocolate Brown dogs most often have traditional tan markings in any of the various colors, on the cheeks, over the eyes (eyebrows), below the tail, on the underside of the tail and on the legs. Pied dogs have patches of color on the body. While they have white markings, white should never be the predominant color. The patches of color, which can vary in size should predominate. The white markings, which are often irregular, are a blaze or a part of the face, collar, chest, socks of varying length and tip of tail. Color on or near the ears is preferred. Faults - A solid black or brown mantle or saddle on fawn or red dog (hound markings).

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS:

General appearance: When seen from the front the forelegs are straight, parallel and strong. Normal angulation.

Shoulders: Oblique and muscular.

Dew claws: May be double.

Forefeet: Slightly oval, toes well arched and tight, with well developed pads.

HINDQUARTERS:

General appearance: When seen from behind the hind legs are straight, parallel and strong. Normal angulation.

Thigh: Broad and well muscled.

Dew claws: Well developed double dew claws are desirable.

Hind feet: Slightly oval, toes well arched and tight, with well developed pads.

GAIT / MOVEMENT: Displays agility and endurance with good driving action, covering the ground effortlessly.

Hair: There are two variants:

Short-haired: The outer coat is fairly coarse, with a thick, soft undercoat. The hair is shorter on the face, top of head, ears and front of legs. It is longer on the neck, chest and back of thighs. The tail is bushy and the hair length is in proportion to the coat.

Long-haired: The outer coat is longer and fairly coarse, with a thick, soft undercoat. The hair is shorter on the face, top of head, ears and front of legs. It is longer behind the ears, on the neck, withers, chest and back of thighs and with fringes on the back of the forelegs. The tail is very bushy and the hair length is in proportion to the coat.

Colour:

- Fawn and red in various shades, ranging from cream to reddish brown
- Grey shaded
- Chocolate brown in various shades
- Black

White markings always accompany the main colour, lighter shading often occurs on the underside of the dog, from throat to tip of tail.

On grey shaded dogs and quite often on fawn and red dogs a dark mask, dark tips to the outer hairs and dark hairs in the coat occur (dark overlay/sable).

Black and chocolate brown dogs most often have traditional tan markings in any of the various fawn colours on the cheeks, over the eyes (eyebrows), below the tail, on the underside of the tail and on the legs.

Pied dogs have patches of colour on the body on a white background, and can also have the accompanying white markings. The patches of colour, which can vary in size, should predominate.

The white markings, which are often irregular, are a blaze or a part of the face, collar, chest, socks of varying length and tip of tail.

Colour on or near the ears is preferred.

TEMPERAMENT: The Icelandic Sheepdog is a hardy and agile herding dog which barks, making it extremely useful for herding or driving [sheep and other](#) livestock. The Icelandic Sheepdog is, by nature, very alert and will always give visitors an enthusiastic welcome without being aggressive. The Icelandic Sheepdog is cheerful, friendly, inquisitive, playful and [confident with a gentle temperament](#). A confident and lively bearing is typical for this dog.

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 proportion to its degree.

BEHAVIOUR AND TEMPERAMENT: The Icelandic Sheepdog is a hardy and agile herding **spitz**, which barks, making it extremely useful for herding or driving **sheep and other** livestock. The Icelandic Sheepdog is by nature very alert and will announce the arrival of visitors without being aggressive. The **breed** is cheerful, friendly, inquisitive, playful and **confident with a gentle temperament**.

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.

- A solid black **or brown** mantle or saddle on a **fawn or red dog (hound markings)**
- **Very light eyes**
- **Round eyes**
- **Complete lack of dewclaws on hind legs**

SERIOUS FAULTS:

- **Blue eyes**
- **Yellow eyes**

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.

N.B.

- Male animals must have two apparently normally developed testicles fully descended into the scrotum
- Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding