

Judges Education Study Guide for The American Eskimo Dog



*This Study Guide is a product of The American Eskimo
Dog Club of America (AEDCA)*

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Judges Education Study Guide

American Eskimo Dog

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The American Eskimo Dog



The American Eskimo Dog



History of the Breed



In the beginning of the 20th century, the American Eskimo Dog, was registered with UKC as the Spitz. In the next few years the name was changed several times from Spitz, to American Spitz, Eskimo Spitz, American Eskimo Spitz, to finally in 1926 Spitz was taken off the name, and the breed became the American Eskimo. The American Eskimo was commonly found in communities of German immigrants and was believed to be descendants of white German Spitz, white Keeshonden, and large white Pomeranians.

It was originally bred as a multipurpose farm dog used as a herder, hunter, hauler, guardian, and devoted companion. The American Eskimo's double coat is resistant to harsh weather conditions. The Eskie, as it was nicknamed, assisted farmers with moving farm animals as well as protecting their property and families. The Eskie is an agile, intelligent, robust, and highly trainable dog with a strong desire to please. These traits, along with their eye-catching white coats made them popular for use in trick acts with traveling circuses.

Today, Eskie breeders strive to preserve these fine qualities and natural instincts while refining the American Eskimo Dog's attributes. The American Eskimo Dog Club of America was formed in 1985 and began registering dogs in 1986. The AEDCA added "Dog" to the name. The American Kennel Club granted the breed full recognition in 1995.

Bred to be an all-purpose farm dog, the American Eskimo Dog's well-angulated front and hindquarter along with well let-down hocks make it extremely agile. Its well-balanced, frictionless gait with good reach and drive allows the Eskie to work tirelessly throughout a long day. Tough, deeply cushioned, compact feet stand up to the terrain in which the Eskie works.

American Eskimo Dogs are very adaptable to their owners' lifestyles with an older individual or an active family. They are social dogs who are happy to be with their people, whether curled at their owner's side or going for walks or car rides. Eskies are pack-oriented and do well with other animals. Its natural abilities and instincts make it one of the most versatile breeds that can be trained to do just about anything.



The American Eskimo Dog

General Appearance



The American Eskimo Dog, a loving companion dog, presents a picture of strength and agility, alertness and beauty. It is a small to medium-size Nordic type dog, always white, or white with biscuit cream. The American Eskimo Dog is compactly built and well balanced, with good substance, and an alert, smooth gait. The face is Nordic type with erect triangular shaped ears, and distinctive black points (lips, nose, and eye rims). The white double coat consists of a short, dense undercoat, with a longer guard hair growing through it forming the outer coat, which is straight with no curl or wave. The coat is thicker and longer around the neck and chest forming a lion-like ruff, which is more noticeable on dogs than on bitches. The rump and hind legs down to the hocks are also covered with thicker, longer hair forming the characteristic breeches. The richly plumed tail is carried loosely on the back.



The American Eskimo Dog has been called "the dog beautiful" and should always convey that impression, along with soundness, agility and intelligence.



The American Eskimo Dog

Size, Proportion, Substance

Size

There are three separate size divisions of the American Eskimo Dog (all measurements are heights at withers): Toy, 9 inches to and including 12 inches; Miniature, over 12 inches to and including 15 inches; and Standard, over 15 inches to and including 19 inches. There is no preference for size within each division.

Disqualification: Under 9 inches or over 19 inches.

STANDARD



Over 15" to and including 19"

MINIATURE



Over 12" to and including 15"

TOY



9" to and including 12"

The three sizes of the American Eskimo Dog are all judged by the same standard. Judges must remember to evaluate each Eskie presented to them against the written standard of perfection and not look upon the dogs as merely a version of some other breed. That is, even though there are strong similarities, the Standard is not a Samoyed, the Miniature is not a Keeshond and the Toy is not a Pomeranian. Because there is no preference for size within each division, it is possible to have small dogs and large bitches in the same class.

The Wicket

In undivided classes, only the disqualifying measurements of under 9" or over 19" can be entertained. Measurements for size division eligibility are made within the specific size division class. Dogs not in accordance with the requirements for the class are measured out as ineligible, rather than being disqualified.

Toys under 9" and Standards over 19" must be disqualified



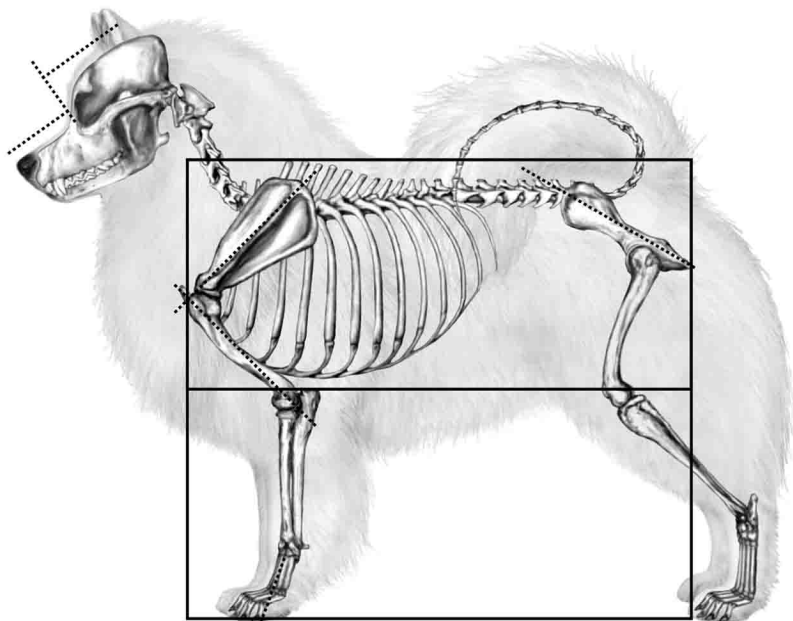
The American Eskimo Dog

Size, Proportion, Substance



Proportion

Length of back from point of shoulder to point of buttocks is slightly greater than height at withers, an approximate 1.1 to 1 ratio.



1.1 to 1

With this ratio, the American Eskimo Dog should be **approximately 10% longer than tall**, using the specified landmarks of point of shoulder to point of buttocks. Because this breed is to be well angulated front and rear, sufficient length of body is necessary to allow for the standard's requirement of "well balanced and friction-less" movement. Judges should be reminded that the standard asks for a dog which is, "neither too long nor too short coupled" and specifically states that the body is to be, "compact, but not cobby." Any tendency by judges to favor dogs which are too short in length or considerably longer than tall should be avoided.



The American Eskimo Dog

Size, Proportion, Substance



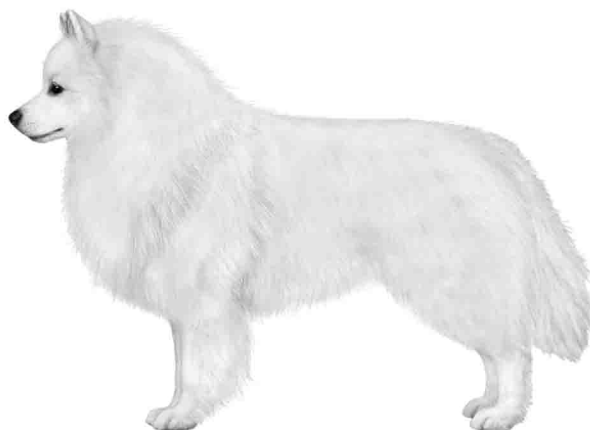
Visualizing Proportion



It is important for judges of the American Eskimo Dog to understand that correct proportion is sometimes difficult to ascertain because of individual variations in both tail carriage and the amount and quality of coat. Consequently, putting your hands on the dogs to locate the exact landmarks for measurement is essential. Dogs carrying more coat will always look either longer or short-legged. Dogs with their tail down usually seem longer: It is your responsibility as a judge to be aware of this and use your knowledge of the breed to counteract any perceived visual illusions.

Question: Which of the dogs on this page displays the correct proportion?

Answer: They are identical except for coat or tail carriage.



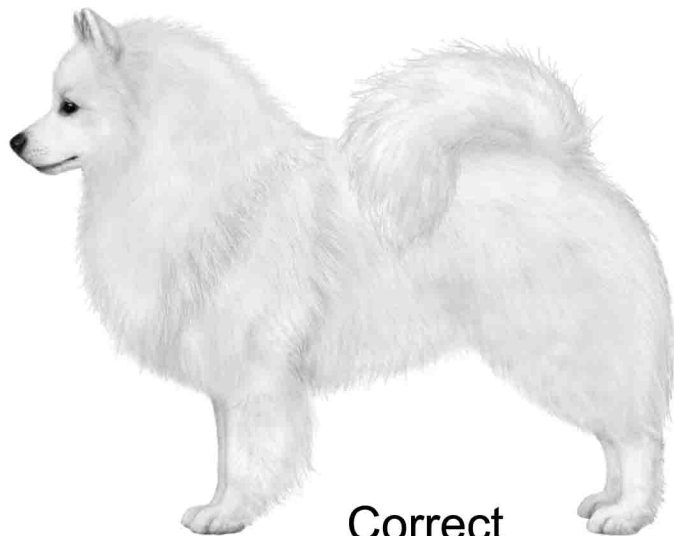
The American Eskimo Dog

Size, Proportion, Substance



Substance

The American Eskimo Dog is strong and compactly built with adequate bone.



Correct

"Adequate bone" means that the American Eskimo Dog should have substance which balances the overall picture without the dog appearing coarse or frail. While lack of bone is easy to assess, too much substance generally reduces the requisite and typical agility of the breed. The look of substance may vary with the amount of coat on the individual dog, necessitating accurate physical examination by the judge. Each size division should have a similar look of proper bone. The Standard size should not be heavy boned and overdone and the Toys should not appear spindly.



Fault: too fine



Fault: too heavy



The American Eskimo Dog



Head, Eyes

Expression is keen, intelligent, and alert. Eyes are not fully round, but slightly oval. They should be set well apart, and not slanted, prominent or bulging. Tear stain, unless severe, is not to be faulted. Presence of tear stain should not outweigh consideration of type, structure, or temperament. Dark to medium brown is the preferred eye color. Eye rims are black to dark brown. Eyelashes are white. Faults: amber eye color or pink eye rims.

Disqualification: Blue eyes.



Correct eyes are the most important contributing factor to proper expression in the American Eskimo Dog. Slightly oval dark eyes with dark rims and white eyelashes are essential to correct type.

Amber eyes and pink eye rims are specifically listed as faults in the Eskie breed standard. Incorrect amber eyes are all too commonly seen and severely detract from correct expression. It is unlikely that one will ever encounter a dog with blue eyes in the ring. However, judges must remember to check for this disqualification.



The American Eskimo Dog



Head, Ears

Ears should conform to head size and be triangular, slightly blunt-tipped, held erect, set on high yet well apart, and blend softly with the head.

Ears of proper type, size, set and carriage are essential in contributing to the required Nordic look of the American Eskimo Dog. While the hair on the outer part of the ear should be well covered with short, smooth hair, the longer tufts on the inside are necessary to give the desired effect of the ears softly blending with the head.



Fault: Ears too large



Fault: Ears too wide



Fault: Ears not erect



The American Eskimo Dog

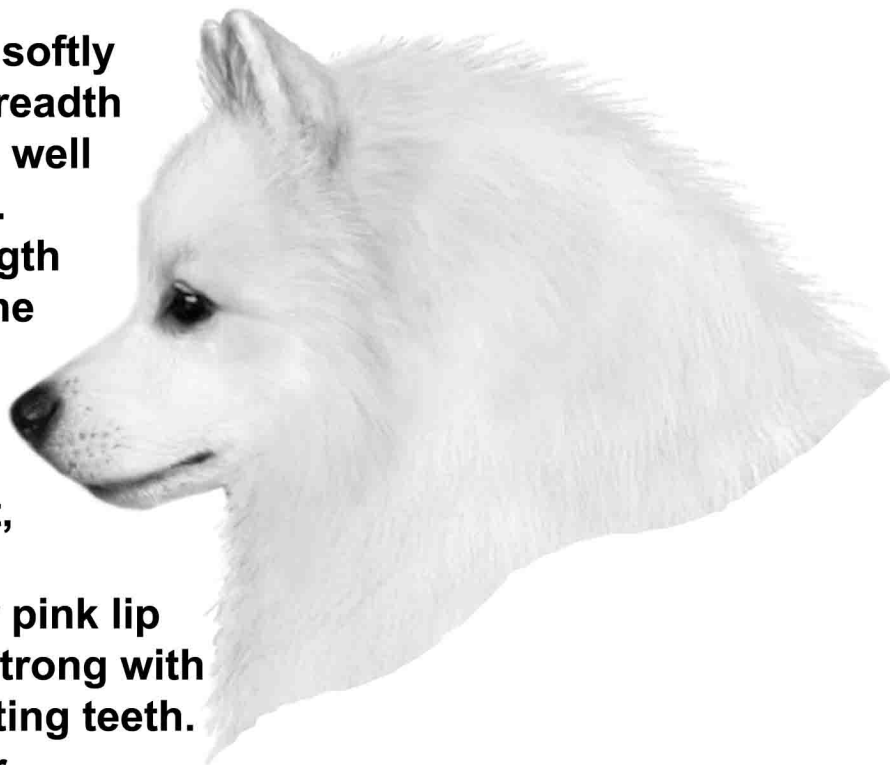


Skull, Muzzle, Lips, Bite

Skull is slightly crowned and softly wedge-shaped, with widest breadth between the ears. The stop is well defined , although not abrupt.

The muzzle is broad, with length not exceeding the length of the skull, although it may be slightly shorter. Nose pigment is black to dark brown. Lips are thin and tight, black to dark brown in color.

Faults : pink nose pigment or pink lip pigment. The jaw should be strong with a full complement of close fitting teeth. The bite is scissors, or pincer.



Black points on the lips, nose and eye rims are considered a distinctive feature of the American Eskimo Dog. However, full consideration should be given to the proportional and structural elements which make up the correct Eskie head. The length of muzzle should not exceed the length of skull.



Fault: weak underjaw



Fault: pink nose pigment



Fault: muzzle too long

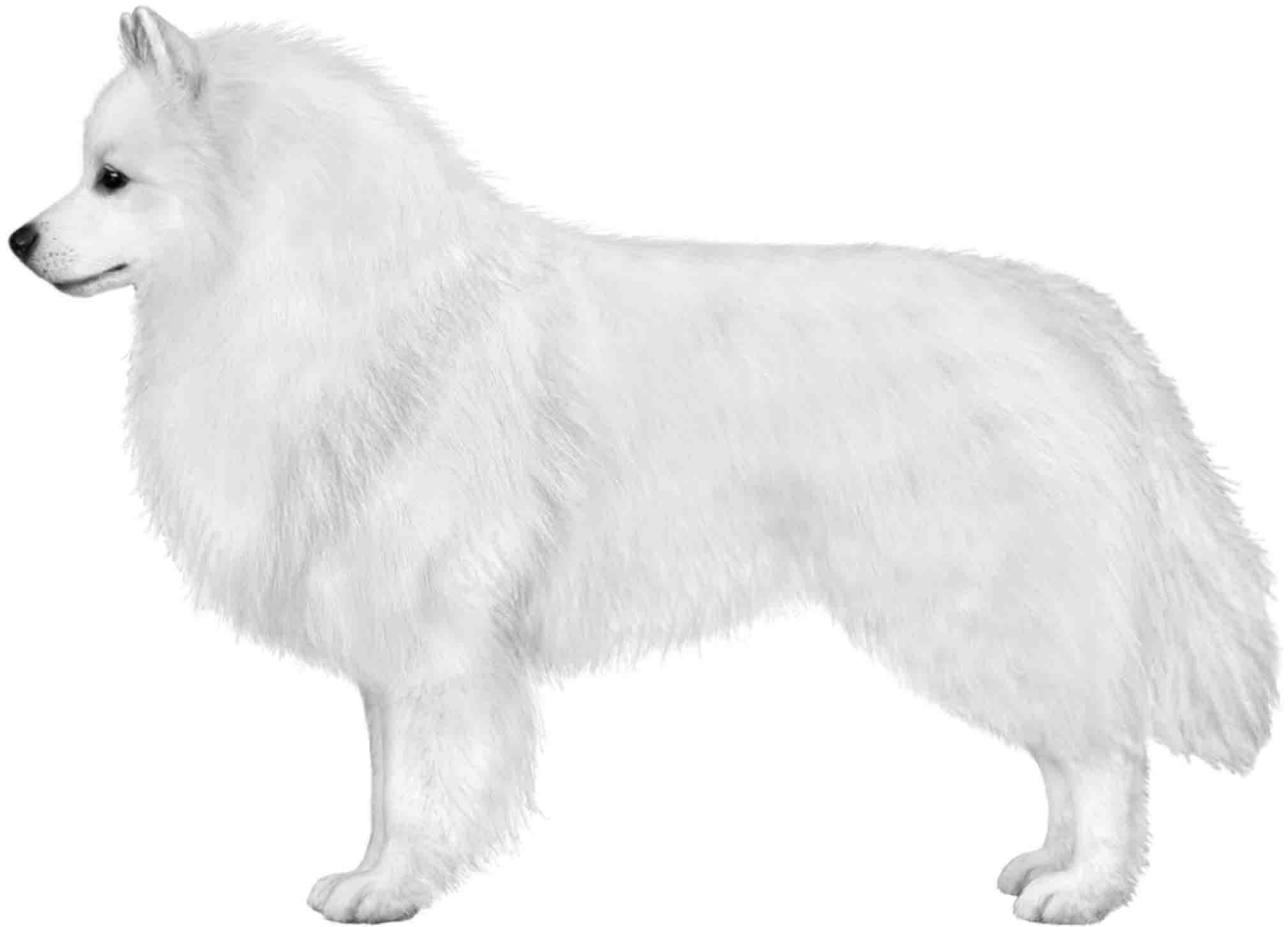


The American Eskimo Dog

Neck, Topline, Body



The neck is carried proudly erect, well set on, medium in length, and in a strong, graceful arch. The topline is level. The body of the American Eskimo Dog is strong and compact, but not cobby. The chest is deep and broad with well-sprung ribs. Depth of chest extends approximately to point of elbows. Slight tuck-up of belly just behind the ribs. The back is straight, broad, level, and muscular. The loin is strong and well-muscled. The American Eskimo Dog is neither too long nor too short coupled.



Because the American Eskimo Dog is a coated breed, most of these described traits can not be properly assessed simply by looking. Judges are expected to put their hands into the coat to determine the actual physical quality of the exhibits. The back should always be level-standing and in motion.



The American Eskimo Dog

Tail



The tail is set moderately high and reaches approximately to the point of hock when down. It is carried loosely on the back, although it may be dropped.



Correct



Correct at rest

The richly plumed tail is one of the distinctive features of the American Eskimo Dog. In motion, it is carried loosely on the back and should balance the dog. Tails which are carried straight out, in a sickle, wheel, or in any fashion over the back rather than on it, are not correct. Low set tails and tails which are tightly curled are not desirable. Remember, the Eskie is not required to keep its tail up when at rest.



Fault: tightly curled



Fault: low set



Fault: over the back

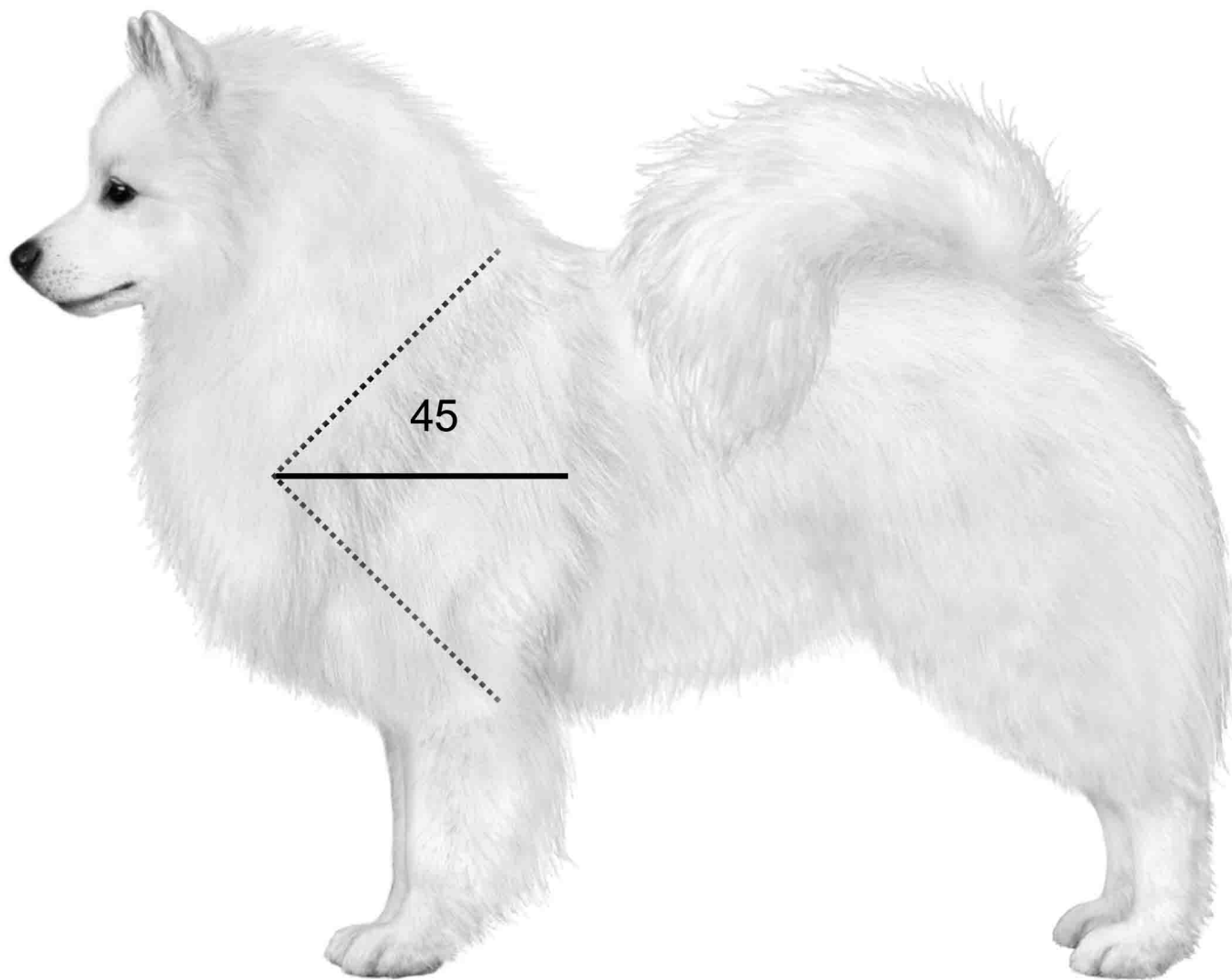


The American Eskimo Dog

Forequarters



Forequarters are well angulated. The shoulder is firmly set and has adequate muscle but is not overdeveloped. The shoulder blades are well laid back and slant 45 degrees with the horizontal. At the point of shoulder the shoulder blade forms an approximate right angle with the upper arm.



The American Eskimo Dog standard asks for a dog that is well angulated, presenting a picture of strength and agility. The lay-back of shoulder and exact angulation front and rear can be properly evaluated by the physical examination and then confirmed by the dog in motion.

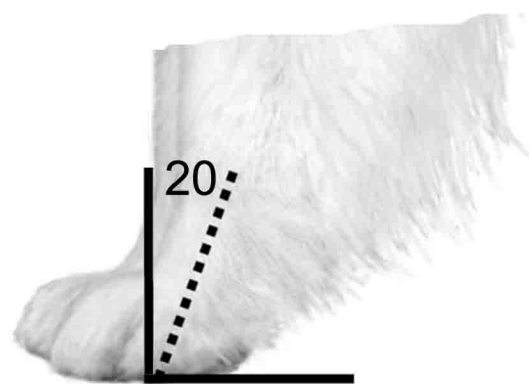


The American Eskimo Dog

Feet and Pasterns



The legs are parallel and straight to the pasterns. The pasterns are strong and flexible with a slant of about 20 degrees. Length of leg in proportion to the body. Dewclaws on the front legs may be removed at the owner's discretion; if present, they are not to be faulted. Feet are oval, compact, tightly knit and well padded with hair. Toes are well arched. Pads are black to dark brown, tough and deeply cushioned. Toenails are white.



This terminology refers to is a twenty degree slope off the vertical when the pasterns are viewed from the side. It is sometimes difficult to determine exact degrees of slope when judging, but it is easy to remember the proper look of a twenty degree slope as shown in this inset.

In the frontal view, the legs are straight to the pasterns and the pasterns also appear straight with the feet turning neither in nor out. However, a slightly sloping pastern should be seen on the Eskie, which should have a small, compact oval foot rather than a cat foot. The flexibility and strength of the properly constructed pastern can be ascertained from both the side view and watching the dog in motion.

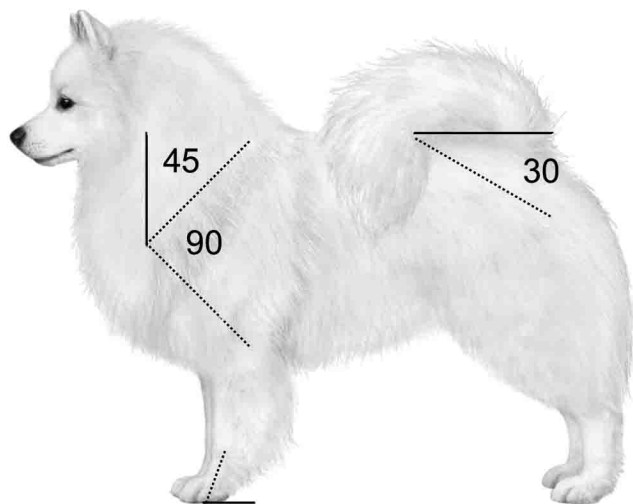


The American Eskimo Dog

Hindquarters



Hindquarters are well angulated. The lay of the pelvis is approximately 30 degrees to the horizontal. The upper thighs are well developed. Stifles are well bent. Hock joints are well let down and firm. The rear pasterns are straight. Legs are parallel from the rear and turn neither in nor out. Feet are as described for the front legs. Dewclaws are not present on the hind legs.



The hindquarters are well angulated and should match that of the front. The rear assembly should also be well developed, strong and muscular.



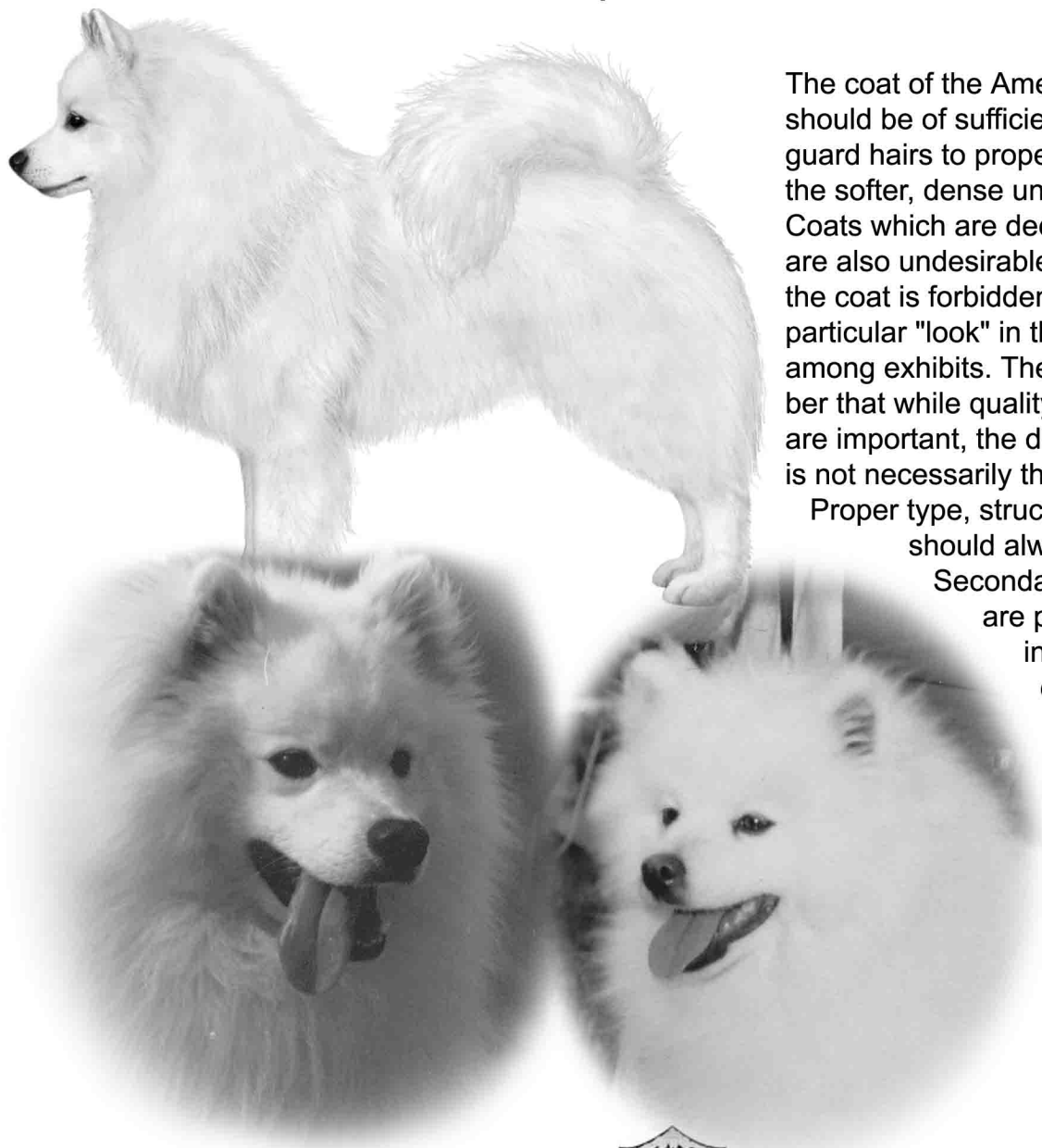
The pads are black to dark brown and the nails are white. The correct foot is compact and oval. A cat foot, hare foot or snowshoe foot is incorrect.



The American Eskimo Dog Coat



The American Eskimo Dog has a stand-off, double coat consisting of a dense undercoat and a longer coat of guard hair growing through it to form the outer coat. It is straight with no curl or wave. There is a pronounced ruff around the neck which is more noticeable on dogs than bitches. The outer part of the ear should be well covered with short, smooth hair, with longer tufts of hair growing in front of ear openings. Hair on muzzle should be short and smooth. The backs of the front legs should be well feathered, as are the rear legs down to the hock. The tail is covered profusely with long hair. ***THERE IS TO BE NO TRIMMING OF THE WHISKERS OR BODY COAT AND SUCH TRIMMING WILL BE SEVERELY PENALIZED.*** The only permissible trimming is to neaten the feet and the backs of the rear pasterns.



The coat of the American Eskimo Dog should be of sufficient texture to allow the guard hairs to properly "stand-off" from the softer, dense undercoat.

Coats which are decidedly wavy or curly are also undesirable. Because trimming the coat is forbidden, there will be no one particular "look" in the amount of coat among exhibits. The judge must remember that while quality and quantity of coat are important, the dog with the most coat is not necessarily the best dog.

Proper type, structure and temperament, should always take precedence.

Secondary sex characteristics are particularly noticeable in the amount of coat, especially on the ruff around the neck.



The American Eskimo Dog Color



Pure white is the preferred color, although white with biscuit cream is permissible. Presence of biscuit cream should not outweigh consideration of type, structure, or temperament.

Disqualification: Any color other than white or biscuit cream.



The sparkling white coat is a distinctive feature of the Eskie. However, individuals which are white with biscuit cream are not uncommon.

While any other color is a disqualification, considerations of type, structure and temperament are of primary importance when judging individual dogs of the allowed colors.

Many times the biscuit cream markings will be almost imperceptible when the Eskie is in full coat.



The American Eskimo Dog Gait



The American Eskimo Dog shall trot, not pace. The gait is agile, bold, well balanced, and frictionless, with good forequarter reach and good hindquarter drive. As speed increases, the American Eskimo Dog will single track with the legs converging toward the center line of gravity while the back remains firm, strong, and level.



The American Eskimo Dog should display an energetic, smooth and alert trot in the ring. His movements should always suggest a light and agile, yet strong character. The Eskie is well angulated and should be in balance, front and rear with good reach and drive.

Because the three size divisions may be shown in the same class, the judge should be sure to manage the ring in such a way that each size can be shown to its best advantage.

American Eskimo Dogs of all sizes should be shown at a reasonable speed and always on a loose lead.



The American Eskimo Dog Temperament



The American Eskimo Dog is intelligent, alert, and friendly, although slightly conservative. It is never overly shy nor aggressive, and such dogs are to be severely penalized in the show ring. At home it is an excellent watchdog, sounding a warning bark to announce the arrival of any stranger. It is protective of its home and family, although it does not threaten to bite or attack people. The American Eskimo Dog learns new tasks quickly and is eager to please.



The American Eskimo Dog is prized for its beautiful good looks but is kept first and foremost as a loving companion. Although the Eskie may appear slightly reserved, its intelligent, alert and friendly nature should be countenanced by its expression and behavior in the ring.

Judges must severely penalize any American Eskimo Dog which is either overly shy or aggressive in the show ring.



The American Eskimo Dog Presentation



Each of the three distinct size divisions has its own charm and appeal for those who own, breed and exhibit the American Eskimo Dog. However, because these three sizes can be shown together in the same classes, the judge must be cognizant of the unique judging situations that this breed presents.

- * The American Eskimo Dog Club of America requests that judges examine all size divisions on the table. Exhibitors should be prepared for this request and train their dogs accordingly.
- * Many dogs are apprehensive when on the examination table. Consequently, determining the American Eskimo Dog's true animation and expression can best be done when the dog is standing naturally on its own off the table.
- * The American Eskimo Dog should be naturally alert and interested in its surroundings. The judge should be able to readily determine animation without excessive baiting or prompting.
- * Dogs and bitches should be readily identifiable in structure, coat and expression.
- * Judges should neither request nor expect handlers to continually put the dog's tail over its back when the animal is standing for examination. Remember the tail may be dropped when the dog is at rest. All judges should be able to properly assess the posed dog without requiring the tail be in a particular position.

* In an undivided class, the dogs should be arranged in order of size divisions to facilitate gaiting. Obviously, the Toys are not expected to keep pace with the Miniatures, nor the Miniatures with the Standards. Allowing the handlers to run around the ring in an attempt to do so should not be encouraged. Judges should maintain proper ring control to ensure that each size of the American Eskimo Dog is shown to its best advantage, without interference or crowding by dogs of differing sizes.

Remember:
THERE IS TO BE NO TRIMMING OF THE WHISKERS OR BODY COAT AND SUCH TRIMMING WILL BE SEVERELY PENALIZED.



The only permissible trimming is to neaten the feet and the backs of the rear pasterns.

Disqualifications:

- * **Any color other than white or biscuit cream**
- * **Blue eyes**
- * **Height: under 9" or over 19"**



The American Eskimo Dog



This Judges Education Study Guide is a product of the American Eskimo Dog Club of America's Judges Education Committee and has been approved by the Board.

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