

FINNISH SPITZ CLUB OF AMERICA



FSCA

BREED PRESENTATION

Its Function - Hunting Dog

- Primarily a bird dog.
- Called the Barking Bird Dog of Finland.
- Capercaillie and other grouse.



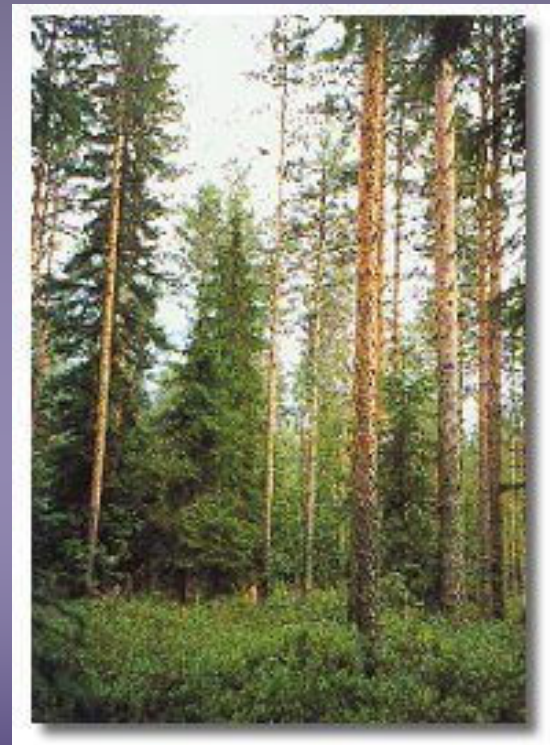
Bird Hunting

- One hunter – one dog
- FS ranges approximately 2-3 football fields ahead of hunter looking for birds
- Returns to hunter approximately every 15 minutes until locates bird
- Flushes bird
- Trees bird



Treed Bird

- Eye contact with bird
 - Lets hunter know location of bird
 - Keeps bird focused
- Continuous bark
 - Directs hunter to bird
 - Keeps bird distracted
 - Hides hunter's approach
- Swaying tail
 - Keeps bird distracted



Other Game - Mammals

- Small mammals
 - Pine Martins
 - Raccoons
 - Squirrels
- Large mammals
 - Moose (Elk)
 - Bear



GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Finnish Spitz' most important characteristics are its square, well-balanced body that is symmetrical with no exaggerated features, its glorious red/gold coat, bold carriage and brisk movement.



GENDER DIFFERENCES

Dogs are decidedly
masculine without
coarseness.



Dog

Bitch



Bitches are decidedly feminine
without over refinement.

SIZE, PROPORTION & SUBSTANCE



Size - Height at the withers:

- Dogs - 17 ½ to 20 inches
- Bitches - 15 ½ to 18 inches.

Proportion:

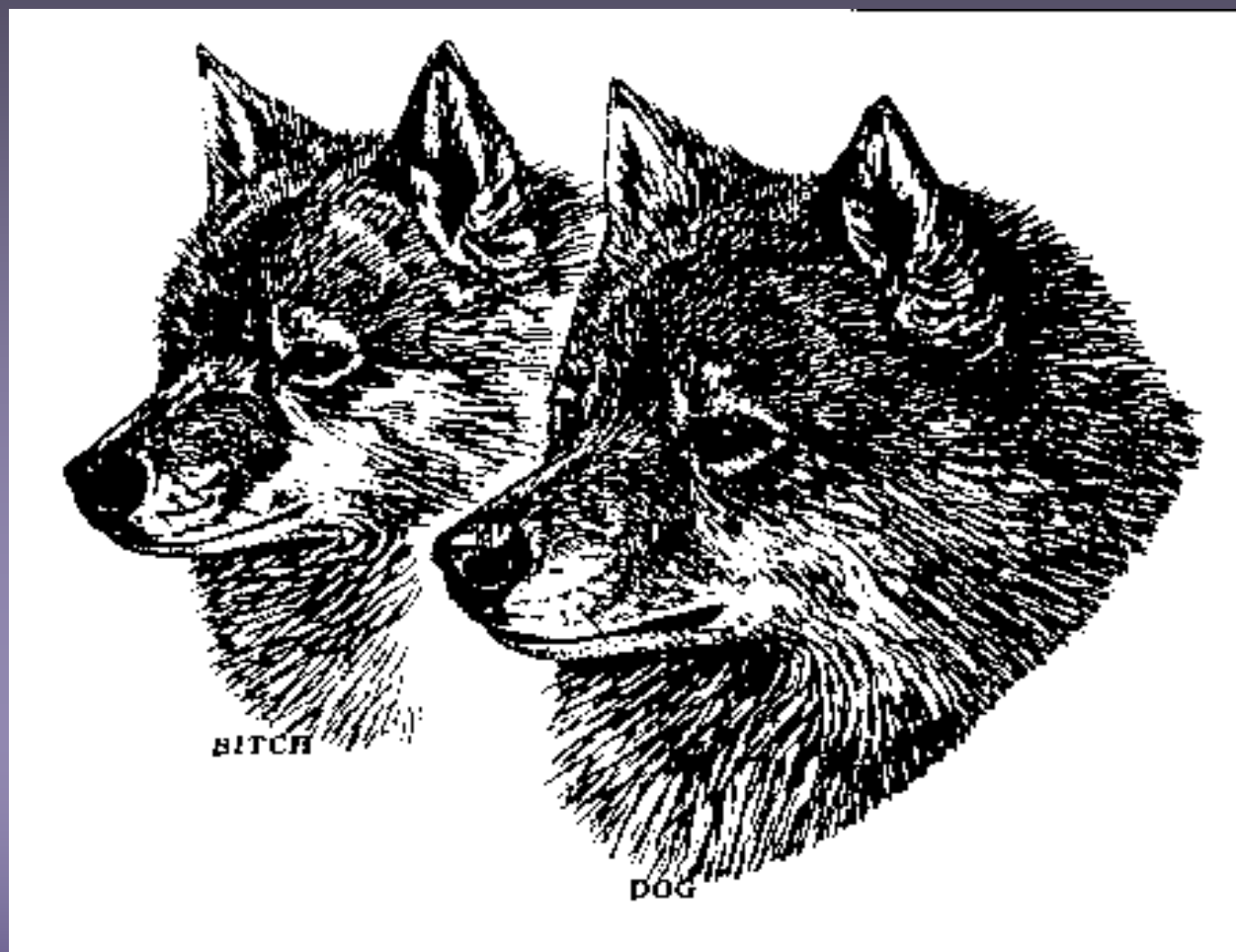
- Square
- Length from forechest to buttocks equal to height from withers to ground.
- The coat may distort the square appearance.

Substance:

- Substance and bone in proportion to the overall dog.

HEAD

- EXPRESSION
- EYES
- EARS
- CLEAN and
FOX-LIKE



EXPRESSION



Fox-like and lively.



EYES

- Almond-shaped with black rims.
 - Obliquely set with moderate spacing between, neither too far apart nor too close.
 - Outer corners tilted upwards.
 - Dark in color with a keen and alert expression.
- Faults: Any deviation, runny, weepy, round or light eyes.



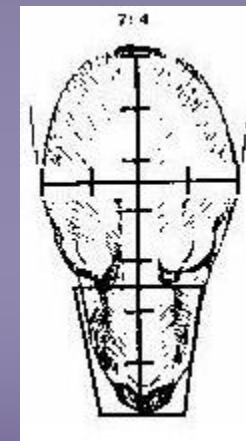
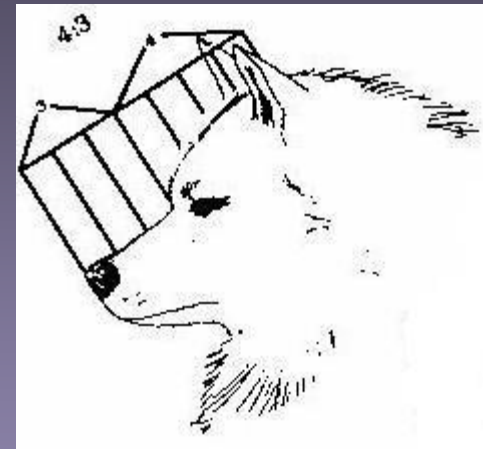
EARS

- Set on high.
- Alert upward standing
- Open to the front with tips directly above the outer corner of the eyes.
- Small, erect, sharply pointed and very mobile.
- Faults: Ears set too high, too low or too close together, long or excessive hair inside the ears.



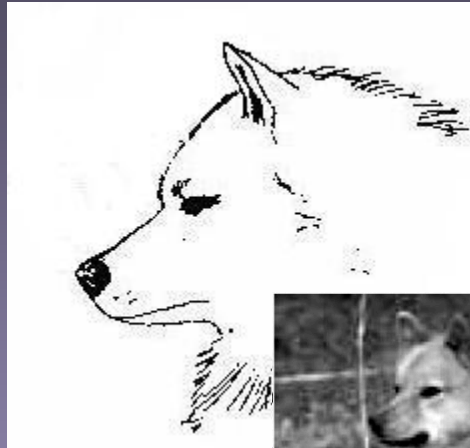
SKULL AND MUZZLE

- Flat between ears with some rounding ahead of earset. Forehead a little arched.
- Longer from occiput to tip of nose than broad at the widest part of skull in a ratio of 7:4.
- Skull is a 4 x 4 square
- Skull to muzzle – 4:3
- **Faults: A muscular or coarse head, or a long or narrow head with a snipy muzzle.**



STOP

- Pronounced
- Clearly marked but not exaggerated
- Should be a harmonious part of the head



Nose, Lips and Bite

- Nose is black
- Circumference of nose – 80% of the circumference of muzzle at origin
- Lips – Black, thin and tight
- Bite – scissors
- The standard does not require full dentition
- Faults: wry mouth

NECK

- Well set, muscular.
- Clean, with no excess skin below the muzzle.
- Appearing shorter in males due to their heavier ruff.



TOPLINE AND BODY

Topline: Level and strong from withers to croup.

Body: Muscular and square.



CHEST, RIBS, AND LOIN

Chest

- Deep, brisket reaches to the elbow.
- Ratio of chest to distance from withers to ground is 4:9.

Ribs

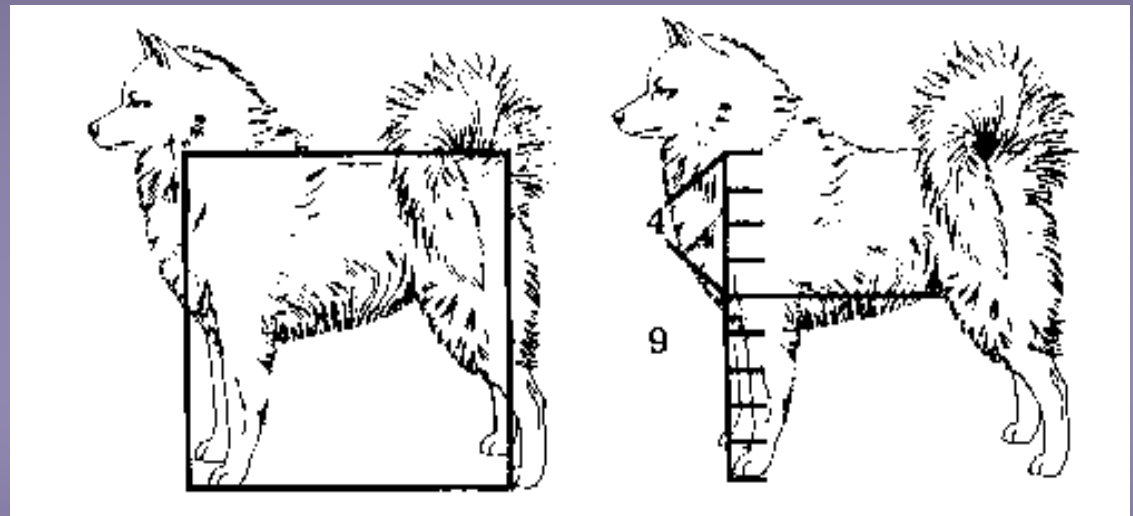
- Well sprung.

Tuck-up

- Slightly drawn up.

Loin

- Short.



SQUARE

4:9

TAIL

- Set on just below level of topline, forming a single curl falling over the loin with tip pointing towards the thigh.
- Plumed, curving vigorously from its base in an arch forward, downward, and backward, pressing flat against either thigh with tip extending to middle part of thigh. **There should not be a donut hole between the tail and the back.**
- When straightened, the tip of the tailbone reaches the hock joint.
- Faults: Low or high tail-set, too curly a tail, or a short tail.



LEGS AND BONING

Legs

- Viewed from the front, moderately spaced, parallel and straight with elbows close to the body and turned neither out nor in.

Boning

- Bone strong without being heavy, always in proportion to the dog.



Feet

- Rounded, compact with well-arched toes, tightly bunched or close-cupped with the two center toes being only slightly longer than the outside.
- Pads deeply cushioned and covered with thick skin.



Pasterns, Hocks & Dewclaws

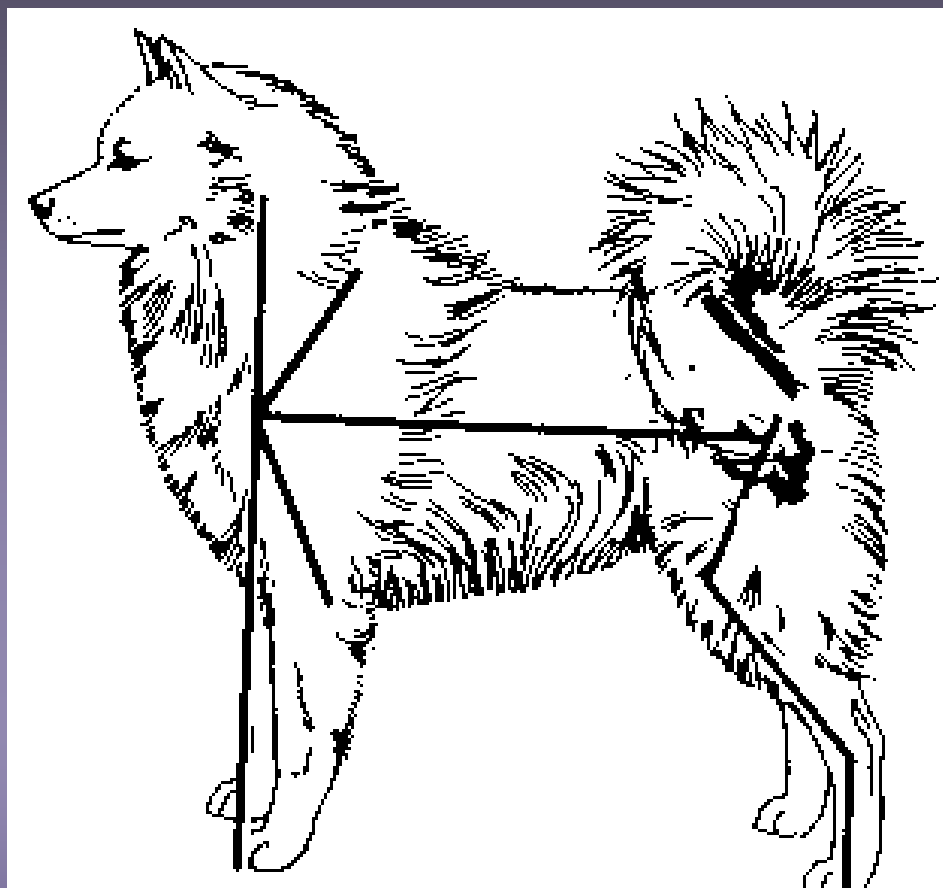
- Pasterns slope slightly.
- Front dewclaws may be removed.
- Rear dewclaws are to be removed.
- Hocks straight and parallel and moderately let down.



FORE AND HINDQUARTERS

30°

The layback of the shoulders is thirty degrees to the vertical. Rear angulation in balance with the forequarters.



Working Gait

- Quick and light of foot
- Steps out briskly
- Trots with lively grace
- Tends to single-track as the speed increases.
- Moves at a gallop when hunting. The angulation called for permits the Finnish Spitz to break into a working gait quickly.
- Sound movement is essential for stamina and agility.



Coat

- Double coat with a short, soft, dense undercoat and long, harsh straight guard hairs measuring approximately one to two inches on the body.
- Hair on the head and legs is short and close; it is longest and most dense on plume of tail and back of thighs.
- The outer coat is stiffer and longer on the neck and back, and in males considerably more profuse at the shoulder, giving them a more ruffed appearance.
- Males carry more coat than females.
- No trimming of the coat except for feet is allowed.
- Whiskers shall not be trimmed.
- Any trimming of coat shall be severely faulted.
- Faults: Silky, wavy, long or short coat.



Color

- Varying shades of golden-red ranging from pale honey to deep auburn are allowed
- No preference given to shades at either extreme so long as the color is bright and clear.
- As the undercoat is a paler color, the effect of this shading is a coat which appears to glow.
- White markings on the tips of the toes and a quarter-sized spot or narrow white strip, ideally no wider than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, on the forechest are permitted.
- Black hairs along lipline and sparse, separate black hairs on tail and back permitted.
- **Faults: Muddy or unclear color, any white on the body except as specified.**



More than desirable but....



Too much white



Puppies

- Puppies may have a good many black hairs which decrease with age, black on tail persisting longer.



TEMPERAMENT

Active and friendly, lively and eager, faithful, brave but cautious. Shyness, any tendency toward unprovoked aggression is to be penalized.



Ring Presentation

- NATURAL STATE
(no trimming)



- ON GROUND
- Ramp Optional



- LOOSE LEAD
- BUSY BREED

Ring Presentation Continued

- NOISE SENSITIVE
- HANDLER TO SHOW BITE
- BARKING
- TALKATIVE



Faults

- Any deviation from the ideal described in the standard should be considered a fault and penalized to the extent of the deviation.

- Structural faults common to all breeds are as undesirable in the Finnish Spitz as in any other breed, even though such faults may not be specifically mentioned in the standard.



AKC BREED EXAMPLES



Our First Four Best in Show Winners