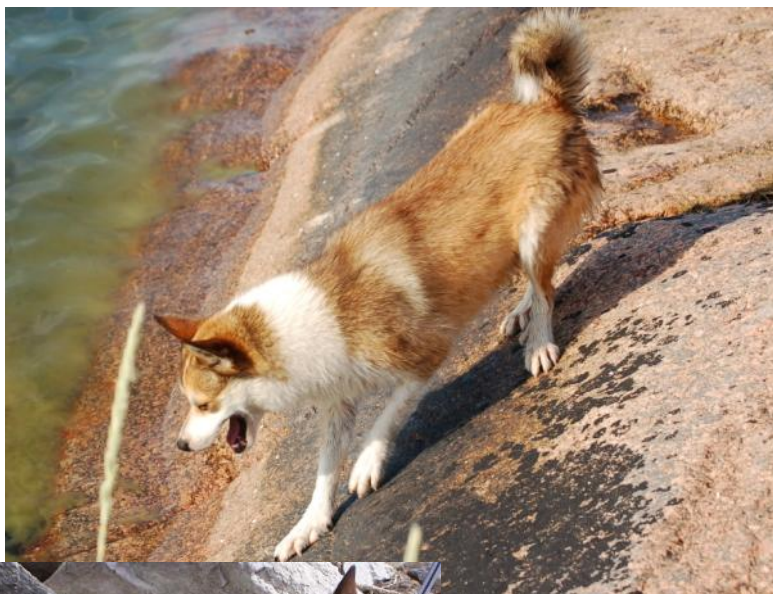


REFERENCE GUIDE FOR AKC JUDGES



***NORWEGIAN
LUNDEHUND***
REVISION 1—JANUARY 1, 2012

History

The Norwegian Lundehund (Puffin Dog) was found in the Lofoten Islands, an archipelago north of the Arctic Circle. No one is certain when the breed first appeared but references and pictures/drawings date to early in the second millennia. It seems quite possible that the Lundehund is one and the same as the “ur” hund, as speculated by a number of scientists, since the area surrounding the Lofoten islands of Værøy and Røst remained ice-free during the Last Ice Age.

Lundehunds were very important for the economy in the northern coastal areas of Norway. With their many physical anomalies, the Lundehund was able to climb the steep cliffs and retrieve Puffins from their nests, providing a valuable meal for the local inhabitants and the luxury crop of down. As a result, in the early 1800’s most households had anywhere from two to twelve Lundehunds, which were individually considered more valuable than a cow. Government taxes were levied on each dog, making it economically unrealistic to keep them so that when Puffin hunting with nets became a viable alternative, the Norwegian Lundehund population began to decline. Finally, the Puffin was declared an endangered species and the Lundehund no longer had a job. If not for the seclusion offered by Værøy and Lovunden, the Lundehund might have disappeared long before a few key people became aware of them.



Eleanor Christie got her first Lundehunds after becoming intrigued with the breed through a magazine article written by Sigurd Skaun. She and her husband, who were experienced breeders of English Setters, then became interested in the Lundehund and decided to try to re-establish the breed which had become alarming few in number. Their work resulted in a kennel named Luxor which boasted more than sixty Lundehunds.

The lack of distemper vaccine during the Second World War posed a great threat to the entire Lundehund population in Norway. The disease eradicated all the dogs on Værøy, though with the valuable help from author Carl Shøyen, Mrs. Christie managed to send Lundehunds from her kennel back to Monrad Mikalsen, a long time Lundehund breeder and resident of Måstad.

After losing her husband, Eleanor Christie at nearly seventy years of age, decided once more to breed Lundehunds. Her decision proved to be a very timely one because on Værøy there were only a few Lundehunds left. In 1960, it was learned that there were but six purebred Lundehunds, five on the island of Værøy and one on the island of Lovunden. Some years later, Christen Lang enlisted the help of a Swedish geneticist to devise a strict breeding plan. This plan, which calls for the inclusion of all viable males to produce a restricted number of progeny (this number grows as the population grows), was adopted by the Norsk Lundehund Klubb Breeding Council to help bring the Lundehund population back to greater numbers. Norwegian breeders have now been following these guidelines for more than two decades.



General Appearance

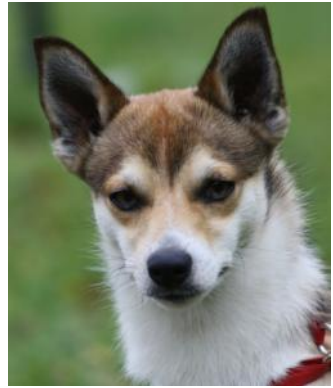
The Norwegian Lundehund is a small rectangular and agile Spitz breed with unique characteristics not found in any other breed. Originating on remote islands of arctic Norway, the dog was used to wrestle and retrieve live puffin birds from the crevices of steep vertical cliffs. To enable the dog to climb, descend, and brake on these cliffs, unique structural characteristics have evolved and must be present as they define this breed: a minimum of six toes on each foot and elongated rear foot pads, an elastic neck which allows the head to bend backwards to touch the spine, letting the dog turn around in narrow puffin bird caves, and shoulders flexible enough to allow the front legs to extend flat to the side in order to hug the cliffs. This shoulder structure produces a peculiar rotary movement. Finally, the ears close and fold forward or backward to protect from debris. The temperament is alert but not expected to be outgoing towards strangers.

Size, Proportion, Substance, Height

The desired height for adult males is between 13-15 inches and 12-14 inches for adult females. Size consideration should not outweigh that of type, proportion, movement and other functional attributes. Proportion - length of body is slightly longer than height at the withers. Depth of chest is approximately one half of the height. Substance - the Lundehund should be athletic and agile, never coarse or heavy. Bitches are distinctly feminine but without weakness.

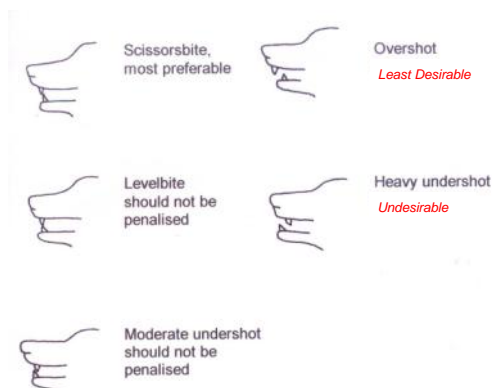
Head

The head is wedge-shaped, of medium width and clean. The skull is slightly rounded with prominent brows. There is a pronounced but not deep stop and the bridge of the nose has a slight arch. The muzzle is of medium length and width, tapering gradually to the end of the muzzle. Length of the muzzle is approximately two-thirds the length of the skull. Nose and lips are black.



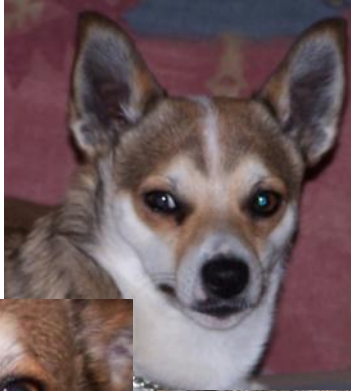
Teeth

Scissors bite is preferred but level and reverse scissors-bite are permitted. Missing premolars on both sides of the upper and lower jaws are common and allowed.



Eyes

Almond shaped, yellow-brown to brown with a brown ring around the pupil. Light eyes are preferred. Eye rims are dark and complete.



Ears

Medium size, triangular, broad at the base, carried erect and very mobile. The ear leather can be folded and turned up, backwards or at right angles so that the ear openings are clamped shut.



COMMENT: It is normal for the dog to keep its ears back, especially when approached by a stranger. Lack of “alert” ears is not to be considered as a negative item.

Neck

The neck is clean, of medium length and strong without being thick.

NOTE: The judge should never ask the handler to demonstrate the characteristic flexibility in the ring as the dog can not relax sufficiently at a dog show.



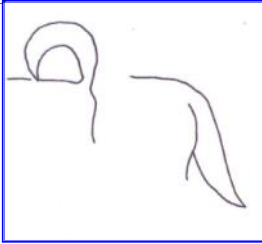
Body

Level back, short loin and slightly sloping croup, slight tuck up. Ribs are carried well back, well-sprung but not barrel shaped.

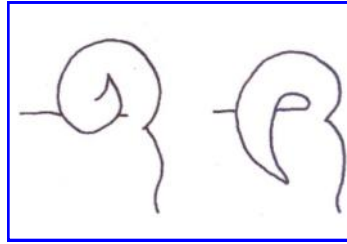


Tail

High set, medium length with a dense coat. When the dog is moving, the tail may be carried trailing or in a graceful arch over the back with the tip touching the back. A tightly curled tail or one that falls too far to either side is undesirable. When at rest, the tail hangs with a slight curve.



Correct



Incorrect

COMMENT: As the tail can be carried up or down, neither is preferred over the other. During the free stack and/or the table examination, the handler should NOT manipulate the tail, instead, the dog should present naturally.

Forequarters

Moderate angulation with very elastic shoulders so that the front legs can extend out to the side. The legs are straight with slightly outward turned feet. The feet are oval with at least six fully developed toes, five of which should reach the ground. Eight pads on each foot. The additional toes consist of one three jointed toe, like a thumb, and one two jointed toe along with corresponding tendons and muscles which give the foot a strong appearance.





Hindquarters

Moderate angulation in balance with the forequarters. Strong muscular upper and lower thighs. Feet - Oval, slightly outward turned with a minimum of six toes, of which four support the dog's weight. There are seven pads with the center pad elongated. When viewed from behind, the rear legs are close but parallel.



COMMENT: The Judge should **ALWAYS** examine all 4 feet, to include the pads. After examining the pads on the table, you can check the pads by:

- Lifting each leg backwards (imagine the motion needed to shoe a horse) ***OR***
- Having the handler lift the dog to inspect all 4 at the same time

Coat

Double coat with a harsh outer coat and a dense, soft undercoat. The coat is short on the head and front of the legs, longer and thicker around the neck and back of thighs. It is dense on the tail with little feathering. The male typically has a thicker ruff around the neck. The Lundehund is presented naturally with no trimming.

COMMENT: While the Lundehund is a Spitz breed, it does not have a coat that stands up like a Elkhound, Keeshond, Schipperke, etc. The coat on an adult Lundehund should lay flat. Unnatural grooming is not to be accepted, nor is trimming of the loose hairs on the legs, tail, etc.

Color

Fallow to reddish brown to tan with black hair tips and white markings or white with red or dark markings. More black hair tips with maturity. Dogs with a completely white head or with 50% of the head white should have complete dark eye rims and lashes.



Gait

Light and elastic. As the Lundehund is designed to climb steep cliffs and work into narrow crevices, the front assembly must be flexible and wide. This produces an elastic gait with a unique rotary front movement. He moves close but parallel in the rear.

Temperament

A Lundehund is alert, very energetic, loyal and protective. He can be wary of strangers, but never aggressive towards people.

Photo credits

To avoid any correlation between the dogs and their respective kennels, no individual credit(s) are listed with the photos.

NLAA would like to thank the following kennels and/or individuals for their permission to use their photos.

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