

# The Yakutian Laika

Descendants of dogs that have worked with Man since ancient times



Where do they come from?? Anyone remember playing this game?? Just for fun, check out the top right!!



# First – That Name! How do we Pronounce it?! Yak – Coo – Shun Like-Ah

In Russia, they are Yakutskaya Laika

- But please – not just Laika!!!
- The term Laika is derived from the Russian-language word for “bark.”
- Laika is also a breed name applied to various Russian sled dogs, and carried by at least seven different recognized breeds. Calling them ‘Laika’ is like just calling a Westie, a terrier.
- There is the East Siberian Laika, the West Siberian Laika, the Russo-European Laika, the Karelo-Finnish Laika, the Nenets Herding Laika, the Samoyedskaya Laika (yes, that is our Samoyeds!) and the Yakutian Laika.



West Siberian Laika



East Siberian Laika



Russo-European Laika



Karelo-Finnish Laika



Nenets Laika



Samoyedskaya Laika



These are the modern Yakutian Laika, in some of its many variations



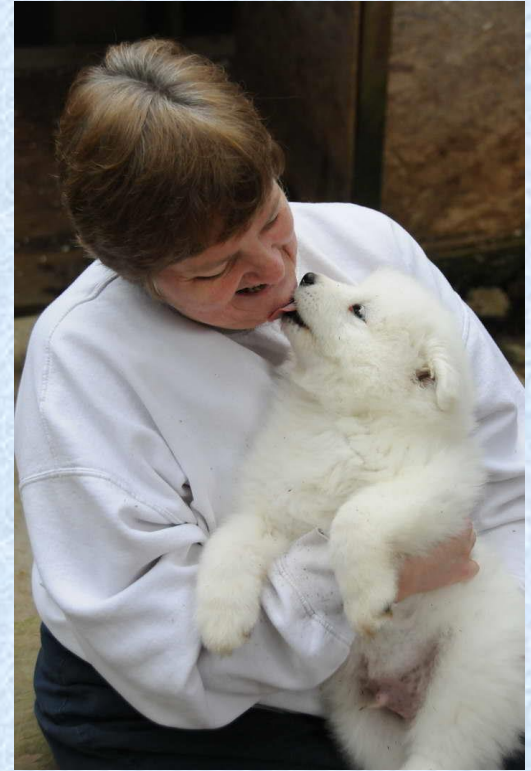
## An Introduction to your Presenters:

Patricia Cummins

I have owned Samoyeds since 1975, and bred Samoyeds since 1982. I have produced 75 Champions, including top ranked dogs that have won Best in Show and multiple Group Placements. I am a Life Member of the Samoyed Association of Canada, the Samoyed Club of America, the CKC and a CKC judge, licensed for 4 Groups (1,3, 5 & 7).

My interest in the Yakutian Laika began back in 2015, when I first saw pictures of them showing up on the Internet. After chatting with my friend, Dawne Deeley, and finding she was similarly intrigued, we decided to import first a female in February 2016, and shortly thereafter a male. Thus the first pair of Yakutian Laika came to Canada, to found the breed here.

We decided to pursue recognition of this Breed, even though they were not yet FCI recognized at the time, as we knew that recognition was pending. The Breed has been since added to AKC Foundation Stock Service in August 2017, and to FCI in September 2019. There are now breeders of Yakutian Laika all around the world, and they have now been recognized in many other countries throughout Europe, in South and Central American countries, and in Australia, and are on their way to recognition in many more!



An Introduction to your Presenters:  
Dawne Deeley:

I began my journey in showdogs in 1991, with the acquisition of my first Carelian Bear Dog; my first litter, born under the "TsarShadow" prefix was born in January 1996.

Since that time I have produced multiple champions, with titles in over 25 countries, and record-breaking BIS/Group winners. TsarShadow Carelians have taken several Top Ten Working positions, and two - MCh.

TsarShadow's Jatkosota and MCh. TsarShadow's I Speak Of War - reached top five All-breed status.

Outside of the Carelian Bear Dog I have bred Norwegian Buhunds on a very limited basis, with AmCh. TsarShadow's Ragnar Lodbrok being a BIS and multi AKC National Specialty winner.

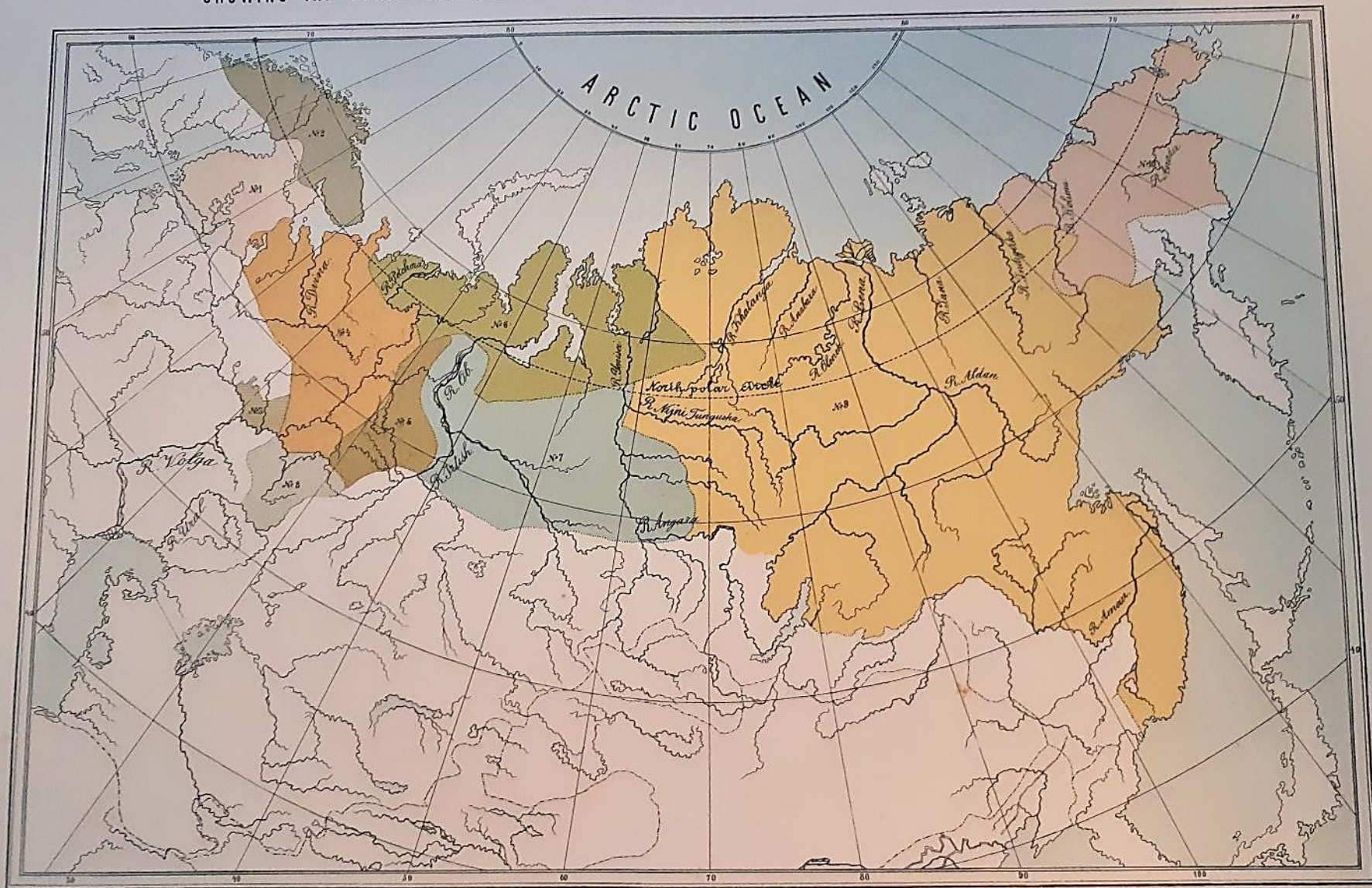


In 2015, my friend Pat Cummins and I began to investigate the Yakutian Laika, a breed that caught our interest. The first importations came soon after, and from there it has been a long but successful road to CKC recognition. The Yakutian Laika is a breed gaining in popularity the world over, and it is our hope fanciers in North America take them into their hearts and homes.

To end: I am life member of Finland's Carelian Bear Dog parent breed club, the vice president of the Swedish Vallhund Club of Canada, and a provincial director for both the American Staffordshire Club of Canada and the Wire Fox Terrier Club of Canada.

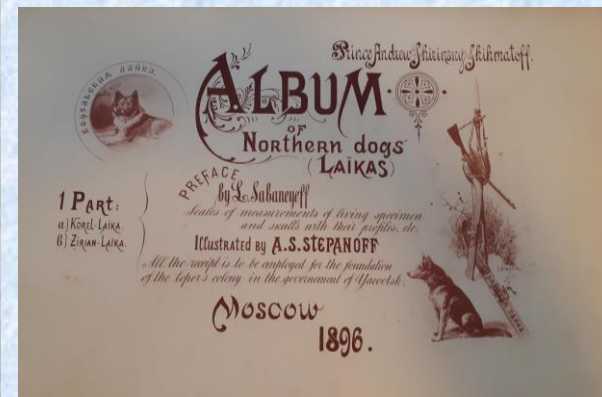
# MAP

SHOWING THE LOCAL EXTENSION OF DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF THE NORTHERN DOGS (LAİKAS)



- 1  
Inno-Nord  
Laika
- 2  
Lapland  
Laika
- 3  
Cheremiss  
Laika
- 4  
Luvian  
Laika
- 5  
Vogool  
Laika
- 6  
Samoyed  
Laika
- 7  
Ostiak  
Laika
- 8  
Bashkir  
Laika
- 9  
Tunguse  
Laika
- 10  
Chookteh  
Laika

This map comes from a book on the Northern Laikas commissioned by Prince Andrew Shirinsky-Shimatoff, published in 1896





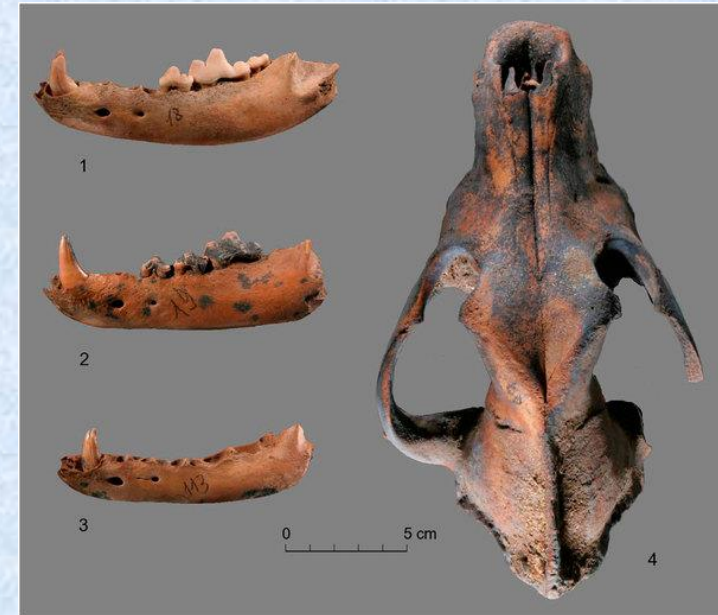


The friendship of man and dog on the territory of modern Yakutia arose a very long time ago.

## Since ancient times ...

Traces of man's connection with dogs have been found in many places in Yakutia. Two are particularly significant. In the village of Tumat in Yakutia, the mummified remains of 3 month old puppies were discovered and dated to an age of 12,500 years ago.

On the island of Zhokhov, (in the Novosibirsk Islands in Yakutia) a hunting site was discovered by St. Petersburg archaeologist Vladimir Pitulko. He found the remains of a sled, a dog harness and well-preserved dog bones. Dating by the radiocarbon method showed that the age of the finds lies in the range of 7800-8000 years. This is the oldest site in the high latitude Arctic. The world scientific journal Science recognized this finding as the very first evidence of the use of a dog for the transport of goods and, in general, the first evidence of human use of a dog for any purpose.



The first written record of the dogs in Yakutia date back to early and mid 1600's – explorers discovered the the Olenek, Yana, Indigirka, and Kolyma rivers. There, rivers were divided into either “Dog Rivers” or “Deer Rivers”: Dog rivers were those rich in fish, where one could prepare “yukola”, stockfish for dogs. Deer rivers were where it was difficult to get around on dogs and instead deer were used for transport. Life on dog rivers was more difficult, because it was necessary to constantly get food for dogs - to fish and hunt. Thus, the Cossack explorers reported, the local people living on canine rivers had no other domestic animals, other than their dogs.



Left: Published in 1692, from a book by Dutch explorer Nicholas Cornelisson Witsen, “Northern and Eastern Tartary an engraving “Methods of Yakut movement in winter”, the first image of Yakut dogs  
Right: from 1698, an image from . Semen Remezov's map of Kolyma, Yana, Indigirka.rivers, “The Siberian Drawing”.depicting dogs living on the “dog rivers”.



In 1843, "A Guide to the Geography of the Russian Empire," by Ivan Yakovlevich Pavlovsky, was published, which first described the Yakut Laika as a "special breed," which "is a necessary pet used for riding and hunting".

In the same book, it is reported that Yakut huskies were used for the "postal chase" – that is to say, delivery of mail and supplies. In 1839, in the Yakutsk region in the winter, up to 20 sledges (sledges) were used for mail from Yakutsk to Okhotsk and further to Kamchatka, "which were used to carry burdens: in the sled, harnessed, usually 10 dogs: 2 in a row on a long belt, with front eleventh. So they carry burdens from 25 to 35 poods, running up to 80 versts a day, and on light riding the same dogs ran up to 140 versts a day. "

A pood = 36 pounds+/- so 900 to 1260 pounds... a verst is 1.06 kms – so up to 148 kms in a day ...



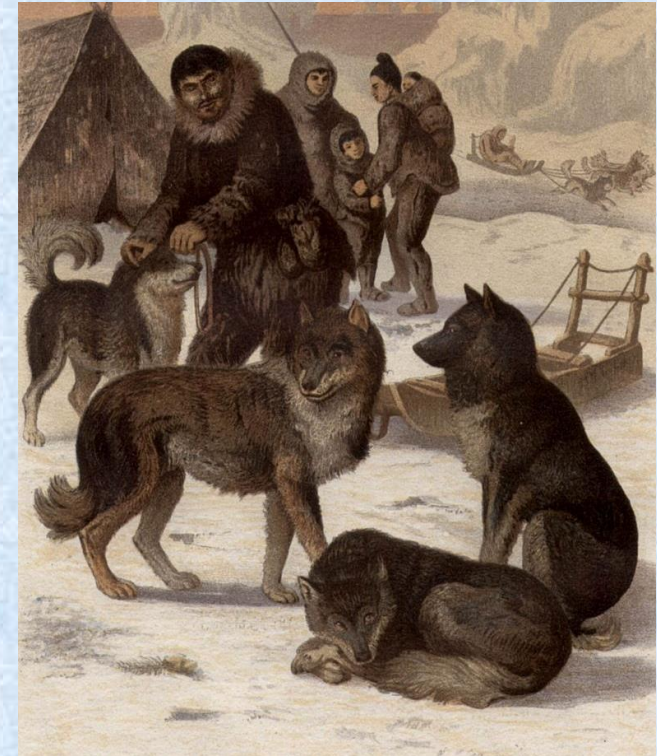
Left :  
Watercolor  
"Journey  
through  
Eastern  
Siberia"  
I. Bulychova  
1856



*Нарта съ упряжкою собакъ употребляемая въ окрестностяхъ города ОХОТСКА.*

The first description of the content and use of Yakut huskies can be found in "Review of the economic situation, statistics of the Russian Empire in 1849", compiled by Professor Gorlov, Ivan Yakovlevich :  
“Yakuts use dogs for riding and carrying heavy loads.

Right: first mention of the number of Yakut huskies in “Statistical Tables of the Russian Empire”, published by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Empire in 1856, edited by A. Buschchev: “In the Yakutsk region, 15,157 dogs are used there for riding.”



The first researcher to describe the Yakut husky in detail was Vladimir Ilyich Jokhelson. In the years 1894-1896. he studied the peoples of the Kolyma District and the northern part of the Verkhoyansk District. Jokhelson highlighted its difference from other dogs in Northeast Asia, describing them as “gray, gray-yellow, motley, that is, white with gray or black spots”, “legs are relatively thick and short; the sledding chest is well developed; the neck is thick and short. The muzzle is unusually cunning, with a melancholy or sullen expression. ”



“A sled dog,” wrote Jochelson, “makes up working cattle not only of the homeless nomads and “sedentary” river inhabitants, of Russian and Russified foreigners, but also of the majority of Yakut cattle breeders. With the exception of the southwestern part of the okrug, in each Yakut yurt you will find 5-4 dogs who carry firewood, ice and do other household work.”

“The polar dog is small in height, its height in the shoulders is 50-60 cm. It is sometimes even taller, but many sled dogs, especially in the Yakuts, amaze you with their short stature. The small growth of working dogs can, however, be explained by the same reasons why our peasants have small horses: on 5-6-month-old puppies, which are almost not fed, poor people already carry firewood and water. Wealthy owners of the dog, using the best care, always grow. In appearance, the local sled dog with its erect ears, slanting eyes, thick hair, a wide and relatively large head, a sharp muzzle and a flat tail (when she is not in the spirit, tired or eats), looks very much like a wolf.”



A special contribution to the description of the breed of the Yakut husky was made by M. G. Dmitrieva-Sulima, describing the Yakut dogs and hunting with them in her book "Laika and hunting with her" of the 1911 edition. "This dog belongs to the breed of northern dogs in quality," writes M. G. Dmitrieva-Sulima, "and inhabits the Kolyma district, or rather, the river Kolyma with tributaries.

In 1946, Edmund Iosifovich Shereshevsky published "Riding dog breeding." This book combined all the previous experience of sled dog breeding in Russia. Shereshevsky provided interesting information about the dogs of the North, their use and content. The standard was published for the first time in this book - a detailed description of the Northeast Sled Dog of the USSR, E.I. Shereshevsky combined the sled dogs of the lower Yenisei, Yakutia, Chukotka, Anadyr, Kamchatka, Sakhalin and Amur in this concept.

Dog teams were an important, and in some places even the only, type of winter transport in the northern regions of Russia. They were used not only by local residents, but also by all public services, including border troops, the postal service, and scientific expeditions. Records show, at the end of the 50s of the 20th century, there were up to 1,500 full teams of sleds in the northern uluses of Yakutia — and about 15,000 dogs. In the last thirty years of the 20th century, the proliferation of snowmobile equipment, the decline of fur hunting and local fishing led to the practical extinction of northern dogs.

From the late 40s, the number of Yakut huskies beginning to decline, partly due to mechanization in the far north (automotive equipment, aviation), as well as a decrease in the ability to keep dogs, namely, a reduction in fish catch.

In 1933, by survey, there were more than 15,000 dogs in the northern regions of Yakutia, and by 1970 there were no more than 3,000 dogs



DOSAAB of the USSR, the Main Directorate for Hunting and Reserves under the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR in March 1959 published "Standards for breeds of service, hunting and indoor dogs." Including, based on the studies of Shereshevsky E.I., Petryaev P.A., and Golubev V.G., the standard of the Northeast sledding husky was published, this standard was common for all sled dogs of northeastern Russia. This standard was the first officially approved and published dog breed standard from the North-East of Russia. The North-East riding husky standard formed the basis of the standard of the Yakutsk Laika published by the RKF in 2004



It is worth noting that that researchers of different times described this breed under different names (Alazeya Laika,, Arctic Laika, Upper Yana Laika, Kolyma-Indigirka Laika, Omolon Laika, Omsukchan Laika, Okhotsk Laika, Polar Laika, Susuman Laika, North-East Sled Dog, Tungus Laika, Chuvychan Laika, Evenki Laika, Yakutian Laika, etc.)

In 1993, the State Commission of the Russian Federation for Testing and Protection of Breeding Achievements entered the Yakutskaya Laika breed (registry number 9358072, breed / hunting (Laika), service (driving) in the "State Register of Animal Breeds Allowed for Use".

In 1998, a group of enthusiasts V.Z. Dyachkov G.P., Arbugaev S.V. , Gorodilov S.V., Sidorova L.I. surveyed the remaining population of Yakut huskies and collected suitable specimens. Together with the Yakut Republican Association of Dog Breeders, for several years, work was carried out on breeding dogs and compiling a breed standard.

In 2004, the Russian Kennel Federation reviewed the standard and adopted it





These are pictures of some of the dogs that were used as the foundation for the breeding program.

# Discussion of the Breed Standard



CKC Standard - with commentary in *Italics*

# General Appearance

General Appearance: The Yakutian Laika is a dog of medium size, strong, compact, well-muscled, with moderately long legs and thick skin with no signs of looseness. The coat is well developed and should be sufficient for living and working in severe Arctic conditions. Sexual dimorphism is clearly pronounced, males are stronger and more powerful than females.



*Commentary: a harmonious, compact dog with a short topline. Moderately broad-bodied, with a well-developed voluminous chest, with strong bones, well-developed muscles and elastic ligaments.*

*The gender type is pronounced. The male is always larger, more bony, more masculine, with more pronounced withers, a larger head and a wider, voluminous chest. Bitches tend to be more elongated, with longer sit bones of the pelvis and a more pronounced forechest. Males have a more developed coat, a better developed mane on the neck and feathering on the limbs.*

*A weakly expressed sexual type in males and females is regarded as a fault in the standard, and a male in a female type must be disqualified.*

Size:

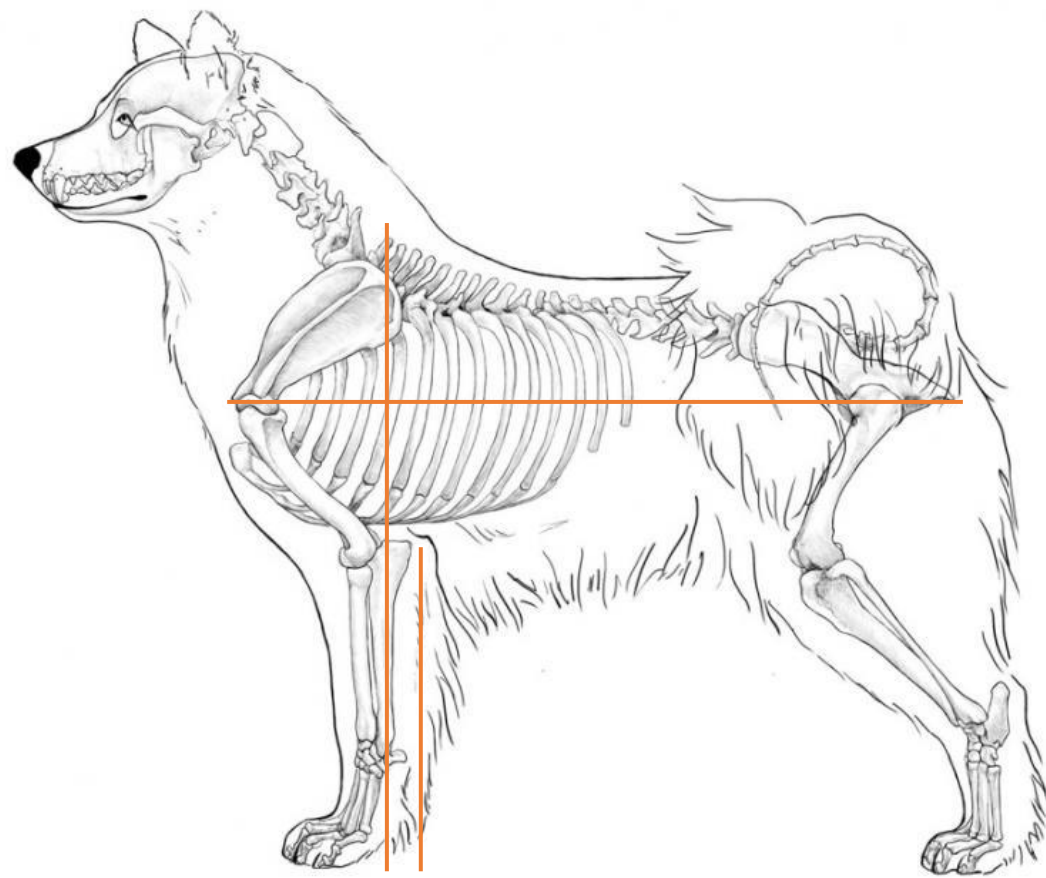
Height at withers: For Males: 55-59 cm (21.7 - 23.2in) For Females: 53-57 cm (20.9 – 22.4in)

Important Proportions:

- The length of body from the point of shoulder to the point of buttocks exceeds the height at withers by 10-15%. •
- The length of the head is a bit less than 40% of the height at withers.
- The length of the muzzle is 38-40% of the length of the head.
- The length of the foreleg to the elbow is 52-54% of the height at withers

*Commentary:*

- *Body length is measured from the anterior edge of the shoulder joint to the ischial tuberosity .*
- *The length of the head is measured from the occiput to the tip of the nose in a straight line.*
- *The length of the muzzle is measured along a straight line from the inner corners of the eyes to the tip of the nose.*
- *The length of the front leg is not quite an exact term, it refers to the height at the elbow (elbow joint) relative to the ground.*
- *It should be noted that the figures given in the Standard are largely approximate and may vary among the best modern representatives of the breed - for example, the heads of modern dogs, especially males, are longer.*



## The Head:

**Head:** Wedge-shaped, moderately pointed, proportional to dog's size.

**Skull:** Moderately broad, slightly rounded, with a sufficiently high forehead.

**Stop:** Well pronounced.

**Nose:** Large, with wide nostrils, black or brown in colour.

**Muzzle:** Well filled under the eyes, wedge-shaped, gradually tapering towards the tip of the nose. Lips: Dry, tight-fitting, well pigmented. Jaws/ Teeth: Teeth are strong, white, with complete dentition. Scissors bite or level bite. A tight undershot (without a gap) is acceptable for dogs older than 3 years.

**Cheeks:** Moderately pronounced.

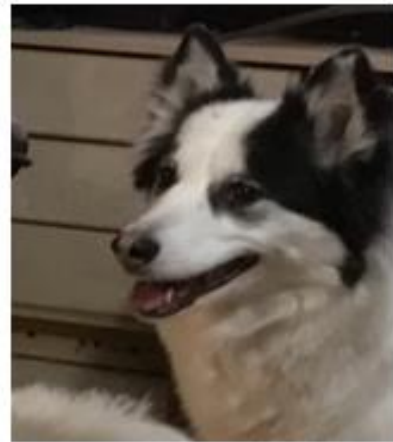
**Eyes:** Set straight and wide, but not deep; almond-shaped. Eyes colour is dark brown, or blue as well as odd eyes (one brown, one blue) or blue segments on brown iris. Dry, tight fitting eye rims matching the colour of nose. Depigmented eye rim against white background permissible.

**Ears:** Of triangular shape, set high, wide at the base, thick, erect or half-pricked. Ears covered with thick, short hair. Ears laid back while moving.



## Commentary on the Head:

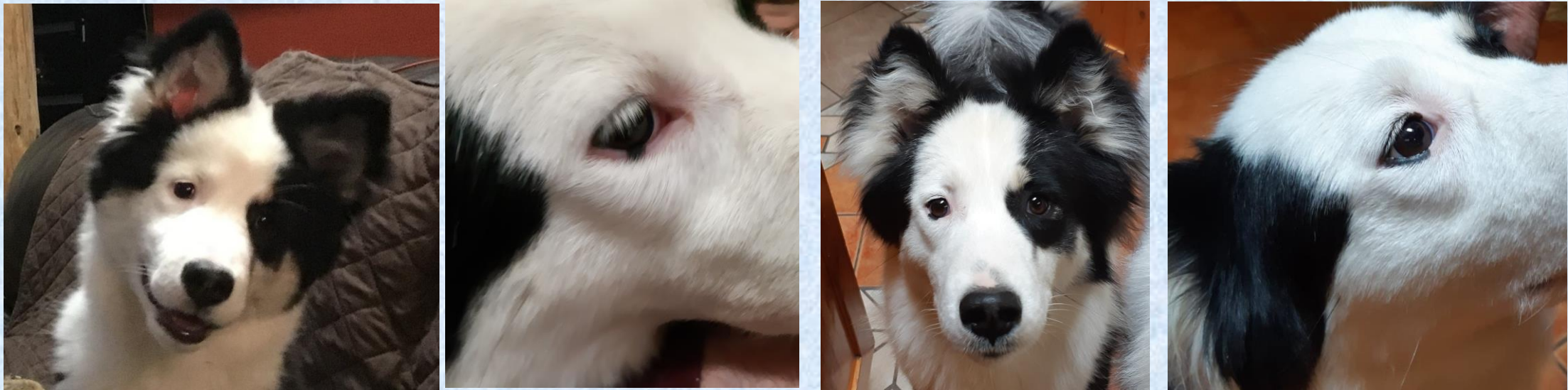
- *It should be noted that the skull of the Yakutian Laika differs from the skulls of other varieties of Laikas. It is more rounded, voluminous, but not as much as that of the Samoyeds. It is slightly arched in shape with moderately pronounced cheekbones, a high, moderately wide forehead and a pronounced transition to the muzzle. In general, the head of the Yakutian Laika is quite large.*
- *The biggest faults are a flat, domed, narrow skull; not high enough forehead, or a smooth transition to the muzzle (lacking sufficient stop).*
- *The nose of a healthy Yakutian Laika should be completely black. Often after winter, the so-called "winter nose" appears, which is associated with a partial loss of pigment under the influence of a natural seasonal factor.*
- *A brown coloured nose is normal only for brown-white and white-brown dogs.*
- *The Yakutian Laika may experience partial depigmentation of the nose. This is however, not the preferred norm.*
- *In spotted dogs, partial depigmentation of the nose, eyelids, and lips occurs, especially in white-headed dogs. Partial depigmentation generally does not affect the health and working qualities of dogs. Breeders should aim for fuller pigmentation.*
- *There is also a breed feature of the Yakutian Laika, according to which the nose, lips, eyelids are sometimes fully pigmented only by 1.5 years of age.*
- *A completely depigmented nose is rated as a disqualifying defect by the standard.*



Snow nose ... same dog—  
different seasons

*A Word on pigment ....*

*Eye rims are dry, tight fitting, pigmented or partially pigmented for light colors; color of pigment is the same as color of nose. Completely depigmented eye rims and lips are disqualifying faults, but you should not disqualify a dog for partial depigmentation. A discolored eyelid on a white background is allowed.*



*These photos show the progression of pigment filling in on the same young bitch, from 3 months to 18 months*

## Commentary:

- *The location of the eyes can tell a lot about the shape and size of the skull. If the head has the correct shape, the eyes will be quite widely spaced. If the skull is narrow, the eyes will be set too close.*
- *The eyelids are dry, tight-fitting, pigmented or partially pigmented for light colors, the color of the pigment to match the color of the nose. A discolored eyelid on a white background is allowed.*
- *Completely depigmented eyelids and lips are a disqualifying fault, but a dog cannot be disqualified for partial depigmentation.*
- *It must be borne in mind that the color of the eyes in itself does not matter much. It is necessary to evaluate the eyes as a part of the whole: shape, location, dryness, eyelid pigment and color.*
- *Eye color is dark brown, blue, as well as eyes of different colors (one brown, one blue) or the presence of blue segments on a brown iris.*
- *Preference should be given to straight and widely spaced eyes, almond-shaped, brown, hazel or blue, or multi-colored with a pigmented dry eyelid. It is worth noting that brown is preferred over blue, and dark brown is preferred over light brown.*
- ***NOTE: Eye colour should be a deciding factor only when all other considerations between the two dogs are equal.***

- *How did blue-eyed dogs come about?*
- *This question has long been of interest to researchers and dog handlers.*
  1. *Initially brought dogs from the Arctic North of Yakutia had blue eyes, they can be considered the ancestors of the breed.*
  2. *The inheritance (genetics) of blue eyes is poorly understood. The author is of the opinion that the blue eyes of the Yakutian Laika appeared quite a long time ago as a result of a mutation of unknown origin, which is currently not studied by science.*
  3. *With regard to the Chukchi and Kamchatka Laikas, Eskimo dogs and other close relatives of the Yakutian Laika, which occasionally have blue eyes, this trait is not considered desirable in these breeds. The indigenous people of Chukotka, Kamchatka, Alaska considered and still consider blue eyes in dogs to be aesthetically unpleasant and have always rejected such dogs.*
  4. *It could be assumed that the blue eyes of Siberian Huskies are due to the presence of those in northern dogs exported by Americans from Kolyma, Chukotka and Kamchatka during the late XIX -early XX centuries, which were used to breed the Siberian Husky.*
  5. *Based on the experience of researching the Kolyma-Indigirka Laika, considered as the ancestors of the Yakutian Laika, we can conclude that blue eyes do not impair its working qualities and do not affect health.*

## The Legend of the Eyes

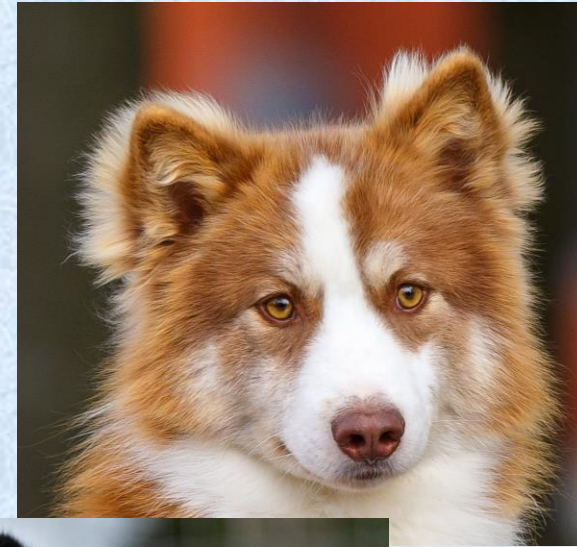
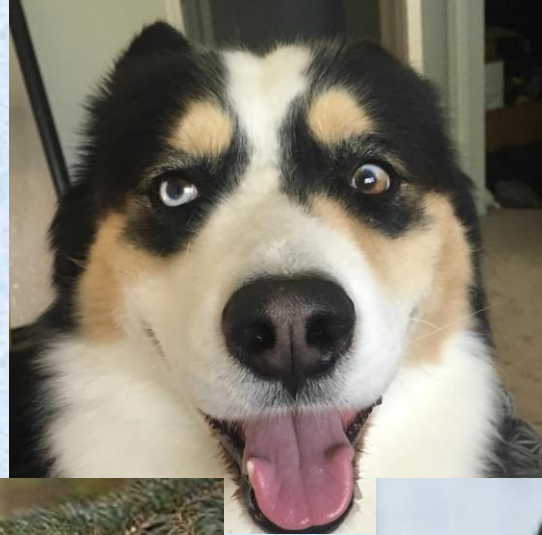
According to the legend of northern peoples, blue eyed dogs appeared when the dog looked into the frozen ocean, the cold of the ocean was so unlimited and beautiful that it penetrated the dog's heart and caught it completely, then the dog's eyes became the color of ice and ocean water.

Brown eyed dogs, according to legend, appeared when the dog looked at the fire, the flames were so warm and beautiful in the infinite cold that they penetrated the dog's soul and filled it with wild warmth, then the dog's eyes shone with fire amber.

So there were dogs with an unperturbable cold heart and ice cream eyes, and dogs with a warm soul and warm eyes, and everyone was beautiful in their own way.

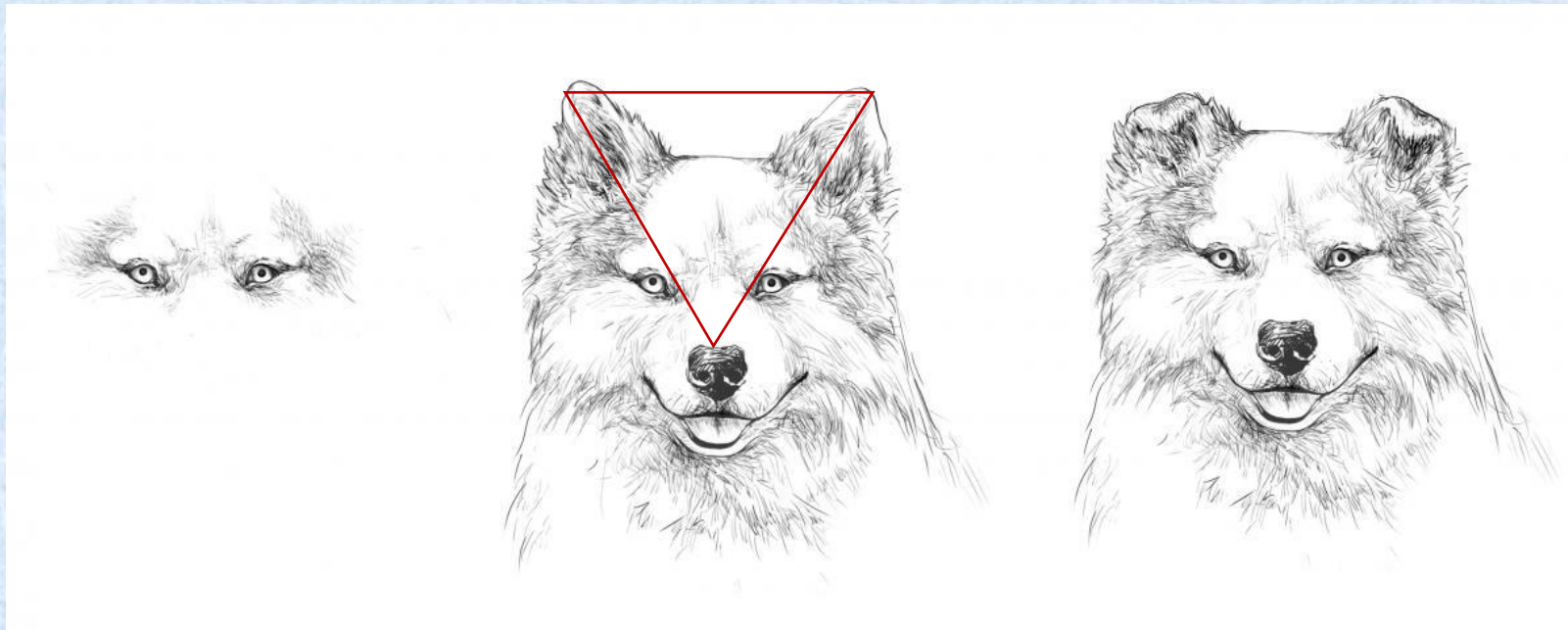
Legend has it that as a result of the union of an ice and fire dog, puppies with different eyes were born, one eye was colder than the ocean, and the other hotter than fire, these dogs absorbed both fearless coldness and the most warm goodness. Different eyed dogs in northern peoples were appreciated and revered as mystical creatures, everyone wanted to have such a dog.

Northern people believed that the combination of ice and flames brought happiness and peace in the house.



*Just a few variations in eye colour – all acceptable ...*

- *Ideally, when viewing the dog from the front, if we draw a line between the tips of the ears and the nose, we should get an isosceles triangle. The ears should be symmetrical in shape and equally set, the size should be in harmony with the size of the head and the general conformation of the dog.*
- *In practice, there are dogs with semi-erect ears; this set of ears is acceptable, but not desirable. Erect ears are preferred.*
- *The set of ears of the Yakutian Laika has a number of features characteristic of this breed:*
  - *1. The ears of the Yakutian Laika rise very late (sometimes only by 8-9 months).*
  - *2. Breeding involves dogs brought from the northern territories of Yakutia, where there is no selection of dogs on the basis of erect ears. The very fact of erect ears does not affect the working qualities of dogs.*
  - *3. Ears can be very overgrown with hair, which prevents them from standing up correctly.*





# The Body

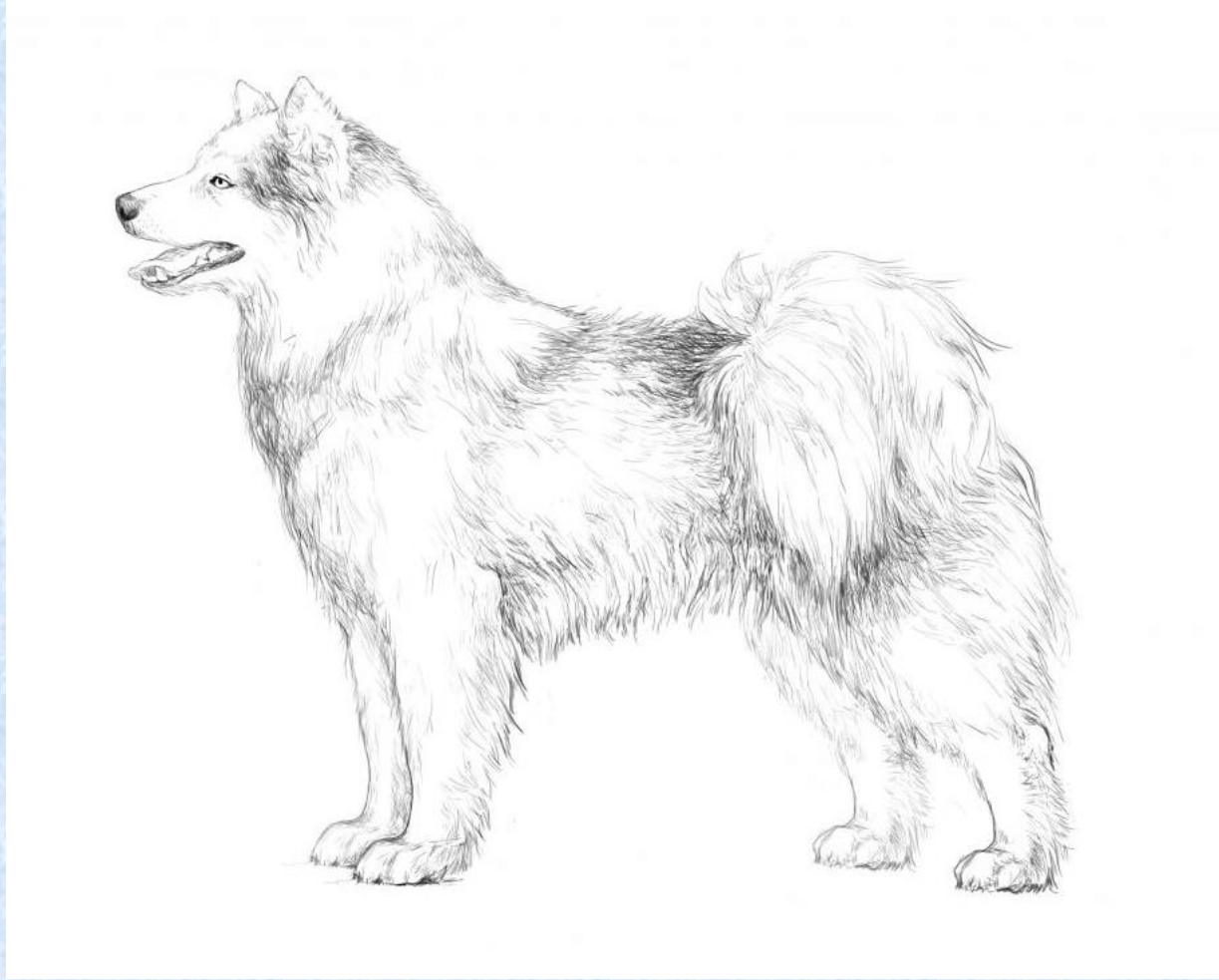
Neck: Of moderate set and length, muscular.

- *The line of the neck from the back of the head smoothly connects to a moderately pronounced withers. The dog should not have a break at the connection of the neck with the withers. A short or too long neck is a fault in a working dog. The normal angle of the neck in relation to the horizon is 45-50 degrees.*

Forequarters: General appearance: Straight, parallel, strong, very well-muscled. Shoulder: Shoulder blade sloping, of moderate length. Upper arm: Muscular, sloping, of moderate length. Elbow: Set close to body, placed well back. Forearm: Rather long, parallel. Metacarpus (Pastern): Short, strong, slightly sloping. Forefeet: Well arched, with tight fitting toes and very hard pads. Thick coat (brush) between toes. Limbs: Strong, muscular, straight, parallel.

Body: Compact. Top line: Straight and strong, with a very slight slope from moderately pronounced withers to the base of the tail. Back: Firm, wide, straight, muscular. Loin: Short, wide, muscular. Croup: Wide, muscular, long, rounded, almost horizontal.

Chest: Broad, with well sprung ribs, long and moderately deep. Underline and belly: Slightly tucked up.



Commentary and discussion:

*Body: well developed; Ribs: moderately convex. Fault: shortened or square appearance.*

*Consider that the Yakutian Laika is a dog that had to endure severe and prolonged physical exertion, and therefore pay attention to compactness of the body, development of muscles and strength of the ligaments.*

*Topline: short; moderately pronounced withers; slight slope from the withers to the tail: this is an important point of the standard of the Yakutian Laika*

*Although there is no direct indication of the length of the back in the standard, however it is an essential characteristic, since it corresponds to the length of the chest, without which the Yakutian Laika will not have the necessary volume of lungs and a strong heart located in the chest. The requirement for its large capacity is met by the length, depth and width of the chest. Excessive width of the chest would however prevent the proper forward movement of the forelimbs at the trot.*

*The short loin provides the integrity of the topline, which is necessary for the best transfer of power at a trot from the hindquarters to the forequarters. The proper development of musculature allows the lower back to best perform its function. Strength and elasticity of the loin are important qualities that prevent the appearance of a soft back. The length of the loin should be approximately equal to half the length of the back.*

*The width of the croup is determined by the width of the pelvis and the development of the muscles.*

*A wide croup with well developed sitting bones is characterized by good drive and freedom of movement. A narrow croup does not have sufficient drive power.*

*The upper part of the croup - the sacrum - is equal in length to the loin. It should be noted that the length of the croup is created by the ischial bones of the pelvis, which in females may have an additional length, which ensures their reproductive function.*

*According to the standard, the croup should be almost horizontal. The word "almost" is a very important clarification, since the Yakutian Laika's croup should not be absolutely horizontal. With a horizontal croup, the angles of the joints of the hind limbs, as a rule, are straightened, the step is shortened, and a tendency to high rear is typical. Trotting function is weakened. Thus, it is clear why the croup should be slightly sloping.*

*The chest is described as broad. The width of the chest should not be excessive, as a chest that is too wide (barrel-shaped) will interfere with the forward movement of the dog's forelegs. The chest should, however, be long.*

*A working dog needs a roomy chest to accommodate the heart, lungs, and large blood vessels.*

*The chest should reach the level of the elbows at its lowest point. In cross section, the chest has a rounded shape with moderately convex ribs. The chest should be neither barrel-shaped nor flat laterally.*

*The forechest should be moderately arched.*

*The development and volume of the chest are directly related to the endurance and strength of the working dog. Any deviation towards a deeper or shallower chest should be regarded as a disadvantage.*

*A flat or barrel-shaped chest must be regarded as a fault.*

*When viewed from the front, the limbs should be placed strictly parallel. They should never appear too close set, splayed, clubfoot, or have turned out paws and loose elbows. The position of the forelimbs should also be wide enough, which is associated with the wide chest of the Yakutian Laika.*

*The slope of the scapula and its length are very important for correct movement. The shoulder blade must be of sufficient length to allow for a long stride, i.e. a sweeping trot. In addition, the slope of the shoulder blade corresponds to the length of the withers.*

*A short, steep shoulder blade leads to a shortening of the step of the forelimbs, as well as to a decrease in the length of the withers and a deterioration in the development of the muscles of the shoulder girdle.*

*The humerus is approximately equal in length to the shoulder blade. The upper arm should be of sufficient length so that the elbows can reach the lower part of the chest. The position of the humerus is approximately 45-50 degrees relative to the horizon, that is, parallel to the neck.*

*The pasterns should be strong and short. A slight slope of the pastern provides the cushioning required when landing, which is especially important during long trots. A strong pastern tilt or long pasterns will weaken the ligaments.*

# Hindquarters

General appearance: Strong-boned and well-muscled. Seen from the rear - straight and parallel.

Thigh: Broad and muscular. Stifle (Knee): Well defined. Lower thigh: Of medium length, strong.

Hock joints angulation is well defined. Metatarsus (Rear pastern): Strong, vertical.

Hind feet: Well arched, with tight fitting toes and very hard pads. Thick coat (brush) between toes. Slightly bigger than the front feet.

## *Commentary:*

*The width of the hindquarters should not be excessive. A wide stance of the hindquarters usually results in additional loss of energy during movement. Nor should the hindquarters be too narrow.*

*It should be taken into account that the Yakutian Laika is a trotting dog, for which the reduction of energy losses in movement plays a significant role.*

*It should also be noted that there is a correspondence between the angulation of the hind limbs and the angles of the forelimbs, which ensures the balance of the dog in movement.*

*Ideally, the step of the front legs of the dog should be equal to the step of the hind legs.*



*The breed standard does not pay enough attention to the length and set of the thigh. However, this parameter is very important. The thigh should be long and sloping.*

*The femur is normally perpendicular to the pelvic bones and the hip tilt is approximately 100 degrees relative to the horizontal. This structure allows for good hip angulation and a wide hindquarter stride.*

*Normally, the correct length of the thigh can be considered such that the shoulder and hip joints are at the same level, the elbow and knee joints are also located on the same horizontal line.*

*This structure makes it possible to provide a horizontal position of the topline, in which the dog does not have to work to raise the center of gravity in motion and in which the transmission of motor impulses from the hind limbs to the forelimbs along the topline occurs in the most economical mode.*

*A short thigh tends to result in a high back.*

*The thigh connects to the lower leg and forms the knee joint, the articulation angle of which is approximately 115-120 degrees. Normally, the lower leg should be equal in length to the thigh.*

*The inclination of the lower leg should be approximately 45-50 degrees in relation to the horizontal. It follows that in the stance of the Yakutian Laika, normally, the lower leg of the outstretched leg (up to the vertical metatarsus) should be parallel to the humerus and neck of the dog.*

*The hock joint connecting the lower leg to the metatarsus should be well defined and form an angle of approximately 140 degrees.*

*When examining the dog from the side, the metatarsus should be vertical.*

*When viewed from behind, the legs should be moderately wide apart and the metatarsus should be parallel.*

*Any deviations from the vertical and parallel set of the metatarsus violate the stability and cushioning function.*

*The paws of the Yakutian Laika should be oval in shape, gathered into a ball due to tightly compressed half-bent digits. When viewed from the side, the paws of the Yakutian Laika look high, arched.*

*A loose paw with widely spaced digits does not spring well and is prone to injury.*

*A flat paw due to straightened digits loses its cushioning function, which leads to excessive stress on the joints and their injuries.*

*Hard pads and thick coat on paws perform a protective function. Severe climatic conditions in the homeland of the breed: cold, snow, ice make special demands on the paws of the Yakutian Laika; these are necessary for protection from injury and frostbite.*

*Ultimately, the paws of the Yakutian Laika should be fairly large, compact, with muscular toes and well protected by fur.*

*The standard does not mention the toenails. Naturally, based on the requirements for paws, the nails should be dense in structure, arched in shape and pointing towards the ground. At the same time, I would like to note that the color of the claws, as well as the color of the paw pads, should ideally be dark in color.*

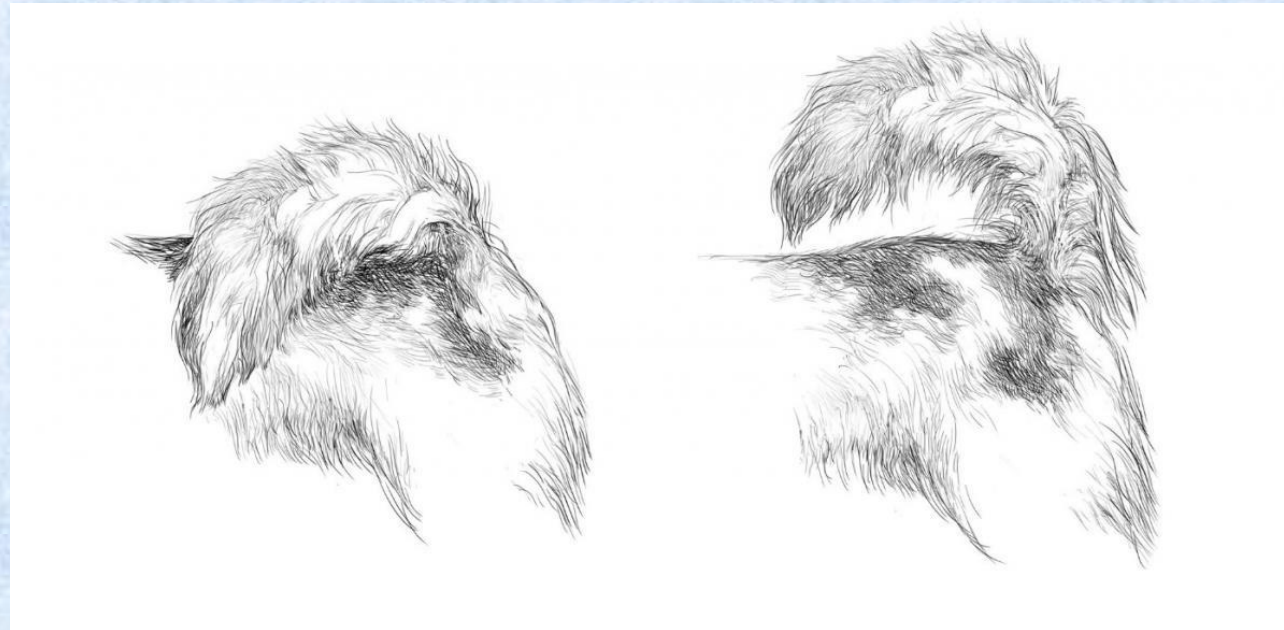


# Tail

Set high, covered with a thick furry coat, curled up as semicircle on the dog's back, sickle curve tail allowed. At rest or in long distance movement tail may hang loosely

*Commentary: The tail should be long and elastic throughout its length. It is necessary to examine the tail for the presence of creases, length and the possibility of its straightening. This requirement is due to the fact that an insufficiently elastic tail (in a tight ring) or a tail with insufficiently developed coats is prone to injury and frostbite.*

*Ideally, the tail of the Yakutian Laika should be set high and carried over the back in the shape of a half ring, a sickle-shaped tail is allowed. The tail can hang freely when running for a long time or if the dog is at rest. The main faults in the structure or set of the tail: short tail, tail kink, low set tail, tail in the form of a tight ring.*



# Temperament

The Yakutian Laika is a bold, lively, close to man, friendly, sociable and energetic dog.

*The Yakutian Laika is a bold, agile, contact friendly, sociable dog, of excellent temperament.*

*The behavior and temperament of the Yakutian Laika are very important, and manifestations of aggression or cowardice should be regarded as a disqualifying fault.*

## Size

*The correct size of the Yakutian Laika is very important.*

*The optimal height for males is 56 cm, for females - 55 cm.*

*Large, heavy or small, light dogs will not be able to work productively in a team. Large, heavy dogs will tire quickly and use a lot of energy to move. Small dogs with weak, light bones do not have good musculature and cannot exert the necessary effort for long-term work in a team.*

*At this stage in the development of the breed, we are faced with two concerns: in the first case, these are high-legged tall dogs with a flattened chest. In the second case, these are small dogs, as a rule, of a square format, with a short muzzle, round eyes and an overly round skull.*

## Gait

Fast, elastic. Characteristic gaits are brisk trot and gallop

*The Yakutian Laika is a working, driving breed, the main purpose of which is to move over long distances with minimal energy effort. They are not sprinters, and not even stayers, but marathon runners.*

*Ideally, the Yakutian Laika should move freely. At the same time, the movement of the Yakutian Laika should be light: the dog should not spend extra effort to move forward.*

*The most characteristic gait for them is the trot.*

*The trot is the fastest and most economical type of dog movement. It should be noted that the nature of the movement of the Yakutian Laika changes; if necessary, they can move to a gallop, which usually occurs at the very beginning of the movement in dogs harnessed to a sled. This gait does not last long, and after acceleration, the Yakutian Laika switch to a trot. In movement, all parts of the dog interact, and therefore the balance of all is important.*

*Poor balance, sluggish movements are a fault.*



## Coat

Hair: Thick, glossy, straight, coarse, of medium length, with very well developed thick and dense undercoat. On the neck it forms a mane, especially clearly pronounced in males; thick feathers on the back sides of the front and hind legs; the tail feathered with a small fringe. Coat is shorter on the head and front sides of the legs.

*The Yakutian Laika in its historical homeland in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) lives in harsh climatic conditions. The sharp continental climate, very cold in winter and hot in summer, while maintaining low humidity, has formed certain requirements for the coat of dogs.*

*Thick, medium length, straight, rough to the touch with a well-developed dense undercoat, it should protect from the cold in winter and from heat and insects in summer, without creating additional difficulties in caring for and maintaining the dog. Under natural conditions, mushers and owners of Yakutian Laikas do not take special care of their coat, everything happens naturally. In modern conditions, especially when keeping the Yakut Laika at home and in climatic zones that are not typical for them, one has to make certain efforts to preserve the characteristic coat of dogs.*

*Shedding in the Yakutian Laika is seasonal, and as a rule, it is pronounced. Summer wool is very different from winter in length, but it remains the same thick and rather coarse in texture.*

*The coat should not be unnecessarily long. Based on practice, the average length in males on the body is from 5 cm and up to 15 cm on the mane and feathers, and in females it is slightly shorter. Excessive hair makes the dog visually heavier and can make it difficult and difficult to care for.*

*A very important parameter is the roughness of the wool to the touch. Excessively soft wool is prone to the formation of tangles, poorly ventilated and dries out.*

*The coat of the Yakutian Laika takes a long time to form. At the age of 1.5 - 2 years, the puppy type of coat is observed in dogs: not long, soft, puffy. And only after 2 years can we finally say that a particular dog has a coat, although in bitches, the formation of the correct (adult) coat usually occurs faster.*

*Wavy, too soft, too short, with a poorly developed undercoat, are regarded by the standard as a fault, and smoothness is a disqualification.*

## Colour

White and any colour patching (bicolour or tricolour).

Commentary:

*The Yakutian Laika has a wide variety of colors, this follows from the varying degree of hair coloring, due to the formation of pigmented and non-pigmented areas of color. All Yakutian Laika carry a genetic factor for spotting, which manifests itself in varying degrees, from absolutely white to moderate spotted, in which white spots can be on the chest, paws, muzzle, nape, at the end of the tail.*

*Note that Merle is NOT mentioned.*

*All colors of Yakutian Laika can be divided according to the degree of spotting:*

- *White color with no pigmented spots on the coat*
- *Spotted - white color with separate pigmented areas*
- *Piebald - pigmented color with separate white spots*
- *Raincoat - pigmented color (a kind of piebald color) with a distinctive pattern. White muzzle with a blaze dividing the head into two parts, white collar, white throat, merging with the white chest and belly, white legs, white end of the tail*
- *Spotted-piebald - with the same number of pigmented and depigmented areas.*

*In all colors, the nose, eyelids, lips, paw pads, nails must be pigmented or partially pigmented. Particular attention should be paid to the presence of pigment in the eyelids, and lips in white-headed dogs.*

*Pigmented coat colours can be black, red, zoned (gray), tan, and cinnamon. Also on a white background (devoid of pigment) there may be specks.*

*The pattern and distribution of pigmented spots can be both symmetrical and non-symmetrical.*

*It should be noted that the most characteristic colors of the Yakut Laika are combinations of gray with white or black with white. Originally, red or brown combinations with white were extremely rare. So, in the homeland of the breed in Yakutia, for 20 years of breeding, only a few red dogs were obtained, and brown ones were not born at all.*

### *Colors*

*Spotted - white color with individual pigmented spots*

*Piebald - pigmented color with separate white spots (pezhina)*

*The extreme degree of spotting, the color is almost white. Dark spots can only be in the pigment centers*

### *Bicolor color*

*White with black spots  
white-gray,  
white-red,  
white-brown.*

*White-black with speck*

*black and piebald  
Grey-Piebald  
Red-Piebald*

### *Tricolor*

*White-black-red, white-black  
and tan,  
white-black-red with speck*

*Black-white-red,  
black and white with tan,  
black-white-red with speck*



## Фотографии якутских лаек

Зонарный окрас



Agouti shading



Черный окрас



Black colour

Коричневый окрас



Рыжий окрас



Brown colour  
Red colour

Белый окрас



White colour

Подпалый окрас



Tri -colour

Белая пятнистость



White spotted

Examples of masked  
and speckled

Темная маска на морде



Крап на белом фоне



## **Severe Faults**

- A strong deviation from the type
- Short-legged dog
- Square in body
- Flat-ribbed, shallow or barrel chest
- Poorly balanced, sluggish movements
- Wavy, soft, too short hair with a poorly developed undercoat
- Any behavioral or constitutional deviations affecting the health of the dog and its ability to perform the work traditional for this particular breed

## **Disqualifications**

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs
- Males in feminine type
- Overshot, undershot with a gap (any gap is unacceptable), wry jaw
- Total depigmentation of nose, eye rims or lips
- Any solid colour except of white
- Short (smooth) hair

This presentation is based on the CKC Standard for the Yakutian Laika.

The CKC standard was based on the FCI Standard, that was submitted to the CKC at time of application for recognition, which was in turn based on the original RKF Standard

Additional commentary and Illustrations are taken from the NCP Yakutian Laika (National Yakutian Laika Club of Russia) Illustrated Standard and are used with permission:

Commentary – Stanislav Gorodilov, FCI and RKF Judge and Breed Specialist

Illustrations – Elena Protasova

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Presentation created by Patricia Cummins, and presented by Dawne Deeley for 2022 CDJA/CKC Conference for Licensed Conformation Judges.

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Links for more information:

<http://yakutian-laika.com/>

<https://yakutianlaikaclubofamerica.org/>

# Gallery



1916 24/1  
Ревель

с рис. фр.  
мансень  
Пъзда на Эскимоскихъ собакахъ.



Ревель  
24-162  
" "

фр. мансень  
фотограф.

Эскимоская собака. ("Воро")



Упряжная Собака и нарты съ грузомъ  
охотки "Вокругъ света" с 10.09.17. 10-1-1919.



Some more interesting  
colour variations!  
All acceptable













## Gallery of Top Winning dogs – Past and Present

RUS CH, RUS JCH, 3 x CH RKF (RUS) , EAW 2015, BLR CH  
NAYKUN LESNOY VOZHD  
2014 Moscow Breed Specialty-Best Male, BOB, Club Winner  
2021 Moscow Breed Specialty – Best Veteran, CCC, BOS



March 27, 2012 -ARKTUR NORTH STAR  
Winner , breeds not recognized by FCI  
Russia "EURASIA 2012



International Dog Show Eurasia-2018,  
Pride of Russia winner  
CHIMGI TOUR ROKSOLANA



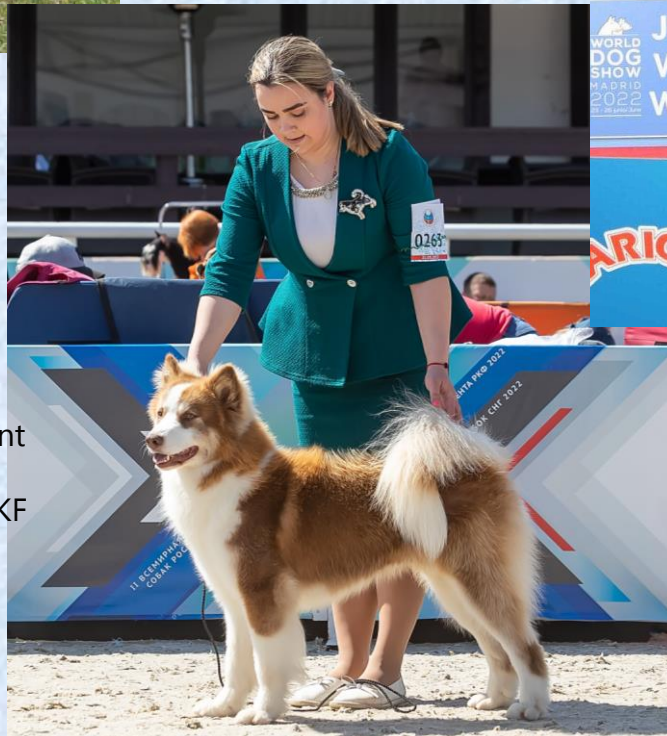
- ✿ JChRus and JChRKF
- ✿ ChRus and ChRKF
- ✿ BOS and Eurasian Winner 2022 day 1!
- ✿ BOS and Eurasian Winner 2022 day 2!
- ✿ Community of Independent States Winner,
- ✿ Eurasian Champion
- ✿ Grund Champion RKF



Zharkhan at Montigny lengrain  
France  
1st excellent  
Best male  
BOSS



2022 World show  
Junior winners



Eurasia. RKF PRESIDENT'S CUP 2022  
-Intermediate class CW, CAC, CCC, Ch RKF  
WORLD SHOW RUSSIAN BREEDS  
-Intermediate class CW, CAC, CCC, Ch RKF  
Eurasia. CIS (Community of Independent  
States) CUP 2022  
-Intermediate class CW, CAC, CCC, Ch RKF