



GROUP II: HOUNDS

NORRBOTTENSPETS

RECOGNIZED: 1993

Effective: January 2004

The breed standard outlines the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed, and ensures that a dog can carry out its original purpose. Breeders and judges should be mindful to prioritize dogs that are healthy and sound in both mind and body.

ORIGIN

Sweden

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Small, squarish spitz dog, tightly built, with dry, powerful muscles. The dog should be of a very good structure, the head carried high and fearless. The dog should be extremely mobile. Differences in body structure due to sex should be well marked. Norrbottenspets should, as a hunting dog, be attentive and daring, giving impression of alertness, activity, kindness and self-confidence. Never nervous, shy or aggressive. The ideal dog should give the impression of a typical, small spitz dog, very alert and attentive, with good anatomy and mentality.

SIZE

Ideal height: Dogs, 45 cm (17.75 in); bitches, 42 cm (16.5 in)

COAT

Hard, short, straight and rather close-fitting hair, fine and dense undercoat. Short on nose bridge, skull, ears and front of legs, longer on neck, back of thighs and underneath the tail.

COLOUR

All colours permitted. Ideal colour is white with yellow or red/brown markings.

HEAD

The head should be powerful, dry, well built and viewed from front and side wedge formed. The **muzzle** moderately long, sharply tapering. The length, half length of head or shorter. The **skull** moderately wide, **stop** well but moderately marked, the forehead slightly arched and the skull moderately flat. The superciliary arches should be well marked and the nose bridge straight. The **nose** should be black and the lips thin, dry and tight fitting. **Mouth:** Scissors bite with well-developed teeth. **Eyes:** The eyes moderately big, bright and expression calm and energetic. Dark brown. The eyes should be almond-shaped and obliquely set. **Ears:** High set, slightly over medium size and stiffly erect. Tips slightly rounded.

NECK

Moderately long, dry and muscular, with slightly arched neck, carried erect.

BODY

Back short, strong, muscular and elastic. Viewed from side, slightly sloping over the withers and then straight. **Loins** short and broad. **Croup** moderately long and broad, slightly sloping and with well-developed muscles. **Chest** moderately deep and long, the back ribs well developed. Oval-shaped viewed from front. **Forechest** well developed and well marked. Front of normal width. Viewed from side, the lowest part of chestline should reach

the underarm just below the elbow and softly fit into bellyline. **Belly** moderately tucked up. Depth of body (the vertical distance from highest point of withers to lowest point of chest) should be about half height of withers.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulder blade long and broad, with well-developed chest and muscles. Close-fitting to chest and proportionately set back. **Upper arm:** Should be the same length as shoulder blade, strong, well fitting close to chest, but permit free movements and form a marked angle with the chest. Elbows directed backwards. **Underarm:** Straight, strong bones, dry but flexible muscles. **Wrist and pastern:** Strong. The underarm forming a straight line with wrist and pastern viewed from front. The **pastern** slightly angled forward viewed from side. **Forefeet:** Small, strong, standing straight forward, well arched and closed, with well-developed, solid pads.

BODY

Croup: Proportionately long, wide and strong, slightly sloping.

HINDQUARTERS

Thighs: Proportionately long, forming a straight angle to pelvis. Strong muscles. **Knee joint:** Strong. **Lower thigh:** Forming a marked angle to upper thigh. **Hock:** Broad and strong, viewed from front and side. **Rear pastern:** Dry, elastic and rather long. **Hind feet:** As forefeet. Standing straight forward. Hind legs parallel, viewed from behind.

TAIL

Proportionately high set, carried in a fairly high curve, loosely curled with the tip of tail touching side of thigh. The length of tail should not reach below hock. Bobtail not allowed.

GAIT

Norrbottenspets should, in canter and trot, show smooth, even movements with great drive, covering the ground well. Topline must be firm. Hind legs must be parallel.

FAULTS

Any departure from the aforementioned ideals shall be considered faulty to the degree in which it interferes with the health and well-being of the dog and the breed's traditional purpose.