



GROUP VII: HERDING DOGS

SWEDISH VALLHUND

RECOGNIZED: 1995

Effective: January 2007

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 & PURPOSE

The Swedish Vallhund is considered to be one of the genuine Swedish breeds even if it is not quite clear how it is related to the Welsh Corgi. It is hard to say if the Vikings brought dogs of this spitz type to Sweden from England. Modern cynological research points to that the breed was developed in Sweden.

The honour of making the Swedish Vallhund recognized and registered as a Swedish breed goes to Count Björn von Rosen. In the beginning of the 1940s, he noticed the existence of these dogs. By making an inventory of the existing dogs in the county of Västergötland and especially around the city of Vara he found a small but evenly typed group of dogs. They were the start of a serious breeding program that was mainly in the hands of the headmaster K.G. Zettersten. He succeeded in breeding for an even type without losing the herding instinct.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

A small powerful, fearless, short-legged dog. Appearance and expression denote a watchful, alert and energetic dog.

TEMPERAMENT

The breed is watchful, energetic, fearless and alert.

SIZE

Height: Dogs, 33 cm (13 in); bitches, 31 cm (12.25 in)

**A variation of 1.5 cm (0.5 in) above or below these heights is permitted*

Weight: 9 to 14 kg (19.75 to 30.75 lb)

The relation between height and length of body should be about 2:3

COAT

Medium length, harsh, close and tight topcoat, undercoat soft and dense. The coat should be short on foreparts of the legs, slightly longer on neck, chest and back parts of the hind legs.

COLOUR

Desirable colours are grey, greyish brown, greyish yellow or reddish brown with darker hairs on back, neck and sides of the body. Lighter hair in the same shade of colour as mentioned above can be seen on muzzle, throat, chest, belly, buttocks, feet and hocks. Lighter markings on shoulders, so called harness markings, desirable. White is permitted to a small extent as a narrow blaze, neck spot or slight necklace. White markings are permitted on forelegs, hind legs and on the chest.

HEAD

Head should be rather long and clean-cut with an almost flat skull. It should, when viewed from above, form an even wedge from skull to tip of nose. Well defined stop. **Nose:** Pigmentation jet black. The **muzzle**, when viewed

from the side, should look rather square. The muzzle should be slightly shorter than the skull. **Lips:** Tightly closed. **Teeth:** Perfect and regular scissors bite with even and well-developed teeth. **Eyes:** Medium size, oval in shape and dark brown. **Ears:** Medium size, pointed, pricked and ear leather should be hard from base to tip, smooth haired and mobile. Set on not too low.

NECK

Neck should be long and strongly muscled with good reach.

BODY

Topline: Back should be level, well muscled with short, strong loin. **Croup** should be broad and slightly sloping. **Chest** should be long with good depth. Well sprung ribs. When viewed from the front, the chest should be oval, from side elliptical. It should reach two-fifths of the length of the forelegs and, when viewed from the side, the lowest point of the chest is immediately behind the back part of the foreleg. **Underline:** Belly slightly tucked up.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders should be long and well laid back. **Upper arms** should be slightly shorter than the shoulders and be set at a distinct angle. Upper arm lies close to ribs but is still very mobile. **Forelegs** should, when viewed from the front, be slightly bent, just enough to give them free action against the lower part of the chest. **Pasterns** should be elastic. Legs should be well-boned.

HINDQUARTERS

Hind legs should be well angulated at stifle and hock. The thighs strongly muscled. Seen from behind the legs should be parallel. Lower thigh slightly longer than the distance from hock to ground. **Feet:** Medium sized, short, oval, pointing straight forward with strong pads and well knuckled up.

TAIL

Two types of tail: Long tail and natural bobtail. When the dog is alert, the tail is raised but not more than in a right angle to the back.

GAIT

Sound with good drive.

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.

Note: Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.