



## GROUP III: WORKING DOGS

# YAKUTIAN LAIKA

RECOGNIZED: N/A

Effective: January 2022

*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 Yakutian Laika is an ancient native dog breed that was naturally bred by aboriginal people of the North East of Russia as a sled dog and a hunting dog. Certain archaeological discoveries confirm that the local people used dogs for sledding and hunting as far back as 8000 years ago. The first breed standard for the North East Sled Dog was adopted in 1958 and it formed the basis for the Yakutian Laika breed standard published in 2005 by the Russian Kynological Federation. For many centuries, the Yakutian Laika accompanied the northern man in everyday life, helping him to hunt, vigilantly watch his home, herd reindeers and transport goods in the severe conditions of the Far North.

These skills have glorified the Yakutian Laika as a versatile breed not only in Russia but also in many countries on different continents.

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

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, dogs are stronger and more powerful than bitches.

### TEMPERAMENT

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

### SIZE

**Height at the withers:** Dogs, 55 to 59 cm (21.75 to 22.25 in); bitches, 53 to 57 cm (20.75 to 22.5 in)

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

### 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 dogs; 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.

### COLOUR

White and any colour patching (bicolour or tricolour).

### 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 three years. **Cheeks:** Moderately pronounced. **Eyes:** Set straight and wide, but not deep; almond-shaped. Eye 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.

## NECK

Of moderate set and length, muscular.

## 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. **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. **Topline:** 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/belly:** Slightly tucked up.

## HINDQUARTERS

**General appearance:** Strong boned and well muscled. Seen from the rear – straight and parallel. **Thigh:** Broad and muscular. **Stifle:** Well defined. **Lower thigh:** Of medium length, strong. Hock joints angulation is well defined. **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.

## 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.

## GAIT

Fast, elastic. Characteristic gaits are brisk trot and gallop.

## 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.

### 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

