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## **American Eskimo Dog (Miniature & Standard)**

### **General Appearance**

The American Eskimo Dog, a loving companion dog, presents a picture of strength and agility, alertness and beauty. It is a small to medium-size Nordic type dog, always white, or white with biscuit cream. The American Eskimo Dog is compactly built and well balanced, with good substance, and an alert smooth gait. The face is Nordic type with erect triangular shaped ears and distinctive black points (lips, nose, and eye rims). The white double coat consists of a short, dense undercoat, with a longer guard hair growing through it forming the outer coat, which is straight with no curl or wave. The coat is thicker and longer around the neck and chest forming a lion-like ruff, which is more noticeable on dogs than on bitches. The rump and hind legs down to the hocks are also covered with thicker, longer hair forming the characteristic breeches. The richly plumed tail is carried loosely on the back.

### **Temperament**

The American Eskimo Dog is intelligent, alert, and friendly, although slightly conservative. It is never overly shy nor aggressive, and such dogs are to be severely penalized in the show ring. At home it is an excellent watchdog, sounding a warning bark to announce the arrival of any stranger. It is protective of its home and family, although it does not threaten to bite or attack people. The American Eskimo Dog learns new tasks quickly and is eager to please.

### **Size, Proportion, Substance**

**Size:** there are three separate size divisions of the American Eskimo Dog (all measurements are heights at withers)

**Toy:** 9 inches (23 cm) to and including 12 inches (30.5 cm).

**Miniature:** over 12 inches (30.5 cm) to and including 15 inches (38 cm).

**Standard:** over 15 inches (38 cm) to and including 19 inches (48 cm).

There is no preference for size within each division.

**Proportion:** length of back from point of shoulder to point of buttocks is slightly greater than height at withers, an approximate 1.1 to 1 ratio.

**Substance:** the American Eskimo Dog is strong and compactly built with adequate bone.

### **Coat & Colour**

**Coat:** the American Eskimo Dog has a stand-off, double coat consisting of a dense undercoat and a longer coat of guard hair growing through it to form the outer coat. It is straight with no curl or wave. There is a pronounced ruff around the neck which is more noticeable on dogs than bitches. Outer part of the ear should be well covered with short, smooth hair, with longer tufts of hair growing in front of ear openings. Hair on muzzle should be short and smooth. The backs of the front legs should be well feathered, as are the rear legs down to the hock. The tail is covered profusely with long hair. **THERE IS TO BE NO TRIMMING OF THE WHISKERS OR BODY COAT AND SUCH TRIMMING WILL BE SEVERELY PENALIZED.** The only permissible trimming is to neaten the feet and the backs of the rear pasterns.

**Color:** pure white is the preferred color, although white with biscuit cream is permissible. Presence of biscuit cream should not outweigh consideration of type, structure, or temperament. The skin of the American Eskimo Dog is pink -or gray.

### **Head**

Expression is keen, intelligent, and alert. **Eyes:** are not fully round, but slightly oval. They should be set well apart, and not slanted, prominent or bulging. Tear stain, unless severe, is not to be faulted. Presence of tear stain should not outweigh consideration of type, structure, or temperament. Dark to medium brown is the preferred eye color. Eye rims are black to dark brown. Eyelashes are white. **Ears:** should conform to head size and be triangular, slightly blunt-tipped, held erect, set on high yet well apart and blend softly with the head. **Skull:** is slightly crowned and softly wedge-shaped, with widest breadth between the ears. The stop is well defined, although not abrupt. The muzzle is broad, with length not exceeding the length of the skull although it may be slightly shorter. Nose pigment is black to dark brown. Lips are thin and tight, black to dark brown in color. The jaw should be strong with a full complement of close fitting teeth. The bite is scissors, or pincer.

### **Neck**

The neck is carried proudly erect, well set on medium in length and in a strong, graceful arch.

### Forequarters

Forequarters are well angulated. The shoulder is firmly set and has adequate muscle but is not overdeveloped. The shoulder blades are well laid back and slant  $45^{\circ}$  with the horizontal. At the point of shoulder the shoulder blade forms an approximate right angle with the upper arm. The legs are parallel and straight to the pasterns. The pasterns are strong and flexible with a slant of about  $20^{\circ}$ : Length of leg in proportion to the body. Dewclaws on the front legs may be removed at the owner's discretion: if present, they are not to be faulted. Feet are oval, compact, tightly knit and well padded with hair. Toes are well arched. Pads are black to dark brown, tough and deeply cushioned. Toenails are white.

### Body

The topline is level. The body of the American Eskimo Dog is strong and compact, but not cobby. The chest is deep and broad with well-sprung ribs. Depth of chest extends approximately to point of elbows. Slight tuck-up of belly just behind the ribs. The back is straight, broad, level, and muscular. The loin is strong and well-muscled. The American Eskimo Dog is neither too long nor too short coupled.

### Hindquarters

Hindquarters are well angulated. The lay of the pelvis is approximately  $30^{\circ}$  to the horizontal. The upper thighs are well developed. Stifles are well bent. Hock joints are well let down and firm. The rear pasterns are straight. Legs are parallel from the rear and turn neither in nor out. Feet are as described for the front legs. Dewclaws are not present on the hind legs.

### Tail

The tail is set moderately high and reaches approximately to the point of hock when down. It is carried loosely on the back, although it may be dropped when at rest.

### Gait

The American Eskimo Dog shall trot, not pace. The gait is agile, bold, well balanced, and frictionless, with good forequarter reach and good hindquarter drive. As speed increases, the American Eskimo Dog will single track with the legs converging toward the center line of gravity while the back remains firm, strong, and level.

**Faults**

- amber eye color or pink eye rims
- pink nose pigment or pink lip pigment

**Disqualification**

- Any color other than white or biscuit cream
- Blue eyes
- Height: under 9 inches (28 cm) or over 19 inches (48 cm).