



GROUP VII: HERDING DOGS

SWEDISH LAPPHUND

RECOGNIZED: N/A

Effective: January 2026

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 Lapphund has been known in the Nordic area for centuries. It is a Nordic Spitz used in the past for reindeer herding, hunting and as a watchdog by the nomadic Laplanders. Nowadays it is mainly kept as a versatile companion dog.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Typical Spitz dog of slightly less than medium size and with proud head carriage.

TEMPERAMENT

Lively, alert, kind and affectionate. The Lapphund is very receptive, attentive and willing to work. Its abilities as a good herding dog made it very useful in the reindeer trade. It is very versatile, suitable for obedience training, agility, herding, tracking, etc. It is easy to train, full of endurance and toughness.

SIZE

Height at the withers: Dogs, 48 cm (19 in); bitches, 43 cm (17 in). Allowance for +/- 3 cm (1.25 in).

COAT

Profuse double coat. Hair standing straight out from body, undercoat dense and thick. Short hair on head and on front of legs. Longer hair on brisket, backside of legs and on tail. Bushy, long and dense on tail. Forming a ruff round the neck. The coat is weather resistant.

COLOUR

Usually solid black; bronzing is typical as more or less "bear-brown" shades. White on chest, on feet and tip of tail is permissible.

HEAD

Skull: Slightly longer than broad; forehead rounded and occiput not clearly defined. **Stop:** Very well marked. **Nose:** Preferably charcoal black, very dark or in harmony with coat colour. **Muzzle:** A little more than one-third the length of the head. Foreface strong, tapering evenly towards tip of nose. Nose bridge straight. **Lips:** Close-fitting. Palate and lips strongly pigmented. **Jaws/Teeth:** Scissors bite with evenly set and well-developed teeth. **Eyes:** Set well apart, almost horizontal, round, fairly big, but not protruding. Brown, preferably dark brown and full of expression. Rims strongly pigmented. **Ears:** Triangular, broad at base, small, pricked, tips slightly rounded. Set well apart and very mobile. Tipped ears are undesirable but not a disqualifying fault.

NECK

Medium length, clean-cut and powerful.

FOREQUARTERS

Forequarters should be sufficiently angulated at shoulders and elbows to provide good reach. **Shoulder:** Shoulder blade well laid back. **Elbow:** Fitting close to chest. **Forearm:** Straight, strong and parallel, standing and moving. **Metacarpus/Pastern:** Sufficiently slanting. **Forefeet:** Strong, oval, with tightly knit toes, hardy and elastic padding; well covered with fur also between pads. Nails and pads strongly pigmented.

BODY

Rectangular body shape. Well put together, slightly longer than height at withers. **Back:** Level, strong, muscular and springy. **Loin:** Short and broad. **Croup:** Proportionally long and broad, slightly sloping and well-muscled. **Chest:** Rather deep reaching to elbow. Rib cage proportionally long and oval, with well-developed last ribs. Forechest well-developed; well-defined breastbone. **Underline and belly:** Belly slightly tucked up.

HINDQUARTERS

Well angulated, but not exaggerated, in stifle and hock joint. **Thigh:** Muscular. **Hock joint:** Low set to give power of propulsion. **Metatarsus/Pastern:** Dewclaws permissible. **Hind feet:** As forefeet.

TAIL

Rather high set, reaching to hock joint when extended. Carried curled over back when the dog is moving.

GAIT

Light and springy, covering ground, parallel with 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.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Lacking in any of the essential physical characteristics of breed type.