

Present Standard

FCI-standard;212, 09-01-1999.

Origin: Northern Russia and Siberia.

Patronage: Nordic Countries (N.K.U.).

Date of publication of the original valid standard: 22-07-1997.

Utilization; Sledge- and companion dog.

Classification F.C.I.: Group 5: Spitz and primitive types.

Section 1: Nordic sledge dogs.

Without working trial

Brief historical summary

The name Samoyed derives from the Samoyed Tribes in Northern Russia and Siberia.

In southern parts of the area they used white, black and brown parti-coloured dogs as reindeer herders; in the northern parts the dogs were pure white, had a mild temperament and were used as hunting- and sledge dogs.

The Samoyed dogs lived close to their owners, they even slept within the shelters and were used as heaters.

The British zoologist Ernest Kilburn Scott spent three months among Samoyed Tribes in 1889. Returning to England he brought with him a brown male puppy called "Sabarka". Later he imported a cream coloured bitch called "Whitey Petchora" from the western side of the Ural and a snow white male called "Musti" from Siberia.

These few dogs and those brought by the explorers are the base for the western Samoyed. The first standard was written in England in 1909.

General appearance

Medium in size, elegant, a white Arctic Spitz.

In appearance gives the impression of power, endurance, charm, suppleness, dignity and self-confidence.

The so called "Samoyed Smile", is made up of a combination of eye shape and position, and the slightly curved up corners of the mouth.

The sex should be clearly stamped.

Important proportions

The length of the body is approximately 5% more than the height at the withers. The depth of the body is slightly less than the half of the height at the withers. The muzzle is approximately as long as the skull.

Behaviour and temperament

Friendly, open, alert and lively.

The hunting instinct is very slight. Never shy nor aggressive. Very social and cannot be used as guard dog.

Head

Powerful and wedge-shaped.

Cranial region

Viewed from the front and in profile only slightly convex. Broadest between the ears.

Stop: Clearly defined but not too prominent. Slightly visible furrow between the eyes.

Facial region

Nose: Well developed, preferably black. During some periods of the year the pigment of the nose can fade to so called "winter nose"; there must however always be dark pigment at the edges of the nose.

Muzzle: Strong and deep, approximately as long as the skull, gradually tapering towards the nose, neither snikey nor heavy and square. The bridge of the nose is straight.

Lips: Close fitting, black and rather full. The corners of the mouth are slightly curved forming the characteristic "Samoyed Smile".

Jaws/teeth/bite: Regular and complete scissor bite. The teeth and the jaws are strong. Normal dentition.

Eyes: Dark brown in colour, well-set in the sockets, placed rather apart, somewhat slanting and almond-shaped.

The expression is "smiling", kind, alert and intelligent. The eyerims are black.

Ears: Erect, rather small, thick, triangular and slightly rounded at the tips.

They should be mobile, set high; due to the broad skull well apart.

Neck

Strong and medium length with a proud carriage.

Body

Slightly longer than the height at the withers, deep and compact but supple.

Withers: Clearly defined.

Back: Of medium length, muscular and straight; in females slightly longer than in males.

Loin: Short, very strong and defined.

Croup: Full, strong, muscular and slightly sloping.

Chest: Broad, deep and long, reaching almost to the elbows.

The ribs are well sprung.

Underline: Moderate tuck-up

Tail

Set rather high. When the dog is alert and in motion the tail is carried bent from the root forward over the back or side.

But may be hanging at rest, then reaching to the hocks.

Limbs

Forequarters

General appearance: Well placed and muscular with strong bones.

Viewed from the front straight and parallel.

Shoulder: Long, firm and sloping.

Upper arm: Oblique and close to the body. Approximately as long as the shoulder.

Elbow: Close to the body.

Carpus: Strong but supple.

Metacarpus (Pastern): Slightly oblique.

Feet: Oval with long toes, flexible and pointing straight forward.

Toes arched not too tightly knit.

Elastics pads.

Hindquarters

General appearance: Viewed from behind straight and parallel with very strong muscles.

Upper thigh: Of medium length, rather broad and muscular.

Stifle: Well angulated.

Hocks: rather low and well angulated.

Metatarsus: Short, strong, vertical and parallel.

Feet: As front feet. The dewclaws should be removed.

Gait

Powerful, free and tireless in appearance with long stride. good reach in the forequarters and good driving power in the hindquarters.

Coat

Hair: Profuse, thick, flexible and dense polar coat. The Samoyed is a double coated dog with short, soft and dense undercoat and longer, more harsh and straight outer coat.

The coat should form a ruff around the neck and shoulders framing the head, especially in males. On head and on front of legs, hair is short and smooth; on outside of ears short, standing off and smooth.

Inside the ears should be well furred.

On back of the thighs the hair forms trousers. There should be a protective growth of hair between the toes.

The tail should be profusely covered with hair.

The coat of the female is often shorter and softer in texture than that of the male.

The correct coat texture should always have a special glistening sheen.

Colour: Pure white, cream or white with biscuit. (The basic colour to be white with a few biscuit markings.)

Should never give the impression of being pale brown.

Size

Height at withers: Ideal height: male 57 cm with a tolerance of ± 3 cm and females 53 cm with a tolerance of ± 3 cm.

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree.

Faults

- * Visible faults in structure.
- * Light bone.
- * Males not masculine and females not feminine.
- * Pincer bite.
- * Yellow eyes
- * Soft ears.
- * Barrel ribcage
- * Double twisted tail.
- * Low on the legs.
- * Badly bow-legged or cow hocked.
- * Wavy or short coated throughout, long, soft or coat hanging down.
- * Aloofness.

Serious faults

- * Clearly unpigmented areas on eye rims or lips.

Eliminating faults

- * Eyes blue or of different colours.
- * Overshot or undershot bite.
- * Ears not erect.
- * Coat colour other than permitted in the standard.
- * Shy or aggressive disposition.

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