



Swedish Native Breed

Svensk lapphund

Swedish Lapphund

FCI-group 5
FCI-nr 135

Date of publication of the official valid standard:
10 November 2011



**SVENSKA
KENNELKLUBBEN**
HUNDÄGARNAS RIKSORGANISATION

Svensk lapphund / *Swedish Lapphund* (FCI-nr 135)



Male of excellent type



Female of excellent type



**SVENSKA
KENNELKLUBBEN**
HUNDÄGARNAS RIKSORGANISATION

Svensk lapphund / *Swedish Lapphund* (FCI-nr 135)



Excellent head
and expression
(male)

Origin



The Swedish Lapphund is an old Nordic breed and has been developed for 10 000 years by the Sami people ("Laplanders") on the mountains in the north of Sweden, as farm dogs as well as for hunting and later for herding reindeer.

According to Sami mythology the Lapphunds offered their duties to the Samis in exchange for always being well treated!

The cold and harsh surroundings in the north and the hard work the dogs endured lead to a natural selection.

Origin



*Sami children photographed
with their Lapphund*



*A Sami family around 1900, note
the Lapphund lying in front*

Unique origin

Historians and archaeologists since long agree that the Swedish Lapphund has a long lineage. There are archaeological findings proving this type of dog to be very old.

Also, modern gene technology now shows that the breed is old and to some part has a unique genetic background compared to most other breeds existing today.

History

A "Long-haired Lapphund" born 1884 had the first registered number in Svenska Kennelklubben – SKK (the Swedish kennelclub).

In 1935 the breed standard for "Laplandic Spitz" was approved by SKK.

In 1936 there were 85 Lapphunds registered. During the next couple of decades the registration numbers went down, only about 20 registered Lapphunds a year. At that time a lot of colours were allowed and in the 1930's there were many white ones, but white was later considered unwanted as they were suspected to have Samoyed background.

History

In the 1950's Baron Carl Leuhusen initiated to reconstruct the breed and together with Mary Stephens they found two Lapphunds from different parts of Sweden and started a breeding program.

In the 1960's the number of registered dogs had increased to nearly 130 a year, with about 10 active breeders.

The 1970's was the peak with about 300 registered puppies a year; 1973 was the top note in the history of the breed with 368 registered Lapphunds.

The numbers decreased during the 1990's and continued to go down during the 2000's when it was about 100 a year.



Svensk lapphund / *Swedish Lapphund* (FCI-nr 135)



1880's



1952



2000

Function

The breed is exceptionally easy to approach and has a strong will to work; two characteristics much needed when herding reindeer.

Nowadays the Swedish Lapphund is mainly a versatile companion dog, as the Sami people have found more modern ways of herding reindeer...



**SVENSKA
KENNELKLUBBEN**
HUNDÄGARNAS RIKSORGANISATION

Svensk lapphund / *Swedish Lapphund* (FCI-nr 135)



Function

The Swedish Lapphunds of today still prove themselves as herding dogs for reindeer, sheep and cattle.



Function

The Lapphund doesn't need to be as precise in their herding as for example the Border Collie. When herding reindeer they need another technique.

As reindeer have sensitive legs, the dogs can't snap at their hocks. Instead they work as barking herding dogs.

The reindeer occur in large flocks in rough country which makes it impossible to "eye" them as a Border Collie would. Instead the Lapphunds work with great authority, barking to get the animals to move in the right direction.

The Swedish Lapphund of today also needs to have the mentality to be capable to go on the snow scooter.
Preferably barking as an extra help to move the animals!

Character

- As well as being lively, alert, kind and affectionate the Swedish Lapphund is willing to learn, persistent and hard-wearing.
- They are very receptive, attentive and willing to work.
- Great family dogs but need to be activated and exercised. Also need a firm hand during upbringing.
- Nowadays the Swedish Lapphund is mainly a versatile companion dog, suitable for all types of dog activities.

General appearance

- The Swedish Lapphund is of typical spitz type.
- Rectangular, slightly less than medium size and with a good head carriage.
- The coat should give a strong protection and be weather resistant.



**SVENSKA
KENNELKLUBBEN**
HUNDÄGARNAS RIKSORGANISATION

Svensk lapphund / *Swedish Lapphund* (FCI-nr 135)

General appearance



An excellent male.



**SVENSKA
KENNELKLUBBEN**
HUNDÄGARNAS RIKSORGANISATION

Svensk lapphund / *Swedish Lapphund* (FCI-nr 135)

General appearance



An excellent female.

General appearance



Ideal type.



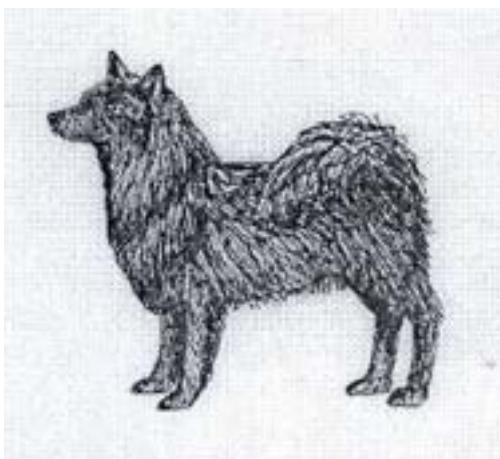
Earset not correct , not upright enough.

Not enough angulation which leads to short steps and untypical topline.

General appearance



Ideal type.



Too narrow in head, too little stop and too big ears.

Not enough bone and too high in hock.

General appearance



Ideal type.



Exaggerated coat which spoils the silhouette and proportions.

Head

- The muzzle should be slightly longer than one third of the total length of the head.
- The muzzle must not be narrow, snipey or too long.
- Very important that the stop is very well marked!
- The combination of lack of stop and long muzzle gives an :aken into



Note the excellent profile as asked for in the standard;
Proportions, rounded forehead, very well marked stop
(extra pronounced by the coat).

Head

Two excellent shaped male heads. Both very masculine, strong muzzles, very well marked stops and rounded foreheads.



The eyes slightly small, a bit light and could be rounder.



Undesirable "spectacles".

Head



Two excellent female heads.

Both very feminine, strong muzzles, very well marked stops and rounded foreheads.

Eyes

- The eyes should be full of expression.
- Round, quite big but not protruding.
- Eye colour should be brown, preferably dark brown.

Excellent dark
brown, round
eyes (males)



Ears

- The very mobile ears is a way to show different moods.
- The general appearance is affected negatively if the ears are too big.
- Tipped ears are undesirable but not a disqualifying fault.

Ears



Male with excellent ear set and ear carriage;
correctly wide set ears, good size and shape.

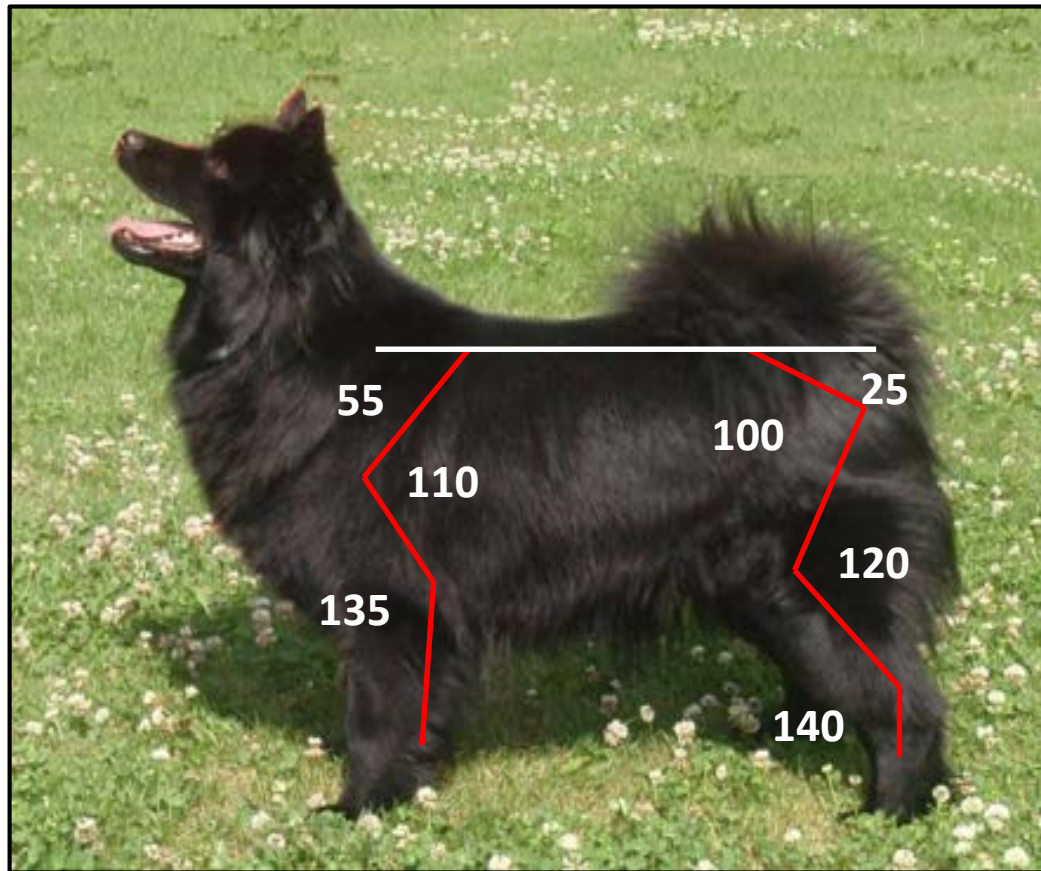
Body

- The body should be well put together, slightly longer than height at withers.
- The body must not be square.
- Too short or too long body prevents the dog from moving efficiently which affects the endurance.
- Loin should be short and broad in order for the dog to move functional.



Limbs

Both forequarters and hindquarters shall be well balanced.



Tail

When standing the tail does not need to be curled over the back.



Movement / gait

- Light and springy, covering ground, parallel with drive.
- The origin of the Swedish Lapphund was as a reindeer herder.
To be able to do this work it was necessary for the dogs existence to be persistent and to have correct, sound movement.



Svensk lapphund / *Swedish Lapphund* (FCI-nr 135)

Movement / gait



Female with well balanced, efficient movement.

Coat

- Profuse double coat.
- To make the coat weather resistant the top coat has to be standing straight out from body with dense undercoat.
- Top coat should be straight (not curly) but near the hair root the top coat should be frizzy.
- The undercoat should be finely frizzy.
- Top coat must never be soft because that would not be functional in snow or rain (wet snow will stick to soft coat).
- Excessive coat is not functional in snow or brushy woods as the dog would never be able to keep up with the reindeer.



**SVENSKA
KENNELKLUBBEN**
HUNDÄGARNAS RIKSORGANISATION

Svensk lapphund / *Swedish Lapphund* (FCI-nr 135)

Coat



Male with
excellent coat
and tail.

Colour

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



Black female with
permissible white
on chest.

Also note the
correct
rectangular
proportions.

Colour



"Bear brown" female.



Black female.

Colour

”Bear brown” shades.



”Bear brown” male
(with undesirable ”spectacles”).



**SVENSKA
KENNELKLUBBEN**
HUNDÄGARNAS RIKSORGANISATION

Svensk lapphund / *Swedish Lapphund* (FCI-nr 135)



Excellent male.



Excellent female.



**SVENSKA
KENNELKLUBBEN**
HUNDÄGARNAS RIKSORGANISATION

Svensk lapphund / *Swedish Lapphund* (FCI-nr 135)



Excellent male.



Excellent female.



**SVENSKA
KENNELKLUBBEN**
HUNDÄGARNAS RIKSORGANISATION

Svensk lapphund / *Swedish Lapphund* (FCI-nr 135)



Excellent veteran female.

Typical strong bone, excellent head and expression with correct round eyes.



Excellent female.



**SVENSKA
KENNELKLUBBEN**
HUNDÄGARNAS RIKSORGANISATION

Svensk lapphund / *Swedish Lapphund* (FCI-nr 135)



Veteran male.

Disqualifying faults

- There are no disqualifying faults in the breed standard except for those who are always mentioned in every standard;
 - Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
 - Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.
 - Untypical.

Judging the Swedish Lapphund

Important

- Head and expression; Notice the rounded eyes, well-marked stop, strong muzzle with well-developed under jaw.
- Coat quality; Profuse double coat. Hair standing straight out from body. Top coat must never be soft. Coat is a bit glossy.
- Notice the length of the sternum, some is too short.
- Swedish Lapphunds are friendly dogs. Aggressive or barky dogs is not desired. Swedish Lapphunds are often “talking” but that should not be mistaken for aggressive growling.

Judging the Swedish Lapphund

Be aware of;

- Males should be masculine and females feminine.
- Very light eyes in black dogs.
- Ears with slack tips (tipped ears).
- Tail curled or curved over the back.
- Soft, wavy or flat coat.
- Lack of undercoat.

Related breeds

Finnish Lapphund;

- are shorter in body.
- have moderate angulation.
- have matte coat.
- have stronger, a bit more compact skull and muzzle.

Lapponian Herder;

- are longer in body.
- are more angulated.
- have more elongated head, less marked stop.
- have shorter coat, even if the outer coat is of medium length or long.

Problems to take into account

- The breed is in general considered a healthy breed. The Lapphund often lives until 12–14 years of age and remain their alert temperament at their old age.
- Hip dysplasia can occur.
- They are dna-tested for PRCD PRA.
- Due to the small population (the breed practically only exists in Sweden and Norway), it is important that all puppies that are born are considered as possible breeding stock.



**SVENSKA
KENNELKLUBBEN**
HUNDÄGARNAS RIKSORGANISATION

Svensk lapphund / *Swedish Lapphund* (FCI-nr 135)





**SVENSKA
KENNELKLUBBEN**
HUNDÄGARNAS RIKSORGANISATION

Svensk lapphund / *Swedish Lapphund* (FCI-nr 135)





**SVENSKA
KENNELKLUBBEN**
HUNDÄGARNAS RIKSORGANISATION

Svensk lapphund / *Swedish Lapphund* (FCI-nr 135)





**SVENSKA
KENNELKLUBBEN**
HUNDÄGARNAS RIKSORGANISATION

Svensk lapphund / *Swedish Lapphund* (FCI-nr 135)





**SVENSKA
KENNELKLUBBEN**
HUNDÄGARNAS RIKSORGANISATION

Svensk lapphund / *Swedish Lapphund* (FCI-nr 135)





**SVENSKA
KENNELKLUBBEN**
HUNDÄGARNAS RIKSORGANISATION

Svensk lapphund / *Swedish Lapphund* (FCI-nr 135)

Svenska rasklubben för svensk lapphund



The Swedish breed club for Swedish Lapphund:
www.svensklapphund.nu