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of the Russian Kennel Federation
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STANDARD
CHUKOTKA SLED DOG



Dog teams in Chukotka village Enmelen during marathon race Nadezhda 2010

Origin: Russia, Extreme North-East of Asia

Standard publication date:

Functionality: sled dog, companion dog.

FCI classification: Group 5. Spitz and primitive types.
Section 1. Nordic Sled Dog
With working trial



Vesta, 7 years old female Chukotka Sled Dog, the first specimen of the breed to win the Champion of the Russian Kennel Federation title in 1999.

Background information

The Chukotka Sled Dog is an indigenous breed developed by indigenous people of the Extreme North East of Asia. The breed is adapted to living and working in the extreme Arctic conditions. These dogs have excellent racing qualities and can be trained easily, being able to maintain the skills over a long period of time. Because of their tough pads, they make an essential transport animal when it comes to moving across the sea ice or the hillside tundra landscape. They have a number of advantages compared to kennel developed counterparts, the most remarkable ones being a fat and protein metabolism type well suited to Arctic conditions, excellent endurance and very good performance. The presence of several well-segregated populations supplies a stable genetic resource for breeding. The main population of the Chukotka Sled Dog is concentrated in the villages of the Chukotka Peninsula where these dogs still perform their traditional functions of a hunting dog and a reliable means of transport in winter. In summer these dogs are often used for transporting loads in wheeled carts. Sports races of the past decade have demonstrated a good competition potential of the Chukotka Sled Dog, especially for long and extra-long distances.

General Appearance. Medium-sized dog with height at the withers 56-65 cm for males and 52-62 cm for females, has a slightly extended format (format index 104–109), strong build, tough composition and well-developed muscles. Skin is dense, elastic, without folds. Sexual dimorphism is not clearly pronounced.

Important proportions. Body length is superior to height at the withers by 4–9%; chest depth is slightly less than one half of height at the withers. Muzzle length is approximately equal to skull length.

Behaviour. Reaction to humans may vary from friendly to passively defensive.

Head. With massive, broad forehead and well-pronounced cheekbones. Head shape is similar to isosceles triangle.

Cranial region

Skull: broad forehead, well-pronounced cheekbones. Pronounced occiput. Length of cranial region is approximately the same as its width. Pronounced supraorbital ridge.

Stop: clear but not abrupt.

Facial region

Muzzle: wedge-shaped, slightly blunt, forehead topline is parallel to nose bridge.

Lips: close fitting.

Nose: large, black, may be of a lighter colour in animals with lighter coat. Brown coat has a matching nose colour.

Jaws/teeth: Large, white. Scissors bite, direct bite is permissible.

Eyes: oval, slanted, coloured from dark brown to light brown.

Ears. Erect, relatively small, wide set, ear shape resembles isosceles triangle, the tips may be slightly rounded. Earlobes are directed forwards, voluminous, covered with hair inside. Ears are mobile, tips are often directed outwards.

Neck. Massive, of medium length, set at 40°–45° to back line.

Chest. Broad, long, oval in cross-section. Underline should not lie below elbow.

Withers. Of medium length. Do not significantly protrude over back line.

Back. Straight, broad, strong, muscular.

Loin. Broad, strong, muscular, slightly protruding.

Croup. Long, broad, muscular, slightly sloping.

Stomach. Moderately tucked in.

Legs

Forelegs. With distinct angulation. Long and oblique shoulder-blades, shoulder joint angle is approximately 100°. Moderately long upper arms. Upright forearms. Front pasterns are medium long, well-developed, strong, slightly oblique.

Hindlegs. Upright, parallel when viewed from the rear. Are set slightly wider than forelegs, slightly retracted. Thighs are muscular, medium long. Lower thigh length is equal to thigh length. With distinct angulation. Rear pasterns are upright.

Feet. Large, round, splayed. Toes are strong and sufficiently mobile, pads skin is dense and thick.

Tail. Set lower than topline, reaches hock joint or may be longer. When the dog is at rest, hangs naturally or is slightly bent upwards. When the dog is alert, is carried above the topline as a sabre or as a semi-circle. The hair on the tail is of uniform length.

Movements. Free, easy. When the dog is moving, back and loin bend elastically, the limbs are placed far forward. Front feet are positioned close to the centre line. A typical gait is trot.

Skin. Dense, elastic, without folds.

Hair

Hair. Double coat, with well-developed coarse protective outer coat and thick water-resistant undercoat. On the body, hair is up to 6 cm long. Muzzle, forehead, ears and the front side of legs are covered with shorter dense hair. On the neck, withers and the back side of thighs, hair is longer (up to 8-10 cm) but does not form abundant collar and trousers. The longest hair is on the tail reaching 10-12 cm in length but does not form a frill.

Colours: sable grey, sable red, fawn, red, white, brown, black, spotted, dapple, black and tan. Domino pattern is common.

Size

Height at the withers: 56—65 cm for males, 53-62 cm for females.

Faults. Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault is regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and on its ability to perform its traditional work.

Serious faults:

- Light build, flabbiness.
- Rectangular format.
- Unpigmented or butterfly nose.
- No hair inside ears.
- Big, round, protruding eyes.
- Unpigmented eyelids.
- Short coat, too long coat. Underdeveloped undercoat.
- Any faults in body or limbs that prevent the dog from normal movement.
- Curly tail carried over back.

Disqualifying faults:

- Brindle, speckled patterns
- No undercoat. Long, soft, curly hair. Feathers, trousers, frill on the tail.
- Blue eyes, eyes different in colour.
- Undershot bite, overshot bite.
- Tail in tight circle.
- Non-motivated aggression to humans.

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