

Norwegian Buhund Club of America

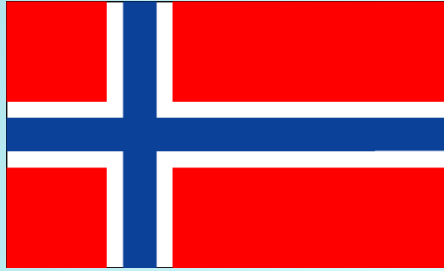


NBCA
Breed Presentation

Norwegian Buhund Club of America

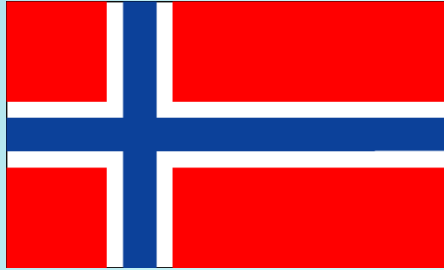
Introduction to the Breed





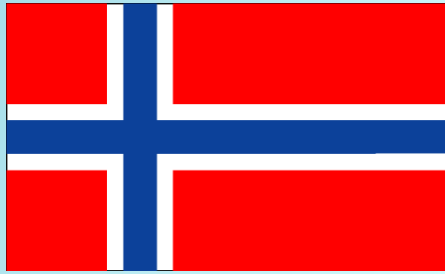
History in Norway

- The ancient Gokstad ship (900 AD) had 6 dog skeletons, 2 are similar to the modern day Norwegian Buhund.
- A number of ship graves at a rock called Bikjholberg from the Viking Age city, Kaupang in Norway contain the remains of a spitz dog similar to the modern Norwegian Buhund.
- As the custom was that only the most precious belongings should accompany the master into the grave and to Valhalla, it is quite clear that the ancestors of the Buhund were highly prized.



History in Norway

- The word "Buhund" was documented by 1698, when it was written in the "Ordsamling frå Norderhov" ; I.J. Rasmus, 1698: Buhund, faehund, canis pecuaris.
- The dog was present on nearly every farm. "Bu" means home or farm.
- The Buhund was so often seen near the Norwegian chalets, where the women lived while watching their herds grazing in the summer, that it was eventually considered the "women's dog."



History in Norway



- 1920 the breed was threatened with extinction. Jon Saeland, the Norwegian State Counsel, organized an inventory and analysis of the state of the Norwegian Buhund.
- 1926, a breed description was written in collaboration with Carl Omsted, who was the expert on Spitzdogs in the Norwegian kennel club (NKK).
- 1926 first exhibition and registry .
- 1936 first Buhund Club.





History in the United States

1983: Aud-Marie Ferstad Maroni founded the Norwegian Buhund Club of America as a Specialty Club.

1989: Mrs. Maroni returned to Norway to live and asked Mrs. Jan Barringer to replace her as President.

1990: The first Specialty as a non-AKC club. 19 Specialties were held before the breed was accepted into the AKC.



History in the United States

- 1996: The Club's registry was accepted into the AKC's Foundation Stock Service.
- 2006: Norwegian Buhunds accepted into AKC's Miscellaneous Class.
- 2009: Norwegian Buhunds accepted into the Herding Group with the NBCA as the Parent Club.
- 2010: NBCA's First AKC National Specialty in Springfield, MA

Function of the Breed: Sheep Herding



Buhunds were often sent up into the Mountains on their own to gather and fetch the sheep.

Function: Sheep Herding

Upright, loose-eyed breed that communicates with a bark

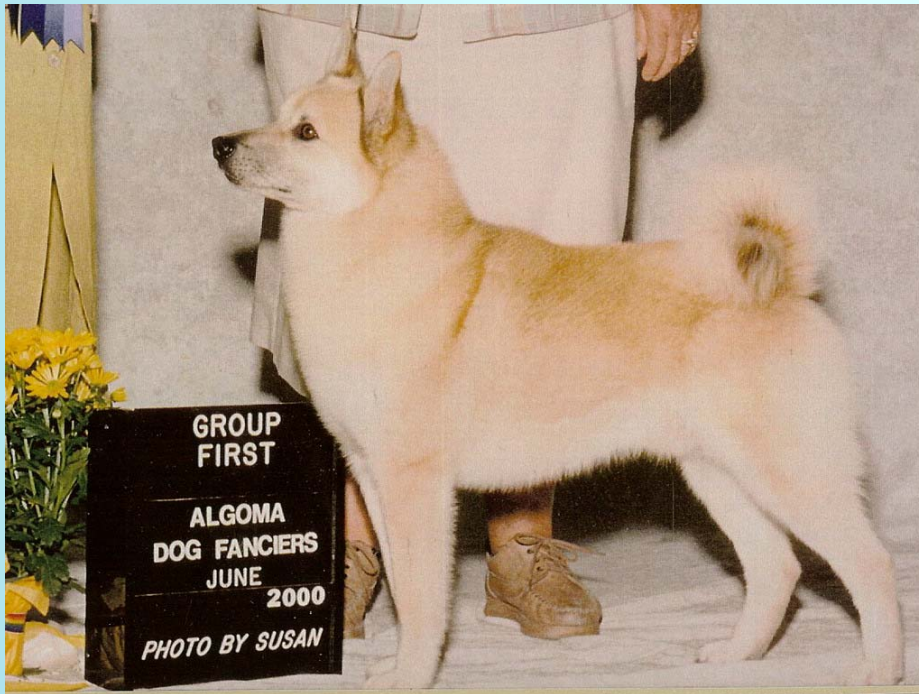


General Appearance:

The Norwegian Buhund is a square, compact breed. It is a typical Northern breed, a little under medium size and squarely built, with a tightly curled tail, set high and carried over the back. The head is wedge-shaped and not too heavy, with prick ears. Broken teeth and honorable scars incurred in the line of herding duty are acceptable.



Construction of the Norwegian Buhund



Proportion and Substance

- ▶ Robust without being 'heavy' or coarse; athletic without being too finely drawn or 'stringy'.
- ▶ Proportion: Square in profile. The height, measured vertically from the ground to the highest point of the shoulder blade equals the length, measured horizontally from the prosternum to the rear projection of the upper thigh.
- ▶ Coat can distort the proportion



Jan Ralph

Size and Height

- ▶ **Size:** Height at the highest point of the shoulder blade in dogs, 17 to 18 1/2 inches; in bitches, 16 to 17 1/2 inches.
- ▶ **Disqualifying faults:** more than a half inch under, or one inch over the height at the highest point of the shoulder blade.
- ▶ **Weight:** Dogs 31 to 40 pounds, Bitches, 26-35 pounds.

Head

- ▶ **Head:** The size of the head should be in proportion to the body and not too heavy. The skull is wedge-shaped, almost flat, and parallel with the bridge of the nose. The muzzle is about the same length as the skull, with a stop that is well defined but not too pronounced. The muzzle should be neither snipey nor too broad. The nasal bridge is straight and well filled out under the eyes. The lips should be black and tightly closed.



Teeth

- ▶ The teeth should meet in a scissors bite, with complete dentition.
- ▶ Disqualifying fault: overshoot or undershot mouth.

Ears, Nose, Eyes

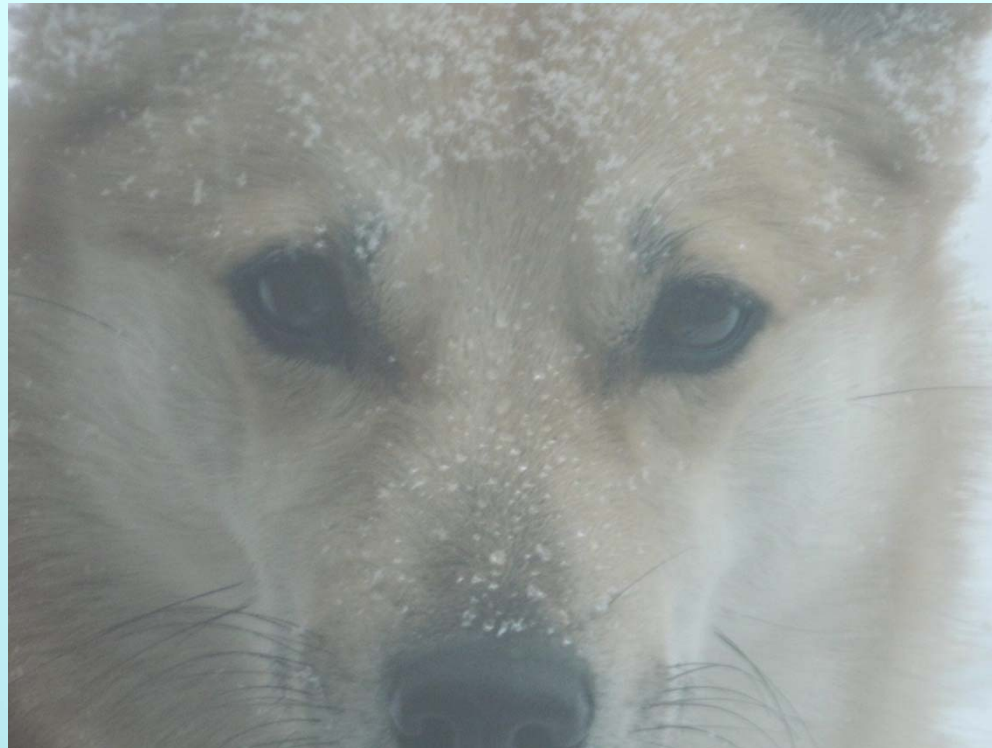
- ▶ **Ears:** Medium sized, prick ears with pointed tips, carried strongly erect yet very mobile. When relaxed or showing affection the ears go back, and the dog should not be penalized for doing this during the judge's examination.

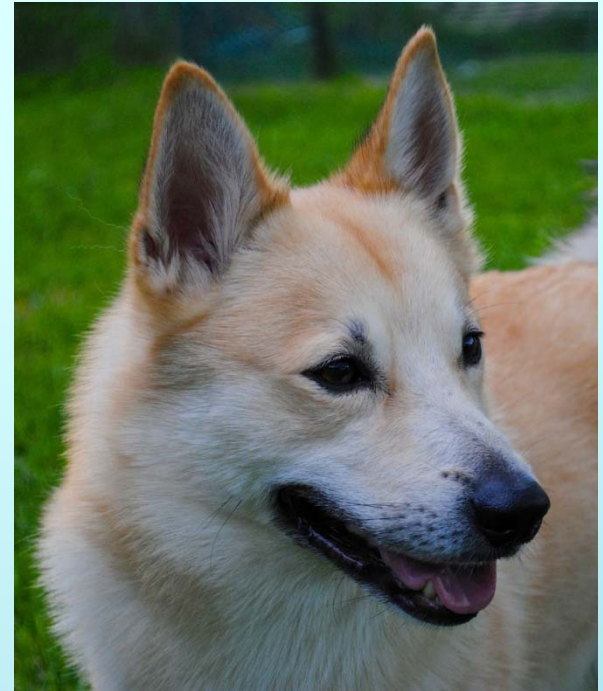
Nose: Black



EYES:

- ▶ Oval shaped, color as dark as possible, black eye rims. Good fill under the eye. Eyes must not be round or protuberant.





- ▶ Neck: Of medium length, is well set on, with no loose skin on the throat. Should not be too short or too long. A neck that is too long will distort the appearance of a square, compact dog.
- ▶ Topline: The back is level; croup with as little slope as possible.
- ▶ Body: Chest deep, ribs well-sprung. The chest should be well-developed with good depth, with the underline moderately tucked up.
- ▶ Tail set high, tightly curled and carried over the center line of the back.



Keep in Mind:

- ▶ Tails should be well-curled, carried high. Looser curls are very common, and are not as serious a fault as a sloping croup with low tail set.
- ▶ Tails of a Buhund should follow the "3 T's": Tight, Tidy and relatively Thick.





There should be plenty of butt behind the tail.
With the tail curled tightly curled over the back.





- ▶ Forequarters: Shoulders moderately sloping, elbows well set, turned neither in nor out; legs substantial but not coarse in bone, legs seen from the front appear straight and parallel; pastern seen from the side moderately sloping; feet oval in shape with tightly closed toes, feet turned neither in nor out.
- ▶ There should be no "paddling" in the gait.



Sturtmoor Photography

Keep in Mind:

- ▶ Toes of a Buhund should follow the "3 T's": Tight, Tidy and relatively Thick.
- ▶ Toes (feet) need to be compact, tight and oval in shape. Thin, splayed or 'flat' feet should be strongly faulted.

Hindquarters

Hindquarters: Moderate angulation at stifle and hock, upper thigh powerful, well muscled; lower thigh well muscled, seen from behind legs are straight and strong, feet same as above.



Coat

- ▶ The coat should be a medium length, the harsh outer coat laying relatively flat to keep the soft dense undercoat dry. The coat should never appear to be fluffy or open.
- ▶ The coat on the head and front of the legs is comparatively short. The coat on the neck, chest and back of thighs is longer.

Color

- ▶ **Color: Wheaton:** (any shade from pale cream to bright orange) With or without dark tipped hairs; as little white as possible; black mask acceptable.
- ▶ **Black:** Preferably without too much bronzing; with as little white as possible. Areas where white is permissible: a narrow white ring around the neck, a narrow blaze on the face, a small patch of white hairs on the chest, white feet and tip of the tail.

Colors



Gait

- ▶ Gait: The action is free and effortless. The topline remains level while moving. Sound movement is essential for working ability.

Carriage and Movement in the Norwegian Buhund



Carriage and Movement

- ▶ “Side movement is a big focus in the breed, truly great propulsion, PRIDE and carriage, perfect coordination with one engine as opposed to one motor in each leg. We would rather give something on coming and going than sacrificing the side gait and balance.” (Espen Engh)

Carriage and Movement

- ▶ Movement should be clean coming and going, and converging towards the centre.
- ▶ This is a single-tracking dog, and wide double-tracking, though common, should be faulted.

Carriage and Movement

- ▶ Good Buhunds are confident and extremely self-possessed; they conduct themselves with purpose, and move in a way that shows no hesitancy.



Carriage and Movement

- ▶ This breed **MUST** be shown in working condition; judges would do well to penalize a soft, flabby or out of shape specimen.
- ▶ There is little to add pertaining to this breed's movement; those judges accustomed to watching Nordic varieties will quickly acquaint themselves with the Buhund's straightforward manner of travel.

Carriage and Movement

- ▶ Breed-appropriate speed is a brisk, swift trot
- ▶ He must NEVER be strung up; as his rate of travel increases, the Buhund will often lower his head slightly.



Disqualifying Faults

- ▶ Faults: The foregoing description is that of the ideal Norwegian Buhund. Any deviation from the above described dog is to be penalized to the extent of the deviation.
- ▶ **TWO** Disqualifying Faults:
 1. More than a half inch under, or one inch over the height at the highest point of the shoulder blade.
 2. Overshot or undershot mouth.

Character of the Norwegian Buhund



Character

- ▶ Temperament: Self confident, alert, lively, and very affectionate with people.
- ▶ Known as "The Friendly Spitz"



Character

- ▶ His character is truly courageous, energetic and friendly – willing and amenable.
- ▶ He is an absolutely honest little dog of tremendous heart, and possesses an unquenchable drive to 'make things right'. It is no exaggeration to say he is the dog world's best kept secret.



Character

- ▶ Shyness, timidity, fear, dullness and aggression are enough by themselves to exclude a Buhund from being considered for any formal award.
- ▶ Inter-male displays of temper should be viewed on their merit (sometimes boys will be boys), but ANY Buhund who attempts to bite a person or goes after an otherwise innocent animal bystander should be eliminated forthwith.

Character

▶ The very best Norwegian Buhunds regard the show ring as a party to which all new and old friends have been invited. While handler control is, by the rules, necessary, I beg you not to penalize the entry who simply can't stop a wagging tail, or one that stamps his feet with impatience that you haven't made up your mind. His ears are highly mobile and it is quite common for them to be constantly swiveling, even down; you should only 'ask' him for them once, then it is back to work for your inquisitive little entry.

Buhund Traits



Teamwork - they were bred to work together with or without a human present to gather the flock. This teamwork is applied to other tasks and problem solving.

Let me in!



This is a social breed that prefers to be with its people. Norwegian Buhunds do not like to be alone.

Buhund Traits

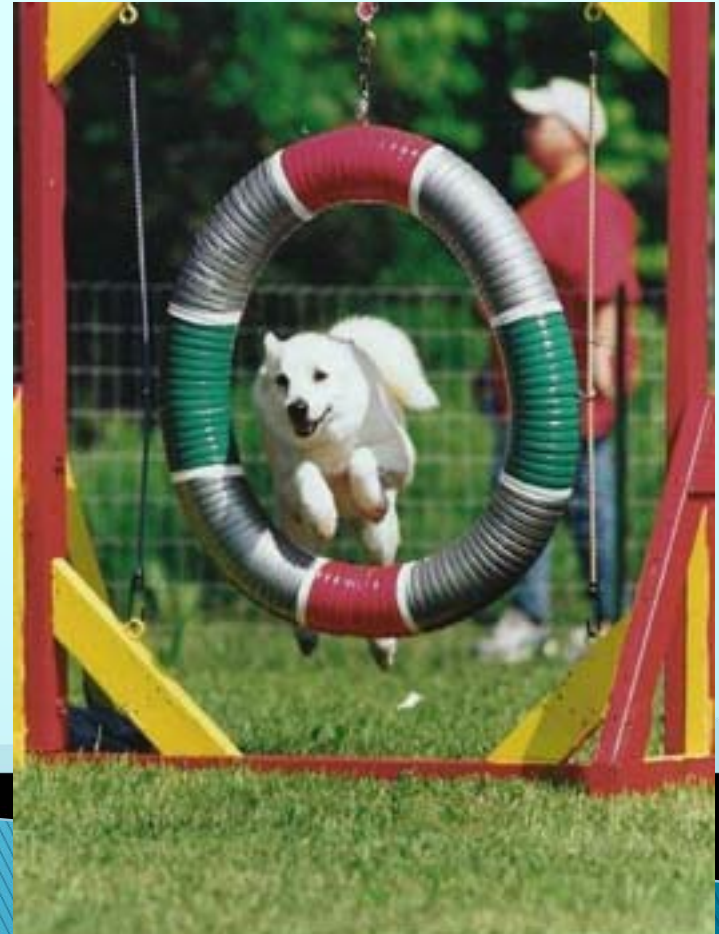
- ▶ Norwegian Buhunds are vocal and brave but not aggressive. They are excellent watchdogs.
- ▶ They also have the northern traits of great energy, the desire for human companionship.
- ▶ These dogs are in tune with owners, communicating with various noises and body language.
- ▶ They are highly trainable.

Keep in Mind:

- ▶ The Norwegian Buhund is an ancient, but very rare breed, and has been declared in danger of extinction by the Norwegian Kennel Club (NKK).
- ▶ This breed is not a “cookie-cutter” breed. There will be some variety in size and certain characteristics—head shape, for instance may have some variability.
- ▶ Moderation in all things makes a good Buhund.
- ▶ Choose the best representative of the breed standard while not allowing serious faults.



Agility



Puppies



Club Resources

NBCA Approved Mentors

Else Turner rob480@comcast.net

Lisa Donnelley caredig116@comcast.net

Additional Resources

NBCA Website

www.buhund.org

AKC Judge's Guide

http://www.akc.org/judges/guides/norwegian_buhund/standard.cfm

Comparative Discussion

<http://judgesl.com/Buhund/Buhund.htm>

Other information:

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Our Thanks

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And the many committed Buhund owners who submitted photos, without reservation, for our use.



**The Norwegian Buhund
Club of America
Thanks You
for attending our
Judge's Education!**

