



**Fédération
Cynologique
Internationale**

For Dogs Worldwide



FINNISH SPITZ

(FCI General Committee, Helsinki, October 2013)

(FCI Show Judges Commission, Cartagena, February 2013)

Finnish Spitz

- ← *FCI Group 5 SECTION 2.4 (Nordic Hunting Dogs)*
- ← *Breed number 49*
- ← *Date of publication of the official valid standard 23/11/13*



Points to be discussed

- History and origin
 - Work and character
 - Breed Standard
 - Typical and less typical points
 - Disqualifying points
 - Judging the breed
 - Related breeds
 - Problems to take into account
 - Use pictures from typical and less typical dogs and points
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History of the breed

- developed from natural stock, dogs of this type have always been used for all-game hunting in Finland
 - breed register started 1890 with typical dogs of mainly unknown parentage collected from around Finland and Karelia
 - first breed standard established in 1892
 - first bird-hunting trial in 1897
 - 1979 the National dog of Finland
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History of the breed

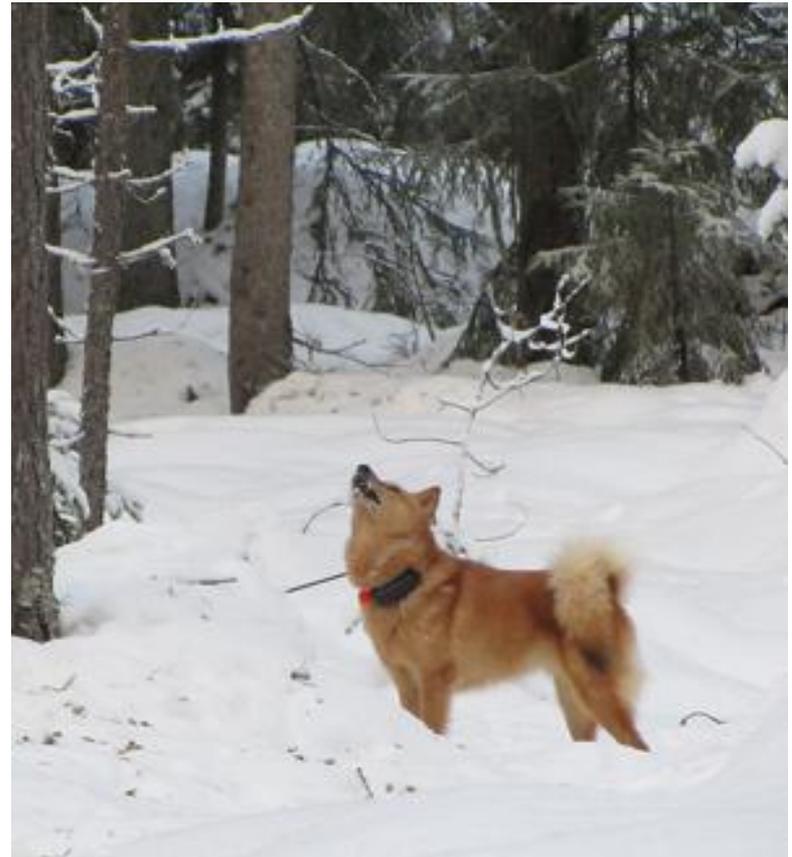
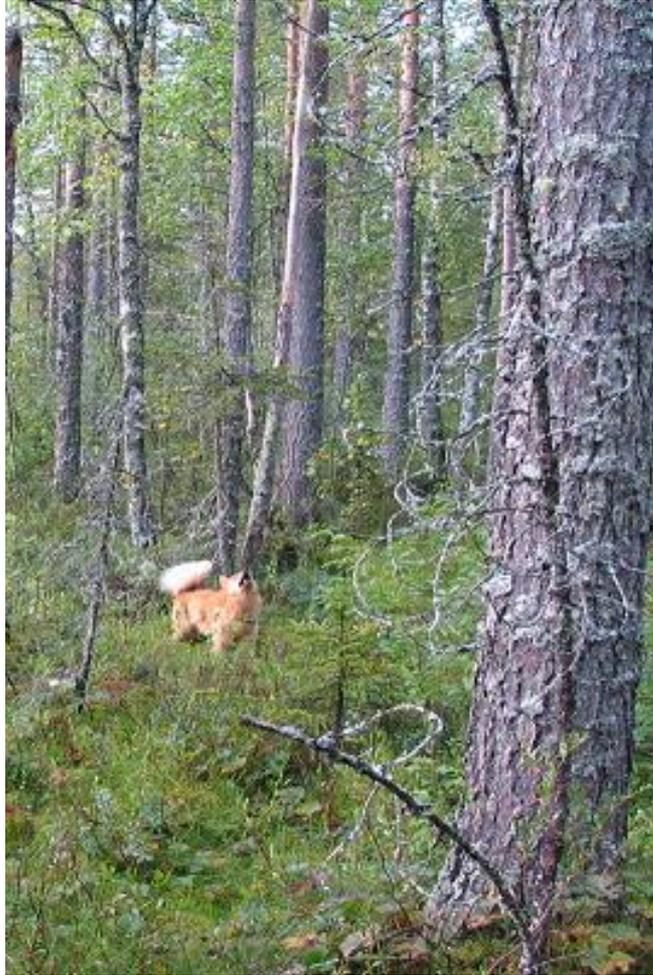
- originally all-game hunter, since 1892 mainly game birds
 - used to keep the hunter and his family in food and to earn money through hunting. Also a guard.
 - an eager hunter working independently but co-operatively to game, it has been preserved and stabilised in type and purpose for future generations
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Work and character

- a hunting dog mainly for forest game birds, also predatory small game, water-fowl and elk.
- independent hunter, yet works co-operatively to game, marking game by barking
- The structure and characteristics have been dictated by its work



Work and character



Work and character



Work and character

- loyal but independent, lively, brave and determined - its characteristics have been maintained partly through hunting trials for both bird and elk
- sensitive – never to be handled harshly; possibly a little reserved towards strangers, but never timid or in any way vicious or aggressive towards people

Breed standard

- NO distinction between a show and working dog as regards to type or size



A show and working Champion – MVA KVA

Breed standard

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

Smaller than medium sized, almost square.

In conformation lean, firm and carries himself well.

- dogs and bitches clearly differentiated –
- dogs should look masculine without being heavy or coarse,



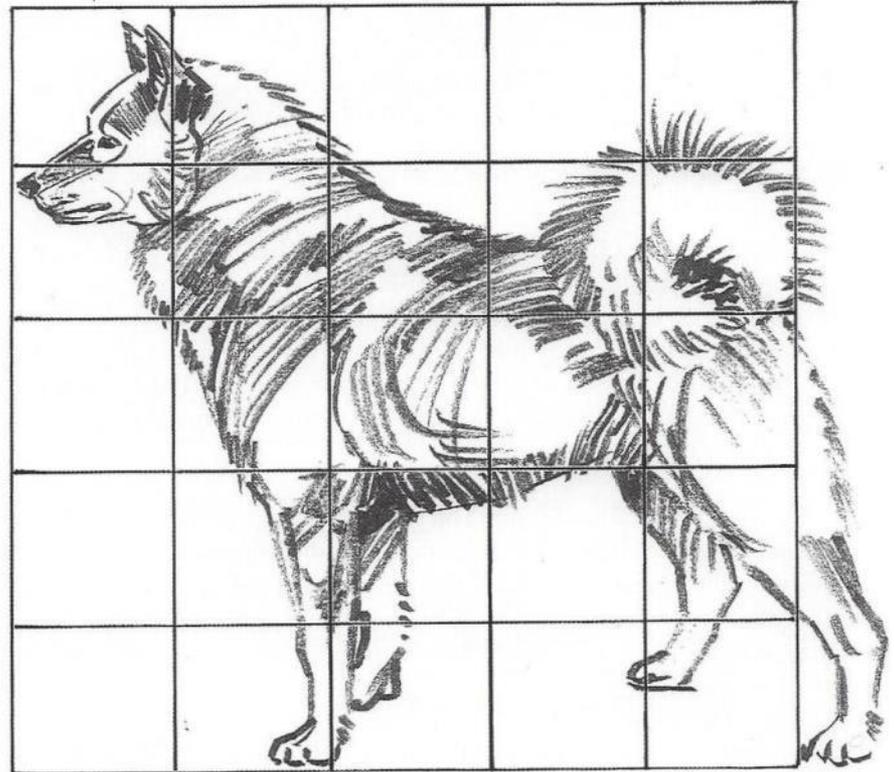
bitches feminine while not appearing to be frail

Breed standard

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS:

- The length of the body is the same as the height at withers.
- The depth of the chest is slightly less than half of the height at withers
- The ratio between the muzzle and skull is approximately 3:4.
- The skull is a little broader than long, the breadth is the same as depth.

piirros: Martti Arko



Breed standard

BEHAVIOUR AND TEMPERAMENT:

Lively, vigorous, brave and determined.

Possibly a little reserved towards strangers, but never vicious

- should not look withdrawn or afraid or keeps his tail down and no Finnish Spitz should ever be aggressive



Breed standard

CRANIAL REGION:

Skull: Viewed from above egg-shaped broadening gradually towards the ears, broadest between the ears. Viewed from the front and in profile the skull is slightly convex. The upper axes of the skull and muzzle are almost parallel. The frontal furrow is very shallow. The superciliary ridges and the occiput are slightly visible

- the forehead and skull are only slightly domed
- a profile of straight line, stop and straight line is not correct
- both an excessive “domed” skull and, at the other end of the scale, the “flat” head spoil the expression.



Breed standard

Stop: Moderate

- *a steep stop is a fault that spoils the correct expression of the head*
- *the forehead should be slightly convex, but not too much*
- *head must have a sufficient range of features to clearly establish the dog's gender even at a distance*

A handsome
male head



A beautiful female head

Breed standard

FACIAL REGION:

Nose: Rather small, jet-black

- no change in the colour of the nose is allowed in ANY circumstances. It is always black

Muzzle: Viewed from above and in profile evenly tapering, rather narrow, not fleshy. The nasal bridge is straight. The lower jaw is clearly defined.

- lower jaw is clearly defined but not over emphasised



Breed standard

Lips: Tight, rather thin and close fitting. Good pigmentation.

- no hint of lippiness or pendulous flews

Jaws/teeth: The jaws are strong.

The teeth are well developed and symmetrical; 42 teeth, according to the dentition formula. Close fitting scissor bite.

- healthy, strong jaws should merge into the lines of a beautifully featured muzzle
- a lightweight or too short bottom jaw are not desirable.

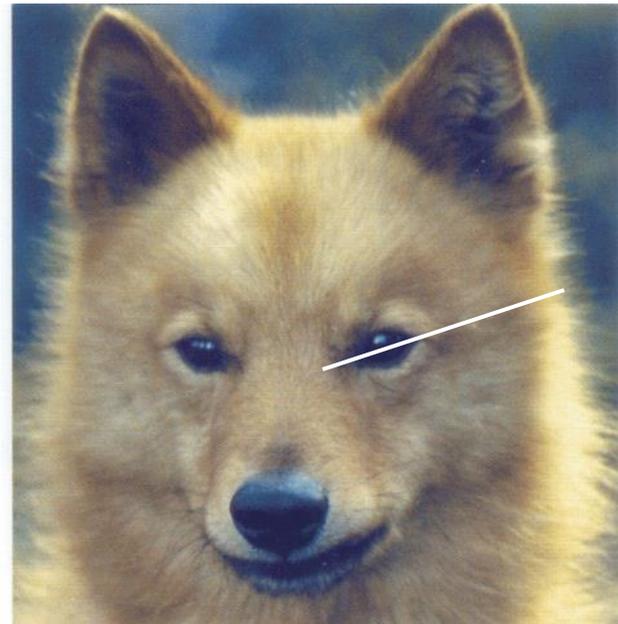
Cheeks: The zygomatic arches are slightly emphasized.

- flat cheeks give a narrow general expression

Breed standard

Eyes: Medium sized, almond shaped, slightly oblique and preferably dark. The expression is lively and alert.

- a light eye is a serious fault
- other faults are:
- round, large, or protruding eyes
- eyes consisting of two colours
- small 'button eyes'
- narrowed (slit) eyes
- the eyelids should be tight to the eye
- note: the black pigment in the eyelids can appear from a distance to increase the size of the eyes

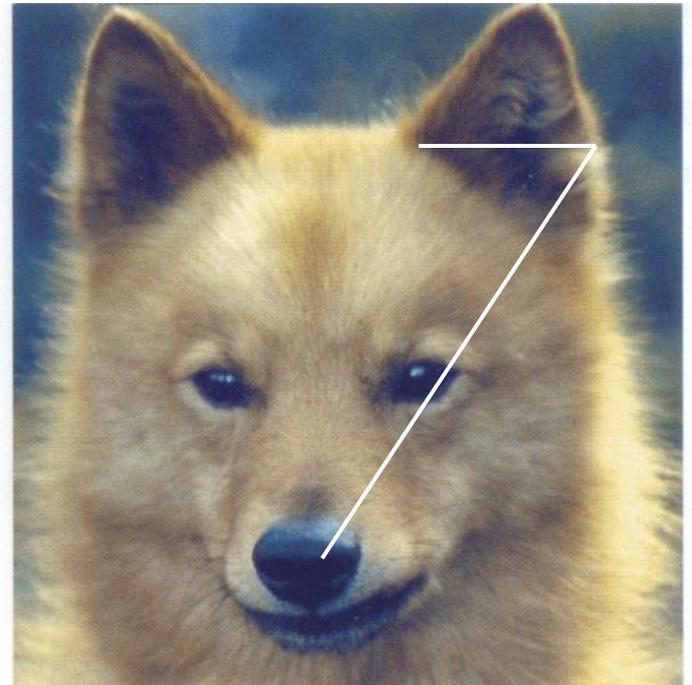


Breed standard

Ears: Set rather high, always erect. Rather small sized, pointed, very mobile and covered with fine hair.

ears are very important and subject to many faults:

- too big
- round tips
- set too high or too low
- lean too far forward
- curl slightly backwards.
- on the inside thick very fine and soft, too little or short hair or hair that is too long.
- bent or drooping ears are very serious faults.



Breed standard

NECK: Muscular; it appears to be rather short in males due to the thick ruff, of medium length in bitches. Throat without dewlap

When standing with the head held high and proud, the neck makes an important contribution to the general appearance of the breed



Breed standard

BODY:

dogs should be square, bitches usually about 1 cm longer in the body

Withers: Clearly defined, especially in males.

Back: Rather short, level and muscular

Loin: Short and muscular.

Croup: Of medium length, well developed and slightly sloping

When the slope of the pelvis is correct dogs use their hindquarters better on the move and will achieve greater speed and endurance as required for their work

Chest: Long, reaching almost to the elbows, not very broad. The ribs are slightly arched; the fore chest normally developed, not very prominent.

Underline and belly: Slightly tucked up



Breed standard

TAIL: Curved forward from the set-on tightly along the back, down- and slightly backwards pressed against the upper thigh, the tip of the tail reaches in the middle of the upper thigh. When straightened reaches approximately down to the hocks.

A special feature of the Finnish Spitz is its 'crown', its splendid tail and the quality of the tail must be retained.

- It is a fault if the tail is loose from the set-on leaving a 'hole' in the arch above the back
- the tip of the tail when it is at its longest and best reaches all the way to the end of the trouser hair
- this is better than a tail which, even though well arched at the beginning and long enough, drops straight down without a continuing curve
- it should not be too curled



Breed standard

FOREQUARTERS: General appearance: Viewed from the front straight and parallel. The bones are of medium strength. The upper arm is a little shorter than the shoulder blade and the forearm.

Shoulders: Firm, very mobile and not very oblique.

If a dog has poor musculature, the shoulders will stand out from the chest wall and not appear to be an integral part of the forequarters.

Upper arms: A little shorter than the shoulder blade. Slightly sloping and strong.

Elbows: Placed in front of a vertical line drawn from the point of shoulder; pointing straight backwards.

Forearms: Rather strong, vertical.

Metacarpus (pastern): Of medium length, only slightly sloping and flexible.

A slight slope and tight, flexible wrist joints enable light, smooth movement and help to prevent injury to the dog on rocky or hard terrain.

Forefeet: Roundish, so-called cat feet. Toes tight and well arched. Pads elastic, always black, the sides covered with dense hair.

Breed standard

HINDQUARTERS: General appearance: Strong, viewed from behind straight and parallel, moderate angulation. The bones are of medium strength. The upper thigh is slightly longer than the second thigh.

when a Finnish Spitz finds himself in a strange situation he stands with his hind legs turned out. This position illustrates that he is poised for action

Upper thigh: Of medium length, rather broad with well developed muscles.

Stifle: Pointed forward, moderate angulation.

Second thigh: Muscular.

Hocks: Moderately low, moderate angulation.

a high hock is for speed, a low hock saves more energy and is good for endurance.

A Finnish Spitz requires an explosive speed in order to follow the bird, which it has forced to fly. It must also be able to work all day and this requires endurance. This is why its hocks have developed into a 'moderately low'

Metatarsus: Rather short, strong and vertical.

Hind feet: A little longer than the front feet, otherwise similar.

Breed standard

GAIT: Light, effortless and covering the ground. Changes easily from trot to gallop, which is the most natural style of movement. The legs move parallel. When rushing after game explosively fast.

As the Finnish Spitz is a busy dog the most typical movement for him is the gallop. In the show ring he is moved at the trot. His trot is fast, light and clearly effortless illustrating a harmonious balance of speed, power and stamina.



Breed standard

SKIN: Tight overall without wrinkles.

COAT:

Hair: Rather long on the body, semi-erect or erect, stiffer on the neck and back.

On the head and the legs, except the back of the hindquarters, short and close-lying. The stiff hair on the shoulders, especially in males is noticeably longer and coarser. On the trousers and on the tail the hair is long and dense. The undercoat is short, soft, dense and light in colour.

the top coat should be semi-erect when supported by the under coat. The coat must not be too flat, wavy, curly or felted, nor should it part on the back. The skin must not be visible when you brush the coat the wrong way with your hand



Breed standard

Colour: The hair on the back is red- or golden brown, preferably bright. A lighter shade inside the ears, on cheeks, throat, chest, belly, inside the legs, back of the thighs and on the tail. A small white spot on the chest and small white markings on the feet are permitted.

The basic colour has always been described as red. The colour must not be a dull single shade. There should always be brightness and lighter shades present including the 'harness' on the shoulders. A small white marking on the chest is permitted but not encouraged. Black is as serious a problem as white. It is sometimes seen on the under jaw which is sometimes disturbingly all black (and should be the same red as the muzzle).

Sometimes a few hairs on the withers have black tips. This is not desirable and should in any case be VERY few. Totally black hairs are not acceptable.

SIZE: Height at the withers: Males 44-50 cm, females 39-45 cm. Ideal height: males 47 cm, females 42 cm.

It is a fault if a Finnish Spitz gives the impression of being overweight or of being too heavy in bone.

Breed standard

FAULTS:

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 and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and on its ability to perform its traditional work.

missing teeth (excluding the premolars 1)

NOTE:

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

Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

Disqualifying points

- aggressive or overly shy
 - any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities
 - other than erect ears
 - other than black nose
 - eyes bright yellow or wall eye
 - overshoot or undershot mouth
 - kinky tail
 - large white markings on the chest and/or a white sock
 - colours differing clearly from the basic colour
 - wavy or curled coat
 - height at the withers more or less than given in the standard
 - several missing teeth
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In the opinion of the country of origin of the breed the major faults that the judges have to be aware of are:

- missing teeth
 - black hairs
 - white markings
 - faults with the clarity of the colour
 - faults with the tail
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Judging the breed

- Judging according to the FCI standard
 - Judging in awareness of the function of the breed.
Is the dog still fit for its original function and is the judge convinced that this dog can move, breathe and live in a normal way?
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Related breeds

- The Finnish Spitz has not been developed using other breeds. It was a natural breed and good specimens were collected from around Finland when the breed was registered
 - It is closely related to the Nordic Spitz and probably the Karelian Bear Dog
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Problems to take into account

Health problems:

- the breed can have a problem with patella luxation, partly due to lack of angulation in the knee. Finnish Spitz should have medium angulation.
- there can also be a serious problem with a lack of premolars. The judge should always check the premolars and make a note of any missing when writing the critique. In addition attention should be paid to the fact that occasionally the exhibit will have a too fine lower jaw.

Problems to take into account

Behavioral problems:

- Females, in particular, will on occasion be shy. This makes it quite difficult to go over them.
 - In the case of males, they can be dominant and reluctant to allow the checking of teeth and testicles.
 - In both cases use of the measure may also be difficult
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Problems to take into account

Movement and other problems

- If dogs are over-angulated they may plait at the trot and do not move in a direct line.
 - Under-angulated dogs take too short a stride and the movement is stilted.
 - Both of these cases occur to some extent.
 - Other problems associated with the breed are too much white and
 - eyes that are too light in colour and judges should pay attention to this.
 - Sometimes an exhibit will have a coat that is too long. This occurs most commonly as over-long tail feathering.
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