



## GROUP II: HOUNDS

# NORRBOTTENSPETS

RECOGNIZED: 1993

Effective: January 2004

*The breed standard outlines the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed, and ensures that a dog can carry out its original purpose. Breeders and judges should be mindful to prioritize dogs that are healthy and sound in both mind and body.*

### ORIGIN

Sweden

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

Small, squarish spitz dog, tightly built, with dry, powerful muscles. The dog should be of a very good structure, the head carried high and fearless. The dog should be extremely mobile. Differences in body structure due to sex should be well marked. Norrbottenspets should, as a hunting dog, be attentive and daring, giving impression of alertness, activity, kindness and self-confidence. Never nervous, shy or aggressive. The ideal dog should give the impression of a typical, small spitz dog, very alert and attentive, with good anatomy and mentality.

### SIZE

**Ideal height:** Dogs, 45 cm (17.75 in); bitches, 42 cm (16.5 in)

### COAT

Hard, short, straight and rather close-fitting hair, fine and dense undercoat. Short on nose bridge, skull, ears and front of legs, longer on neck, back of thighs and underneath the tail.

### COLOUR

All colours permitted. Ideal colour is white with yellow or red/brown markings.

### HEAD

The head should be powerful, dry, well built and viewed from front and side wedge formed. The **muzzle** moderately long, sharply tapering. The length, half length of head or shorter. The **skull** moderately wide, **stop** well but moderately marked, the forehead slightly arched and the skull moderately flat. The superciliary arches should be well marked and the nose bridge straight. The **nose** should be black and the lips thin, dry and tight fitting. **Mouth:** Scissors bite with well-developed teeth. **Eyes:** The eyes moderately big, bright and expression calm and energetic. Dark brown. The eyes should be almond-shaped and obliquely set. **Ears:** High set, slightly over medium size and stiffly erect. Tips slightly rounded.

### NECK

Moderately long, dry and muscular, with slightly arched neck, carried erect.

### BODY

**Back** short, strong, muscular and elastic. Viewed from side, slightly sloping over the withers and then straight. **Loins** short and broad. **Croup** moderately long and broad, slightly sloping and with well-developed muscles. **Chest** moderately deep and long, the back ribs well developed. Oval-shaped viewed from front. **Forechest** well developed and well marked. Front of normal width. Viewed from side, the lowest part of chestline should reach

the underarm just below the elbow and softly fit into bellyline. **Belly** moderately tucked up. Depth of body (the vertical distance from highest point of withers to lowest point of chest) should be about half height of withers.

#### FOREQUARTERS

**Shoulder blade** long and broad, with well-developed chest and muscles. Close-fitting to chest and proportionately set back. **Upper arm:** Should be the same length as shoulder blade, strong, well fitting close to chest, but permit free movements and form a marked angle with the chest. Elbows directed backwards. **Underarm:** Straight, strong bones, dry but flexible muscles. **Wrist and pastern:** Strong. The underarm forming a straight line with wrist and pastern viewed from front. The **pastern** slightly angled forward viewed from side. **Forefeet:** Small, strong, standing straight forward, well arched and closed, with well-developed, solid pads.

#### BODY

**Croup:** Proportionately long, wide and strong, slightly sloping.

#### HINDQUARTERS

**Thighs:** Proportionately long, forming a straight angle to pelvis. Strong muscles. **Knee joint:** Strong. **Lower thigh:** Forming a marked angle to upper thigh. **Hock:** Broad and strong, viewed from front and side. **Rear pastern:** Dry, elastic and rather long. **Hind feet:** As forefeet. Standing straight forward. Hind legs parallel, viewed from behind.

#### TAIL

Proportionately high set, carried in a fairly high curve, loosely curled with the tip of tail touching side of thigh. The length of tail should not reach below hock. Bobtail not allowed.

#### GAIT

Norrbottenspets should, in canter and trot, show smooth, even movements with great drive, covering the ground well. Topline must be firm. Hind legs must be parallel.

#### FAULTS

Any departure from the aforementioned ideals shall be considered faulty to the degree in which it interferes with the health and well-being of the dog and the breed's traditional purpose.