



**Fédération
Cynologique
Internationale**

For Dogs Worldwide



Karelian bear dog

Breed by Breed Education

(FCI Show Judges Commission, Cartagena, February 2013)

Karelian bear dog



Karelian bear dog

- ← *FCI Group 5 Breed number 48*
- ← *Date of publication of the official valid standard
23/11/2013*



History of the breed

- The Komi dog is considered to be the origin of the breed
- The basic stock dogs originates from the Ladoga's Karelia and Olonets, where they were used for all different types of game hunting, especially bear hunting
- Fairly young breed, 45 dogs were found and saved before and during the second World War
- First dog was officially registered in 1946

Work and character

- Hunting dog, mainly used for big game such as moose, bear, lynx, and wild boar hunting
- Holds the game still, marking its location by barking, can run tens of km's after a game
- Well balanced, courageous and persistent, sometimes even stubborn, very independent
- Self-confident, may be reserved towards other dogs but never towards people
- Common breed in Finland

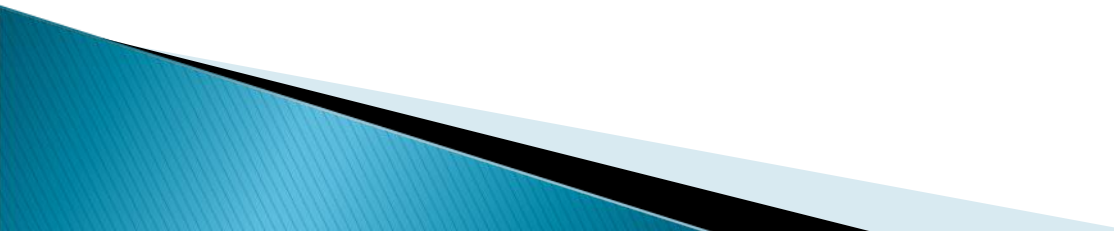


Breed standard

- Medium sized, spitz-type dog with dense coat
- Robust conformation, strong, only slightly longer than the height at the withers



Breed standard

- The length of the body is only slightly longer than the height at the withers. The depth of the body is about the half of the height at the withers
 - The ratio between muzzle and skull is approximately 2:3
 - The length of the skull is about the same as its breadth and depth
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Breed standard

- Head: When viewed from the front triangular in shape, not very long
- Skull: Broad; viewed from the front and in profile slightly convex. Broadest between the ears. The frontal furrow is barely visible
- Stop: Not very pronounced, rather long, arched gradually towards the skull. The superciliary ridges are only slightly developed



Breed standard

- Nose: Large, black in colour
- Muzzle: Deep, tapering only slightly towards the nose. The nasal bridge is straight
- Lips: Rather thin and tight
- Jaws / teeth: The jaws are very strong. The teeth are well developed and symmetrical; 42 teeth, according to the dentition formula. Close fitting scissors bite
- Neck: Muscular; of medium length, arched and covered with profuse hair

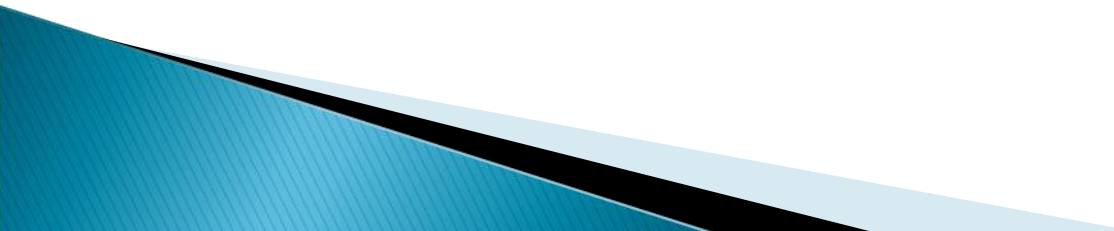


Breed standard

- Cheeks: The zygomatic arches are well developed
- Eyes: Rather small, slightly oval. Brown of different shades. The expression is alert and fiery
- Ears: Erect, set rather high, medium sized with slightly rounded tips



Breed standard

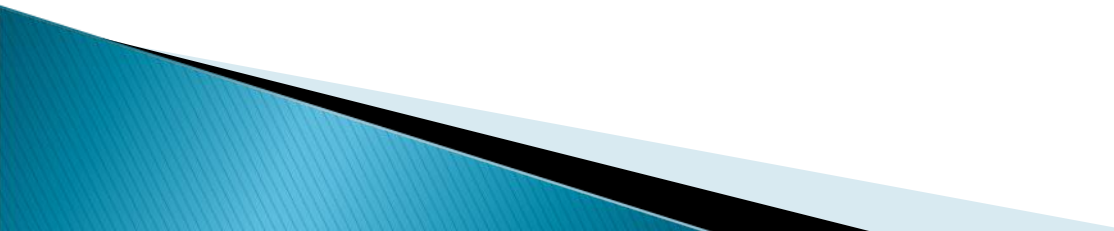
- Withers: Clearly defined, especially in males
 - Back: Level and muscular
 - Loin: Short and muscular
 - Croup: Broad, strong and slightly sloping
 - Chest: Spacious, not very broad, rather long, reaching approximately to the elbows
 - The ribs are slightly arched; the forechest clearly visible, yet not protruding
 - Under line and belly: Slightly tucked up
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Breed standard

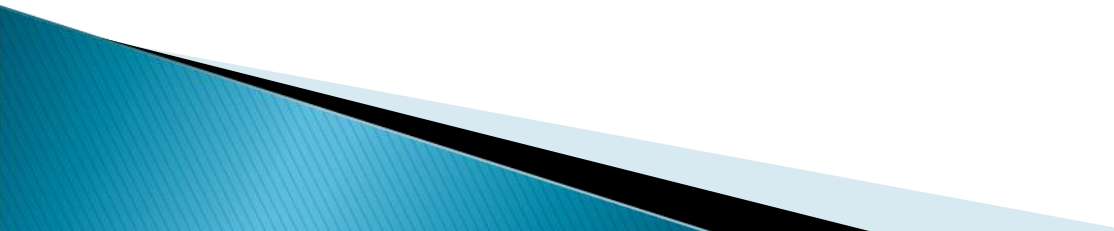
- TAIL
- High set, of medium length, curved over the back, the tip of the tail touching the body on either side or on the back. Some dogs have a natural bobtail. It is rare and equal with long tail.



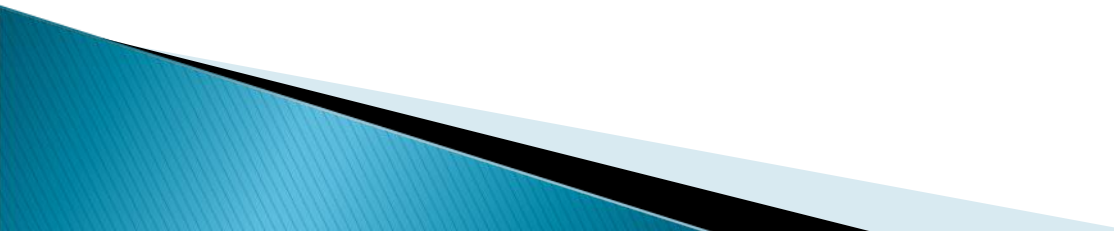
Breed standard

- FOREQUARTERS
 - General appearance: Powerful with strong bones. Viewed from the front straight and parallel. The upper arm and the shoulder are equal in length, the forearm is slightly longer
 - Shoulders: Relatively oblique, muscular
 - Upper arms: Slightly oblique and strong
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Breed standard

- FOREQUARTERS
 - Elbows: Pointing straight backwards, placed on the vertical line drawn from the point of shoulder
 - Forearms: Strong and vertical
 - Metacarpus (pastern): Of medium length, slightly oblique, flexible
 - Forefeet: Tight, well arched, roundish and pointing forward. Pads elastic, the sides covered with dense hair
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Breed standard

- HINDQUARTERS
 - General appearance: Strong and muscular, viewed from behind straight and parallel
 - Upper thigh: Broad and long with strong muscles
 - Stifle: Pointing forward, moderate angulation. The front line of the hind leg is evenly arched
 - Second thigh: Long and muscular
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Breed standard

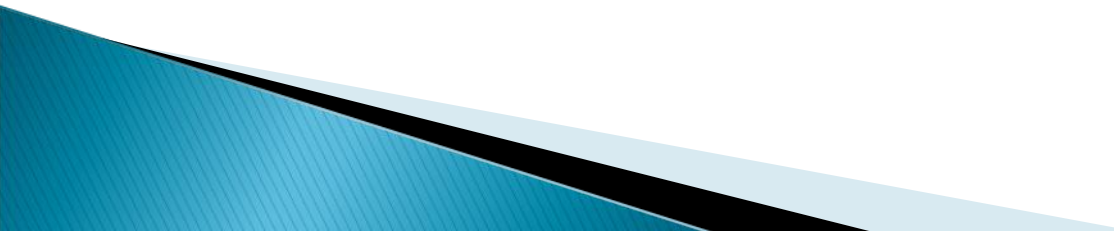
- HINDQUARTERS
- Hocks: Low; angulation clearly defined
- Metatarsus: Short, strong and vertical
- Hind feet: Tight, slightly longer and less arched than the front feet. Pads elastic, the sides covered with dense hair

Breed standard

- **GAIT:** Light, effortless, covering a lot of ground. Changes easily from trot to gallop, which is the most natural style of movement. The legs move parallel
- **SKIN:** Tight overall without wrinkles




Breed standard

- COAT
 - Hair: Outer coat harsh and straight. On the neck, back and backside of the upper thighs longer than elsewhere. Undercoat soft and dense
 - Colour: Black, may be dull or shaded with brown. Most individuals have clearly defined white markings on the head, neck, chest, belly and the legs
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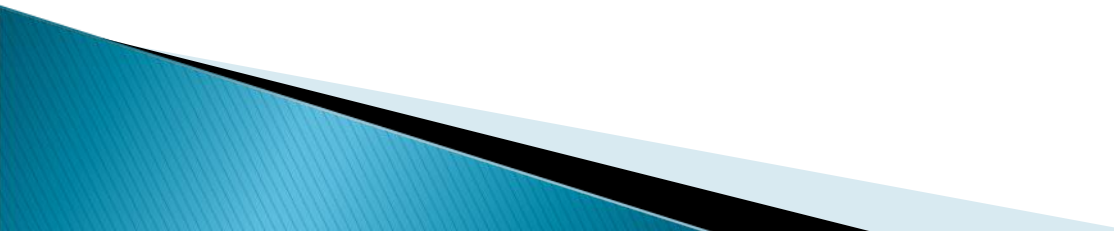
Breed standard

- **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
- light in bone
- narrow skull
- snipey muzzle
- missing teeth (excluding the premolars 1)
- soft or bat ears

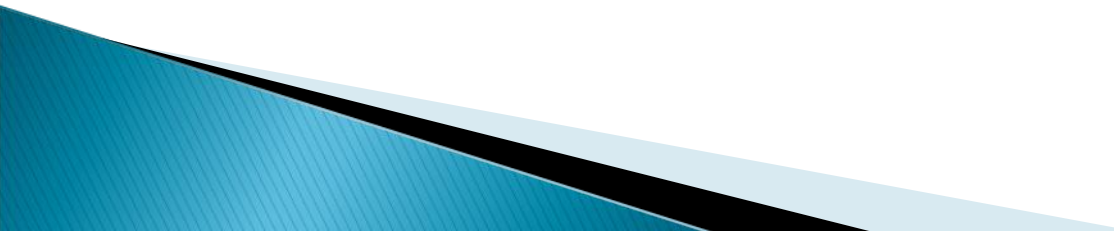
Breed standard

- FAULTS (continued)
 - strongly bulging forehead
 - yellow eyes
 - dewlap
 - too deep or barrel shaped ribcage
 - upright shoulders
 - insufficiently angulated hocks and flat feet
 - predominantly white colour with black markings or some so called wolf hair (grey)
 - heavy ticking on white areas
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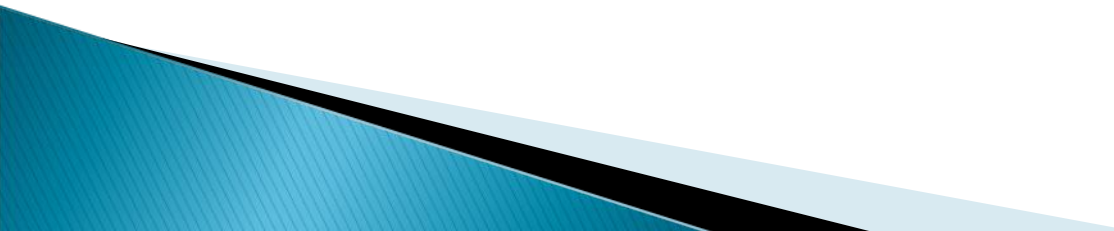
Breed standard

- FAULTS (continued)
 - wavy coat
 - straight or insufficiently curved tail
 - shyness
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Disqualifying points

- aggressive or overly shy
 - any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities
 - overshot or undershot bite
 - blue eyes
 - ears hanging or semi-drop
 - other colours than described in the standard
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Judging the breed

- Judging according to the FCI standard
 - Judging in awareness of the function of the breed (hunting dog)
 - NOTE: Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum
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Related breeds

- Karelian bear dog does not originate from other known breeds
- It belongs to Nordic spitz-type hunting dogs
- Russian-European Laika resembles bear dog by the looks most closely



Problems to take into account

- Hips and eyes are checked from the dogs used for breeding. During the 2011-2014 appr. 4-7% of the checked dogs had HC or PRA
- Excessive aggressivity towards other dogs used to be more common in the breed but that seems to be disappearing

