





# THE STANDARD FOR THE ICELANDIC SHEEPDOG

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REVISEMENT



# COMPARISON

## FORMER

## REVISED

### BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY:

The Icelandic Sheepdog is Iceland's **only** native dog. It **was** brought to Iceland **with the first** Viking settlers (AD 874 – 930). **The Icelandic Sheepdog and its** method of working adapted to the local terrain, farming methods and the hard struggle for survival of the Icelandic people over the centuries, making it indispensable in the rounding up of livestock on the farms.

**The Icelandic Sheepdog's popularity has increased over the last few decades and, despite the fact the breed is still very small in numbers, it is no longer considered to be in danger of extinction.**

### BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY:

The Icelandic Sheepdog is Iceland's native **breed of dog. It is the descendant of the dogs** brought to Iceland **by the original** Viking settlers (AD 870-930).

**The dogs became** indispensable in the rounding up of livestock **and in the daily work** on the farms. **Their** method of working adapted to the local terrain, farming methods and the **people's** hard struggle for survival over the centuries.

# COMPARISON

## FORMER

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### GENERAL APPEARANCE:

The Icelandic Sheepdog is a Nordic herding spitz, slightly under medium sized with **prick** ears and a curled tail. Seen from the side the dog is rectangular; **the length of the body from the point of shoulder to point of buttock is greater than the height at withers. The depth of the chest is equal to the length of the foreleg.**

The expression is gentle, intelligent and happy. A confident and lively bearing is typical for **this dog**. There are two types of coat, long and short, both thick and **extremely weatherproof**. There is a marked difference in appearance between the sexes.

### GENERAL APPEARANCE:

The Icelandic Sheepdog is a Nordic Herding Spitz, slightly under medium sized, **sturdy**, with **erect** ears and a curled tail. Seen from the side the dog is rectangular.

The expression is gentle, intelligent and happy. A confident and lively bearing is typical for **the breed**.

There are two types of coat, short and long, both thick and **very weather-resistant**.

There is a marked difference in appearance between the sexes.

# COMPARISON

FORMER

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NEW CHAPTER:

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS:

**New – moved from GENERAL APPEARANCE**

**Seen from the side the dog is rectangular, the length of the body from point of shoulder to point of buttock is greater than the height at withers.**

**Depth of the chest is equal to the length of the foreleg. Muzzle slightly shorter than skull.**

# COMPARISON

## FORMER

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### BEHAVIOUR AND TEMPERAMENT:

The Icelandic Sheepdog is a hardy and agile herding **dog** which barks, making it extremely useful for herding or driving livestock **in the pastures, in the mountains or finding stray sheep.**

The Icelandic Sheepdog is by nature very alert and will **always give visitors an enthusiastic welcome** without being aggressive. **Hunting instincts are not strong.**

The **Icelandic Sheepdog** is cheerful, friendly, inquisitive, playful and **unafraid.**

### BEHAVIOUR AND TEMPERAMENT:

The Icelandic Sheepdog is a hardy and agile herding **spitz** which barks, making it extremely useful for herding or driving **sheep and other** livestock.

The Icelandic Sheepdog is by nature very alert and will **announce the arrival** of visitors without being aggressive.

The **breed** is cheerful, friendly, inquisitive, playful and **confident with a gentle temperament.**

# COMPARISON

## FORMER

## REVISED

### HEAD:

**HEAD:** Strongly built with close fitting skin. **Skull slightly longer than muzzle.** Triangular when seen from above or the side.

### **CRANIAL REGION:**

**Skull:** Somewhat domed.

**Stop:** Clearly defined though neither steep nor high.

### **FACIAL REGION:**

**Nose:** Black, dark brown in chocolate brown and some cream dogs.

**Muzzle:** Well-developed, nasal bridge straight. Muzzle slightly shorter than skull. Tapering evenly towards the nose to form a blunt triangle when seen from both above and from the side.

### HEAD:

**HEAD:** Strongly built with close fitting skin. Triangular when seen from above or the side.

### **CRANIAL REGION:**

**Skull:** Somewhat domed.

**Stop:** Clearly defined though neither steep nor high.

### **FACIAL REGION:**

**Nose:** Black, dark brown on chocolate brown and some cream dogs

**Muzzle:** Well developed **and strong**, nasal bridge straight. Muzzle slightly shorter than skull. Tapering evenly towards the nose to form a blunt triangle when seen from both above and from the side.

# COMPARISON

## FORMER

## REVISED

### HEAD:

Lips: Black, close fitting, dark brown in chocolate brown and some cream dogs.

Bite: Scissor bite. Complete dentition.

Cheeks: Flat.

Eyes: Of medium size and almond shaped. Dark brown. Slightly lighter in chocolate brown and some cream dogs. The eye-rims are black. Dark brown in chocolate brown and some cream dogs.

Ears: Erect and of medium size. Triangular with firm edges and slightly rounded tips. Very mobile, reacting sensitively to sound and showing the dog's mood.

### HEAD:

Lips: **Close fitting. Black**, dark brown on chocolate brown and some cream dogs

Jaws/Teeth: Scissor bite, complete dentition **preferred.**

Cheeks: **Clean, well filled.**

Eyes: **Almond shaped, of medium size.** Dark brown, **can be** slightly lighter in chocolate brown and some cream dogs. The eye-rims are black **or** dark brown **on** chocolate brown and some cream dogs. **Showing a mild expression.**

Ears: Erect and of medium size. **Set well apart without being low set. Close to equilateral triangle** with firm edges and slightly rounded tips. Very mobile, reacting sensitively to sounds and showing the dog's mood.

# COMPARISON

## FORMER

## REVISED

### NECK:

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**NECK:** Moderately long and muscular with no loose skin. Slightly arched and carried **high**.

### NECK:

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**NECK:** Moderately long, **clean** and muscular with no loose skin. Slightly arched, **carrying the head well**.

# COMPARISON

## FORMER

## REVISED

### BODY:

**BODY: Rectangular and strong. The length in correct proportion to height** and in harmony with general appearance.

Back : Level, muscular and strong.

Loins : Broad and muscular.

Croup : Moderately short and wide, slightly sloping and well muscled.

Chest: Long, deep and well sprung.

Belly: Only a slight tuck up.

### BODY:

**BODY: Strong and in harmony with general appearance.**

Back: Level, muscular and strong.

Loin: Broad, muscular **and fairly short.**

Croup: Moderately short and wide, slightly sloping and well muscled.

Chest: Long, deep and well sprung.

**Underline and Belly: Only a slight tuck up.**

# COMPARISON

FORMER

REVISED

TAIL:

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TAIL: High set, curled over and touching the back.

TAIL:

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TAIL: High set, curled over and touching the back.

# COMPARISON

## FORMER

## REVISED

### LIMBS:

### LIMBS:

#### FOREQUARTERS:

When seen from the front the forelegs are straight, parallel and strong. Normal angulation.

Shoulders: Oblique and muscular.

Dew claws: May be double.

Forefeet: Slightly oval toes well-arched and tight, with well-developed pads.

#### FOREQUARTERS:

**General appearance:** When seen from the front the forelegs are straight, parallel and strong, normal angulation.

Shoulders: Oblique and muscular.

Dew claws: May be double.

Forefeet: Slightly oval, toes well arched and tight, with well developed pads.

# COMPARISON

## FORMER

## REVISED

### LIMBS:

HINDQUARTERS: When seen from behind the hindlegs are straight, parallel and strong Normal angulation.

Thighs: Broad and well muscled.

Dew claws: Well-developed double dewclaws are desirable.

Hindfeet: Same as forefeet.

### LIMBS:

HINDQUARTERS:

**General appearance:** When seen from behind the hind legs are straight, parallel and strong. Normal angulation.

Thigh: Broad and well muscled.

Dew claws: Well developed double dew claws are desirable.

**Hind feet:** Slightly oval, toes well arched and tight, with well developed pads.

# COMPARISON

## FORMER

## REVISED

### GAIT / MOVEMENT :

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**GAIT**: Displays agility and endurance with good driving action covering the ground effortlessly.

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**GAIT / MOVEMENT**: Displays agility and endurance with good driving action, covering the ground effortlessly.

# COMPARISON

FORMER

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COAT:

COAT:

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COAT: Double coat, thick and extremely **weatherproof.**

COAT: Double coat, thick and extremely **weather resistant.**

# COMPARISON

## FORMER

## REVISED

### HAIR: THERE ARE TWO VARIANTS:

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Short haired: The outer coat **is of medium length**, fairly coarse, with a thick, soft undercoat. The hair is shorter on the face, top of head, ears and front of legs, longer on the neck, chest and back of thighs. The tail is bushy and the hair length is in proportion to the coat.

### HAIR: THERE ARE TWO VARIANTS:

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Short-haired: The outer coat **is** fairly coarse, with a thick, soft undercoat. The hair is shorter on the face, top of head, ears and front of legs. **It is** longer on the neck, chest and back of thighs. The tail is bushy and the hair length is in proportion to the coat.

# COMPARISON

## FORMER

## REVISED

### HAIR: THERE ARE TWO VARIANTS:

Long haired: The outer coat is longer **than the above**, fairly coarse, with a thick, soft undercoat.

The hair is shorter on the face, top of head, ears and front of legs, longer behind the ears, on the neck, chest, **behind the forelegs and back of thighs**.

The tail is very bushy and the hair length is in proportion to the coat.

### HAIR: THERE ARE TWO VARIANTS:

Long-haired: The outer coat is longer **and** fairly coarse, with a thick, soft undercoat.

The hair is shorter on the face, top of head, ears and front of legs.

**It is** longer behind the ears, on the neck, **withers, chest and back of thighs, with fringes on the back of the forelegs**.

The tail is very bushy and the hair length is in proportion to the coat.

# COMPARISON

## FORMER

## REVISED

### COLOUR:

COLOUR: Several colours are permitted but a single colour should always be predominant. The predominant colours are:

Various shades of tan, ranging from cream to reddish brown.

Grey

Chocolate brown

Black

### COLOUR:

COLOUR:

**Fawn and red in various shades**, ranging from cream to reddish brown

**Grey shaded**

**Chocolate brown in various shades**

**Black**

# COMPARISON

## FORMER

## REVISED

### COLOUR:

White always accompanies the predominant colour. The most common white markings, which are often irregular, are a blaze or a part of the face, collar, chest, socks of varying length and tip of tail.

Lighter shading often occurs on the underside of the dog from throat to tip of tail.

On tan and grey dogs a black mask, black tips to the outer hairs and even occasional black hairs often occur.

Black (**tricolour**) dogs have a black coat, white markings as mentioned above and traditional markings in any of the various tan colours on the cheeks, over the eyes (eyebrows) and on the legs.

Patches of the above colours on a white background (pied) are permitted. **White should not be totally predominant.**

### COLOUR:

**White markings always accompany the main colour, lighter shading often occurs on the underside of the dog, from throat to tip of tail.**

**On grey shaded dogs and quite often on fawn and red dogs, a dark mask, dark tips to the outer hairs and dark hairs in the coat occur (dark overlay/sable).**

**Black and chocolate brown dogs most often have traditional tan markings in any of the various fawn colours on the cheeks, over the eyes (eyebrows), below the tail, on the underside of the tail and on the legs.**

**Pied dogs have patches of colour on the body on a white background, and can also have the accompanying white markings. The patches of colour, which can vary in size, should predominate.**

**The white markings, which are often irregular, are a blaze or a part of the face, collar, chest, socks of varying length and tip of tail.**

**Colour on or near the ears is preferred.**

# COMPARISON

FORMER

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SIZE:

SIZE :

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Ideal height is: **Dogs** 46 cm.  
**Bitches** 42 cm.

Ideal height at withers: **Male:** 46 cm.  
**Female:** 42 cm.

# COMPARISON

## FORMER

## REVISED

### 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.

A solid black mantle or saddle on **any of the various tan coloured dogs.**

### 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.**

A solid black **or brown** mantle or saddle on a **fawn or red dog (hound markings)**

**Complete lack of dewclaws on hind legs**

**Very light eyes**

**Round eyes**

# COMPARISON

FORMER

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## SERIOUS FAULTS:

Lack of dewclaws  
Yellow eyes  
Round protruding eyes

## SERIOUS FAULTS:

Blue eyes  
Yellow eyes

# COMPARISON

FORMER

REVISED

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

**New Headline !!**

**Aggressive or overly shy dogs**

**Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified**

# COMPARISON

## FORMER

N.B.:

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

## REVISED

N.B.:

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Male animals **must** 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.**

