

## ALASKAN MALAMUTE

GROUP: Working

### SIZE:

Desirable height in a mature male is 25 inches at the withers; females, 23 inches.

Desirable weight in a male is 85 pounds; females, 75 pounds. However size consideration should not outweigh that of type, proportion, movement and other functional attributes.

### COAT:

Thick, coarse guard coat, not long and soft; dense undercoat from one to two inches in depth, oily and wooly; coarse guard coat stands out; thick fur around neck; guard coat varies in length as does the undercoat, but the coat should, in general, be of medium length along sides of body, increasing somewhat around the shoulders and neck, down the back, and over the croup as well as in the breeching and plume. Malamutes usually have a shorter and less dense coat during the summer months. Trimming is not acceptable except to provide a clean cut appearance of feet.

### COLOR:

Usual colors range from light gray through intermediate shadings to black or from gold through the shades of red to liver; always with white on underbody, parts of legs, feet, and part of mask markings; markings should be either caplike or masklike on the face; white blaze on forehead, white collar or a spot on the nape is acceptable and attractive; broken color extending over the body in spots of uneven splashing is undesirable. The only solid color allowable is all white.

### HEAD:

Broad and powerful in proportion to size of dog; skull is broad between the ears, gradually narrowing and flattening on top as it approaches the eyes and moderately rounded between the ears; slight furrow between eyes; topline of skull and topline of muzzle show a slight break downward from a straight line as they join; slight but perceptible stop.

#### Muzzle:

Large and bulky in proportion to size of skull, diminishing slightly in width and depth from junction with the skull to the nose.

#### Eyes:

Almond-shaped, brown, moderately large, set obliquely; dark eyes preferred except in red and white dogs where light eye color is permissible.

#### Ears:

Small in proportion to the head; triangular in shape, slightly rounded at tips, set wide apart at back of skull; ears should point forward when erect; when dog is working, ears are often folded against the skull.

#### Nose:

Black, except in the red and white dogs, in which it is brown.

#### Bite & teeth:

Strong, white teeth meet in a scissors bite.

### NECK:

Strong and moderately arched.

### BODY:

Strong and powerfully built, but not short coupled; hard and well-muscled loins. *Fault: Long loin that may weaken the back.*

Topline:

Straight and gently sloping to the croup.

Chest:

Well developed.

FOREQUARTERS:

Moderately sloping shoulders; heavily boned, muscled forelegs, straight to the pasterns when viewed from front; pasterns are short and strong and slightly sloping when viewed from the side; feet are of the snowshoe type, tight and deep with well-cushioned pads, giving a firm, compact appearance; large feet with tight fitting and arched toes with a protective growth of hair between the toes; thick and tough pads; short and strong toenails; dewclaws should be removed.

HINDQUARTERS:

Hind legs should be broad and powerfully muscled through the thighs; stifles moderately bent; moderately bent and well let down hock joints; viewed from the rear, legs stand and move true in line with movement of front legs, not too close or too wide; feet as with forequarters; dewclaws must be removed.

Tail:

Set moderately high and following the line of the spine; well-furred and carried over the back when dog is not working, not tightly curled to rest on the back, nor short furred and carried like a fox brush, but of appearance of a waving plume.

MOVEMENT:

Steady, balanced, tireless and powerful gait; agile for size and build; viewed from side, hindquarters exhibit strong rear drive that is transmitted through a well-muscled loin to the forequarters; forequarters receive drive from the rear with a smooth reaching stride; viewed from front or from rear, legs move true in line, not too close or too wide; feet will converge toward centerline of body when dog is at a fast trot. **Fault: Stilted gait, or any** gait that is not completely efficient and tireless.

TEMPERAMENT:

Affectionate and friendly, not a "one man" dog; loyal, devoted companion, playful in invitation, but generally impressive by his dignity and maturity.

Summary: IMPORTANT:

In judging Malamutes, their function as a sled dog for heavy freighting in the Arctic must be given consideration above all else. The degree to which a dog is penalized should depend upon the extent to which the dog deviates from the description of the ideal Malamute and the extent to which the particular fault would actually affect the working ability of the dog. The legs of the Malamute must indicate unusual strength and tremendous propelling power. **Any indication of unsoundness in legs and feet, front or rear, standing or moving, is a serious fault. Faults under this provision would be splay-footedness, cowhocks, bad pasterns, straight shoulders, lack of angulation, stilted gait (or any gait that isn't balanced, strong and steady), ranginess, shallowness, ponderousness, lightness of bone, and poor overall proportion.**

**Any departure from this standard should be considered a fault, and the final score should reflect the seriousness of the deviation from the standard.**

**Disqualifications:**

**Viciousness or extreme shyness.**

**Cowardice.**

**Overshot or undershot.**

**Blue eyes.**

**Albinism.**