

THE SWEDISH VALLHUND

A PICTORIAL STANDARD



GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Swedish Vallhund is a small, sturdily-built, Spitz-type dog, with a wedge-shaped head, prick ears, and close-fitting, hard coat of short-to-medium length. The correct ratio of height to body length is 2:3. The tail may be natural or bobbed. The appearance of the Swedish Vallhund conveys intelligence, alertness and energy.

Correct stop and muzzle



HEAD

Clean, dry, fairly long with a distinct stop. Viewed from top or side, the skull and muzzle taper evenly toward the nose to form a blunt wedge shape.

SKULL – Skull broad and nearly flat.

Faults: Too short skull; too round skull.

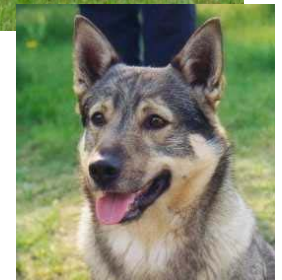
MUZZLE – Viewed from side, a blunt muzzle, rather square and slightly shorter than the skull.

The face - well filled-in under eyes.

Lower jaw - Strong and blunt, not protruding.

Lips - Black and tightly closed.

Faults: Loosely hanging lips; shallow or receding lower jaw; pinched, pointed or weak (snipy) muzzle; too-long, narrow or short muzzle.



Correct head type

TEETH – Full dentition, evenly spaced, white teeth; scissors bite.

SERIOUS FAULTS: Over or undershot bite; more than 2 missing teeth.

NOSE – Always solid black. In profile, the nose is on the same line as the top of the muzzle and does not extend beyond the forepart of the muzzle.

Faults: Nose any color other than solid black.

EYES – Medium size, oval shape, dark brown with black rims.

EARS – The ears are medium size, prick, and set at the outer edge of the skull, but not too low. The tips of the ears are pointed but never cropped, and point upward. The leather is hard from base to tip and covered with smooth hair. The ears are mobile and react sensitively to sounds.

Faults: Ears set too low; too large, hanging or drop ears.

NECK - The neck is long, strongly muscled and with good reach, blending smoothly into well laid back shoulders.

Faults: Neck too short.

FOREQUARTERS

The forequarters are well angulated; shoulder blades long and well laidback. The upper arm is only slightly shorter than the shoulder blade and lies close to the ribs but is still very mobile, with the elbow moving parallel to the body. The elbow is set far enough back to allow a line perpendicular to the ground to be drawn from the tip of the shoulder blade through to the elbow.

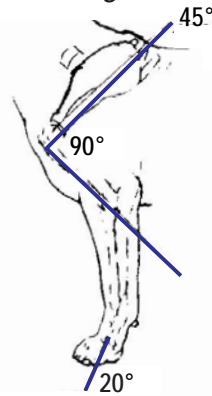
FORELEGS - Well boned, short and straight when viewed from the side. Viewed from the front, the foreleg is slightly curved to allow the front legs to move freely around the deep chest.

Pasterns - strong and flexible.

Feet - point straight forward.

Faults: Short upper arm; out at elbows; steep or upright shoulder; pasterns too upright; lack of curve in foreleg; fine bone; "Terrier" front.

Shoulder angulation ideal



Pastern angulation ideal



BODY

Correct ratio of height (*from withers to ground*) to body length (*from point of shoulder to point of buttocks*) is 2:3.

Topline: level and well-muscled with a short, strong loin.

Ribs: well sprung from the spine, forming a strong back, curving down and inward to form an oval viewed in profile.

Chest: moderately broad; Viewed from the side, the lowest point: immediately behind the foreleg, about two-fifths the length of the foreleg.

Forechest: should extend in a shallow oval shape well in front of the forelegs but the sternum should not be excessively pointed. The croup is broad and very slightly sloping. The belly is only slightly tucked up.

Faults: Chest too deep; croup too sloping.



HINDQUARTERS

Thighs: very muscular, powerful for the size of the dog.

Rear legs: good bone, moderately well angulated at stifle and hockjoints.

Rear pasterns: marginally shorter than lower leg, perpendicular to ground, viewed from any angle. should be parallel to each other.

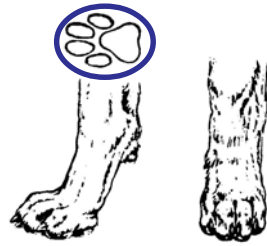
Faults: Over angulation; cow hocks; open hocks; thin or weak thighs; fine bone.



FEET

The feet are of medium size, oval in shape, well-knuckled up, with thick strong pads. Dewclaws may be removed.

Faults: Splay feet; poorly cushioned pads.



Oval, spoon-shaped footpads

COAT

The Swedish Vallhund has a water-repellent double coat. The outer coat is harsh and lays close to the body. The undercoat is thick, soft and dense. The coat is short on the front of the legs, slightly longer on the neck, chest and back part of the hind legs. A long outer coat with feathering on the ears and back of the legs may be seen from time to time but is not desirable. The Vallhund should be shown in its natural condition, but the feet may be tidied if desired.

Faults: Coat too soft, too long; open coat; absence of undercoat.

SERIOUS FAULTS: "Fluffy" coat



Fluffy coat

TAIL

The Swedish Vallhund may be born with a tail or a natural bob. The Swedish Vallhund may be shown with a natural or docked tail. The following described tails are acceptable:



THE SPITZ TAIL, *curls over the back.*



THE LONG TAIL, *over 4 inches long; any shape, carriage.*



THE STUB TAIL, *up to 4 inches long, ideally carried no higher than the line of the back to preserve the historically desired outline of the body.*

THE NATURAL BOB, *which consists of no discernable tail; and the KUP, or DOCKED TAIL.*



COLOR

Color may be any shade of gray, red or yellow/brown or any combination of these colors **as long as they are sabled**. Hair in lighter shades of these colors is desirable on the muzzle, throat, chest, belly, buttocks, feet, and hocks. A black sable coat with the aforementioned lighter shading is permissible. The amount of white should never exceed one-third of the dog's total color. A well defined mask, with lighter hair around eyes, on muzzle, and under throat, giving a distinct contrast to the upper mask is *highly desirable*. A "Blue" coat may occasionally be seen-but is **VERY UNDESIRABLE**.



VARIATIONS OF REDS



VARIATIONS OF GREY



Faults: Absence of harness markings.

SERIOUS FAULTS: White markings over more than 30% of the dog; blue coat.

Disqualification: Albinism

HEIGHT AND WEIGHT

Desirable height ranges from 12 to 14 inches measured at the withers. Desirable weight ranges from 23 to 35 pounds. Dogs are generally larger than bitches.

GAIT

The Swedish Vallhund is a herding dog which requires an easy, almost floating movement, agility, and endurance.

The correct shoulder assembly and well-fitted elbows allow a long, free stride in front.

The forelegs should reach well forward without too much lift. Viewed from the front, the legs do not move in exact parallel planes, but incline slightly inward to compensate for shortness of leg and width of chest.



Hind legs should drive well under the body and move on a line with forelegs, with hocks turning neither in nor out.

Feet should travel parallel to the line of motion with no tendency to swing out, cross over, or interfere with each other. Short, choppy movement; rolling or high - stepping gait; or close or overly wide movement is incorrect.

Disqualifications: Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid, viciousness or marked shyness. Albinism.

Many thanks to Nicky Gascoigne and Marg Dickinson for their invaluable assistance with the development of this pictorial standard!



Ch. Rosern Forever "The Foz"

Photo from the book, "*The Swedish Vallhund*"
"Foz" was the favored companion of author, Nicky Gascoigne



Published by A.S.V.S.

*recognized as
an official United Kennel Club
single breed club - September, 2004*

The American Swedish Vallhund Society is dedicated to the preservation of the Swedish Vallhund as it was originally intended, in both appearance, temperament and working ability. We support breeders and owners who embrace this philosophy, and encourage selective breeding of healthy stock, genetic research and education of the general public. We promote participation in the many areas where this breed excels.