

ALASKAN KLEE KAI

Official U.K.C. Breed Standard
Revised April 1, 1998

HISTORY

The Alaskan Klee Kai was developed by Linda S. Spurlin of Wasilla, Alaska, and her family, to be a companion-sized version of the Alaskan Husky. From the early 70's through 1988, the Spurlins carefully selected dogs who met their high standards for appearance and soundness. In 1988, they made the Alaskan Klee Kai available to others. Mrs. Spurlin and subsequent breeders of the Alaskan Klee Kai were and are determined to avoid health and temperament problems in their developing breed, even though it has meant very slow growth in the numbers of Alaskan Klee Kai. The Alaskan Klee Kai is still extremely rare. The breed's name was originally "Klee Kai of Alaska" but in 1995, it was changed to "Alaskan Klee Kai." Mrs. Spurlin created the breed name "Klee Kai."

The Alaskan Klee Kai was recognized by the United Kennel Club January 1, 1997.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Alaskan Klee Kai is a small version of the Alaskan Husky with a wedge-shaped head featuring a striking masked face, prick ears, and a double coat. The length of body is just slightly longer than the height. The tail is well-furred and curls over the back or to either side when the dog is alert or moving. The appearance of the Alaskan Klee Kai reflects the breed's Northern heritage.

CHARACTERISTICS

The most distinctive characteristic of the Alaskan Klee Kai is the facial mask which must be clearly visible due to contrasting colors. The full face mask is the most desirable. The Alaskan Klee Kai is very curious, active, quick and agile. His loyalty and alertness make the Alaskan Klee Kai an excellent watchdog despite his small size. While affectionate with family members, the Alaskan Klee Kai is reserved with strangers and in unfamiliar situations.

HEAD

The head is clean, free of wrinkles, proportionate to the size of the body, with a moderate stop. When viewed from the top or side, the skull and muzzle taper toward the nose to form a broad-based wedge shape.

Faults: Narrow head; insufficient stop; stop too steep.

SKULL -- The skull is slightly rounded and somewhat broad, tapering gradually from the widest point to the eyes.

Faults: Skull too flat or too domed.

the center of the muzzle that extends down the side of the muzzle. Distinct spots of lighter contrasting color anywhere other than the spots over the eyes, the blaze on the head, or the tip of the tail. Solid coat color which lacks contrasting color on legs and underside and which results in absence of a distinct mask. Albinism. Over 18 inches in height.

[Return to the United Kennel Club, Inc. Home Page](#)
[Return to the Index of Northern Breeds](#) | [Return to the U.K.C. Breed Information Page](#)