

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of solid red circles (polka dots) of uniform size, scattered across a light cream or off-white background. The dots are arranged in a somewhat regular grid but with slight offsets, creating a classic polka-dot pattern.

Kawaii Dogs

Por: Paula , Rebecca e Luciana



Japanese Spitz

Breed Origin: Japan

Breed Group: Rare

11 to 20 pounds

Males 12 to 15 inches

Females 12 to 15 inches

The Japanese Spitz is a small to medium breed of dog the Spitz. The Japanese Spitz is a companion dog and pet. There are varying standards around the world as to the ideal size of the breed, but they are always larger than their smaller cousins, the Pomeranian. They were developed in Japan in the 1920s and 30s by breeding a number of other Spitz type dog breeds together. They are recognized by the vast majority of the major kennel clubs, except the American Kennel Club due to it being similar appearance to the American Eskimo Dog and Samoyed Dog. While they are a relatively new breed, they are becoming widely popular due to their favorable temperament and other features.



History

Dog breeders in Japan in the 1920s and 1930s created the Japanese Spitz by crossbreeding a number of other Spitz breeds to develop the Japanese Spitz. Breeders began with white German Spitz dogs, originally brought over from northeastern China to Japan; they were first exhibited at a dog show in Tokyo in 1921.

Between 1925 and 1936 various small white Spitz breeds were imported from around the world and crossed into the developing breed, with the goal of producing an improved breed. The final Standard for the breed was written after World War II, and accepted by the Japanese Kennel Club. The breed gained popularity in Japan in the 1950s, and was exported to Sweden in the early 1950s.

The Japanese Spitz has spread around the world including to India, Australia, and the United States and is recognized by most of the major kennel clubs in the English speaking world.

The American Kennel Club does not recognize the Japanese Spitz due to its being close in appearance to a U.S. developed Spitz breed, the American Eskimo Dog. The breed is also recognized by minor registries and clubs and is a popular pet.

Temperament

Active, loyal, and bright, the Japanese Spitz are known for their great courage, affection and devotion making them great watchdogs and ideal companions for older people and small children. Most Japanese Spitz are good watch dogs and they have a tendency to bark to warn off arriving strangers. The Japanese Spitz is first and foremost a companion.



Most Japanese Spitz are good watch dogs and they have a tendency to bark to warn off arriving strangers. The Japanese Spitz is first and foremost a companion dog and thrives on human contact and attention, preferring to be a member of the family. They are known as very loyal dogs. Despite their relatively small size, they are brave and consider it their duty to protect their family. They enjoy being active and love to be in the outdoors. They are intelligent, playful, alert, and obedient, and particularly excellent and loving toward children.

Appearance

The Japanese Spitz is a small dog, around 33 cm (13 ins) at the withers, with a somewhat square body, deep chest, and a very thick, pure white double coat. The coat consists of an outer coat that stands off from the soft inner coat, with fur shorter on the muzzle and ears as well as the fronts of the forelegs and the hindlegs. A ruff of longer fur is around the dog's neck. It has a pointed muzzle and small, triangular shape prick ears (ears that stand up.) The tail is long, heavily covered with long fur, and is carried curled over and lying on the dog's back. The white coat contrasts with the black pads and nails of the feet, the black nose, and the dark eyes. The large oval (akin to a ginko seed) eyes are dark and slightly slanted with white eyelashes, and the nose and lips and eye rims are black. The face of the Japanese Spitz is wedge-shaped.



Maremma Sheepdog

Breed Origin: Italy

Breed Group: Rare

66 to 100 pounds

Males 26 to 29 inches

Females 24 to 27 inches

A guardian of the flocks by nature, the Maremma Sheepdog has been bred in Italy for centuries to protect large herds of sheep on the plains and in the mountains. It is the combination of two separate breeds--the Abruzzese, a long-bodied mountain dweller, and the Maremmano, a shorter-coated Sheepdog. The Maremma Sheepdog is an exceptionally loyal working dog, with an independent and sometimes dominant disposition. Highly protective of its human family and property, the Maremma Sheepdog is an incomparable watchdog that needs ample socialization to temper its possessiveness. As pets, they are extremely devoted companions.

Other Names: Pastore Abruzzese, Cane da Pastore Maremmani-Abruzzese, Abbruzzenhund



Australian Shepherd

Breed Origin: Spain

Breed Group: Herding

40 to 65 pounds

Males 20 to 23 inches

Females 18 to 21 inches

Despite the Australian Shepherd's name, there is still debate about this breed's origin, though many people believe the dogs were brought to Australia by Basque herders, who left Spain in search of better land and greater fortunes. American ranchers, attracted by the quality of Australian wool, later imported Australian sheep to the United States. With the sheep came the Basque herders and their herding dogs. Hard working and capable of herding all types of livestock, Australian Shepherds have assisted ranchers in many parts of the western United States for more than a century. This outgoing and energetic breed is a wonderful pet for owners who can meet their exercise needs.

Other Names: Aussie, Little Blue Dog



Kuvasz

Breed Origin: Tibet

Breed Group: Working

70 to 115 pounds

Males 28 to 30 inches

Females 26 to 28 inches

Although the Kuvasz name has been corrupted, the breed has remained pure. A likely relative of the Komondor, the breed name derives from the Turkish word "kawasz" meaning armed guard of the nobility. The misspelling ironically means mongrel, a poor description of this purebred dog. At one time, these dogs lived as companions and security guards to many European rulers. Their intimidating size and defensive skills thwarted potential attacks. Although the dogs later herded sheep and cattle, history primarily recounts their respected royal service. Modern breed developments in Hungary reduced their awesome girth and produced mellower dogs.

Other Names: Hungarian Kuvasz



Akita

Breed Origin: Japan

Breed Group: Working

75 to 120 pounds

Males 26 to 28 inches

Females 24 to 26 inches

An Akita named Hachiko symbolizes this breed's loyal character. Hachiko continued the habit of meeting his master every night at the train station even after the owner's death. The dog waited each evening until midnight and continued this practice for nine years, until the dog also died. An ancient breed that represents health and happiness, the Akita also hunted bear and boar. At one time, only the Imperial family could own Akitas, who had special leashes and caretakers. Today, the Japanese government lists the dog as a national monument and will subsidize the care of a champion. As pets, they are intelligent and protective.

Other Names: Akita Inu, Japanese Akita