

Finnish Spitz



Bright red dogs of typical Spitz shape, unusual in that they hunt birds and give considerable tongue while doing so. Increasing in popularity steadily, as well they might; the breed temperament is lively and friendly resulting in an active companion for the family requiring exercise.

The Finnish Spitz is the national dog of Finland with a written standard going back to 1812. A number of national patriotic songs include mentions of the breed.

Originally the Finnish Spitz tracked larger game such as bear and elk, but now is used mainly to seek out capercaillie and black grouse. The strength of the game bird population in his home country has a direct effect on the strength of the breed, registrations dropping in years which are bad for the birds.

Straight-legged, compact, but not heavily, bodied, the Finnish Spitz is a square-shaped breed with sparkle and charm. The middle-length coat is semi-erect, stiffer on neck and back, and particularly prominent in the ruff of the male.

Easy to maintain, the coat, although not short, cleans quickly with the aid of a sponge. Equally happy in all weathers, the Finnish Spitz considers that his place is not outside in the kennel, but indoors with his friends.

What about Health Issues?

You may be aware that some breeds of dog (and crossbreeds too) can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the puppy you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found on the Kennel Club's website at:
www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth

Puppy buyers should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

And what health screening is relevant for the Finnish Spitz?

There are not currently any veterinary screening schemes or DNA tests for disease relevant to this breed under the Accredited Breeder Scheme, however you should still ask breeders and refer to breed clubs about health issues in the breed.