

## Canadian Eskimo Dog



Over time, breeds vary in popularity. Often this is related to fashion but, for others, loss of function may threaten them with extinction. In the 1920s there were probably more than 20,000 Canadian Eskimo Dogs in the north of Canada. Then snowmobiles replaced sled dogs as the principal mode of transport in the Canadian Arctic areas and by the 1970s, there were perhaps only about 200 dogs left. William Carpenter, in conjunction with the Canadian Kennel Club, set up a breeding project to rescue this Canadian breed. The breed is now more common in Canada but elsewhere there are very few. It gained recognition here in 2000. He is a dog built for long distance work, not for speed like the lighter Siberian Husky. He is not as heavily built as the Alaskan Malamute. He is similar to the Greenland Dog but is slightly smaller and has a different ear carriage. His working gait is a powerful trot. For protection against the harsh climate, he requires a thick dense undercoat. He is very much a working breed rather than a domestic pet and in a group of dogs a 'boss' dog will emerge.

### **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](http://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 Canadian Eskimo Dog?**

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.