



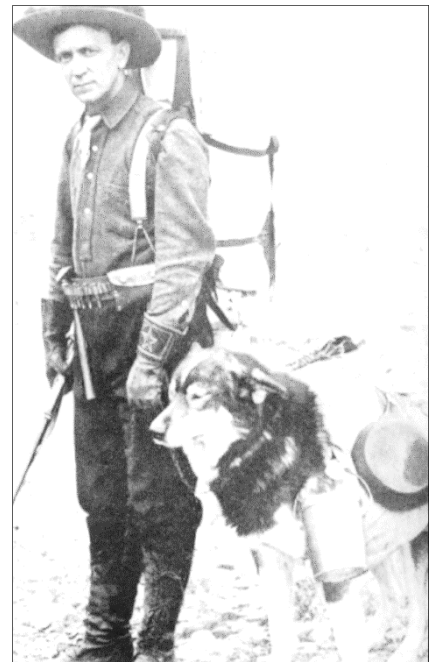
JUDGING THE ALASKAN MALAMUTE

- A brief history
- Comments on the Standard from A-Z

The Alaskan Malamute History in Brief

Pulling our weight...

- A true ancient breed
- From the Mahlemut tribe of the Norton Sound area in Alaska
- Used in small teams for long distance freighting
- Work animals, not family pets



Coming of age...

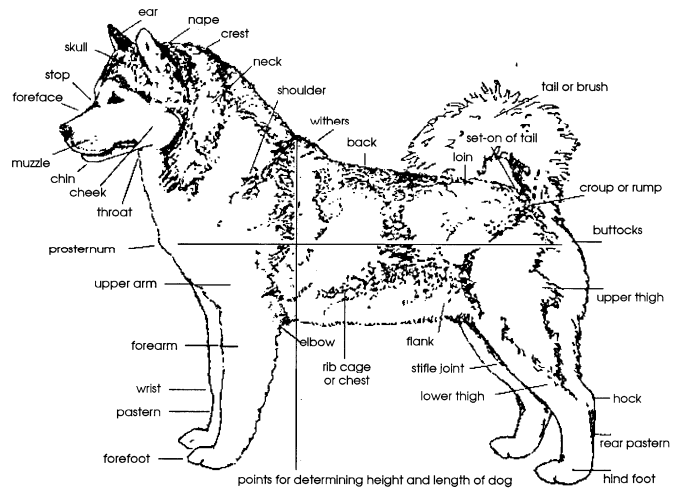
- A breed not established until the first part of the 20th Century
- Chinook Kennel of Eva Seeley
- Kotezebue and M'Loot strains
- Used in Antarctic Explorations by Admiral Byrd in 30's and 40's
- Recognised by AMCA in 1935
- Introduced to Australia in 1978



The Alaskan Malamute from A-Z

ANGULATION

- The breed is moderately angulated
- Shoulders moderately sloping
- Stifles moderately bent
- Essential to correct movement
- Strong rear drive
- Far reaching front
- Well balanced at all times



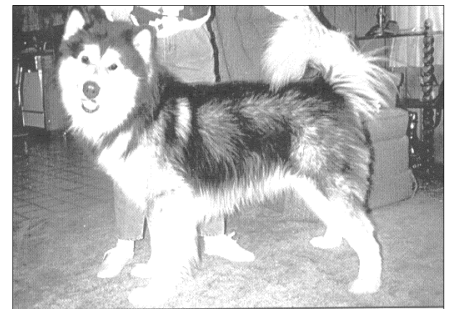
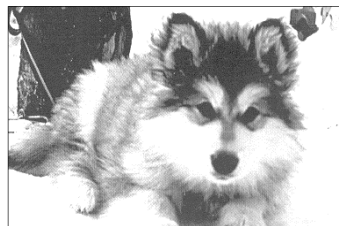
BONE

- Heavy boned “relative to Siberian Husky”
- Not over heavy, ie. Newfoundland
- Light bone is the more common problem
- Do not be misled by the amount of leg hair
- Touch is vital



COAT

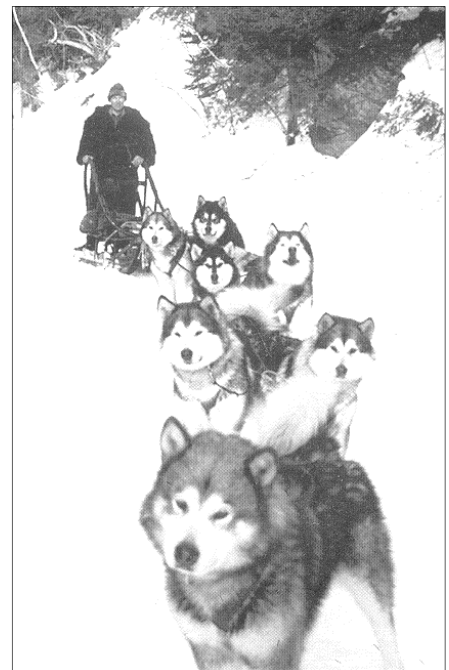
- Thick and coarse never long, soft or curly
- Medium length coarse guard hair
- Woolly undercoat 1-2 inches in depth
- Trimming only on the feet
- Long coat would not survive Arctic conditions and is a fault



INCORRECT COATS: Long and/or soft coats (pictured right) are a serious fault

DISPOSITION

- Active, curious and confident
- Friendly to people - never a “one-man” dog
- Able to be handled by anyone they respect
- Historically shared amongst mushers
- Sometimes aggressive or quarrelsome with other dogs of the same sex
- Can be quite vocal, but talking is not to be confused with growling - any growling at people is unacceptable.



EYES & EARS

Eyes are Dark and Almond Shaped

- Round or light eyes should be faulted - lighter eyes are acceptable in Reds
- Blue eyes are a disqualification



Ears are small in proportion to the head

- Triangular shape and slightly rounded at tip
- Set back on the head
- Appear to be standing off the skull

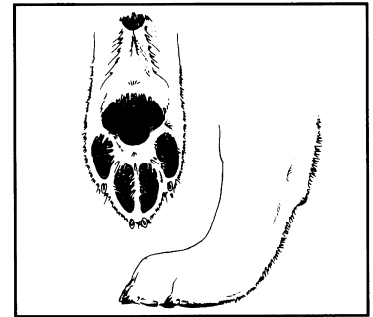


FEET

- Feet are **vital** to Arctic survival
- Tight and Deep
- Well cushioned pads
- Well furred between pads
- Firm, compact appearance
- Toes tight fitting and arched
- Never splayed or flat



Left: incorrect feet, the one on the left is splayed, the one on the right is a short round cat foot.



Correct snowshoe foot

GAIT

- **Powerful but not ponderous**
- Steady and well balanced
- Should show great agility
- Light on his feet
- Good reach and strong drive
- Efficient and tireless not extravagant
- No turning in or out



Too Wide



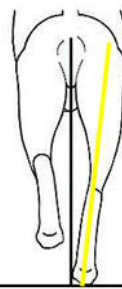
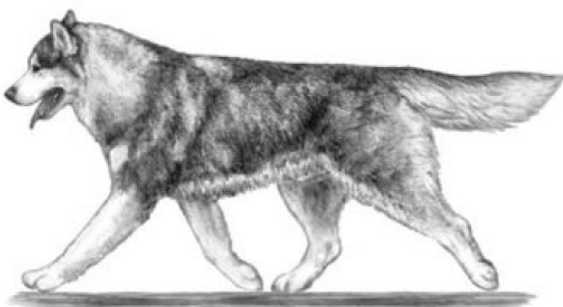
Correct



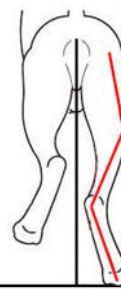
Too Wide



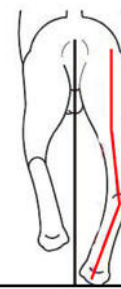
Correct



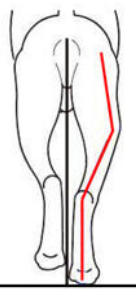
Correct rear movement



Cow hock



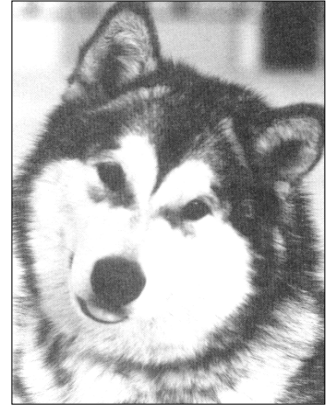
Hocks turning out



Moving Close

HEAD

- **Broad** and moderately rounded between the ears
- Moderate stop, slight furrow between eyes - this needs to be felt as fatty pads over the eyes can give the appearance of a pronounced stop
- Variety of markings
- Cap, Mask, Goggles, Bar, Open Face
- Intelligent!



IMPORTANT

In judging the Alaskan Malamute, it's function as a sledge dog for heavy freighting must be given consideration above all else.

KNOWLEDGE

- This is not the easiest breed to judge
- Variety of height, colour and weight
- Look for balance and proportion
- Touch is vital
- **See the breed work!**



Toeing In



Correct Front



Toeing Out

LEGS

- As with feet and bone...
- Heavy and muscular
- Unusual strength and tremendous propelling power
- No cowhocks or bowlegs
- Any unsoundness in legs is a serious fault



Correct Rear



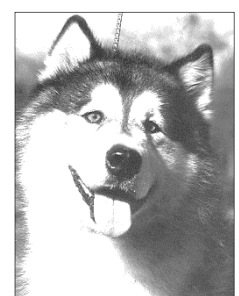
Bandy or Bowed
Rear



Cowhocks

MUZZLE

- Bulky, never long or pointed
- Diminishes only slightly in width from skull to nose
- Lips are tight fitting, black or liver (reds)
- Nose is black or brown (reds)
- Snow nose is acceptable



NECK

- Deep, well muscled and moderately arched
- Relates to angulation
- Lack of angulation = lack of visible neck
- Over angulation = long neck
- Coat is longer and denser



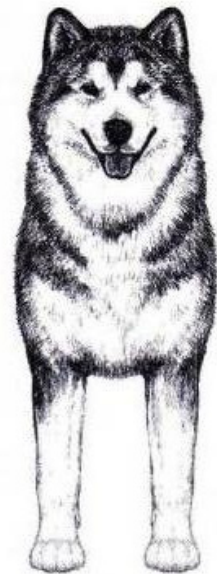
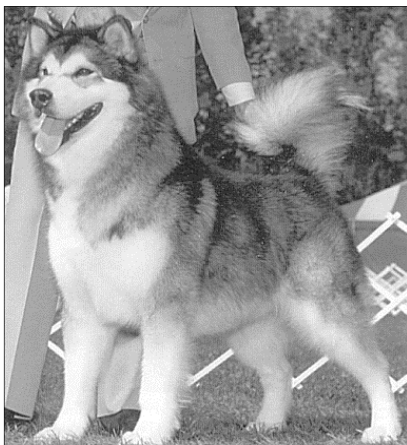
OVERALL BALANCE

- Proportion is important
- The 3/4 ratio - Height to Length
- Gently sloping straight topline
- Compact without being short coupled
- Should not be long in the loin
- Equal angulation front and rear
- Balance from every angle



POWERFUL FRONTS

- **Ready to work!**
- Deep chest with powerful shoulders
- Legs straight to the pasterns from front
- Pasterns short and strong with only a slight slope
- Essential for performance as a freighting animal



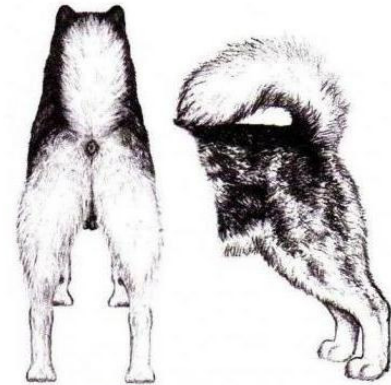
QUALITIES

- **SOUNDNESS**
- **COAT**
- **FEET**
- **TEMPERAMENT**
- **CONDITION**



REAR END

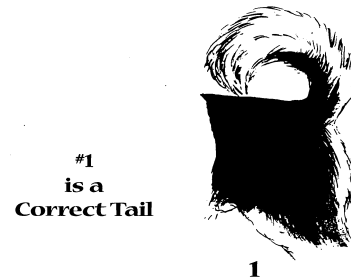
- Good hips mean good movement
- Moderately angulated
- Well let down hock
 - Neither long nor sunk
 - Broad and strong, moderately bent
- Stand and move true in line
- Heavily muscled thighs



correct rear stances displaying a well let down hock

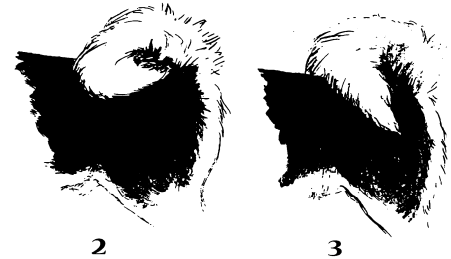
SIZE

- Desirable freighting sizes only
- Dog: 25 inches (63.5 cms), 85 pounds (39 kgs)
- Bitch: 23 inches (58.4 cms), 75 pounds (34 kgs)
- Size should never outweigh type
- Don't assume bigger means more powerful



TAIL

- An arched waving plume
- Not tightly curled, snapped, resting on back or fox tail
- Well furred and sufficient in length



UNSOUNDNESS

- No unsoundness should be tolerated.
- Minor faults may be forgiven in favour of the most physically sound specimen.

VARIETY OF COLOURS

- Colours and markings vary greatly
- White is the only solid colour allowed
- White is always the predominant colour on underbodies
- Blazes, bars, stars on face and head
- Collar markings are acceptable
- Uneven or broken colour is undesirable



WEIGHT WATCHERS

- Malamutes have an extremely efficient metabolism and love to eat
- However, they should always be in outstanding physical condition
- No excess fat should be visible or able to be felt
- The Malamute is an “Athlete” above all else



X-CELLENT TEETH

- Large, strong teeth with a scissors bite
- Lips are tight-fitting
- Lip pigmentation is black, liver or brown in reds

YEARS OF CONTROVERSY

- Type vs. Soundness
- Never more difficult than in the Malamute
- Type + Soundness is the key!



ZEST FOR LIFE!

- Love to work, Love to play
- Stubborn but never stupid
- Fun and funny
- Rampant enthusiasm for everything they do - including the show ring!



FINALLY....

The Alaskan Malamute SHOULD:

- Be sound of body and temperament
- Be able to exist in extreme conditions
- Be moderately angulated
- Have a double coat
- Have a dark eye
- Have scissored bite
- Move effortlessly

The Alaskan Malamute SHOULD NOT:

- Have a long, soft coat
- Be out of proportion
- Be overweight
- Have a stilted gait
- Have blue eyes
- Have broken colours on the body
- Have a snipey muzzle