



FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)
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FCI-Standard N° 237

NORSK BUHUND
(Norwegian Buhund)



TRANSLATION: Norsk Kennel Club. Official language (EN).

ORIGIN: Norway.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL VALID STANDARD: 11.02.2026.

UTILIZATION: Farmdog and herder.

FCI-CLASSIFICATION: Group 5 Spitz and primitive types.
Section 3 Nordic Watchdogs and Herders.
Without working trial.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: The Norwegian Buhund can be traced far back in Norwegian history. The breed type has probably existed since before the Viking Age, and is thus more than a thousand years old. Remnants have been found in Viking burial mounds giving evidence of a little spitz type dog living with humans. The word buhund means farmstead dog and is mentioned in The Norse King Sagas by Snorri Sturlason. One of the stories there is about when Olav Tryggvason was in Ireland and met a farmer and his very clever Buhund Vige. Olav was so impressed by the dog's herding abilities and wanted him. The farmer gave the dog to Olav, and in exchange he received a gold ring and Olav's friendship. The Buhund is a versatile all-round breed, but for the farmer it has been mostly used as a guard and herding dog. The first standard was approved by the Norwegian Kennel Club in 1926.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: A typical Spitz, a little under middle size, squarely built with an alert and frank expression. Erect, pointed ears. Tail carried firmly curled over the back.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS: Well balanced. Depth of chest is equal to half the height at the withers. Body length approximately equal to the height at the withers. Length of the body is measured from the point of shoulder to the point of the buttock.

BEHAVIOUR / CHARACTER: Courageous, energetic and friendly.

HEAD: Harmonious, not too heavy. Wedge shaped, clean. Gender characteristics must be clearly defined.

CRANIAL REGION:

Skull: Almost flat, parallel with **straight** nasal bridge. Well filled out under the eyes.

Stop: Well defined, but not too pronounced.

FACIAL REGION:

Nose: Black.

Muzzle: About the same length as skull. Neither too narrow nor too heavy. Nasal bridge straight.

Lips: Tightly closed, black.

Jaws: Scissor bite. Complete dentition.

EYES: Oval, colour as dark as possible. Black eye rims.

EARS: Medium size, pointed, carried erect.

NECK: Medium long, clean, strong with **proud carriage**.

BODY:

Top line: Straight from the withers to the set on of tail.

Withers: Well developed and the highest point of the topline.

Back: Short, strong and straight.

Loins: Short, strong and straight.

Croup: As little sloping as possible.

Chest: Deep with good spring of ribs.

TAIL: Set high, **tightly** curled, carried over the centre of the back, not too much to the side.

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS:

General appearance: **Lean** with strong bone.

Shoulder: **Slightly oblique**.

Upper arm: **Slightly oblique**.

Elbows: **Tight to the chest**.

Forearm: Straight.

Pastern: **Slightly oblique**.

Forefeet: Oval in shape, compact.

HINDQUARTERS:

General appearance: Moderate angulation.

Upper thigh: Powerful, well muscled.

Stifle: **Moderate angulation**.

Lower thigh: **Powerful and** well muscled.

Hock joint: **Moderate angulation**.

Metatarsus (rear pasterns): **Powerful, strong**.

Hind feet: Oval in shape, compact.

GAIT/MOVEMENT: **Efficient**, parallel with good drive. Firm topline.

SKIN: **Tight to the body without wrinkles**.

COAT

Hair: Thick, hard and smooth-lying outer coat. Rather short on head and front of legs. Longer coat on neck, chest, back of thighs and tail. Soft and dense undercoat.

Colour:

- **Wheaten (biscuit)**: Ranging from rather light to yellowish red. With or without dark hair tips but should not influence the main colour. Mask permitted. Clean and **clear** colour preferred. As little white as possible.

- Black: Preferably **solid black** (without too much bronzing). As little white as possible.

SIZE AND WEIGHT:

Height at the withers: Males: 43-47 cm.
Females: 41-45 cm.

Weight: Males: approximately 14-18 kg.
Females: approximately 12-16 kg.

FAULTS: Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

- General appearance too fine or too coarse, lack of elegance
- **Dog standing lower at withers than loin**
- Paddling or mincing in front
- Short, ineffective step
- **Shyness**
- Liver or pink coloured nose
- Light eyes
- Protruding eyes
- Pincer bite
- Poorly curled tail. Hanging tail. Feathering is unwanted.
- Wavy or too long coat

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Over- or undershot.
- Not erect ears.
- Any colour not mentioned above.
- Dogs more than 1 cm under or 2 cm above **the ideal height.**

N.B.:

- Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.
- Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

The latest amendments are in bold characters.

SURFACE ANATOMY

