

The Siberian Husky

A Brief History







GOOSEY'S RACING TEAM, SECOND ANNUAL ALL ALASKA SHEEPSTAKES, NOME, ALASKA



9466

CO. RAMSAY'S RACING TEAM 3RD ANNUAL ALL ALASKA SWEEPSTAKE. NOME,















The Siberian Husky

The Standard in Action









The Standard for Siberian Huskies

A Quick Reference



General Appearance



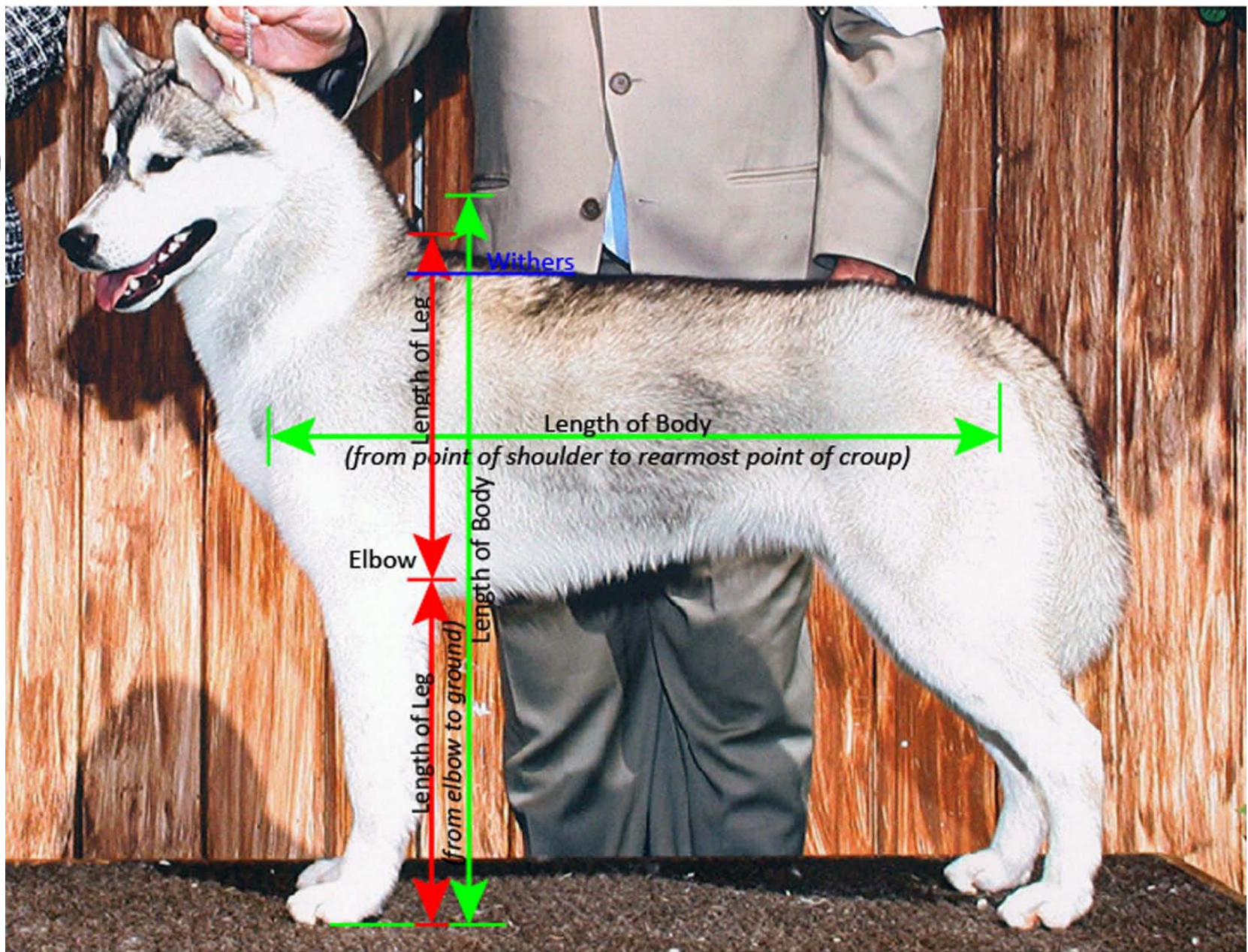
- Medium-sized working dog, quick and light on feet; free and graceful in action
- Moderately compact well-furred body, erect ears, and brush tail
- Gait smooth and seemingly effortless
- Performs capably in harness: carrying light load at moderate speed over great distances
- Proportions and form reflect balance of power, speed, and endurance
- Males masculine but never coarse; bitches feminine without weakness of structure
- Muscle firm and well-developed; does not carry excess weight



Size, Proportion, & Substance



- Height:
Dogs, 21 to 23½ inches at withers
Bitches, 20 to 22 inches at withers
- Weight:
Dogs, 45 to 60 pounds
Bitches, 35 to 50 pounds
- Weight is in proportion to height; no preference given to either extreme
- Excessive bone or weight to be penalized
- Length of body slightly longer than height at withers
- Disqualification:
Dogs over 23½ inches
Bitches over 22 inches



Withers

Length of Leg

Length of Body

(from point of shoulder to rearmost point of croup)

Elbow

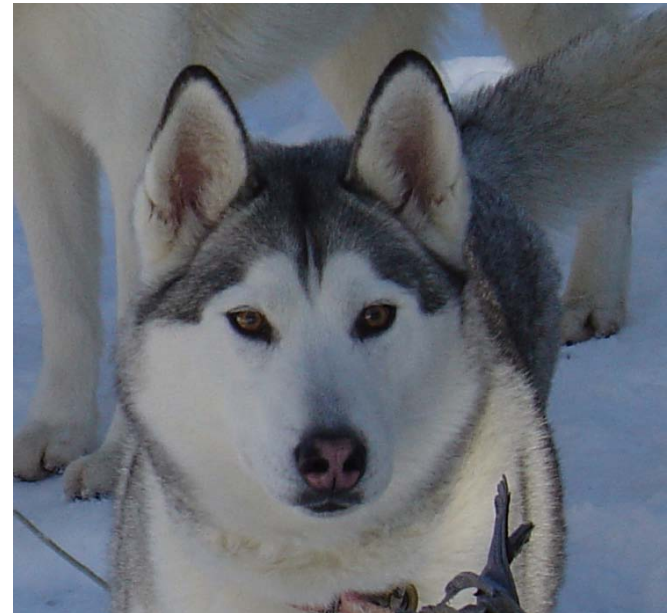
Length of Body

Length of Leg
(from elbow to ground)

Head: Eyes



- Expression keen but friendly, interested, mischievous
- Almond-shaped, moderately spaced, trifle oblique
- Brown or blue, one of each, or parti-colored
- *Faults: too oblique, too close together*



Head: *Ears*



- Medium size, triangular, close fitting, high on head
- Thick, well-furred, slightly arched at back
- Strongly erect, slightly rounded tips, point straight up
- *Faults: too large, too wide set, not strongly erect*

Head: *Skull*



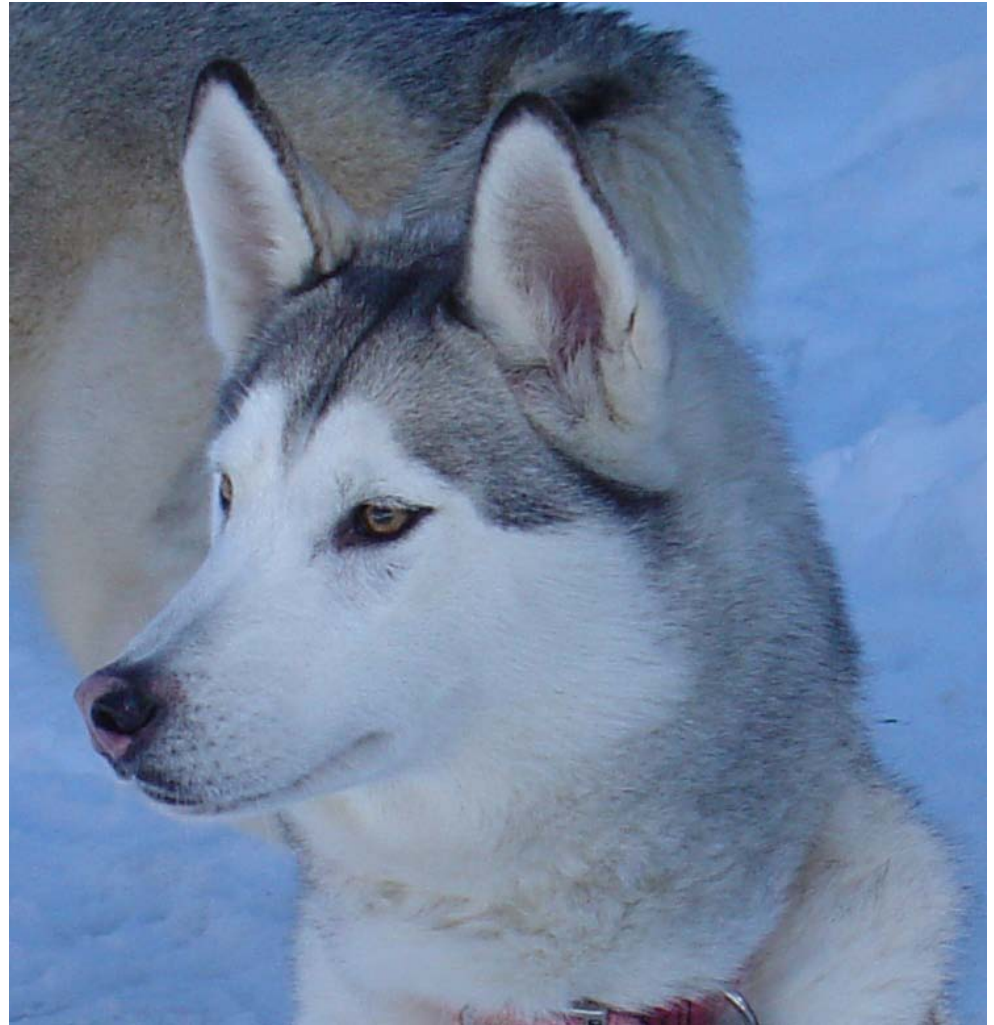
- Medium size, in proportion
- Slightly rounded on top, tapering from widest point to eyes
- *Faults: clumsy or heavy; too finely chiseled*



Head: Stop



- Well-defined
- Bridge of nose is straight
- *Faults: Insufficient stop*

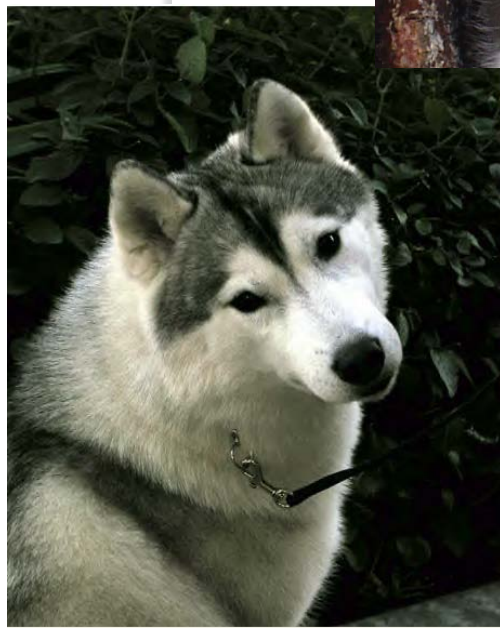


Head: Muzzle



- Medium-length, tip of nose to stop = stop to occiput
- Medium-width, tapering gradually to nose; tip neither pointed nor square
- *Faults: insufficient stop; too snippy or too coarse; too short or long*

Head: *Nose/Lips/Teeth*



Nose

- Black in gray, tan, or black dogs; liver in copper dogs; may be flesh-colored in pure white dogs
- Pink-streaked “snow nose” is acceptable

Lips

- Well-pigmented and close fitting

Teeth

- Scissors bite
- *Faults: any bite other than scissors*

Neck, Topline, & Body: Neck



- Medium length, arched, and proudly erect
- At a trot, extended with head carried slightly forward
- *Faults: too short and thick; too long*



Neck, Topline, & Body: Chest



- Deep, strong, not too broad; deepest point behind and level with elbows
- Ribs well-sprung from spine, flattened on sides to allow for freedom of action
- *Faults: too broad; "barrel ribs;" ribs to flat or weak*



Neck, Topline, & Body: *Back*



- Straight and strong, level topline from withers to croup
- Medium length; neither cobby or slack from excessive length
- Loins taut and lean, narrower than rib cage with slight tuck-up
- Sloping croup, never so steep as to restrict rearward thrust of hind legs



- *Faults: weak or slack back; roached back; sloping topline*

Tail



- Well furred, fox-brush shape, set just below level of topline
- Graceful sickle curve when dog is at attention
- Does not curl to either side of body, nor snap flat against back
- Trailing tail is normal when in repose
- Hair of medium length, same length all around giving appearance of round brush
- *Faults: snapped or tightly curled; highly plumed; set too low or too high*



Forequarters: *Shoulders*



- Shoulder blade is well laid back
- Upper arm angles backward from point of shoulder to elbow, never perpendicular
- Shoulder muscles and ligaments firm and well-developed
- *Faults: straight shoulders; loose shoulders*



Forequarters: *Forelegs*



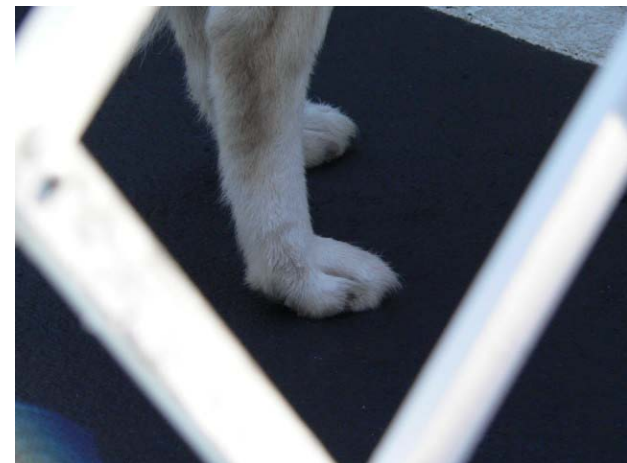
- Moderately spaced, parallel, and straight; elbows close to body, turned neither in nor out
- Pasterns slightly slanted, strong but flexible
- Bone substantial; but never heavy
- Length of leg from elbow to ground is slightly more than elbow to top of withers
- Dewclaws on forelegs may be removed
- *Faults: weak pasterns; too heavy bone; too narrow or too wide in front; out at elbows*



Forequarters: Feet



- Oval, but not long
- Paws medium sized, compact, and well-furred between toes and pads
- Pads tough, thickly cushioned
- Paws turn neither in nor out
- *Faults: soft or splayed toes; paws too large and clumsy or too small and delicate; toeing in or out*



Hindquarters



- Hind legs moderately spaced and parallel
- Upper thighs well-muscled and powerful
- Stifles well-bent; hock joint well-defined and set low to ground
- Dewclaws are to be removed
- *Faults: straight stifles; cowhocks; too narrow or too wide in rear*



Coat/Color



Coat

- Double medium length; well-furred appearance, but never to obscure the clean-cut outline of the dog
- Undercoat soft and dense and of sufficient length to support the outer coat
- Guard hairs straight and smooth-lying, never harsh or standing straight off from the body
- Absence of undercoat during shedding is normal
- Trimming of whiskers, between toes, and around eye is permissible
- Trimming anywhere else not to be condoned and should be severely penalized
- *Faults: long, rough, shaggy coat; texture too harsh or too silky; trimming except as permitted*

Color

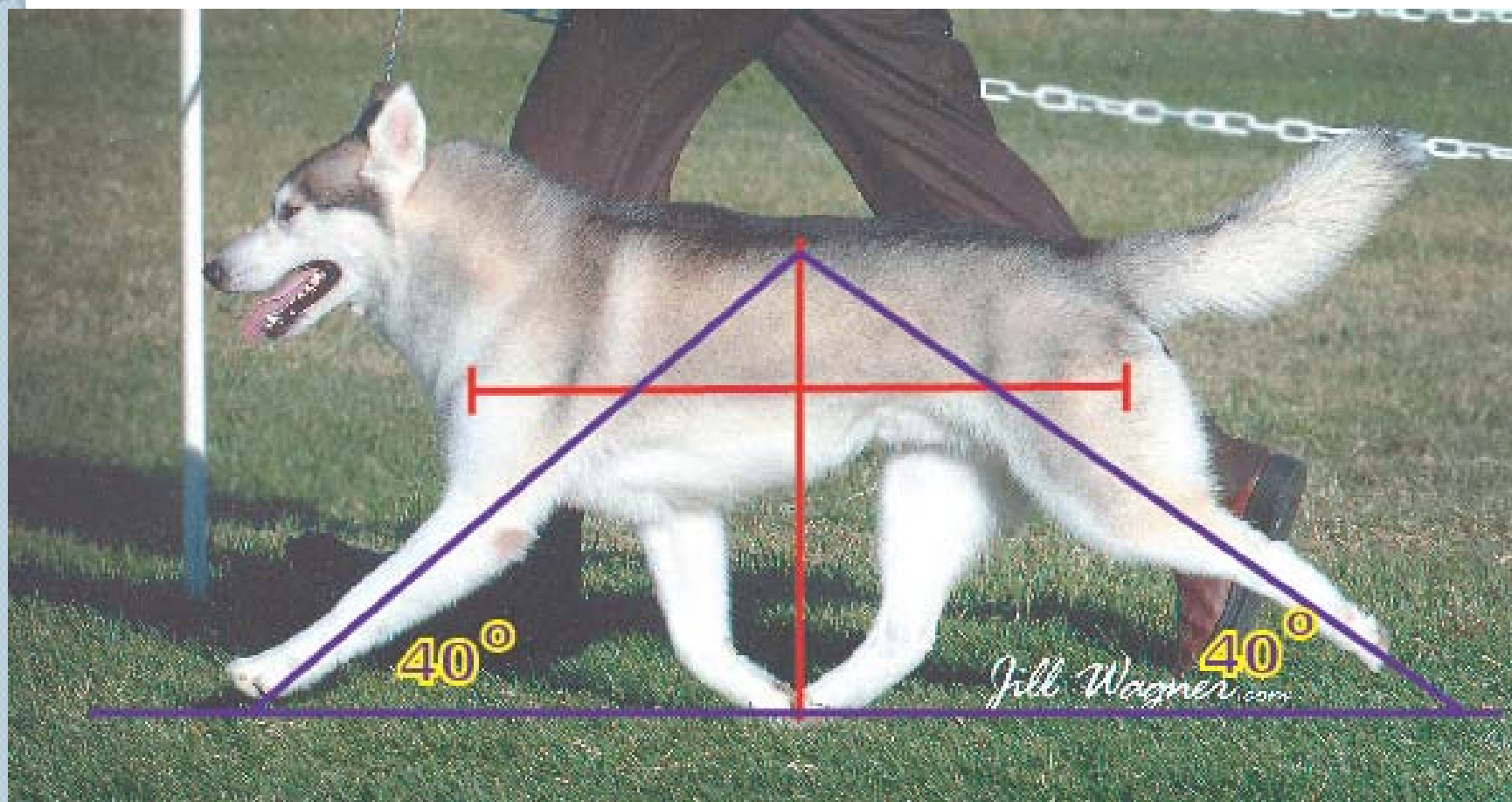
- All colors from black to pure white allowed
- Variety of markings is common

Gait



- Smooth and seemingly effortless; quick and light on feet
- Loose lead, moderately fast trot; good reach in forequarters, good drive in hindquarters
- At a walk does not single track; but as speed increases legs angle inward to fall under longitudinal center of body
- As pad marks converge, forelegs and hind legs carried straight forward; elbows nor stifles turn in nor out
- Hind legs move in path of forelegs
- Topline remains firm and level
- *Faults: short, prancing, choppy; lumbering or rolling; crossing or crabbing*





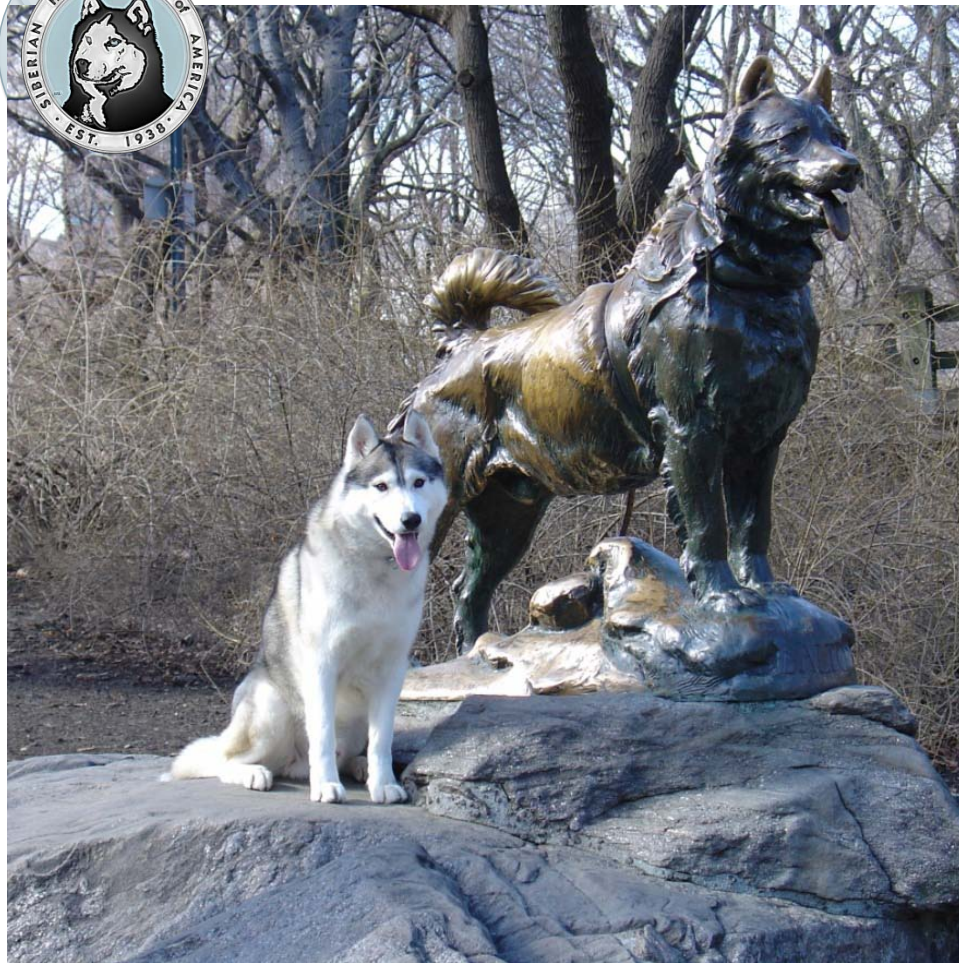
Temperament



- Friendly, gentle; also alert and outgoing
- No possessive qualities of guard dog; not overly suspicious or aggressive with other dogs
- Mature dogs reserved and dignified
- Intelligence, tractability, eager disposition; agreeable companion and willing worker



Summary



- Important breed characteristics:
 - Medium size
 - Moderate bone
 - Well balanced proportions
 - Ease and freedom of movement
 - Proper coat
 - Pleasing head and ears
 - Correct tail
 - Good disposition
- Excessive bone or weight, constricted or clumsy gait, or long, rough coat to be penalized
- Never appears heavy or coarse as freight animal; nor so light or fragile as sprint-racing animal
- Gives the appearance of great endurance
- Structural faults of all breeds undesirable in the Siberian

Disqualification



Dogs over 23½
inches;
bitches over 22
inches

Acknowledgments

- The Siberian Husky Club of America, Inc. thanks the Iditarod Trail Committee, as well as those photographers and owners who shared the pictures of these dogs enabling us to create this Judges' Education Program.
- For more information about the Siberian Husky, please visit:
www.shca.org
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