

### **Official Standard of the Alaskan Klee Kai**

**General Appearance:** The Alaskan Klee Kai is a small sized companion dog that is alert, energetic, and curious, yet may be reserved with unfamiliar people and situations. The body is well proportioned, with a level topline and a length slightly longer than height. The gait is smooth, agile, and well balanced. The wedge-shaped head, erect triangle shaped ears, well furred double coat, and loosely curled tail reflect its arctic heritage. The most distinctive characteristic of the Alaskan Klee Kai is the contrasting symmetrical facial mask and body markings.

**Size, Proportion, Substance:** **Size** – Alaskan Klee Kai height is 12 to 17 inches at the withers. *Disqualification*- over 17 ½ inches in height. **Proportion** – In profile, the length of the body, from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttocks, is slightly longer than the height of the body from the ground to the withers, making the dog slightly longer than tall. **Substance** – Weight and bone are in proportion to the overall dog.

**Head: Expression** is alert, keen, and intelligent. **Eyes** are of medium size, almond-shaped, and may be any color or combination of colors. The eyes are moderately spaced. Dogs with coat colors in shades of black with white or gray with white have eye rims that are black; and dogs with coat colors in shades of red with white have eye rims that are liver/brown colored. *Serious Faults*- Bulging eyes; Eyes set too deep. *Disqualification*- Partial or completely black eye rims on dogs with coat colors in shades of red with white. **Ears** are strongly erect and triangle in shape with slightly rounded tips. They are set high yet well apart and are slightly large in proportion to the size of the head. The leather is thick from base to tip and well furred. The ears are extremely mobile and reactive. *Disqualifications*- Hanging or drop ears. **Skull** is slightly rounded and somewhat broad, neither too flat nor too domed. It tapers gradually from the widest point to the eyes. The stop is moderate and slightly sloping. The head is in proportion to the size of the body, and it is neither too narrow nor too thick. The skull and muzzle taper toward the nose to form a broad-based wedge shape. **Muzzle** tapers slightly from the stop to the nose, with a straight bridge, and is well filled in under the eyes. The lower jaw is strong but not protruding. The length of the muzzle from stop to nose is equal to, or slightly shorter than, the length of the skull from occiput to stop. Lips are tight. Dogs with coat colors in shades of black with white or gray with white have black lip color; and dogs with coat colors in shades of red with white, have liver/brown lip color. *Disqualification*- Partial or completely black lips on dogs with coat colors in shades of red with white. **Nose** in profile, is on the same line as the top of the muzzle and extends just slightly beyond the lower jaw. Dogs with coat colors in shades of black with white or gray with white have a nose that is black; and dogs with coat colors in shades of red with white have a nose that is liver/brown colored. *Disqualification*- Partial or completely black nose on dog with coat colors in shades of red with white. **Bite** - Strong white evenly aligned teeth close in a tight scissors bite. *Disqualifications*- Overshot or undershot bite; wry mouth.

**Neck, Topline and Body:** **Neck** is medium in length, arched and carried proudly erect when the dog is standing. When moving at a trot, the neck is extended so that the head is carried slightly forward. **Body** is moderately muscled with a level **topline** from the withers to the croup. **Chest** is muscular and moderately broad with a slightly pronounced prosternum clearly defined between the points of the shoulders. The lowest point of the chest does not extend below the elbows and is just behind the forelegs. **Ribs** are well sprung, forming a strong back, then curving down and inward to form a body that would be nearly heart-shaped if viewed in cross-section. **Loin** is strong and short, narrower than the rib cage, and has a slight tuck-up. **Croup** is broad and very slightly sloping. **Tail** is well furred and set just slightly below the level of the topline. The tail is carried in a loose, natural curl which falls to the center of the back or drapes down against either side when the dog is alert or moving. When the tail is curled, it does not stand away from the back or sides of the body. When the dog is relaxed, the tail may hang down. *Serious Fault*- Kinked tail; *Disqualification*- Tail too short to naturally curl over and touch the back.

**Forequarters: Angulation** - The forequarters are well angulated. **Shoulders** are well laid back to allow for good reach and freedom of movement. The **shoulder blade** and **upper arm** are approximately equal in length. **Forelegs**, when viewed from the front, are straight, parallel, and moderately spaced with bone in proportion to the dog, appearing neither fragile nor heavy. **Elbows** are set close to the body and turned neither in nor out. The length of the leg from the ground to the elbow is slightly longer than the length from the elbow to the withers. **Pasterns** are flexible and strong, moderately short, and slightly angled. **Dewclaws** removal is optional. **Feet** are oval in shape. The paws are sized in proportion to the bone of the individual dog and turn neither in nor out. The toes are well arched. The pads are thickly cushioned and furred between the toes and pads.

**Hindquarters: Angulation** - The hindquarters are well angulated and in balance with the forequarters. **Hind legs**, when viewed from the rear, are moderately spaced and parallel, turning neither in nor out. The bone is in proportion to the dog, appearing neither fragile nor heavy. **Upper thighs** are moderately muscled. **Stifles** are well bent. **Hock** joints are well let down. Pasterns are straight. **Dewclaws** removal is optional. **Feet** are as described in forequarters.

**Coat:** The Alaskan Klee Kai is double coated with the hair being medium length, giving a well-furred appearance reminiscent of the breed's Arctic heritage. Longer-coated dogs are permissible, but the coat is never so long as to

obscure the outline of the dog. The outer coat guard hairs are straight and somewhat smooth lying, never harsh nor extremely soft. The dense, soft undercoat is of sufficient length to support the outer coat. The absence of an undercoat should not be penalized during shedding season. The neck is well-furred with hair which forms a protective ruff blending into the coat. The tail is also well-furred with longer hair at the base and underside of the tail.

*Serious fault*- Coat that is so long as to obscure the outline of the body.

*Severely Penalized* - The Alaskan Klee Kai is shown in its natural state and the only trimming permissible is around the foot area to present a clean/neat appearance. Any trimming of the whiskers, or the fur on any other part of the dog, is to be *severely penalized*.

**Color:** The Alaskan Klee Kai has symmetrical and distinctive dark and white contrasting-colored markings. The three allowable coat colors are in shades of black, gray or red.

- White is required on all coat colors in the following areas: inside the ears, on the lower portion of the face and jaw, on the sides of the muzzle, on the cheeks, on the throat, on the chest, on the abdomen, on the legs, on the feet, around the vent and on the underside of the tail.
- The darker coat color extends down the sides of the body, shoulders, and hips. It may also extend partially down the outside of the forelegs and hindlegs, and/or reach down and around the upper chest in a symmetrical pattern.
- The darker coat color extends down the top side of the tail. The tip of the tail is the same dark color or darker.

The **facial mask** is a distinctive trait of this breed and must be symmetrical and clearly visible due to the contrasting colors. Different combinations of markings are possible on the mask as long as they are symmetrical and have the contrasting white color prominent in the areas listed above. The **full mask** is the most desired for the Alaskan Klee Kai. It includes the dark coloration on the head extending continuously down the top/bridge of the muzzle to the nose, and also under or around the eyes. The darker color below the eyes does not extend more than a quarter way down the cheek. The darker color down the top/bridge of the muzzle does not extend more than a quarter of the way off the sides of the muzzle. The color going down the top/bridge of the muzzle is solid. White colored markings above the eyes complete the full mask. *Serious Faults* - Darker color below the eyes extending more than halfway down the cheek; Darker color down the top/bridge of the muzzle extending more than halfway off the sides of the muzzle.

*Severely penalized elimination*- Asymmetrical markings shall be so severely penalized as to eliminate them from competition.

*Disqualifications* -

- Absence of distinct mask;
- Any solid coat color lacking distinct and contrasting markings;
- Absence of required white contrasting color as described in the color section;
- Distinct dark area, spots, or speckles in the white areas, other than the tip of the tail, and the symmetrical markings on the facial mask, chest, and legs as described;
- Distinct white area or spots in the dark areas, other than the tip of the tail, and the symmetrical markings on the facial mask, chest, and legs as described.

**Gait:** The characteristic gait of the Alaskan Klee Kai is seemingly effortless, smooth, agile, and well balanced. It has good reach in the forequarters and good drive in the hindquarters with the top line remaining firm and level. Shown on a loose lead at a moderately fast trot, the dog will single track as their speed increases and the legs gradually angle inward until the pads are falling on a line directly under the longitudinal center of the body, single tracking. The forelegs and hind legs are carried straight forward, with neither the elbows nor stifles turning in or out.

**Temperament:** The Alaskan Klee Kai is intelligent, alert, curious and talkative. They enjoy being physically and mentally challenged and have an energetic eagerness to participate in a broad array of activities. A perceptive yet mischievous nature, and an adaptability to most lifestyles, make them a loving and devoted companion. The Alaskan Klee Kai may have a sensitive and reserved nature so positive reinforcement and proper socialization from an early age is important.

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**Summary of Faults:** *This standard is the description of the ideal Alaskan Klee Kai. Any deviation from this description should be considered a fault, the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in proportion to the extent of the deviation. Faults common to all breeds are as undesirable to the Alaskan Klee Kai as in any other breed, even though such faults may not be specifically mentioned in this standard.*

**Serious Faults:**

- Bulging eyes;
- Eyes set too deep;
- Kinked tail;
- Coat that is so long as to obscure the outline of the body;
- Darker color below the eyes extending more than halfway down the cheek;
- Darker color down the top/bridge of the muzzle extending more than halfway off the sides of the muzzle.

**Severely Penalized:** The Alaskan Klee Kai is shown in its natural state and the only trimming permissible is around the foot area to present a clean/neat appearance. Any trimming of the whiskers, or the fur on any other part of the dog is to be severely penalized.

**Severely Penalized Elimination:** Asymmetrical markings shall be so severely penalized as to eliminate them from competition.

**Disqualifications:**

- Over 17 ½ inches in height;
- Partial or completely black eye rims, lips, or nose on dog with coat colors in shades of red with white;
- Hanging or drop ears;
- Overshot or undershot bite;
- Wry mouth;
- Tail too short to naturally curl over and touch the back;
- Absence of distinct mask;
- Any solid coat color lacking distinct and contrasting markings;
- Absence of required white contrasting color as described in color section;
- Distinct dark area, spots, or speckles in the white areas, other than the tip of the tail, and the symmetrical markings on the facial mask, chest, and legs as described;
- Distinct white area or spots in the dark areas, other than the tip of the tail, and the symmetrical markings on the facial mask, chest, and legs as described.

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