

Keeshonds

- are fun loving dogs that get bored if left with nothing to do. They also love people + will want to be near you or have you in their eyesight.
- Young kees love to chew... wood, baseboards, fencing, sticks, rocks, electric cords, your shoes etc. To keep them from eating up things they shouldn't, give them plenty of toys + chews of their own. Your items need to be put out of their reach.
- puppies need plenty of good food + rest. They should be given a place in the home that is their safe haven, such as a dog crate in the kitchen area. They can retire to this safe place when they are tired
- have cat feet + their toe nails must be kept short to keep their feet from splaying out + becoming flat footed. If their nails are not kept short, they can develop problems with their feet + even with slipping on surfaces, making them susceptible to injury. To keep on top of this, Kees owners must trim toenails weekly on growing puppies + less often on mature dogs.
- love water. That includes water in their bowls + may dig out the water just for fun leaving a mess on your floor.
- love to leap + jump. That includes on small children, if the Kees are not use to them. It is not their intention to knock a child down, but it can happen.
- act like a two year old child for about the first 2 years of their life. They must be given patience, understanding + guidance during this time.
- are usually eager to please, but because of their clown instinct, they can add fun to training + be stubborn. They will get bored with useless repetition such as "puppy come, puppy come, puppy come (over & over again)" They must be shown what you expect.
- are good natured dogs + harsh training methods are not required. Tone of voice is a very important tool in training. They love food + can quickly add weight (adults) if given free reign to eat everything they want. Their love of food makes reward training very effective.
- go through an awkward development. They are not like some breeds like Scottish Terriers that look at 8 weeks like they will at maturity. Kees from 3 1/2 months to about 9 months go through what is termed the "baboon stage". A reputable breeder will be able to explain changes that occur in a developing Kees.
- live an average of about 15 years. When adding a Kees to your family, be sure you are ready for this 15 year commitment. Not just for Christmas, or because the children want a dog, but consider them a lifelong companion + member of the family.
- are vocal dogs, some people think they are "yappy". They will voice their opinion about everything. That includes when they are not getting what they want, are left alone, are left caged or get bored. A Kees can be taught to "talk" so that it can also be taught how to "be quiet".

- For a companion, instead of looking for a male or female, choose an individual puppy or dog that has the **temperament** you like. Ask your breeder to recommend a temperament that fits your lifestyle. Many breeders perform a PAT test (Puppy Aptitude Test for temperament). Ask for those results.



- have a thick, dense coat when they are in full bloom. They should not be left outside in the heat. Provide a shady, cool spot or air conditioning for them during hot summer. NEVER SHAVE A KEES thinking they will be cooler. If you want to trim your dog, you should leave about 2" of hair all over to protect their skin.
- are a "double-coated" breed +, as such, require weekly grooming. Actually, they have more of a fur than dog hair. They shed less than Golden Retrievers, German Shepherds or Labradors who shed throughout the year.
- have a history of being watch dogs, rodent hunters + companions on barges. This instinct carries in most of today's good quality pedigree lines. Kees will act as an alarm for your home (in most cases) but do not attack. Some have the hunting instinct for moles + mice in their environment.
- of poor quality (such as those purchased from pet stores or backyard breeders) are as expensive, if not more, to raise than those purchased from reputable breeders. If you are going to get a purebred dog, you might as well get one from a caring, reputable breeder who will be there throughout your dog's life, you might as well get a kees that looks like it is suppose to instead of one that ends up looking like a meager German Shepherd, a chow or any thing other than a good Kees.
- are not a breed for everyone. They demand attention +, as young dogs, require more exercise + coat care than some are willing to give. They will try your patience. They will be stubborn. They will try to outsmart you. They will love you, however.

Breed Diseases/Disorders:

Hip dysplasia, slipping kneecaps, skin + coat problems, elbow dysplasia, eye + heart disorders, diabetes, epilepsy, Primary Hyperparathyroidism.



Most of the above problems can be tested for in the parents of a puppy. A reputable breeder will provide hard copy test results. This helps to lessen or alleviate the disorders in resulting puppies. Even if "you only want a companion", you want a healthy kees.



Breed Information

Keeshond (pronounced Kaze-hawnd)



Keeshonds are a medium-sized, handsome dog with a "double-coat" (soft undercoat, harsh outer coat). They are all a mixture of gray, black, silver and cream. They can be light to dark in overall color range, depending on the amount of black tipping on the harsh outer coat. Their hallmark is their spectacles, which are the dark lines running from the outer corner of the eye to the base of the ear. Most all have the "glasses" look, which is the "circular" black tipping around the eyes making them appear as if they are wearing glasses. Keeshond males ideally are 18" at the shoulder and about 40#. Keeshond females are ideally 17" at the shoulder and around 35#.

*If you are looking for a kees, consider a reputable breeder or a rescued kees. Do **not** buy from pet stores, unqualified internet sites or from newspaper ads. See our URL listed below for good sources.*

Capital Kees Club—website
www.capitalkeeshond.org

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Keeshond Breed Standard

American Kennel Club

General Appearance

The Keeshond (pronounced kayz-hawnd) is a natural, handsome dog of well-balanced, short-coupled body, attracting attention not only by his coloration, alert carriage, + intelligent expression, but also by his stand-off coat, his richly plumed tail well curled over his back, his fox-like expression, + his small pointed ears. His coat is very thick around the neck, fore part of the shoulders + chest, forming a lion-like ruff-more profuse in the male. His rump + hind legs, down to the hocks, are also thickly coated, forming the characteristic "trousers." His head, ears, + lower legs are covered with thick, short hair.

Size, Proportion, Substance

The Keeshond is a medium-sized, square-appearing, sturdy dog, neither coarse nor lightly made. The ideal height of fully matured dogs when measured from top of withers to the ground is 18 inches for males and 17 inches for bitches--a one inch variance either way is acceptable. While correct size is very important, it should not outweigh that of type.

Head

Expression Expression is largely dependent on the distinctive characteristic called "spectacles"--a combination of markings + shadings in the orbital area which must include a delicate, dark line slanting from the outer corner of each eye toward the lower corner of each ear coupled with expressive eyebrows. Markings (or shadings) on face + head must present a pleasing appearance, imparting to the dog an alert + intelligent expression. **Very Serious Fault:** Absence of dark lines which form the "spectacles." **Eyes** Eyes should be dark brown in color, of medium size, almond shaped, set obliquely + neither too wide apart nor too close together. Eye rims are black. **Faults:** Round +/or protruding eyes or eyes light of color. **Ears** Ears should be small, triangular in shape, mounted high on head + carried erect. Size should be proportionate to the head--length approximating the distance from the outer corner of the eye to the nearest edge of the ear. **Fault:** Ears not carried erect when at attention. **Skull** The head should be well-proportioned to the body + wedge-shaped when viewed from above--not only the muzzle, but the whole head should give this impression when the ears are drawn back by covering the nape of the neck + the ears with one hand. Head in profile should exhibit a definite stop. **Faults:** Apple head or absence of stop. **Muzzle** Of medium length, neither coarse nor snipey, + well proportioned to the skull.

Mouth The mouth should be neither overshot nor undershot. Lips should be black + closely meeting--not thick, coarse or sagging, + with no wrinkle at the corner of the mouth. **Faults:** Overshot, undershot or wry mouth. **Teeth** The teeth should be white, sound + strong meeting in a scissors bite. **Fault:** Misaligned teeth.

Neck, Topline, Body

The neck should be moderately long, well-shaped + well set on shoulders. The body should be compact with a short, straight back sloping slightly downward toward the hindquarters: well ribbed, barrel well rounded, short in loin, belly moderately tucked up, deep + strong of chest. **Tail** The tail should be moderately long + well feathered, set on high + tightly curled over the back. It should lie flat + close to the body. The tail must form a part of the "silhouette" of the dog's body, rather than give the appearance of an appendage. **Fault:** Tail not lying close to the back. **Forequarters** Forelegs should be straight seen from any angle. Pasterns are strong with a slight slope. Legs must be of good bone in proportion to the overall dog. Shoulder to upper arm angulation is between slight to moderate. **Hindquarter** Angulation in rear should be between slight to moderate to complement the forequarters, creating balance + typical gait. Hindquarters are well muscled with hocks perpendicular to the ground. **Feet** The feet should be compact, well rounded, cat-like. Toes are nicely arched, with black nails.

Coat

The body should be abundantly covered with long, straight, harsh hair standing well out from a thick, downy undercoat. Head, including muzzle, skull + ears, should be covered with smooth, soft, short hair--velvety in texture on the ears. The neck is covered with a mane, more profuse in the male, sweeping from under the jaw + covering the whole of the front part of the shoulders + chest, as well as the top part of the shoulders. The hair on the legs should be smooth + short, except for feathering on the front legs + "trousers" on the hind legs. Hind legs should be profusely feathered down to the hocks, not below. The hair on the tail should form a rich plume. Coat must not part down the back. The Keeshond is to be shown in a natural state with trimming permissible only on feet, pasterns, hocks, +, if desired, whiskers. TRIMMING OTHER THAN AS DESCRIBED TO BE SEVERELY PENALIZED. **Faults:** Silky, wavy, or curly coats. Part in coat down the back.

For kees gatherings, advice, grooming info, health info, referral and more, see:

Capital Kees Club—website
www.capitalkeeshond.org

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Color and Markings

A dramatically marked dog, the Keeshond is a mixture of gray, black + cream. This coloration may vary from light to dark. The hair of the outer coat is black tipped, the length of the black tips producing the characteristic shading of color. Puppies are often less intensely marked. The undercoat is very pale gray or cream, never tawny. **Head** The muzzle should be dark in color. "Spectacles" + shadings, as previously described, are characteristic of the breed + must be present to some degree. Ears should be very dark, almost black. **Ruff, Shoulders + "Trousers"** The color of the ruff + "trousers" is lighter than that of the body. The shoulder line markings of light gray must be well defined. **Tail** The plume of the tail is very light in color when curled on the back, + the tip of the tail should be black. **Legs + Feet** Legs + feet are cream. **Faults:** Pronounced white markings. Black markings more than halfway down the foreleg, penciling excepted. White foot or feet. **Very Serious Faults** Entirely black or white or any solid color; any pronounced deviation from the color as described.

Gait

The distinctive gait of the Keeshond is unique to the breed. Dogs should move boldly + keep tails curled over the back. They should move cleanly + briskly; the movement should be straight + sharp with reach + drive between slight to moderate.

Temperament

Temperament is of primary importance. The Keeshond is neither timid nor aggressive but, instead, is outgoing + friendly with both people + other dogs. The Keeshond is a lively, intelligent, alert + affectionate companion.



Male Keeshond



Female Keeshond

