

Why are our dogs so different in weight? This question has come up a lot in recent days. Let's look back at the beginning of this breed. Back to the 1st and 2nd century should be far enough. Before there was an Icelandic Sheepdog, or an Iceland know to man, there were Norwegian Lundehunds, Norwegian Buhunds and Karelian Bear dogs roaming Norway. They, as dogs are prone to do, bred with each other. One of the results over the years was the ISD. This version of the interbreeding is what the Vikings took with them to Iceland in the 850s. With this little background let me get to my point: Lundehunds weigh 7- 15 pounds and are 12-14 inches at the shoulder. Buhunds weigh 50-55 pounds and are 17-18 inches at the shoulders. Kalelian Bear Dogs weigh 44-49 pounds and are 21 -24 inches at the shoulders. As with all "pure" breed dogs you will get throwbacks to the parent breed sizes and weights. So a 20 pound dog with a fox like face has the Lundehund look, the 50 pound dogs with the broader face has the Buhund look, The taller 45 pound dog have the Karelian look about them. The general shape of the ISD is from the Buhund, the extra dew claws and the multi golden colors are from the Lundehund. The Black & White color mostly from the Karelian. Some of the other colors are from the odd dog that is in the gene pool, we may never know who they were.

Bottom Line: the ISD will weigh from 20 to 55 pounds. Height will be between 14 and 20 inches, the ideal being 18 for males and 16.5 for females. Health should be our main concern not weight.



Lundehund



Grima



Buhund



Freyja



Karelian



Una