



HEALTHY



TRAINABLE



HAPPY



LOVEABLE

Photo: Jørgen Metzdorff



INTELLIGENT

Although the Icelandic Sheepdog is a wonderful dog, it is not a dog for everyone. They frequently use their voices and have a strong need for human companionship. They don't do well when left alone for long periods of time.

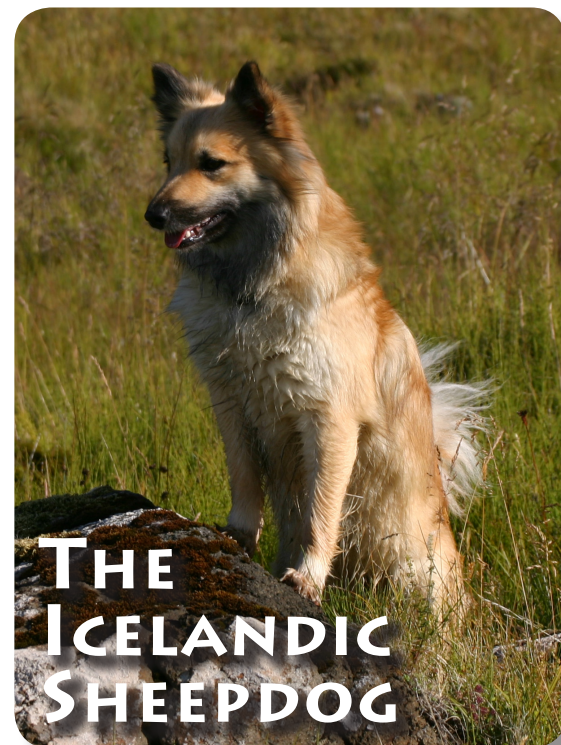
The ISAA asks that you give careful consideration and do your research when looking for a breeder. The approved breeders found on the ISAA's web site have made a commitment to follow guidelines set to help preserve the health and welfare of the Icelandic Sheepdog.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Icelandic Sheepdog gained full AKC recognition on June 30, 2010 and participates in the herding group.

For more information about these dogs or to find out how to become a member of our club, please visit the Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America's web site at www.icelanddogs.com.

For judges who are interested in receiving our Judges Education materials, please send your request to isaabod@gmail.com



The Icelandic Sheepdog is a typical Nordic Spitz, having pricked ears and curled tail. They are Iceland's only native dog that came to the island with the first Viking settlers (AD874-930). They are sensitive, obedient, extremely social and affectionate. The Icelandic Sheepdog loves the whole family, especially children and prefers to be with them all the time—to follow them around everywhere and to sleep at their feet. When properly introduced, they get along well with other animals in the family. The Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America is proud to be the guardian of one of Iceland's national treasures.

HISTORY

THERE are references to the Icelandic Sheepdog dogs dating from AD900. By the middle ages, the Icelandic Sheepdog had become a sought after export, mostly going to England. The aristocratic and ruling classes there found the dog a favorite as a family pet.

IN the 1960s there were fewer than 35 Icelandic Sheepdogs left in Iceland—the result of lack of interest in the ancient breed and several catastrophic population crashes from distemper epidemics. Sir Mark Watson, an Englishman with a love for Iceland, had an interest in the breed and initiated efforts to save them. He moved to Nicosia, California and established a kennel, in part, to breed Icelandic Sheepdogs. Things didn't go as well as expected and he eventually returned to England with some of his dogs to continue his work.

SIGRÍÐUR PÉTURSDÓTTIR, a native Icelander made it her goal to help save the Icelandic Sheepdogs. She traveled to Great Britain where she worked with Mark Watson and other breeders who provided her with invaluable assistance and information.

WORKING with 14 dogs of the approximately 35 remaining and following protocols learned abroad, she managed to gradually increase the number of Icelandic Sheepdogs. Her goal was not only to save the breed, but to disperse the dogs so that in the event of future

population crashes, the Icelanders would be able to re-import descendants from those dispersed dogs. Though the breed is still not common, it is no longer in danger of extinction.

CHARACTER

THE Icelandic Sheepdog is a hardy and agile herding dog which barks, making it extremely useful for herding or driving livestock in the pastures, in the mountains or finding stray sheep. The Icelandic Sheepdog is by nature, very alert and will always give visitors an enthusiastic welcome without being aggressive. They are cheerful, friendly, inquisitive, playful and unafraid. They are extremely clever and trainable, excelling in programs such as obedience, rally, agility, therapy, herding and fly ball. They simply love working and playing with people and have a never-ending interest in pleasing. They have even been used in search and rescue though hunting instincts are not strong.

ICELANDIC SHEEPDOGS love exercise but are not as demanding as some of the bigger working dogs. They are generally calm and easygoing inside the home. Some dogs like to bark at running animals or moving objects. That's part of their herding nature.

APPEARANCE

SEEN from the side while standing, the dog is rectangular, slightly longer than it is high with a moderately long and muscular neck and a strong, level back. The croup is moderately short and wide, slightly sloping. The chest should be well sprung. Forequarters are straight, parallel and strong with normal angulation and oblique, muscular shoulders. Hindquarters are also straight parallel and strong with normal angulation. Well-developed double dewclaws are desirable. The tail is high set, curled over and touching the back. Their gait should display agility and endurance with good driving action that covers the ground effortlessly.

THERE are two types of coat—long and short—but always double coated, thick and extremely weatherproof. They come in a wide-variety of colors including cream, reddish brown, chocolate brown, grey and black. Their heads feature a strong-built, somewhat domed cranial region, almond-shaped, dark brown eyes with a gentle, intelligent and happy expression, black or dark brown nose and lips, and a well-developed muzzle with complete dentition and scissor bite. The ears are of medium size and erect. They are very mobile, reacting to sound and showing the dog's mood. The ideal size for females is 16.5" at withers, 18" for males. Weight should be in harmony with general appearance.

Serious faults include no dewclaws, yellow eyes, or round, protruding eyes.