

**Group 5**  
***This standard is approved by  
the Presidium of RKF  
on 16.03.2022.  
REVISED VERSION***

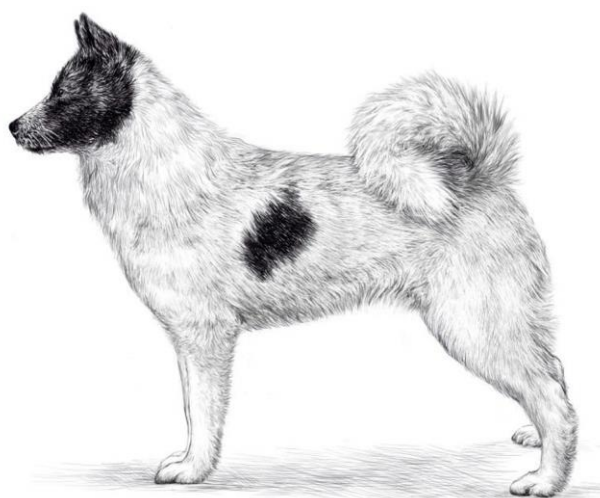


## **NENETSKAYA OLENEGONNAYA LAIKA (Nenets Reindeer Herding Laika)**

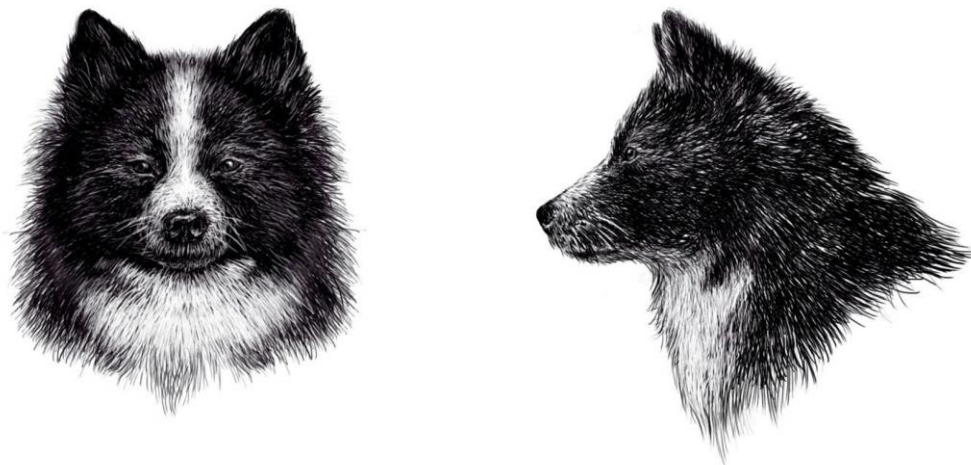
### **LONG-HAIRED VARIETY OR “ERRE”**



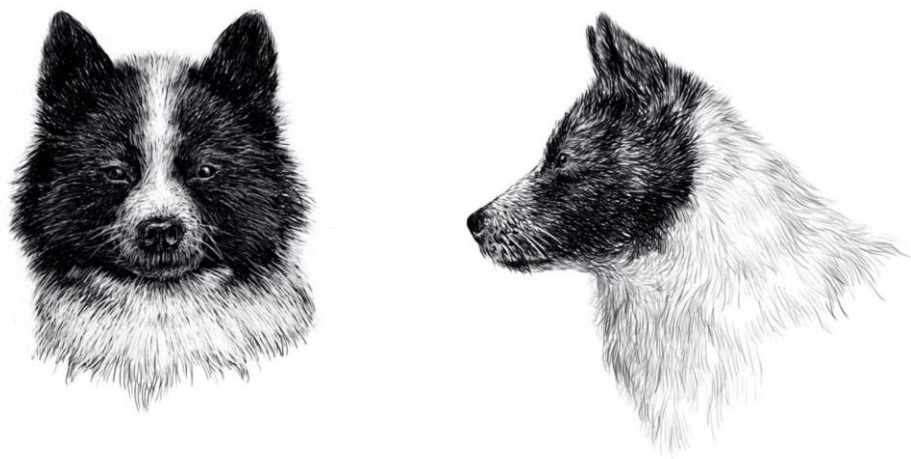
### **SHORT-HAIRED VARIETY OR “YANDO”**



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*Schematic sketches made by Elena Protasova.*

*These pictures do not necessarily show the ideal example of the breed.*

**TRANSLATION:** Mrs. Natalia Nikolskaya. Official authentic language English (EN).

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Russia

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL VALID STANDARD** Место для ввода даты.

**UTILIZATION:** This breed has been historically necessary for reindeer herding. At present, it is also used for the needs of search and rescue services and as a multipurpose companion dog.

**FCI-CLASSIFICATION:** Group 5. Spitz and primitive types.  
Section 3. Nordic watchdogs and herders.  
Without working trial.

**It has not yet been recognized by the World Canine Federation (FCI).**

**BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY:** The Nenets Reindeer Herding Laika is an ancient native breed of dogs bred in the north of the Russian Federation within the modern borders of the Nenets Autonomous District of the Arkhangelsk region and the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District of the Tyumen region for reindeer herding. At present, it is widely popular in the areas of traditional reindeer herding in the north and northeast of Russia.

At different times this breed has had different names, including an elkhound; Nenets laika; white reindeer dog of Yuraks; Nenets reindeer herding laika; Nenets herding laika, Nenets reindeer herding spitz, etc. In the language of the Forest Nenets people, these dogs are called veneko (that means a dog).

The elkhounds were known to the dog lovers already in the 19th century. At the anniversary exhibition of the Imperial Society of Regulated Hunting in 1898, the reindeer herding laikas Belko and Belka owned by prince A.A. Shirinsky-Shikhmatov won a gold medal. In the 1940s, these dogs were regularly exhibited at the All-Union Agricultural Exhibition (AUAЕ), where the working competitions were held and the winners were awarded diplomas.

Since 1950, several attempts have been made by the Russian dog breeders to draw up a unified breed standard.

The first standard was published in 1994, and in 1999 the breed was recognized by the Russian Kynological Federation.

The functional exterior, small size, high adaptive capabilities, as well as the well-developed sense organs make it possible to use dogs of this breed for other services in addition to its main purpose (that is reindeer herding), primarily for the search and rescue and customs services.

**GENERAL APPEARANCE:** Small, short coupled, agile, hardy and high-energy dog, with a strong and lean body, well-developed muscles and strong bones

Similar to all northern dogs, it has a wedge-shaped head, erect ears, dense coat, and a tail laid over back. Sexual dimorphism is well-defined, males are larger than the females.

**IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS:**

- The body length of males is approximately equal to the height at the withers. The females may be a bit longer.

- The foreface length is equal to or slightly shorter than the length of the skull.
- The chest depth is approximately half of the height at the withers.
- The length of forequarters measured at the elbow is equal to or slightly more than half the dog's height at the withers.

**BEHAVIOUR/TEMPERAMENT:** Temperament is lively, agile, and **friendly**. The dog is easily trained, **obedient, disciplined**, capable of learning a variety of skills, **initiative, courageous, able to make decisions independently, has a great working capacity, has a good memory, hearing, has power of scent with a highly developed innate shepherd's instinct. This is a companion dog that follows a man everywhere and is reliable in a difficult situation.** It can be distrustful of strangers.

**HEAD:** It is in proportion to the body; in the form of a moderately elongated wedge. The upper longitudinal lines of the skull and muzzle are parallel.

**CRANIAL REGION:**

**Skull:** Moderately broad and almost flat between the ears. The length of the skull is equal to the skull width or slightly exceeds it. The forehead is slightly domed. The occiput is pronounced.

**Stop:** Noticeable but smooth.

**FACIAL REGION:**

**Nose:** **Medium sized, preferably of black colour. Grey, brown, dark flesh colours are acceptable, but not desirable.**

**Muzzle:** **Its length is equal to or slightly shorter than the skull length.** The muzzle tapers gently towards the nose and is wedge-shaped with a straight bridge of the nose.

**Lips:** Tight fitting, fully pigmented, **of black or matching the nose colour.**

**Jaws/Teeth:** White, large, strong, well developed, evenly spaced, complete dental formula (42 teeth). Scissor bite. **After 6 years, pincer bite is allowed.**

**Cheeks:** **The cheekbones are pronounced, but not excessively.**

**EYES:** They are medium in size, oval shaped, slightly obliquely placed, neither hollow nor protruding; **the eye colour can be from dark brown to hazel, the darker the better. The eyelids are fully pigmented, of black or matching the nose colour.** Expression is live and vivid.

**EARS:** Straight, movable, similar to an isosceles triangle in shape. They are set fairly high and wide. The ear tips are slightly rounded, directed upward and slightly forward. The protective hair **on the inner part of the ears** is well developed.

**NECK:** Of medium length, is set approximately at 50° to the horizon line. The neck is muscular, oval in cross section **without any dewlap.**

**BODY:**

**Top line:** **Level.**

**Withers:** **Moderately pronounced.**

**Back:** Strong, straight, broad, muscular.

**Loin:** Short, slightly arched, broad, muscular.

**Croup:** Medium length, broad, slightly sloping, muscular.

**Chest:** **Long, deep, oval in cross-section, with moderately arched ribs.**

Underline and belly: **The lower line gradually rises from the chest to the belly.**

**TAIL: Highly set covered with thick coat.** It forms a half-ring or loose ring over the croup when the dog is excited, a sickle tail is allowed. Its length is to the hock or shorter. **At rest or when running for a long time, the tail may be lowered.**

## **LIMBS**

### **FOREQUARTERS**

General appearance: When examining from the front, the forelimbs are straight, parallel, and **muscular.**

Shoulder: Medium length, sloping, with strong muscles.

Upper arm: Sloping, with well-defined angles of humeroscapular joints.

Elbow: Pointing strictly back.

Forearm: Straight and parallel, oval in cross section.

Metacarpus (Pastern): Slightly sloping.

Forefeet: Oval, strong, arched. The pads are hard and thick, the claws are short and strong. Thick coarse coat between the toes.

### **HINDQUARTERS**

General appearance: **Muscular, strong, well angulated.** When examining from behind, the hindlimbs are straight and parallel, set wider than the forelimbs.

Thigh: **Moderately long, broad and muscular.**

Stifle (Knee): **Well defined.**

Lower thigh: **Moderate length.**

Hock joint: **The angulations are fairly pronounced.**

Metatarsus (Rear pastern): Not long, strong, vertical.

Hind feet: Oval, strong, arched. The pads are hard and thick, the claws are short and strong. Thick coarse coat between the toes. The presence of dewclaws (polydactyly) is a typical morphological feature that does not affect the assessment.

**GAIT / MOVEMENT:** Free, light-footed, fast, coordinated. Typical gait: gallop, accelerated trot. **The dog maneuvers well and is able to move without difficulty at a high speed in the conditions that are inconvenient for running. In the case of trot, the fore and hind limbs approach the midline. In case of the gallop, the movements are energetic and resilient.**

**SKIN:** The skin is thick, elastic, not loose, without any folds.

### **COAT:**

Hair: Double coat, with the well-developed long outer hair that is harsh to touch and straight, and thick, dense, soft, waterproof undercoat hair. Such coat **allows the dog to endure easily severe frosts and winds. Moreover, it protects against midges and blood-sucking flies in summer. It is also worth noting that the dog easily tolerates high temperature and humidity, that is, it has the ability to adapt to various climatic conditions.**

**The length of coat and undercoat hair varies depending on the coat type.**

a) A long-haired variety or "erre".

**The length of the body hair is at least 8–10 cm. The adorning hair is well developed: on the cheekbones it forms the whiskers, on the neck and shoulders it forms a collar, on the back surface of the forearms it forms the frills, on the back surface of the thighs**

it forms the fluffy breeching with a coat length of 15–20 cm. The longest coat (up to 25 cm,) is on the croup. On the back surface of the metatarsus the coat hair is also longer and dense. Between the toes, the thick, stiff hair forms a brush, due to which the paw surface is enlarged and the dog moves more easily on the frozen crust, ice, swamp. The muzzle, forehead and front surface of the limbs are covered with the shorter dense hair.

b) A short-haired variety or “yando”.

The protective hair and undercoat hair are shorter than those of “erre”, but also have various lengths. The length of the body coat is at least 4 cm. The longest coat (at least 6 cm) is on the cheekbones, while forming the whiskers. It forms a “muff” on the neck and shoulders. It forms the culotte on the back thighs. The tail hair is thick. The muzzle, forehead, front and back surfaces of the forearms and hind cannons are covered with the shorter dense hair, without any frills. The hair is brushy between the toes, similar to “erre”. It forms a brush, but the hair is shorter.

The coat of males and females almost does not differ in length.

#### Colour:

- wolf (wolf gray and wolf red),
- black, black and tan,
- red and fawn (with or without blackening, with or without a mask),
- brown, brown with tan,
- white, piebald and spotted with the above colours,
- colour with blue pigment is acceptable, but not desirable.

Insignificant specks are acceptable.

Preference is given to the dogs with intense full pigmentation.

#### SIZE AND WEIGHT:

	<u>Height at the withers:</u>	<u>Weight:</u>
Males	<b>42 to 50 cm,</b> ideal height is 46 cm.	11 to 17 kg, ideal weight is 14 kg.
Females	<b>38 to 46 cm,</b> ideal height is 42 cm.	8.5 to 12 kg, ideal weight is 10 kg.

**FAULTS:** Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

#### SEVERE FAULTS:

- Lack of sexual type.
- Any signs of looseness of skin, including skin sagging and wrinkling, insufficiently tight eyelids.
- Deviation from the standard height by more than 2 cm this or other way.
- The tail not carried over the back in the excited state, or lying down on the croup as a tight ring.
- Absence of more than 4 teeth from among M3 and PM, except for the upper PM4 (in any combination).
- Eyes are large, round, and protruding.

- Ears are large, and thick. Lack of fringe on the inside of the ears.
- Wavy coat hair, too short, soft protective hair, poor undercoat hair development.

#### **DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:**

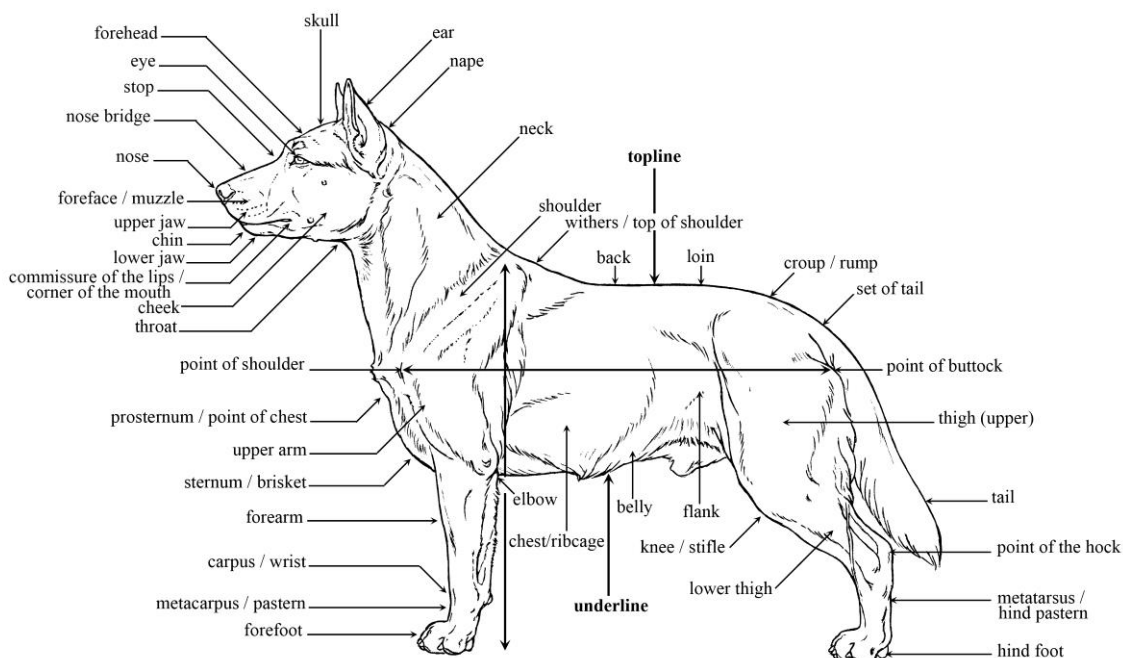
- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Lack of pigmentation of the nose lips, eyelids.
- Deviations from a scissor bite, except for the pincer bite in dogs over 6 years of age; wry jaws.
- **Blue eyes (partially or fully).**
- **Any colour not described by the standard.**
- Curly coat, no undercoat hair.
- Hanging and semi-erect ears.
- Tail in a double tight ring. Congenital dock tail, absence of the tail.
- **Absence of any tooth other than those listed in the SEVERE FAULTS section.** Extra incisor teeth.

#### **N.B.:**

- Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.
- Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation, should be used for breeding.

**The latest amendments are in bold characters.**

#### **SURFACE ANATOMY**



***The standard was approved, edited and prepared for publication by the RKF Standard Commission on May 28, 2021.***



## NENETS REINDEER HERDING LAIKA

### *Average height at the withers:*

*Males — 45.4 cm; females — 42 cm (54 male dogs, 48 females)*

### **Nenets Autonomous District (9 males, 14 females)**

#### ***Vaigach Island: 5 male dogs, 10 females***

*Males — 45.6 cm; females — 43 cm.*

#### ***Amderma: 4 males, 4 females***

*Males — 46 cm; females — 40.7 cm.*

*Average: male dogs — 45.8 cm; female — 41.8 cm.*

### **Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District (30 males, 22 females)**

#### ***Yuri-Bey: 7 males, 5 females.***

*Males — 41.5 cm; females — 40 cm.*

#### ***Kharasavey: 6 males, 4 females***

*Males — 44 cm; females — 41 cm.*

#### ***Marresale: 4 males***

*Males — 44.9 cm.*

#### ***Seyakha: 6 males, 6 females.***

*Males — 45.3 cm; females — 41.5 cm.*

#### ***North of Yamal: 7 males, 7 f females.***

*Males — 46.7 cm; females — 42.4 cm.*

*Average: males — 44.5 cm; females — 41 cm.*

### **Chukotka Autonomous District (15 males 12 females)**

#### ***Markovo breeding kennel: 8 males, 8 females.***

*Males — 47.3 cm; females — 44.4 cm.*

#### ***Lorino: 7 males, 4 females.***

*Males — 45 cm; females — 44 cm.*

*Average: males — 46 cm; females — 44.2 cm.*

### The measurements were performed by:

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Nosov Nikolai Andreevich, veterinarian and

Bogoslovskaya Ekaterina Sergeevna, dog breeder.

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