

Keeshond Are.....

- Keeshonds are fun loving dogs that get bored if left with nothing to do.
- Keeshonds love people and will want to be near you or have you in their eyesight.
- Keeshonds are curious about everything. Sometimes that curiosity makes them forget about what they were doing, including paying attention to you.
- Keeshonds love to dig. That includes flowerbeds or anywhere there is dirt.
- Young keeshonds love to chew... wood, baseboards, fencing, sticks, rocks, your shoes etc. To keep them from eating up things they shouldn't, give them plenty of toys and chews of their own.
- Keeshonds must run off their energy. If they are penned up too much, when they are released, the can go into "racing frenzies".
- Keeshonds are a "double-coated" breed and, as such, require weekly grooming. Actually, they have more of a fur than dog hair.
- Keeshonds have cat feet and their toe nails must be kept short to keep their feet from splaying out and becoming flat footed. If their nails are not kept short, they can develop problems with their feet and even with slipping on surfaces, making them susceptible to injury, due to long pointy toenails. To keep on top of this, Keeshond owners must trim toenails weekly on growing puppies and less often on mature dogs.
- Keeshond puppy coats are just like velcro; they pick up everything.
- Keeshonds love water. That includes the water in their bowls and may dig out the water just for fun leaving a mess on your floor.
- Keeshonds love to leap and jump. That includes on small children, if the Keeshonds are not use to them. It is not their intention to knock a child down, but it can happen.
- Keeshonds are usually eager to please, but because of their clown instinct, they can add fun to training and be stubborn. They will get bored.
- As a pet, Keeshond males and females are about the same in temperament. Instead of choosing a sex when choosing a keeshond, 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.



- Keeshonds act like a two year old child for about the first 2 years of their life. They must be given patience, understanding and guidance during this time.
- Keeshonds love food and can quickly add weight (adults) if given free reign to eat everything they want. Their love of food makes reward training very effective.
- Keeshond puppies need plenty of good food and 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.
- Keeshonds 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 the hot summer. NEVER SHAVE A KEES thinking they will be cooler. In fact, they will not as the coat does provide some shelter for their skin in the heat.
- All dogs perspire in only two places, the tongue and through the pads of the feet. Kees should be given plenty of fresh water at all times (except puppies during the night time). The hair on the feet between the pads should be kept trimmed to allow air circulation.
- Keeshonds are beautiful dogs and generally healthy if given good food, exercise, weekly grooming & love.
- Keeshonds 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 Keeshond can be taught to "talk" so that it can also be taught how to "be quiet".
- Keeshonds live an average of about 15 years. 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. This addition should involve the entire family.

BUY from a reputable, ethical breeder. Do not buy from Internet "next day" pet sites. Reputable breeders will help you along the way, and know the background of your Kees. They will have generations of health tested, good quality kees behind your puppy. You can be assured your kees will look like a kees and have the temperament a kees should have. Here are good websites to find kees:

<http://www.keeshond.org> (Keeshond Club of America)
<http://keesavailable.azarz.info>



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#.

Capital Kees Club
The MidAtlantic resource for keeshonden
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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, and intelligent expression, but also by his stand-off coat, his richly plumed tail well curled over his back, his fox-like expression, and his small pointed ears. His coat is very thick around the neck, fore part of the shoulders and chest, forming a lion-like ruff-more profuse in the male. His rump and hind legs, down to the hocks, are also thickly coated, forming the characteristic "trousers." His head, ears, and 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 and 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 and head must present a pleasing appearance, imparting to the dog an alert and 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 and neither too wide apart nor too close together. Eye rims are black. **Faults:** Round and/or protruding eyes or eyes light of color. **Ears** Ears should be small, triangular in shape, mounted high on head and 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 and 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 and 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, and well proportioned to the skull.

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

Neck, Topline, Body

The neck should be moderately long, well-shaped and 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 and strong of chest. **Tail** The tail should be moderately long and well feathered, set on high and tightly curled over the back. It should lie flat and 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 and 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 and 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 and covering the whole of the front part of the shoulders and chest, as well as the top part of the shoulders. The hair on the legs should be smooth and short, except for feathering on the front legs and "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, and, if desired, whiskers. **TRIMMING OTHER THAN AS DESCRIBED TO BE SEVERELY PENALIZED.** **Faults:** Silky, wavy, or curly coats. Part in coat down the back.

Color and Markings

A dramatically marked dog, the Keeshond is a mixture of gray, black and 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" and shadings, as previously described, are characteristic of the breed and must be present to some degree. Ears should be very dark, almost black. **Ruff, Shoulders and "Trousers"** The color of the ruff and "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, and the tip of the tail should be black. **Legs and Feet** Legs and 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 and keep tails curled over the back. They should move cleanly and briskly; the movement should be straight and sharp with reach and drive between slight to moderate.

Temperament

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

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Male Keeshond



Female Keeshond

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