

# *The Keeshond - An Illustrated Breed Standard*

## **COLOUR**

***A mixture of grey and black. Undercoat very pale grey or cream (not tawny). All shades of grey acceptable, body hairs black tipped. Shoulder markings well defined and all markings definite. Forelegs and hocks cream with no black below wrist or hock. Pencilling acceptable***

***A mixture of grey and black;***

Correctly coloured and marked in accordance with the Breed Standard the Keeshond is a strikingly handsome creature. The Standard is quite explicit on the subject of colour. The correct outercoat coat colour should be a mixture of grey and black; not cream, nor yellow, not solid grey or solid black but a mixture of black and grey contrasts.

***Undercoat very pale grey or cream (not tawny);***

As stated in the previous section on coat, only a pale grey or a light cream coloured undercoat is acceptable. A tawny coloured (brownish-yellow or tan coloured) undercoat is totally incorrect

***All shades of grey acceptable, body hairs black tipped. Shoulder markings well defined and all markings definite;***

It does not matter if the dog is light silver, medium grey or dark grey, that is up to individual preference, providing that the distinctive coat markings are clearly defined.

The outer hairs of the body are black tipped, the base of each hair being creamy at the root and the length of the black tips varying on each individual hair. It is this complex shading to the outercoat which gives the contrasts and depth of colour characteristic to the breed.

The dark head with its pretty markings is set off by the light coloured ruff which surrounds it. The body coat is dark, with a clearly defined shoulder marking breaking up the pattern of the coat, so that the main part of the body coat appears to have a very distinct saddle marking. The trousers and the tail are light in colour and the tail should have a black tip. All markings should be clearly defined and not blur into each other.

***Forelegs and hocks cream with no black below wrist or hock. Pencilling acceptable;***

The forelegs and the rear metatarsals must be a light cream in colour and free from noticeable blemishes. Black smudge marks, like thumb prints, sometimes seen on the front legs are unacceptable, as are black hairs on the rear metatarsals, which can sometimes be seen forming a black line down them. Black marks on the feet are also unacceptable. Light pencilling marks (a faint black line) sometimes found on the forelegs are not penalised.

- FAULTS**
- Any deviation from the colour grey in the outercoat. Especially if showing an inclination towards tawny (brownish-yellow or tan coloured).
  - Any deviation from the colours pale grey or cream in the undercoat.
  - Any solid colour, and an absence of, or lack of definition in any of the characteristic markings.
  - Black marks on the legs or feet, with the exception of permissible pencilling.
  - White foot or feet.
  - Any significant mis-marking such as white marks on the chest or other parts of the body. There should be no white on a Keeshond.