

A white Japanese Spitz dog stands on a wooden railing in a traditional Japanese garden. In the background, there is a stone lantern and vibrant red maple leaves. The dog has a thick, white, fluffy coat and pointed ears.

Japanese Spitz

The Japanese Spitz (日本スピッツ) is an extremely likable dog breed having a sweet and happy disposition. They are naturally affectionate, and loyal to their owners. They are bright-eyed, intelligent, and very receptive to training. Combined with their undisputed good looks and compact not-too-small and not-too-big body size they make superb family dogs.

White Wonder

By: Shannon Watherston of Shanspitz Kennels. www.japspitz.com

The Japanese Spitz has been recognized as a breed for more than 40 years, but it did not reach the West until the beginning of the 70s and the first European areas to accept the breed was Scandinavian countries and Great Britain. Until 1985 it remained unknown and ignored by most people, such as France, Germany, Italy and Austria. Later the Japanese Spitz spread rapidly, despite the relatively few specimens, and gained more and more followers as soon as its excellent qualities were discovered and appreciated.

The Japanese Spitz has been a real discovery, actually, because its handsome appearance like that of a small-sized snow white arctic dog is complemented by some very particular temperamental characteristics. (it is often improperly called "mini – Samoyed")

In fact, this dog is endowed with a marked sense of property and territory, as well as a strong personality lacking in submissiveness, and is naturally inclined to assume the role of a true protagonist in the family right from puppyhood. Its behaviour towards man reflects a sense of mutual friendship rather than instinctive submission. This has created new situations of co-habitation even for long-experienced fanciers. And it is a common occurrence that people who have had a Japanese Spitz as a pet are no longer able to find satisfaction with any other breed.

Origin of the Japanese Spitz

The first information we have about the development of the breed dates back to not more than 80 years ago and it has now been proved that this dog was created and developed in Japan by expert cynologists between 1920 and 1950; their starting point was a number of spitz dogs imported at different times from different countries.

As with many other breeds, we do not know the precise recipe for the cocktail from which the Japanese Spitz was born, so various theories have been put forward. Moreover, there is a veiled dispute between those who regard this dog simply as a descendant of the German Spitz and those who consider its origins as more distinctive and singular.

From the information we have collected and the arguments we have put forward it can be stated that:

1. The Japanese Spitz was originally created from at least 2 varieties of dogs; the American Eskimo and a white Russian Spitz (Laika) imported to Japan via Manchuria.



2. Direct utilization of the German Spitz to develop the original Japanese Spitz is still under debate, even if it is likely; at any rate this breed had an important part in the development of the
3. Japanese Spitz indirectly through the American Eskimo.
4. It seems that the direct descendant of the Japanese Spitz from the Samoyed must be excluded, although the two breeds show remarkable similarities and some Samoyed blood may have come to the Japanese Spitz through the white Russian Spitz (Laikas) imported from Manchuria.
5. After the Second World War the Japanese Spitz suffered from some uncontrolled cross-breeding with other similar dogs (German Spitz, American Eskimo, Samoyed, unidentified white Japanese dog), but the efforts of the breed fanciers managed to save this dog from significant debasement in time.



Puppy photo Tracey
Claire Photography



Breed Personality/Temperament

The Japanese Spitz is a family dog. They thrive on human companionship. They are an intelligent breed always eager to please, each dog developing its own personality. In temperament, they are alert, intelligent, bold and lively. They tend to be wary of complete strangers that rush up to them without formal introduction. They prefer a gentle approach, after which you have a friend for life.

They are characterized by their great affection for their owners and they are devoted companions. They are small enough to enjoy being a lap dog, but let it be said, at their discretion, for despite these qualities are nevertheless of an independent nature with a will of their own.

Care Requirements

Despite its long pure white coat the Japanese Spitz is a low maintenance breed. Contrary to most people's expectations and beliefs their coat is very easy to look after. Because, due to its texture/silky component, mud and dirt fall off or can be brushed out very easily. While they love to play in the dirt, this is a fastidious/clean dog that does not like getting dirty and, like a cat, will lick itself clean. Provided they are kept well groomed (about once a week) they should only require a bath about once a month. They shed their coat twice a year. The shedding will usually only last a couple of weeks and the dead hair is easily brushed out. I recommend a trip to a professional groomer when they are shedding their coat as they are experts in their field and will remove the hair for you with ease.

In between shedding times you will not get any hair loss so for about a couple weeks in the year you will need to brush them daily to help remove the dead hair. Some people save the hair and have it spun to knit with.

They do not need lots of exercise, but they are an active breed and enjoy being taken for a walk. If they are bored they can be mischievous. They are not a dog you can leave in the backyard and forget. They enjoy living both indoors and outdoors, in fact they enjoy being wherever you are, they thrive on human companionship but are happy to be the only dog in the backyard (ie they don't need another companion dog)

Compatibility With Other Pets

As a companion dog the Japanese Spitz should be familiarised with other household pets at an early age; it will then live happily and reliably with them. They can have a dominant nature and when introduced to a household with other breeds they may very quickly become "The Boss" even over much larger breeds.

Ideal Owner/s for this Breed

The Japanese Spitz is a family dog seeming to thrive on the different attention and affections from each family member. Although, they will choose one family member as their leader and bond more closely with that person.

A young puppy (3-12months) could be a "handful" for children under the age of 5 without adult supervision. However when dogs and children are together they, should be supervised at all times.

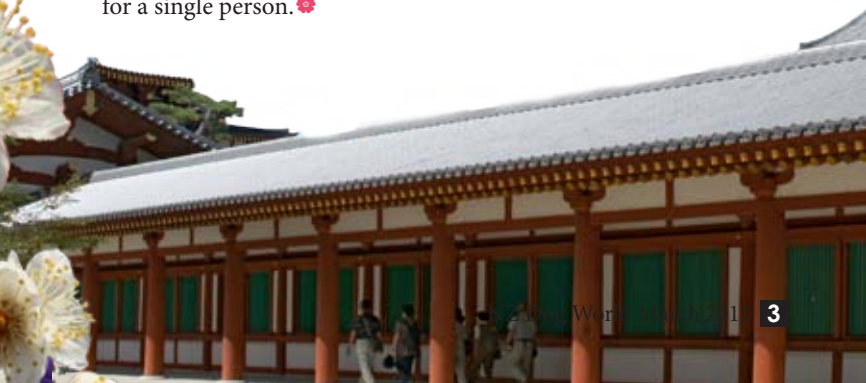
Having said that they also make an excellent and loving companion for a single person. 🌸

Characteristics of the Breed

The Japanese Spitz is a classic medium-sized spitz covered with a thick, snow white stand-off coat, which consists of a long straight outer coat held by a profuse and soft under coat. The head has a sharply pointed muzzle and triangular shaped ears standing erect. The tail is of medium length, has a rich fringe of long hair and curled over the back. The overall quality of the body should be firm and strong, full of flexibility. Fore and hindquarters should be well proportioned and balanced. The general appearance should be noble, first of all, and united in a perfect sate, indicated structural beauty in a harmonious whole. The ideal ration of height at shoulders vs length of body is 10:11.

Its not hard to see why one would love the Japanese Spitz. It's an alert, lively, bold, eager to please, intelligent family dog. They are companion dogs and make wonderful versatile pets. They tend to be wary of strangers upon first meeting, so time and patience is required for this bread to become familiar with your guests and friends, but after that you have a friend for life. They are great watch dogs as they keep constant and careful watch over their territory.

Despite its impressive coat, the Japanese Spitz is surprisingly easy to maintain. They require a brush once a week except for when they shed their coat which is twice a year then daily brushing is required to remove the dead hair. This usually last up to a week. They don't have a doggy smell even when wet and as their coat has a silk component mud and dirt does not stick to it so if you are worried about your pristine white dog getting muddy, rest assured this will brush out easily, leaving your dog white again.



Japanese Spitz type

Written by L Trainor

Hakuo Japanese Spitz have a slight, longish body, and a normal-sized head and limbs. They are very nimble, making them ideal for agility events. They have a shorter coat than average, and a bright nature. Their height is medium/small.

King-Light Japanese Spitz are also medium/small in height and have shortish limbs. Their heads and necks are short and their necks are slim. Their coats are very thick and there is a likelihood of below average pigmentation.

Lassie types are strongly built, taller than average, and have large, expressive faces and stately carriage. Their coats are pure white, but temperament is not as easily controlled.

Hi-Crown Japanese Spitz have a stocky body shape and slimmer neck. Their heads are round and large with short muzzles. They have short limbs which lowers their overall height. Their coat is thick, but the quality and whiteness is below average. They have a calm, quite nature.



My dog Jessie



*Jessie my dog in the sun,
We play at lunch and have some fun,
She makes me laugh and when I run,
I share my toast and I don't mind,
Because I love her I am kind,
Under my blankets she sleeps at night,
But best of all she's sooo much white!*

Amelia Ireland Grace (7 years) with Jessie.

Spitz around town...





The Japanese Spitz

"In The Spotlight"



DR AKON

2010 & 2011 NEW ZEALANDS.
NUMBER 1. JAPANESE SPITZ
BEST OF BREED & RISING STAR with
CH DRAGON DAMN RIGHT I'M WHITE
NEW ZEALANDS FIRST & ONLY "GOLD MERIT"
(2011 NZ National Dog Show Winner)

Kennel to 10 NZ Champions.
2011 we titled 4 Homebred Spitz to
NZ Champions & 2012 another Homebred
CH + a Bronze & Gold Merit Awarded

Special thanks to Denise Hart (Ashlands)
& Kaye Craig (Kamara) and Tracey Clair
Photography for the beautiful Dog World
Cover photo of my Drakon Babies.



DR AKON

WINNER of the Prestigious Ethical
Breeders Award for Japanese
Spitz, this is a first ever for a New
Zealand Breeder making us work
even harder.

We are a very small selective
kennel who are actively showing
the Japanese Spitz and working
towards improving the Quality
of this wonderful bred, planning
all future litters well in advance,
which are all house reared in our
family home.

All Drakon's breeding stock are
DNA tested overseas, where we
are Accredited Breeders

I am NZQA qualified in Animal
Care, Veterinary Nursing and also
Rural Vet Technician.

<http://www.japanespitz.co.nz/>
Anya Trainor



GOLD MERIT

NZ Champion Drakon Damn Right I'm White

NEW ZEALANDS FIRST EVER 'GOLD MERIT'
JAPANESE SPITZ!!

JUNIOR IN GROUP
Manawatu Kennel Benefit Show
Judge Esther Joseph (Victoria)

JUNIOR OF GROUP
Tauranga Kennel Championship Show 2011
Judge Kerry King (South Australia)

Breed/Owned By
Anya Trainor



CH The Memory

Remains at Drakon

BEST PUPPY OF GROUP
East Coast Ladies Assoc 2011

JUNIOR OF GROUP
Gisbornes Championship Show 2011
Judge Graig Scott

Breed/Owned By
Anya Trainor



BRONZE MERIT

CH Drakon The Unforgiven

PUPPY OF GROUP
Pencarrow Kennel Assc Championship Show
Judge Diane Ballie of Victoria

PUPPY OF GROUP
Taupo Championship Show
Judge Nigel Trainor

Second Placing DOL Leaderboard 2011
BEST OF BREED & RISING STAR
behind GOLD MERIT Drakon Damn Right
Im White

Breed/Owned By
Anya Trainor

History of the Breed

By Jane Faulkner, Jonja Kennel, Japanese Spitz Club President



An American Eskimo Dog, photo: Robert Southworth



Painting by Thomas Gainsborough (1727–1788) entitled "The Morning Walk" depicting Mr. and Mrs. Hallet, accompanied by their White Spitz.

JAPAN

The Japanese Spitz is an extremely likable dog breed having a sweet and happy disposition. They are naturally affectionate, and loyal to their owners. They are bright-eyed, intelligent, and very receptive to training. Combined with their undisputed good looks and compact not-too-small and not-too-big body size they make superb family dogs. In less than a decade after the Japan Kennel Club recognized the breed in the late 1940's the Japanese Spitz accounted for a staggering 40% of all registered pet dogs in Japan.

The beginnings of the Japanese Spitz that you and I would recognize today are found in 1921, when they were first exhibited to the public at a Tokyo Dog Show. Their profuse, stand-off, coats of pure ice-white gave them a strikingly elegant and regal look. The history pre 1921 is a little blurry and subject to some debate. However small-to-medium sized, spitz-type, white dogs have existed in one form or another for many centuries and found across Europe. Germany enjoy a Small White Spitz standing generally under 11 inches at the wither, and the Great White Spitz typically 16- 17 inches tall. Additionally the Volpino Italiano (Italian Spitz) has a similar size and look to the Small White Spitz of Germany. It is thought that these, plus possibly Samoyed dogs, White Russian Spitz (Laika) and a number of other non-breed-specific, small to medium white-spitz dogs found their way to America mostly

from Europe, but particularly from Russia, Germany and Poland during the mass migrations of people in the 1800s.

With time and into the next century white-spitz dogs turned up in Japan potentially as a result of the movement of the armed forces also stationed in China and Russia (with their families and pets) having traveled from Canada and America. A military encampment was based in the north east of China at Manchuria and it was from here at the end of the Japanese Taishō period (1912-1926) we know that a number of long-coated, white-spitz dogs were exported to Japan. These dogs out of China along with long-coated, white-spitz dogs from the USA, and Canada made up initial foundation stock for today's Japanese Spitz.

Japanese cynologists of the 1920-1950 era crossed the collection of imported dogs in a program designed to perfect a new breed. It appears they were after an excellent companion, and watch dog that was most beautiful in appearance. The first generations of the breed were referred to as 'Samo' but by 1935 only the larger examples were called 'Samo' and the smaller examples described as 'Spitz'. From here much of the detail is sketchy, with recorded genealogies reportedly lost and burned in the chaotic post-war period for Japan. The story picks up again in 1945 when fanciers were calling the dogs 'Nihon Supittsu' (Japanese Spitz) and by 1948 the unified standard was authored,



NZ CH Foxlea Silva Crystal (Imp-Aust) - bred by Mrs N Beirberitz

Oldway Pearly Princess from Mrs. Gladys Langton, also of Britain. Both *Majestic* and *Princess* were titled as Champions in New Zealand. Mrs. Sharpin produced thirteen Japanese Spitz puppies, and bred the first Japanese Spitz to be awarded an agility title, *NZCH Silverbay Luvina Storm ADX*.

Next New Zealand saw Mrs. Bev Thompson of **Silverbay kennel** drawn to the little dogs. While showing Lowchen at a National Dog Show Mrs. Thompson spotted the new Japanese Spitz being exhibited. She reports that she didn't have a chance to talk to the exhibitor at the show, but gleaned enough information from the show catalogue to later write to Mrs. Marie Sharpin in Huntly. Then in 1985 Mrs. Thompson acquired 'Candy' or *Kaiapoi Dawn Yobji* as a puppy. Candy developed from being a 'delightful puppy' into a wonderful example of the breed having good size and also a fabulous temperament. Mrs. Thompson went on to import from Australia *Alandmeri Snow Legend* and later *Foxlea Silva Crystal*. Both dogs along with Candy were titled as Champions and *Foxlea Silva Crystal* is of particular note for the Silverbay Kennel as he was to earn 'In Show' and 'In Group' success. He is believed to have been the first Japanese Spitz for New Zealand to win a 'Best of Group' at an All Breeds Championship Show, and six of his eleven offspring were to become New Zealand Champions. In short the Japanese Spitz were off to a rocking good start.

Since the arrival of the initial four dogs brought into New Zealand by the late Mrs. Sharpin, and through the collective efforts of many breeders, there have been a further twenty-three dogs and bitches imported to our shores. These imported dogs have predominantly come out of Australia, and to a lesser extent from England. Interestingly of these twenty-three dogs fourteen are titled as Champions and there are five carrying dual NZ/AUS Championship recognition.

The breed continues on in good hands and New Zealand saw the establishment of a burgeoning new breed club in 2011, when Lois Butler, Lance Bulter, Andree Brightwell, Virginia Barlow, Jane Faulkner, and Kaye Craig formed the inaugural committee of the Japanese Spitz Club. The club invite and welcome membership and have signaled the intention to apply for N.Z.K.C recognition in the near future. The preservation of history is one of the breed guardianship roles that the club mean to fulfill. 🌸

published and the breed recognized officially by the new Japan Kennel Club founded in the same year. The popularity of the beautiful Japanese Spitz soared through the 1950's in Japan culminating in 1959 with the establishment of the world's first breed club. The Japanese Spitz began to spread to other countries. Initially migrating to Sweden in the early 1970's and then from Sweden onto England in 1977, and Australia 1980.

Early on a Mrs. Liz Cartledge of **Ryslip kennel** in England imported from Sweden a number of bitches and a stud dog, and along with Mrs. Gladys Langton of **Oldway kennel** who also imported dogs from Finland, joined the pioneering efforts of Mrs. Kenyon establishing the breed in Britain. Mrs. Cartledge and Mrs. Langton played a significant role for the New Zealand breed history by sending the first Japanese Spitz to Aotearoa. A good number of owners in New Zealand have Japanese Spitz with a traceable lineage to the Oldway and Ryslip kennels and then back through Sweden/Finland and to the first exports out of Japan. A small point of interesting trivia is that Mrs. Liz Cartledge at about the same time was responsible for sending the very first Swedish Vallhund to arrive in New Zealand also.

The Japanese Spitz today is found around the world. Almost all welcomed the arrival of the new spitz breed, although notably the America Kennel Club opted to not recognize the breed and they continue to confer official preference for their very similar American Eskimo Dog. The Eskimo Dog was developed through a similar time frame and descends from very similar breeding stock out of Germany rather than Alaska as their name may suggest. The name Eskimo was adopted to avoid war time anti-German prejudice. Interestingly there exists today examples of the Japanese Spitz living in America and indeed there is even an American Japanese Spitz Club.

NEW ZEALAND

In the early 1980's just after the Japanese Spitz had arrived on Australian shores the *late* Mrs. Marie Sharpin, owner of **Kaipoi kennel** was living in the Waikato. Mrs. Sharpin, a dedicated breeder of the beautiful Samoyed, was seeking a smaller breed to to campaign on the show scene. She made contact with Mrs. Liz Cartledge in England, and imported *Ryslip White Whisper* and *Ryslip Polar Bear*. She also imported stud dog *Oldway Majestic* and bitch

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Striving For Excellence

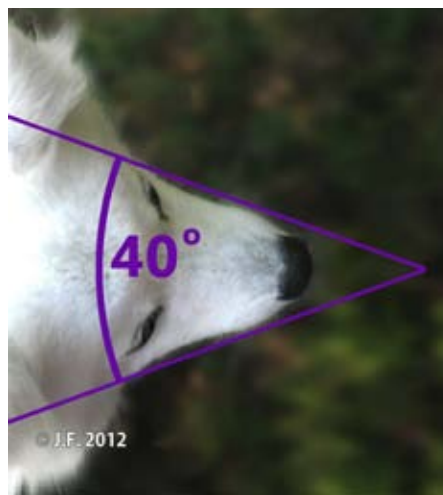
By Jane Faulkner

Breeders, Breed Clubs and enthusiasts of the Japanese Spitz all over the world are striving to preserve and maintain excellence. This is a short overview detailing what excellence looks like. The Japanese Spitz is a small dog. He is bold, lively and intelligent, his step nimble, light and his entire constitution is one of nobility, elegance, balance and beauty. His triangular shaped ears could be considered perky as they are set high on his head, are erect and facing forward. They should not be too wide apart, nor too long or too large. Facial expression includes dark, oval eyes that are correct when 'ginko-nut' shaped and incorrect if 'almond-shaped'. His eyes are set rather obliquely. This is an important part of his facial appearance often overlooked. He should appear almost as though he is looking slightly down his nose. These beautiful dark eyes are framed with jet-black rims, matching his jet-black small nose and his lips.



Headshot left is a good example, right a poor example

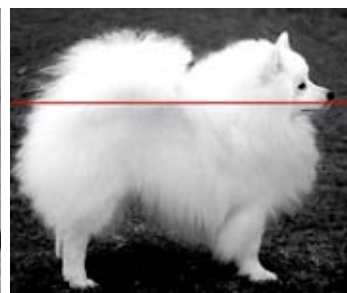
His head should also possess a well defined stop with his forehead not protruding, his skull being broadest at the occiput. A Japanese Spitz has a pointed muzzle that is wedged shaped when viewed from above that is neither thick nor blunt.



Picture of 40 degree wedge

imagines a straight line sitting on his topline (as demonstrated in 'Poor Example') it will run straight across his topline and through the jaw. There may well still be an apparent arch to the neck, but this typically is an illusion created by coat.

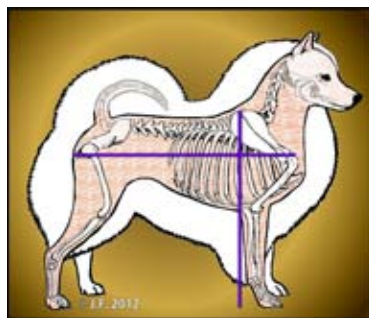
A beautiful example of the breed would have an arching neck of medium length that holds his whole head, including his lower jaw, well above the level of his topline. This is achieved when the dog is built with a correct lay of shoulder. The elegance of an arched neck adds to his regal appearance (as seen in 'Good Example'). Where a dog has a steep lay of shoulder the neck will appear short. When stacked, if the observer



Good Example left and right Poor Example

When a Japanese Spitz dog has a correct length of upper arm he will have a good range of movement. With a sufficient length of upper arm will cover the ground with effortless reach, creating a quick, but flowing action. A little dog that has a too short an upper arm can be spotted when on the move as he appears to be 'goose-stepping'.

The ratio of 10:11 means that the point of shoulder to the point of buttock if measured in a straight line would be slightly longer than the height of the dog as measured from the ground up the point of wither. It would be correct to say that he is slightly 'off square' when standing. Like so many other breeds the Japanese Spitz should have a lovely straight topline indicative of balance. The New Zealand Standard for the Japanese Spitz allows for males to measure 12-16" at the shoulder, and for females 10 - 14". So as you can see, if you were to have standing alongside each other a bitch at the lower range of correct height at 10 cm, and a dog standing at the higher end of the correct height at 16 inches the difference would be quite noticeable, yet acceptable.



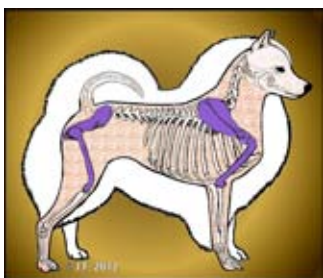
Ratio Diagram

At the end of his topline you will find his croup which is level and he has a high set tail, which he carries in a curve over his back. A description of the preferred tail is one that is curved in a plume over the back so that the lay of the tail almost rests on top, mid-back. It does not tightly curl in a 'pigtail-style', and it is not so long that it hangs along the side of the body. For a dog to have

a good tail set he needs to have correct hind end angulation which is can be seen in the Angulation Diagram.

If you visually drop a plumline from the point of buttock your line will land neatly at the toe-tip of his dainty 'catlike' feet. A Japanese Spitz that is too steep in hind end angulation will have that plumbine drop through the middle of the toes and even middle of the foot. Correct structure for the hind legs is not simply a matter of conformational beauty, but for this breed it is also a health consideration, as Japanese Spitz have been known to have luxating patellas. Although luxating patellas may be congenital in that the dog is born with a disposition for problems, a leg with correct hind end angulation will cope better with the action of a bouncing, happy dog as there will be less strain on the knee joint. It is a truth that these little guys like to dance on their hind legs. Conformational faults can lead to unneeded vet bills.





Angulation Diagram

Observers will note that this breed should have well sprung ribs and good depth of chest. When viewed from the side the lowest point of his chest should be just below his elbow. He has a moderate tuck up and strong loin, broad and firm and with a slight rise. Good 'bone' should match proportionally the rest of the dog. You can see light bone when he appears 'spindely' in the legs. Conversely too much bone makes him look heavy, and this compromises the nimble and elegant feature of the breed. Of course as you would expect a masculine dog will naturally have more bone and a feminine bitch will be somewhat lighter and be correct. Note: the bone seen in Good Example, fits well proportionally with the rest of the dog.

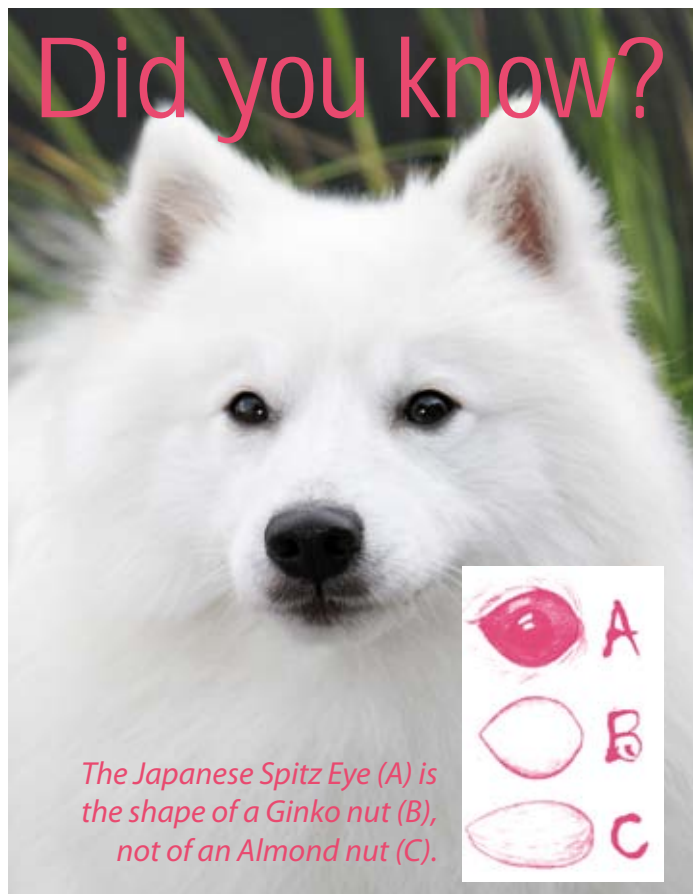
The visually obvious aspect to all who meet the little Japanese Spitz, is his stand-off, plush, pure, ice-white fur coat. The longer guard hairs can be seen creating; the mane of the neck and layered over his shoulders, the ruff of the chest and framing the face, the plume of the tail and the pantaloons. The outer guard hair over his body is supported in place by a profuse, very soft, plush shorter undercoat. Short, soft fur is also found on the ears, face, and legs. Regarding the coat, enthusiasts will know that it is undesirable to have a coat that is lacking length of guard hairs, is too long, or wavey, too fine or sparse.

The Japanese breeders of the past wanted a little watch dog for apartment living. It is entirely acceptable and normal for a stable, well adjusted and socialised Japanese Spitz to still be somewhat coy, and reserved upon meeting strangers in the first instance. They should however warm to visitors when they are welcomed into the home. Breeders of today are striving to lessen the wariness in the breed. It is a fault if this cautious nature is extreme and the Japanese Spitz so reserved they are afraid. The correct nature is loyal with their family, bright and friendly and they make wonderful family companion dogs that will thrive in a smaller home provided that their owner is committed to providing socialisation opportunities and daily exercise. 🌸

A couple of great examples of a Japanese Spitz



Did you know?



The Japanese Spitz Eye (A) is the shape of a Ginkgo nut (B), not of an Almond nut (C).

"...and that little Piggy went ..."

by Graham Saunders from Spitz Bütz

On a still Sunday morning as the mist lifts from the bush-clad gully, my friend and I wait to call out some wild Captain Cooker pigs.

Movement on the other side signals that it is time to send my Lab-cross dog, Silk, around to move the pigs in.

I watch Silk through my rifle scope as he begins to mob the pigs up.

A sudden flash of white to one side caught my attention. Kano, the Japanese Spitz had somehow got out of the run, followed our track to the back of the farm and was now going to join us!

What a shambles, Kano blasted his way through the muddy creek up into the mob sending pigs in all directions.

Silk was still there trying to do his job while Kano was having the time of his life.

After dropping the first pig my concern was for Kano's safety. At times Japanese Spitz can be brave to the point of stupidity, and knowing what wild pigs can do to dogs when angry... somehow a show dog with battle scars doesn't look too good in the ring. None of this however worried Kano.

I called Silk back and watched as Kano finally got the idea and pushed one small pig back up our side of the gully. At last another clean shot.

Sitting back to survey the scene I saw that my clean white Japanese Spitz was now caked in mud and duckweed but was he happy! A smile from ear to ear, tail wagging and proud of his efforts.

I have no idea what hunting skills this breed had in the past but any chance I get I now take Kano with me.

Cleaning him up afterwards can be a bit of a chore but the look of happiness on his face makes it all worth while.

'Lady' Mitsouko had also proved to love rabbit hunting.



Why a Spitz?

Anya Trainor - Drakon Kennels

The first Staffordshire Bull Terrier I purchased was shown for 3 years before we undertook our first litter in the late 1990s. I was with this breed for over 15 years before acquiring my first Japanese Spitz.

This article is an attempt to explain the reasons for changing my breed, and leaving behind my much beloved Staffordshire Bull Terriers.

I had a Staffy who competed in Agility AD Class and I was looking for another breed of dog that would be fast, clever, active, and compete in the mini class of Agility (not having any Border Collies against us, as we all know how good they are!!). I was also looking at a breed with very few health concerns that did not require a C-Section if I decided to breed from them.

The Japanese Spitz was not a dog that I had any previous knowledge of. This breed was something quite new to me and I found them

very interesting. Their coat is amazingly easy to maintain as it is known as a Teflon coat and dirt does not take hold very easily.

I remember having my first Spitz puppies and both of them rolling down the clay hill at the back of our land. Oh MY!! Amazingly, within an hour of this activity, all traces of dirt had fallen off them and their coats were again snowy white. They also have no hunting ability, so can be safely placed with other types of animals and seem extremely fond of cats.

I have consistently accompanied my Japanese Spitz across the North Island to allow judges to see this hidden breed, and now, instead of the judges walking straight past this rare breed when in The Group, they now actually stop and show a real interest in my Japanese Spitz.

In 2011 we titled New Zealands First SILVER Merit with CH Drakon Damn Right I'm White, who then went on to gain his GOLD Merit in 2012.

Last year was very memorable, as we won our first groups, which has not been achieved in over 3 years at a North Island All Breeds Champ Show, taking a total of 6 groups during the year.

as well as making 4 to their Champion titles.

We hope there is a lot more to come in the future – maybe even an "In Show". 🌸

Japanese Spitz in Agility in NZ

By Fiona Hodgson - Senior Agility Judge

My first experience with the Japanese Spitz was when a friend of mind ran a really quick and gutsy wee bitch in the mid-90s. Her name was Storm – NZCh. Silverbay Luvina Storm ADX. Storm represented the central North Island (Zone 2) in agility teams at the NDTA (National Dog Training Assembly) twice. The first was in 1998 in Wellington and the second was in Invercargill in 1999. The Invercargill event has become part of agility folklore with huge volumes of rain falling in the few days prior to the weekend resulting in the grounds being nothing short of a quagmire. Many of the smaller dogs that weekend just flatly refused to run in those conditions – but not Storm. She was covered in mud and flying round courses like the water wasn't there. She was almost having to swim between obstacles at one point but it didn't faze her one little bit.

Storm was something very special – a breed champion with tons of attitude, she was the reason I went hunting for a Japanese Spitz for agility all these years later. My investigations found Sue from Arashi kennels who's boy has Storm behind him – ironically his name is Storm too! My boy who is now fifteen months old is called Scorcha (Arashi He's White Hot). He has his great-grandma's attitude without a doubt and is showing huge promise in his training to date. He will hopefully start competing some time in the new year.

There is actually another Japanese Spitz competing at present. He is not Part I registered and Luka is a lovely boy owned by Rochelle from Tokoroa

and competing in the central North Island and really starting to reel in the ribbons. I can see this combination being one which will do very well in 2012 now that they have a bit of experience behind them.

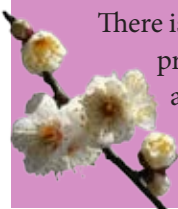


Photo P O'Connor

Anyone who has owned a Japanese Spitz will understand how clever they are. You can not "bully" them into doing anything at all (and nor should you), but if you establish a reason for them to work with you they are a joy to train. They will make you laugh with their "variations" on the exercises and they will give 100% every time you take them out.

I use a reward-based training system using both food and tug-toys to create drive and fun in the training. The one thing I would advise well before any agility training is done is work hard on getting a really good reliable recall going. This is really important for such a social wee dog when the lure of other interesting things is available. We worked very hard on this and can call Scorcha off the calves and away from his friends the goats now. He is an absolute joy to work with and a great buddy who follows me around the house, lies on the bed waiting for me when I'm in the shower and would happily go absolutely anywhere with me.

So if you are considering looking for something fun to do with your Japanese Spitz I can highly recommend agility. If your dog is under 325mm they will jump just 300mm but most males will be





over this so will jump 380mm which is absolutely no issue for these athletic guys. You'll have a great time but be warned – it's a **HUGELY** addictive sport. 🌸



Japanese spitz enjoying agility



Is it a Samoyed or is it a Spitz?
Although the Article claims that the dog is a Samoyed, It clearly looks to be a Japanese Spitz, which would have been quite unknown at that era of time.

Sergeant Noodles

21 Battalion

Sergeant Noodles, a white Samoyed, marched through Auckland with the men of the Second Echelon before their departure overseas. He was the pride and joy of C Company, 21 Battalion, and he was initially lucky enough to be granted official permission to sail with his unit.

Noodles enlisted to join his master, Private 'Tubby' Ryan, having fretted and refused to eat in the latter's absence. He was taken to Papakura Camp where he showed a special preference for his master's platoon and followed Private Ryan on all route marches. He slept in the platoon hut and was a very good sentry.

Sergeant Noodles's first collar was a puggaree studded with the hat badge and buttons of 15 North Auckland Regiment. In cold weather he wore a khaki coat made to measure by the camp tailor. The battalion's official history claimed that Noodles was an 'example to the untidy, for he was always correctly dressed in a red and khaki cover, on the side of which was attached his three stripes of rank. He wore his NZEF badge on his collar and was never known to give one away to a lady friend.'

Before the platoon left Auckland, Sergeant Noodles was allowed out on final leave, being issued with the usual leave pass from the orderly room, despite some misbehaviour during a camp inspection. He joined the unit on their farewell march in Auckland and travelled to Wellington on 1 May to board the Empress of Japan. At this point his luck ran out.

He was turned away at the gangway as regulations prevented his embarkation, but somebody threw a rope from the deck and, with the help of a wharf worker, Sergeant Noodles was nearly hoisted aboard. Unfortunately, his yelping attracted the notice of a ship's officer who ordered him to be returned to the wharf.

So 21 Battalion sailed without its mascot. 🌸



Noodles with members of C Company, 21 Battalion.

Meeting Minty

An introduction to the Japanese Spitz

By P.O'Connor



"What is your dog's name?" I asked, squatting beside the little creature. It looked for all the world like two jet-black eyes and a black nose had been embedded in a soft, snow ball.

"Her real name is Peppermint. But we call her Minty," replied the girl of about thirteen. Minty's pink tongue lolled outside of the black lips of her doggy smile an obviously enjoying her morning in the park. Minty was all fluff, dainty paws, and her ears were pricked forward. She kind of looked like a plushy toy, but the most striking thing about her was her almost sparkling, pure white fur coat.

"She is very pretty. Is she a puppy?" I asked patting Minty on her soft fluffy chest.

"Not a puppy," said the girl, as she knelt down and unclipped Minty's lead. "She is a four year old Japanese Spitz. But we got her as a puppy", she continued, her ice-block dripping in the sun. "My mum's friend gave her to us when Minty was only 12 weeks old because she thought Minty was all horrible and bitey."

"Was she horrible and bitey?"

"Nup! But mum says not everyone is kind, has the time, or knows how to look after a puppy right."

"Well your mum is right, and Minty sure is friendly now. You are very lucky to have such a lovely dog," I remarked.

"Do you mind if I take a photo of Minty?" I asked, remembering I had my digi-cam in my handbag.

"Sure, no worries" the girl replied. And within minutes after the camera clicked a snapshot Minty, her owner, and friends had run off from the park towards the beach.

Because my husband and I had been searching for a good breed, within hours of meeting Minty I was searching Google. "Listen to this..." I called out through to the kitchen where James was spooning cat food into the pet bowls. "It says they have a Teflon coat!"

"A what coat?" He called back.

"Teflon, you know like a non-stick baking tin, frying pans. They mean the mud and dirt doesn't stick, it dries and falls easily off their fur. Also, low odor and mostly low shedding. But... hang on.... One big molt of their woolly undercoat when summer comes. But it doesn't last more than a couple of weeks."

James appeared by my side interested, but hesitant. "They are really fluffy." He said squinting at the photos. "I suppose you will have to have it at the professional groomers each week!"

"No, apparently not. Seems two or three times a year you bath them, unless they roll in something disgusting" We both laughed. The previous week Dad's Hunterway cross had rolled in a rotten possum.

"Not many rotten possums in the suburbs" said James as he headed back to the kitchen. "Go on, give a breeder a phone call. Find out how much."

I scrolled down the Google page for Japanese Spitz in New Zealand I spied the word 'club' and clicked on the link. Then phoning around I discovered I could expect to pay around the \$1000 - \$1500 mark which seemed in line with other purebred and pedigree breeds.

"They can be barkers," explained the breeder's voice down the telephone to me. "But if you give them an interesting life, and train them I haven't found it a big issue. And to be frank I like that they alert me when visitors arrive. You can expect them to be shy of meeting strangers generally too. It is just in their nature. But if you socialise them well as puppies this also isn't a big problem."

"Okay, and what about inherited health complaints?" I asked.

"They are pretty healthy as a breed overall," she replied. "I mean you can get one-off health things pop up in any breed, but that is nature isn't it!? I can tell you that luxating patella's can occur in the Japanese Spitz. But I haven't had one yet. So do you have a fenced section?" The breeder jumped in to ask me a question of her own. Actually she asked quite a few in the end to reassure herself we were a good candidate for one of her puppies.

By the time I hung up the phone James had finished the dishes. My mind flicked back to that afternoon with the chance meeting of the ice-block girl and Minty - perfect breed - perfect luck!

"Well???" said James plonking himself down on the sofa beside a sleeping cat. "What's the go?"

"The 'go' is I have us on a waiting list for a Japanese Spitz puppy" I grinned. "think they are a great fit for us."

"...And....???" James encouraged me to add more information.

"...And.... it is a good thing you have Saturday off work because I am going to need you to help me puppy proof the place!" I laughed at his mock grumpy expression. 🌸



Alice & Minty from
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Words of Wisdom

'Interviewing experience in the Japanese Spitz Breed' - By Peta Dowle

New Zealand's very new Japanese Spitz Club wish to acknowledge and thank the International Judges and knowledgeable contributors to the below article. Their gracious willingness to share words of wisdom is so very much appreciated and allows all of us to gain a better understanding of the breed. I posed questions to Japanese Spitz breed experienced people and share a selection of the responses with the readers of NZ Dog World. For a full list of all contributors and their comprehensive answers visit www.japanesespitzclub.org

Contributors are: **Rose-Marie Emery** of Rowleys Kennel, Sweden, in the breed since 1975, (Authorized as F.C.I All-Breeds Judge and breed specialist since 1998). **Lynne Smith** of Alkola Kennel, U.K., in the breed since 1984. (All-Breeds Judge) **Amanda Huggins** of Daesdaemar Kennel, Australia, judge and in the breed since 1986. (Show Judge) **Stephanie Bliss** of Charney Kennel, England, in the breed approx' thirty years. (All-Breeds Judge) **Mary Fallas** of Dalsetter Kennel, England, in the breed almost thirty years. (All Breeds Judge).

Why did you pick the Japanese Spitz?

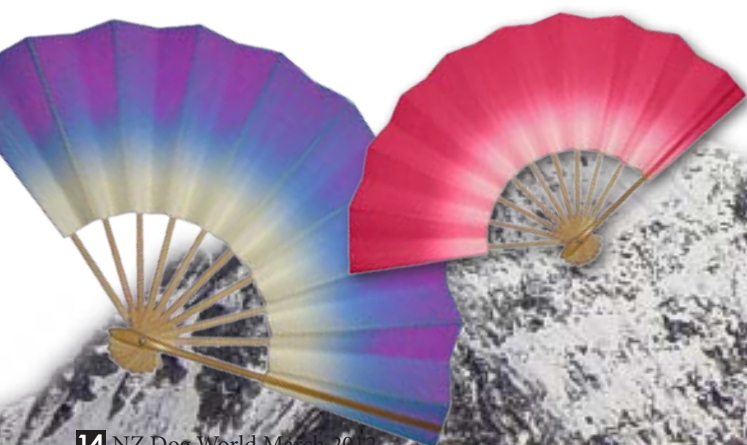
- Owning a Spitz calls for a having a good portion of humor, skills in trouble shooting (i.e finding new ways to ask your dog to perform) and willingness to learn new things. They intrigue me in many ways, just look into their eyes and you can see the wheels grinding behind those pit-black, sparkly diamonds. - *Rose-Marie*.
- Over the years I have bred and shown Labradors, Border Collies, Standard Poodles and Miniature poodles. I saw the Japanese Spitz at Crufts in the early years and fell in love with them. They are so easy to live with and enjoy human company so much. - *Stephanie Bliss*.
- The Samoyed particularly appealed to me but I was working so didn't feel I could cope with fairly large boisterous dogs. So when I saw a picture, of the ones imported by Dorothy Kenyon, on the front of Dog World I knew immediately they were the breed for me and started to make enquiries - *Lynne Smith*.

What qualities are you currently striving to breed in your Japanese Spitz?

- We are always striving to maintain the Japanese Spitz true to the original standard, looking for ways to work with genetic variation to maintain the health of the breed. Our personal goal is to keep the size around 35-36 cm for males and 32-33 cm for bitches and the proportions "just off square" rather than "slightly longer than tall". That particular interpretation on proportions 10:11 is making the breed go off in ways that are undesirable. - *Rose-Marie*.
- I look for overall health, construction and balance, size within the standard, an outgoing temperament which is to great advantage when you go into the show ring. The head must have good under jaw, teeth to have a scissor bite, the correct eye placement - dark and oval with black rims. The ears fairly small, erect and well placed. If you have the ears and eyes correct on a balanced head you see that most appealing expression. The black nose pigment just finishes the head off. I also like to see a Japanese Spitz with good bone structure and when standing viewed from front and back the legs should be straight. The feet (the standard says like cat feet) pads black. The tail needs to be high set, well bushed and placed over the back, I do not like to see a curly tail. - *Mary Fallas*.
- 'Spitzzy-ness' - pointed features, alert expression, free from coarseness. A proud and noble bearing, balanced outline, good length of neck and good length of leg, profuse coat to enhance natural shape. Light movement. Confident temperament. - *Amanda Huggins*.

What problems do you believe have a strong genetic component within the breed?

- Health wise: At the moment there is a major threat of Muscular Dystrophy coming from Irish bred dogs; we have also seen a few cases of PNP (kidney failure) in Scandinavia. I worry over increasing numbers of pyometras with young bitches that have not whelped or have not reached six years. Anatomically: Poor fronts, chests and rear ends are a huge warning sign that must never be overlooked. - *Rose-Marie*



- Patella Luxation, Temperament, Lack of Pigment, (Muscular Dystrophy in recent years). - *Stephanie Bliss*
- Health - We are very fortunate in having on the whole a very healthy and active breed that reach a good age. At present the majority of breeders in the U.K do test for Patella Luxation. There appears to be a good majority clear. Muscular Dystrophy has arrived in this country more recently, but this is been monitored in any known stock. The Japanese Spitz is really a very healthy breed, but one must at all times be alert to problems that might occur. - *Mary Fallas*

Excluding health issues, what deviation from the standard would you be prepared to overlook if a dog you wished to breed, was excellent in every other regard?

- It depends on the purpose of the actual mating. I can overlook smaller deviations that will only be small "beauty" faults, things that are "easy to fix" in the next generation or two. Lacking of a couple of Premolars I can accept as well. I will not accept general construction faults, I do not like short necks, lack of elegance and gender character. - *Rose-Marie*
- This depends, if the male dog in question was very good but had the same fault as the bitch, I would definitely not use it. Pure white as per coat colour is very difficult to breed in any livestock in fact nye on impossible and we do not know for sure who the ancestors were as there are several different opinions being written. - *Mary Fallas*
- Height - proportions are more important to me and in my breeding program I have used dogs that are tall and bred with bitches that are masculine and dogs that are feminine. - *Amanda Huggins.*

What age do you assess your puppies, and how do assess them?

- I assess my puppies from day one, watching them for a few minutes daily. I hope to be able to see the future of a puppy between eight to ten weeks of age. It is not advisable to sell a puppy as a show specimen, what you can say is that 'it is promising', you can not guarantee a show puppy until they reach maturity. - *Mary Fallas*
- I would initially assess a pup at eight weeks. Then make a final choice for the ring at 5-6months. My main concern would be as to the conformation of the puppy. Attitude plays

an important role they must be able to sell themselves in the ring!
- *Stephanie Bliss*

Do you believe there are different types within the breed and why?

- The breed originates from a selection of various spitz dogs according to the country of origin. Today's dogs cannot be divided into these original types. In some parts of the world a completely new type has been created by *gliding*. It happens with approving and breeding from of incorrect variations as 'other types'. When it comes to the types we must remember that no matter what the type says, there is only one standard. But the knowledge of the [original] types is good to have, it will teach you a lot about the different traits that will occur in various lines/types. - *Rose-Marie*



- Shortly after the breed came into the U.K. the Kennel Club reduced the height by two inches, which is a great deal for quite a small breed. Consequently people tried to reduce the height dramatically, in a lot of cases (wrongly in my opinion) putting large to small. So you get some people who prefer the larger ones and others who prefer the smaller type. Muzzle length can make a great difference to the overall look of the dog. Too long and the head can look long and narrow, too short and they can resemble the German Spitz. Tail carriage contributes to this also, which is why I put so much importance onto it. - *Lynne Smith*

What do you know about the Japanese Spitz breed you wished all judges understood?

- To make sure you get right into the coat when going over a dog as coat can give you the wrong impression when viewed from a distance. When a dog is moving high stepping is highly undesirable and is due to incorrect construction. Some people seem to find this as endearing. - *Lynne Smith*
- The Japanese Spitz is an alert dog and usually a wonderful show-dog. But they are Spitz and they get bored easily. Please

keep that in mind when you are looking down a group lineup at all the held and stacked breeds and appreciate the free baiting and free stacking and free spirited Japanese Spitz! - *Amanda Huggins.*

Can you provide a photo of a Japanese Spitz owned, or bred by yourself that is a favourite?

Photo 1 - Champion Dalsetter Magnificent – *Mary Fallas,*

Photo 2 - Champion Alkola Fujiyama – *Lynne Smith,*

Photo 3 - Champion Rowleys Xorro of Felix – *Rose-Marie,*

Photo 4 - Charney Akira – *Stephanie Bliss.* ❀





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