

Liebhaber des Deutschen Spitzes e.V.



Five varieties – one breed

The German Spitz

For further information see:
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Keeshond



Height: 43 - 55 cm
(17 - 21.5 inches)

Colour: wolf sable

The way his double-layered coat stands out in all directions makes the Keeshond look very impressive. Very characteristic are the mane-like collar and the abundant fur on his upper back legs. In this variety, wolf sable is the only colour, the lighter legs and the lighter streak behind the collar forming a nice contrast. In addition, we find fine lines around the eyes faintly reminiscent of glasses.

In earlier times, these dogs were mainly kept on farms for watchdogs and were thought to bark and bite a lot. Today, however, the Keeshond is a very friendly family dog, extremely open towards children, too. Reserved towards strangers, but very affectionate towards his family – the pack he belongs to.

Lifespan: 12 – 14 years,
sometimes considerably more.

German Spitz Gross



Height: 42 - 50 cm
(16.5 - 20 inches)

Colour: white, black, brown

The German Spitz Gross is only a little smaller than the Keeshond. Until recently, the colour brown was considered to be extinct and could only be revived again by means of backcrossing. Around the world, there are only very few specimens of German Spitz Gross left, so this breed was added to the Red List of the Society for the Conservation of Old and Endangered Livestock Breeds (GEH). The classification "extremely endangered" underlines the gravity of the situation.

As a consequence, these dogs were being bred a little more, but the situation is still very alarming. It is almost impossible to draw on dogs living abroad, since very few specimens of the breed can be found there either. In England and the U.S., the German Spitz Gross does not even have the status of a purebred dog.

Lifespan: 10 – 12 years

German Spitz Mittel

Height: 30 - 38 cm (12 - 15 inches)

Colour: white, black, brown, wolf sable, orange and different-coloured

For many dog owners, the height of the German Spitz Mittel is ideal. Not too big, so they can easily take him to town, but big enough to still be perceived as a (watch) dog. After all, his ancestors were well-respected as guards of horse and cart vehicles and barges throughout Europe.

In terms of colour, there is a lot of choice now. The term "different-coloured" includes a wide variety of colours, such as cream, cream-sable, orange-sable, black-and-tan and spotted. Spotted dogs must be mainly white, the black, brown, gray or orange spots being evenly spread over the whole body.

The German Spitz Mittel is the ideal family dog. If small children live in the house, the sturdy German Spitz Mittel is preferable to the still smaller varieties.

Lifespan: 12 - 14 years and more

German Spitz Klein

Height: 23 - 29 cm (9 - 11.5 inches)

Colour: same as the German Spitz Mittel

The popularity of the German Spitz Klein peaked after the end of World War II and never again regained this status. The reason for this fact was probably his modest, undemanding nature. About 500 puppies per year were born in those years. The birth rate went down to the lowest level in 1989 at about 100 puppies, and the average level today is about 200. Specimens of the German Spitz Klein and Mittel again and again prove their abilities in dog sports. They enjoy agility and dog dancing events, and a lot of German Spitz Klein have performed in the circus.

They are constant companions on walks and hikes, and, because they weigh no more than 3.5 - 4 kg (7.5 - 9 pounds), can easily be carried in a backpack or bicycle basket. In everyday life, passengers on busses or trains will hardly take offence to them.

Lifespan: up to 16 years

Pomeranian

Height: 18 - 22 cm (7 - 9 inches)

Colour: all colours allowed

The Pomeranian is a real dwarf in the dog world. Though only 18 - 22 cm (7 - 9 inches) high, his abundantly rich coat makes him look a lot bigger. And, weighing only 2 kg (4.5 lbs.), they do not exactly call to mind the dimensions one would ordinarily associate with a Spitz.

But don't be deceived by his lovely teddy-bear face. In English speaking countries the Pomeranian is nicknamed the "King of Toys," which of course does not imply he is a "toy" to play with, but refers instead to the "toy breeds" (such as the Toy Poodle, Toy Spaniel) in general.

Pomeranians are no fear barkers, but rather dogs who can behave in a self-confident, sometimes even arrogant way. They are alert and prepared to defend their homes and people in very much the same way as the bigger Spitz varieties.

Lifespan: 10 - 12 years