

Yakutian Laika



YAKUTIAN LAIKA

My meeting with the Yakutian Laikas occurred in 1998. One winter evening, to my Kennel Club came Vladimir Diachkov, he told me about his dogs from the banks of the Kolyma and Indigirka. It was the beginning of acquaintance with the breed, and then there were other meetings, archival research, the first dog show, the first champions of the breed.

I am happy that there were a number of friends and like-minded people - German Arbugaev, Lena Sidorova and Marina Smirnova. It was on the shoulders of these people that the complexity of the first years of the formation of the breed fell, it was they who were the locomotives of moving forward. I am very grateful to them for their enthusiasm and love for the Yakutian Laikas.

20 years have passed, but we are still on the road, the breed is developing, there are new lovers of the breed who live far from Yakutia - in other cities, countries and other continents.

I hope this text will provide new information for fans of the breed and help them in their work.

Stanislav Gorodilov
August 2018



Thanksgiving

I want to thank everyone who helped me in writing this text:

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SOTSKA Marina Nikolaevna - for a chapter on the genetics of colors

All owners of the Yakutian Laikas, who provided photos of their dogs, and a special thanks - for the love of the breed.

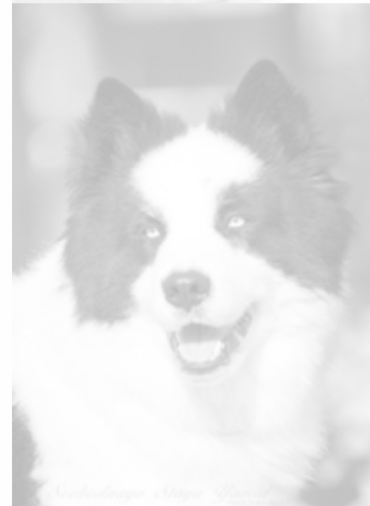
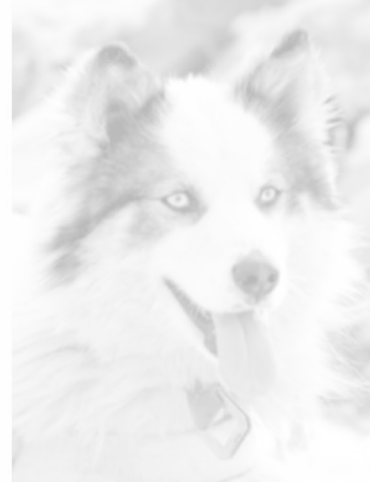


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Yakutian Laika

Yakutian Laika breed history

From ancient ages

The friendship of man and dog on the territory of modern Yakutia arose a long time ago. This is confirmed by archaeological finds on the banks of the Salah River near the village of Tumat in Yakutia, where the mummified remains of three, monthly puppies of a dog with a fixed age of 12,500 years old were discovered.

At the beginning of the 90s of the XX century, a hunting site was discovered on the Zhokhov Island (the Novosibirsk Islands archipelago in the Arctic Ocean, Yakutia), which was examined by the Russian archaeologist Vladimir Pitulko. He found the remnants of sledges, dog harnesses and well-preserved dog bones. Dating by the radiocarbon method showed that the age of the finds lies in the range of 7800-8000 years. It is the oldest station in the high-latitude Arctic. The world scientific journal Science recognized it

as the very first evidence of the use of a dog for the transport of goods and, in general, the first evidence of a person's use of a dog for any purpose.

This find was proof that on the coast of Northeast Asia the dog was the first animal that the man tamed and began to use as a hunting and riding dog. This is explained by the fact that in the tundra and coastal Arctic there were no other animals suitable for the carriage of goods, but it was possible to get and prepare food for dogs for a long winter. It is very likely that the remains found belonged to the ancestors of the Yakutian Laika, about which the world-famous scientist V. Yokhelson wrote, as a Yukaghir dog living on the Yana and Kolyma rivers, which served as a means of transportation for indigenous to go to islands in the Arctic Ocean when hunting wild deer and search of mammoth bone.



Hauling a boat with dogs, Siberia, 1895. Publisher American Museum of Natural History Library. Expedition Jesup North Pacific Expedition (1897-1902). Geographic Location - Siberia, Russia. Subject - Arctic regions. Original Photographer - Bogoras, Waldemar, 1865-1936.



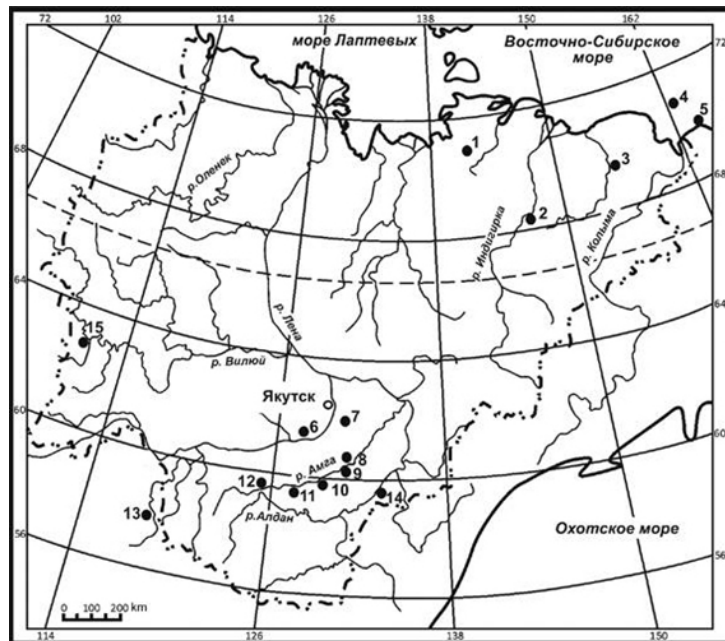
A Yukaghir wandering family on the Korkodon River, Siberia, 1900. Publisher American Museum of Natural History Library. Original Photographer Jocheison, Waldemar, 1855-1937. Expedition Jesup North Pacific Expedition (1897-1902).

Location of residues and images domestic dogs on the Yakutia:

Ethnographers M.G. Levin (1946), A.V. Smolyak (1978) and others note that from ancient times to the present day for the aborigines of the North and Far East sled dogs have always been universal animals: they were driven and transported cargo, and from skins they sewed winter clothing, the dog was a cult animal - they were sacrificed and other religious rites were performed.

While the technology of sledding dogs in the peoples of North America remained at a rather primitive level, the indigenous peoples and Russian old-timers of the North, Siberia and the Far East of Russia achieved great success in sledding techniques, training dogs and managing them. R. Amundsen, having visited Koren Juhan in the Kolyma (Russian Ystie, Pokhodsk, Nizhnekolymsk) in 1920, wrote: «... these Russian and Yakuts stand above all those I have seen on sled dogs.»

A special achievement is the northeast narta, called Kolyma. Lightweight, assembled without a



single nail, only on the belt links - shock absorbers, it has great elasticity and strength and is best of all other structures suitable for driving on uneven terrain, among stones and hummocks. It is believed that this narta originated in the Neolithic era and exists without much change today, as before, in two versions - cargo and speed.



Yakutian Laika

Beginning of the Way

Thanks to sled dogs, many geographical discoveries and human exploration of the Arctic and Antarctica were accomplished. So, both poles of the Earth are conquered by dog sleds: in 1907, F. Cook and in 1909 - R. Pirie reached the North Pole with their help. And in 1911, Amundsen hoisted the flag of Norway in the South, passing 2980 km on dogs in the most difficult conditions of Antarctica in 99 days.

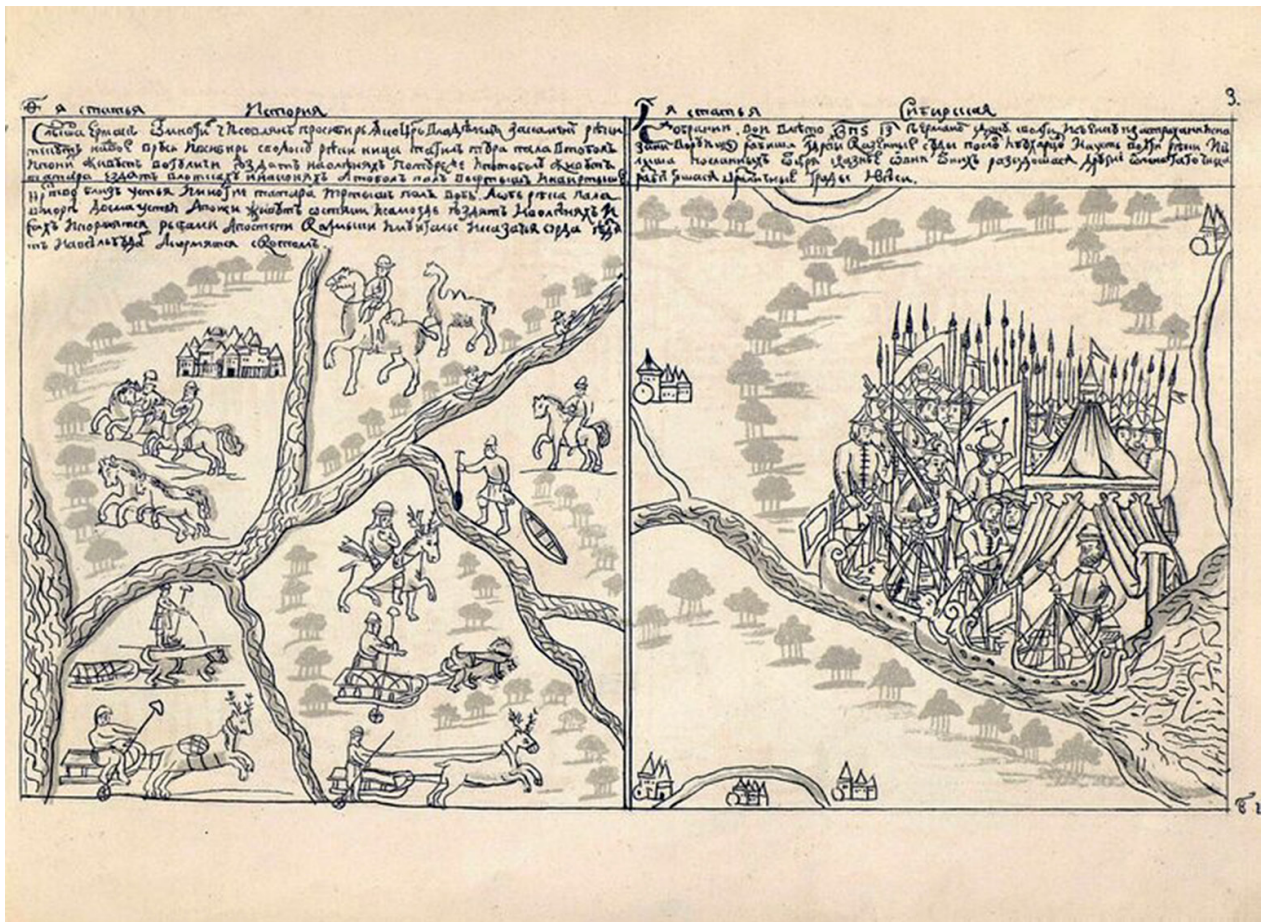
«Give me winter and a dogsled team, and take the rest!» Who said these words, the famous traveler Knud Rasmussen made the most grandiose trip in the history of mankind on dogs. Eighteen thousand kilometers passed the Danish ethnographer with his companions from the Hudson Bay

to the Chukotka Peninsula. Recalling the “Great Walk in the Sleigh”, he later wrote: I feel a warm feeling of gratitude to our patient, unpretentious dogs. We worked hard, exhausted ourselves, at the same time, worked together - as soon as living beings can work, helping each other...»

In Russia, starting with the Great Northern Expedition (1733-1743) sent by Peter I, until the 70s of the XX century, not a single Arctic trip was without sled dogs. And they were used later, despite the wide distribution of modern technology.

The first written references to dogs living in the territory of Yakutia belong to the year 1633. This year the first sea voyage from Lena river was made. At the head of the detachment, consisting of the commercial and industrial people,

The Kungur Chronicle, end of the 16th century, article 9.



the Yenisei and Tobolsk Cossacks, was Ilya Perfilyev. As a result of this campaign, a number of geographical discoveries were made. In particular, the Olenek, Yana, Indigirka rivers were opened, on which two fortresses were founded - Zashiversk and the Russian Ustye, thereby initiating the development and settlement of the Indigirka-Kolyma Territory. A new stage of maritime campaigns in the Arctic seas began in 1642. The first Russian polar mariners from industrial, commercial and Cossack people Dmitry Zyryan (Yarilo), Mikhail Stadukhin and Semyon Dezhnev reached the mouth of the Kolyma River in 1643. Climbing up on it, they built winter huts, calling this place Kolymsky.

The Kungur Chronicle, created at the end of the 16th century, tells about the Siberian rivers, people living along them, and the main means of transport, in particular, riding on the deer and dogs (article 9). The Remezov Chronicle (end of the 17th century - 1703) also shows the means of movement of the Arctic peoples.

In the documents of that time, the rivers Olenyok, Yana, Indigirka and Kolyma were called "dog rivers", this term has its own explanation. In Siberia, the rivers in the north-east are divided into «dog» and «deer». Rivers rich in fish, where can easily cook yukola, dried fish for dogs, such rivers were called the dogs rivers . In the same place where there is no fish or it is not enough, it is difficult to walk on dogs, deer are used there for transportation, and such rivers were called deer rivers. Dog service was more difficult, as people had to constantly get food for dogs — to fish and hunt.



Remezov Chronicle, 17th-century illuminated manuscripts. end of the 17th century-1703 y.



«How do the Russians travel with dog sledding in Siberia» Engraving from «North and East Tartarye, Often Concise Design Of any animal Landen en Volken Which foresight has been known. Apart from the unknown, and even never before described, Tartarsche and Neighboring Regions, Regions, Cities, Rivers, and Places, in the northern and eastern parts of Asia and Europe, divides into two pieces, with the more self-evident landmarks: Distinguished Pictures of Cities, Drachten, etc. Zedert accurate examination of many years, designed, described, signed, and given in light by own experience».

Amsterdam MDCCV. First print: Amsterdam, 1692;



Yakutian Laika

The first published picture of the Yakutian dogs was titled “The ways of travelling by Yakutians in winter” which was included in the book “Northern and Eastern Tartary” by Nicholas Witsen (Amsterdam, 1692).

French polar explorer Paul-Émile Victor in his book *Sled Dogs - Friends of the Risk*, claims that Scotland’s Mac-Klintok was the first to use a dog sled in polar research in 1850. But this, of course, is wrong. **The first use of dog sleds in polar research** was carried out in 1742 by the navigator of the Russian fleet, Semyon Chelyuskin, making an unprecedented journey on dog sleds. Having passed about 4 thousand (!) Versts from the territory of Yakutia to the Taimyr Peninsula, for the first time he reached the northern tip of Asia - modern Cape Chelyuskin. Thousands of miles were passed on dogs by his comrades Khariton Laptev, Nikifor Chekin (Lena-Yenisei detachment (1735-1742).

In 1843, part 1 of Ivan Pavlovsky’s book “Guide to the Geography of the Russian Empire” was published, **where the Yakutian Laika was first described as a “special breed”** that “is a necessary pet used for sledding and

hunting”. In the same book it is reported that the Yakutian Laika were used for the “postal intercourse”. In 1839, in the Yakutsk region, in the winter period, up to 20 sledges (sledges) were used to send messages from Yakutsk to Okhotsk and then to Kamchatka, “which were used to carry heavy loads. In the sleigh harnessed, usually 10 dogs: 2 in a row on a long strap, with an advanced eleventh. So they carry loads from 25 to 35 poods, running up to 80 versts a day, and on a light ride, these same dogs ran up to 140 versts a day.”



Watercolor 1896 from Russian materials Geographical Society of the Siberian Expedition



Watercolor Traveling in Eastern Siberia I. Bulychov 1856

According to the materials of the ethnographer V. Tugolukov about the Kolymo-Indigir sleds of the middle of the XIX century, their average speed on impassability of roads at long distances was up to 10 km / h, on the roads of winter roads 200-250 km long - up to 15-17 km / h. Lightweight sled could walk 250 km in 15 hours, 750 km in 3 days. On a good road, a team of 12–14 dogs carried up to 1 ton of cargo for an unlimited time, on an impassable road — no more than 500 kg.

The first mention of the number of Yakutian Laikas can be found in the book «Statistical Tables of the Russian Empire», published by the Ministry of the Interior of the Russian Empire in 1856, edited by A. Bushchev: «In the Yakutsk region 15,157 dogs used there for sledding are shown”.

In 1862, the Imperial Russian Geographical Society published the Geographical-Statistical Dictionary of the Russian Empire, 1st volume, compiled by Peter Semenov. According to this publication in Verkhoyansk Ulus, “to pets, very important for residents, are dogs: they are kept in large numbers by residents who use them for hunting and riding on the tundra: there are up to 4,000 dogs”.

The first description of the content and use of Yakutian Laika is available in the «Review of Economic Statistics of the Russian Empire for 1847» (St. Petersburg, 1849), compiled by Professor I. Y. Gorlov: «Yakuts are used by dogs for ride and carry weights. Dogs spend the whole year outdoors; in the summer they dig a hole in the ground for coolness or lie in the water, getting rid of mosquitoes. In winter, they seek refuge under the snow and, curled up in deep snow pits, cover the face with a shaggy tail. Yakuts feed a large part of some males, and the females are thrown.

The feeding and training of dogs for sledding is the the most important work of the fisherman. The most agile and intelligent dogs are harnessed in front. On the road across the vast tundra, in dark, foggy nights, or severe blizzards, when the traveler, not seeing before him, is in danger of freezing or perishing under the snow, a trained advanced



Hauling wood with dog sled, houses in distance, Siberia, 1901. Publisher American useum of Natural History Library. Cultural Context Arctic peoples. Original Photographer Bogoras, Waldemar, 1865-1936. Expedition Jesup North Pacific Expedition (1897-1902).



Boy bringing water on dog sled, Markova, Siberia, 1901. Publisher American Museum of Natural History Library . Expedition Jesup North Pacific Expedition (1897- 1902). Geographic Location - Siberia, Russia. Original Photographer - Bogoras, Waldemar, 1865-1936.

dog often saved from death and led to the povarnya (a hut in the tundra for rest and overnight hunters), where she was at least once, or to another refuge. This alone makes dogs necessary; their intuition and instinct in the deserts replace the compass.



Yakutian Laika

Feeding dogs, Russia, 1901. Publisher American Museum of Natural History Library. Original Photographer Jochelson, Waldemar, 1855-1937. Expedition Jesup North Pacific Expedition (1897-1902)



Political exiles, east Siberia, 1900. Publisher American Museum of Natural History Library. Expedition Jesup North Pacific Expedition (1897-1902). Geographic Location - Siberia, Russia. Cultural Context Russians. Original Photographer - Bogoras, Waldemar, 1865-1936.



«In 1821, a strong epidemic exterminated most of the dogs on the banks of the Lena, Indigirka and Kolyma, so that one family is left out only 2 puppies of 20 dogs : hostess nursed them her chest on a same level with the baby - to the extent dogs revered necessary. Thus, two puppies became the ancestors of numerous subsequent generations.

The first researcher who **described the Yakutian Laika in detail** was Vladimir **Jochelson**. In the years 1894-1896. V.I. Jochelson worked in the Siberian Expedition organized by the Russian Geographical Society, he studied the peoples of the Kolyma district and the northern part of the Verkhoyansk district. The writings of these years are the result of extensive, varied work of V.I. Jochelson on the study of various aspects of life of the Yakuts, Chuvans, Chukchi, Evens, Evenks, Russians, especially the Yukagirs.

In the book of Jochelson, we read: “The livestock of the Yakut is a horse, the stray nations are a deer, and the river inhabitants and the so-called “sedentary” are exclusively a dog; but all these animals adapt to helping a man hunt. However, about the dog following the man under all latitudes, it is necessary to add that for each of the ethnic groups of the district she is the most reliable comrade during the hunting of animals. While the horse and deer are passive, irresponsible and involuntary helpers, the dog, as an intelligent predator, is an active and conscious hunter, often leading another predator - a man.”

Dogs, Siberia, 1901. Publisher American Museum of Natural History Library. Cultural Context Arctic peoples. Original Photographer Bogoras, Waldemar, 1865-1936. Expedition Jesup North Pacific Expedition (1897-1902).

“A sled dog,” Jochelson writes, “composed working livestock not only of non-deers nomads and “sedentary” river inhabitants, Russians and Russianized indigenous people, but also of the majority of Yakut cattle breeders. With the exception of the southwestern part of the district, in each Yakut yurt you will find 5-4 dogs, which carry firewood, ice and perform other chores.

The polar dog is small in height, its height in the shoulders is 50-60 cm. It can be a little higher, but many sled dogs, especially among the Yakuts, amaze you with their small stature. The small height of working dogs can, however, be explained by the same reasons why our peasants have small horses: on 5-6-monthold puppies, which are almost not fed, poor people already carry firewood and water. Wealthy dog owners who have the best care are always larger.

Outwardly, a local sled dog with its erect ears, slanting eyes, thick hair, a wide and relatively large head, a pointed muzzle and a lowered (when it is out of sorts, tired or eating) fluffy tail is very similar to a wolf. Vladimir Jochelson first described the Yakutian Laika and identified its difference from the rest of the dogs of Northeast Asia.

The prevailing color of the Kolyma dog, according to Jochelson, is “gray, gray-yellow, variegated, that is, white with gray or black spots”, “legs are relatively thick and short; the thorax that pulls the sled is well developed; The neck is thick and short. The muzzle is unusually sly, with a melancholic or sullen expression.»

The sled dog, according to Jochelson, is at the same time hunting dog, “with a well-developed sense of smell, but with better hearing and sight. Almost all year round on a leash, but left to themselves, they are perfectly



Dog team, in the middle, Siberia, 1901. Publisher American Museum of Natural History Library. Expedition Jesup North Pacific Expedition (1897-1902). Geographic Location - Siberia, Russia. Cultural Context - Arctic peoples. Original Photographer - Bogoras, Waldemar, 1865-1936.

able to find food in the form of mice, partridges, ducks and other birds and small animals. In a society, deer and a cow can be devoured, and the hungry attack a horse. ”

Interestingly, “Kolyma dogs become fierce while riding and are even dangerous for the oncoming person ... As for hunting, they are useless for the bird: they interfere and disperse the forest bird and swamp bird”. “However,” says Jochelson, “the very hunt for birds, for which dogs are not used, has a completely different character there than ours. In general these dogs no one teaches. A good

hunting dog is an independent talent. Strictly speaking, each of the local dogs is able to find the trail of the beast and chase it, but not everyone has enough excitement and courage to bring the pursuit to the end. ”

Often in old photos we see laikas with cut tails. This was done from the evil eye and bad spirits (shamanistic beliefs). Although most likely it was a fact of necessity, and only then different beliefs and traditions. After all, the main method of treating infectious diseases



Yakutian Laika

in dogs in those years was “tail cutting”. If a puppy got sick, they removed his tail as an unnecessary option. Dogs often froze their tails, and they broke off - now this is still there, they also received various injuries during fights and lengthy transitions, it all began to rot, and the mushers treated this simply by chopping off the leftovers.

A special contribution to the description of the Yakutian Laika

breed was made by M. G. Dmitrieva-Sulima, describing the Yakutian dogs and hunting with them in his book “Laika and Hunting with Her” of the 1911 edition.

“This dog, by its qualities, belongs to the breed of northern dogs - writes M. G. Dmitrieva-Sulima - and inhabits the Kolyma district, or rather the r. Kolyma with tributaries. Historically it is known that for three or four hundred years it is forced mainly to bear the duties of an sledding animal that has not yet destroyed its hunting instincts. And hunting instincts, without being developed or supported by man by training and hunting education, still being preserved, enable him to position the animal as a hunting breed, a minority of them are suitable for hunting large animals, almost all bark squirrels, most bear the duties of hunting dogs for foxes and arctic foxes, that is, the beast that is known to be most common in the area and constitutes the main object of hunting for local residents. And here the northern dog became what the person wanted from it.”

For the development of Alaska by the Americans until the 20-ies of our century have taken dogs from the Kolyma river.

We have to say about one more outstanding dog expert. - Edmund Iosifovich Shereshevsky. In 1946, he has published book «Sled dog breeding», this book combined all previous experience of sledding dog breeding in our country. Shereshevsky conferred interesting information about the dogs of the North, their use and maintenance. In this book, the standard was first published - a detailed description of the Northeastern Sled Dog of the USSR, E.I. Shereshevsky united in this concept sled dogs of the lower reaches of the Yenisei, Yakutia, Chukotka, Anadyr, Kamchatka, Sakhalin and Amur.



Dogs on deck of ship, Siberia, 1900. Publisher American Museum of Natural History Library. Subject Arctic regions. Original Photographer Bogoras, Waldemar, 1865-1936. Expedition Jesup North Pacific Expedition (1897-1902).

Photos of Arctic natives Yukagirs with dogs:



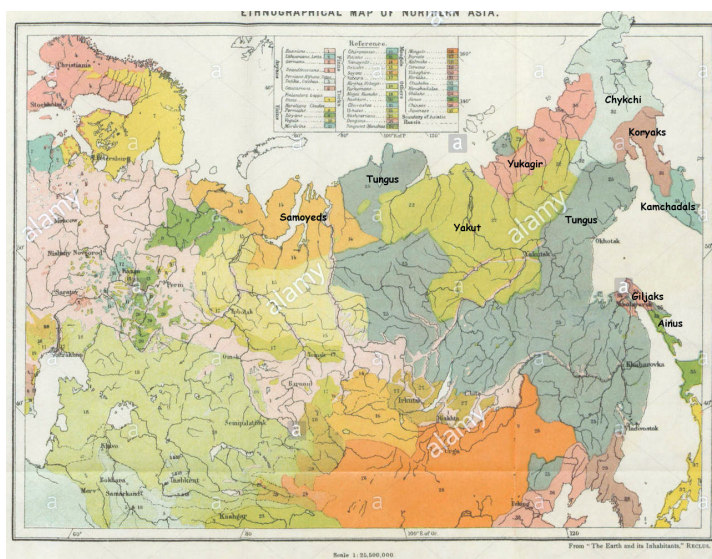
Winter block house of the River Yukaghir, family outside in the snow, Siberia, 1900. Publisher American Museum of Natural History Library. Original Photographer Jochelson, Waldemar, 1855-1937. Expedition Jesup North Pacific Expedition (1897-1902).



Yukaghir dog, Russia. Publisher American Museum of Natural History Library. Cultural Context Arctic peoples, Yukaghir: Original Photographer Jochelson, Waldemar, 1855 - 1937. Expedition Jesup North Pacific Exp (1897-1902).



Sled dog, Cony Clee, village buildings in the distance, Gishiga, Siberia, 1897-1902. (Гижига - 300 км от р.Кольма.-РЕД) 1901. Publisher American Museum of Natural History Library. Expedition Jesup North Pacific Expedition (1897-1902). Original Photographer Buxton, N. G. Cultural Context Arctic peoples Koryaks.



Map of 1880 Places of residence of Northeast Region of Russia peoples are marked in black (no Eskimos, Aleuts, and some other peoples)

22229



Yukaghir man with dogs at entrance to summer tent, Siberia, 1901 Publisher American Museum of Natural History Library. Cultural Context Yukaghir Arctic peoples. Original Photographer Jochelson, Waldemar, 1855-1937. Expedition Jesup North Pacific Expedition (1897-1902).



Yukaghir children with play tent, Siberia, 1900. Publisher American Museum of Natural History Library. Original Photographer Jochelson, Waldemar, 1855-1937. Expedition Jesup North Pacific Expedition (1897-1902).



Yakutian Laika

Yakutian Laika today

Until the 1960-ies sled dogs were important and somewhere even the only kind of winter's transportation for North regions of Russia. They were used by not the only local residents but the all public services including border force, post service and scientific expedition. Archive data says there were up to in the Yakutia at the end of the 50th year of the XXth century there were at about 33000 dogs. The end of sled dogs breeding in Russia was in the last 30 years of the XXth century. Spread of snowmobile technology, decline of fur hunting and local fishing cause to about extinction of the Northern dogs.

In 1958, the 1st All-Union Exhibition of Service and Hunting Dogs was held in Moscow. At this exhibition, eight North-Eastern sled dogs were represented, belonging to the state kennel of the Krasnaya Zvezda service dog breeding. DOSAAF USSR, the Main Administration for Hunting and Reserves at the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR, on March 6, 1959, published Standards for breeds of service, hunting and indoor dogs, including the standard

of the Northeastern Sled Dog, based on research by Shereshevsky E. I., Petryaeva P.A., and Golubeva V.G. This standard became the first officially approved and published standard of the breed of dogs from the North-East of Russia. This Standard formed the basis of the standard of the Yakut Laika, published by the RKF, in 2005.

In 1993, The State commission of Russian Federation for testing and protection of breeding achievements brought the breed Yakutian Laika in «The state register of breeds of animals admitted to use» (number of register 9358072, breed for hunting (Laika), service (sled) dog). In 1998, a group of enthusiasts V.Z. Dyachkov, G.P. Arbugaev, S.V. Gorodilov and L.I. Sidorova decided to revive the breed of the Yakutian Laika and brought the first dogs from the Far North, which became the modern population of the Yakutian Laika. Together with the Yakut Republican Association of Dog Breeders, the cynological work to increase the quality and number of dogs and the formation of a breed standard lasted for some years. In 2004, The Russian Cynological Federation has reviewed the standard and adopted it.

In 2004 the famous Yakutian local historian Chikachev A.G. devoted his book «The Sled dog breeding in Yakutia» the Kolyma and Indigirka Laikas, which are called «Yakutian Laika» now. The book is a unique document, been fixated the original and reliable information that is usually called «first-hand author», stored in the researcher's memory and archives. The author is a native of The Russian Ystie, which is the heart of the «Dog



Northeastern Sled Dog, Catalog 1 All-Russian Exhibition of Hunting Dogs, 1959



First dogs from Arctic region in Yakutsk, 1998



country» and the son of a hereditary musher.

In 2013, was the first Arctic expedition in the XXIst century called «The Pathways of pioneers» on the team of the Yakutian Laikas sled dogs, which was organized and headed by Herman Arbugaev. The length of the route to the Novosibirsky Arhipelag (Anju islands) was 1500 km., and it lasted 36 days. There wasn't any special accompaniment/escort, which is usually arranged for such expeditions of brave man. The travelers overcame the silent ice space blocked with ice hummocks, giving their destinies in the paws of four-legged friends. They all returned back. Maksim Lubavin the participant of the expedition says: «Each of us who were standing on the sledge could spend hours in an the endless Arctic vacuum. The only thing that not left the right to consider himself forever lost, were dogs. The dogs weren't only the dogs. They were our brothers.





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We didn't just put harnesses on them, harnessed them to sledge and rode where the wind blows. We entrusted them our lives and the final outcome of the event. They were the ones who, silently and hour by hour, day by day did their work without thinking that they were fulfilling someone's lifelong dream. And this dream came true thanks to the huge work done by the little dog paws. Dogs dogs do not know the weakness of the soul. Their devotion and productivity are affecting and sometimes it even seems that they have two hearts. It is hard to imagine how such a little furry ball has so much will and strength.»



G.Arbugaev, 2012



The territory of Yakutia was and is now huge - 3 million square kilometres - it's forests, plains, mountains, tundra, deserts, swamps with a harsh climate.

The habitat of the Yakutian Laika is the Northeast region of Yakutia. Various researchers have indicated the names of this breed, which were formed from geographical places or from the names of nations living in this region: Yakutian, Kolyma-Indigirka, Anadyr, Alazeya, Anyui, Arctic, Yana, Okhotsk, Polar, Pohodsk, North-Eastern Sled dog, Ystie (Russo-Ystie), Even (Lamut), Evenk, Verkhoyansky, Yukagir (Chuvans) – laika, etc.).

By the end of the 19th century, there was a strong understanding that this group of dogs possessed all the features of the breed, and in 1910, Dmitrieva- Sulima described the external characteristics (standard).

Currently, this breed is registered by RKF and Standard PKФ specifies three historical names of breed:

Kolyma-Indigirka Laika are names it was used in the majority of descriptions of breed till 1958.

Northeast sled dog - under such names has been published the first standard of breed in 1958.

Yakutian Laika - this name was fixed to breed in the end of 20 centuries and used in all documents of the Russian Cynological Federation.

We consider possible to include all three names as they are connected with the same breed in the standard and were used in descriptions of breed throughout more than 150 years. Inclusions of the given names will exclude not understanding resulting studying of history of breed.

S. Gorodilov, RKF-FCI judge



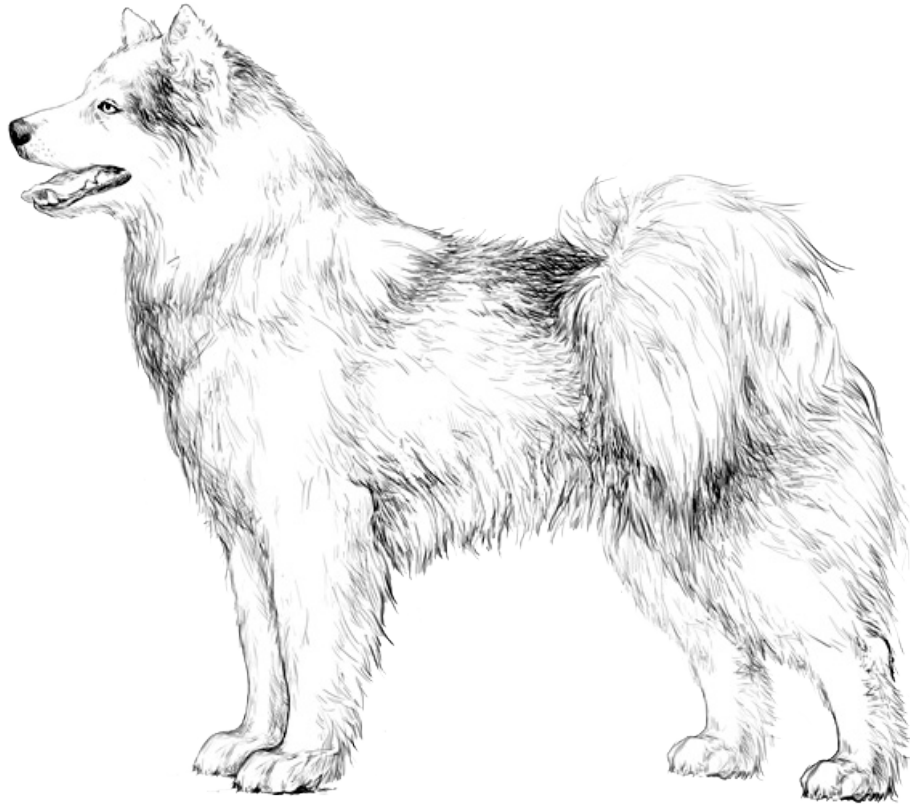


Yakutian Laika

YAKUTIAN LAIKA

(KOLYMA-INDIGIRKA LAIKA, NORTH-EAST SLED DOG)

BREED STANDARD WITH COMMENTS



ORIGIN: Russia

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL VALID STANDARD:
00/00/0000

Approved by the Presidium of the Union of Public Cynological Organizations
«Russian Kynological Federation» on July 24, 2013

Amendments approved by the Presidium UPCO RKF on September 05, 2018

TRANSLATION: September 05, 2018

UTILIZATION: Sledge and hunting dog

PROPOSED FCI CLASSIFICATION: Group 5 (Laikas and primitive dogs)
Section 1 (Nordic sledge dogs)
With working trials

Breed not recognized by FCI.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: The Yakutian Laika is an ancient native dog breed which was naturally bred by aboriginal people of the North East of Russia as a sled dog and a

hunting dog. Certain archaeological discoveries confirm that the local people used dogs for sledding and hunting as far back as 8000 years ago. **The very first references** about dogs in this region relate to 1633. **The first published** account of the Yakut dogs was titled “The ways

of travelling by Yakutians in winter” which was included in the book “Northern and Eastern Tartary” by Nicholas Witsen (Amsterdam, 1692). **The first description** of the Yakutian Laika appeared in the book «Geography of the Russian Empire» (Derpt, 1843), which announced it to be a «dog of a special breed”. **The first mention of the Yakutian Laika’s total number** found in the book «Statistical tables of the Russian Empire» (St. Petersburg, 1856): «There are 15157 dogs in the Yakut region used for sled work». **The first Breed Standard** for the North-East Sled Dog was adopted in 1958 and it formed the basis for the Yakutian Laika Breed Standard published in 2005 by the Russian Kynological Federation. For many centuries, the Yakutian Laika accompanied the northern man in everyday life, helping him to hunt, vigilantly watch his home, herd reindeers and transport goods in the severe conditions of the Far North. These skills have glorified the Yakutian Laika as a versatile breed not only in Russia but also in many countries on different continents.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: Yakutian Laika is a dog of medium-size, strong, compact, well-muscled, with moderately long legs and thick skin with no signs of looseness.

The coat is well developed and should be sufficient for living and working in severe Arctic conditions. Sexual dimorphism is clearly pronounced, males are stronger and more powerful than females.

Yakutian Laika is a harmonious compact dog with short topline. It is moderately wide, with well-developed chest of good volume, with strong bone, well-developed muscles and elastic ligature.

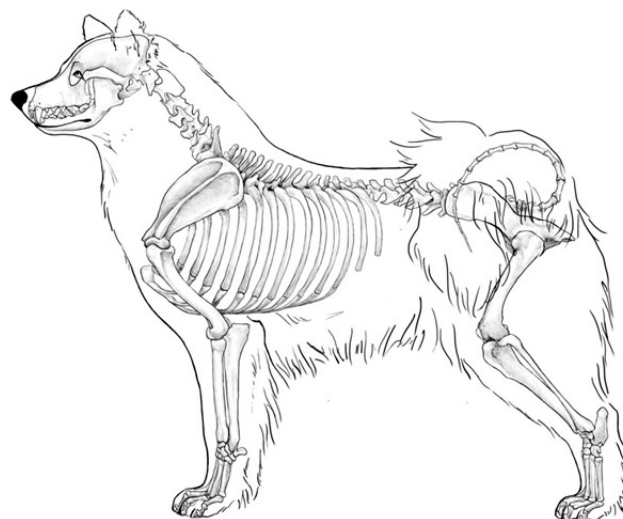
Sexual dimorphism is well pronounced. A male is always masculine, bigger in size, stronger in bone, with more pronounced withers, bigger head and broader chest. Females are usually longer in body due to longer ischial pelvic bones and more pronounced front. Males have

better developed coat with especially pronounced mane on neck and feathering on the limbs.

Poorly pronounced sexual dimorphism both in males and females is considered as a severe fault in the standard and a male in feminine type must be disqualified.

Coat must be thick, with well-developed outer coat and undercoat. But at the same time, the dog must not seem too massive and overweighted due to overdeveloped coat.

Yakutian Laika has no signs of any looseness or lymphatics (dampness).



IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS:

- The length of body from shoulder to croup exceeds the height at withers by 10-15%.

The length of body is measured from the front edge of point of shoulder (shoulder-scapular joint) to point of buttock (ischiatric tuberosity).

- The length of the head is a little less than 40% of the height at withers.

The length of head is measured from occiput to point of nose in a straight line.

- The length of the muzzle is 38-40% of the length of the head.

The length of muzzle is measured from interorbital space through inner angles of eyes to tip of nose.



Yakutian Laika

· The length of the fore leg to the elbow is 52-54% of the height at withers.

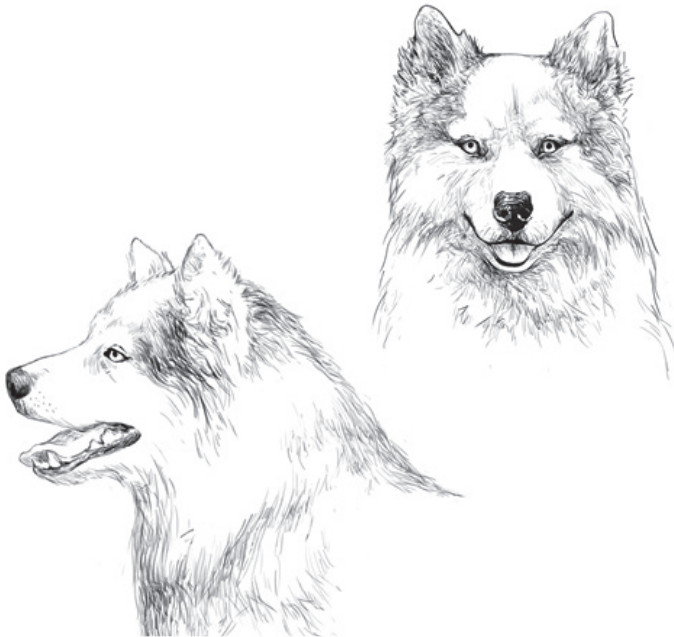
The length of front leg is not a perfect term. It means height at elbow (elbow joint) in relation to the ground.

It is important to mention that figures in the Standard are mostly approximate. And the best examples of the breed may have them different, e.g. modern dogs' heads, especially in males, are longer.

BEHAVIOUR/TEMPERAMENT:

Yakutian Laika is bold, agile, contact, friendly, sociable and energetic dog.

Behavior and temperament are very important. Any sign of aggressiveness or shyness must be considered as a disqualifying fault.



HEAD: Wedge shaped, moderately pointed, in proportion to dog's size.

CRANIAL REGION:

Skull: Moderately broad, slightly rounded, with a high forehead.

Cheeks: Moderately pronounced.

Stop: Well pronounced.

It is necessary to point out, that Yakutian Laika's skull differs from other laika types' skull. It is more rounded

and broad, but not like Samoyed's. Its shape is slightly convex with moderately pronounced cheekbones, high, moderately broad forehead and a pronounced stop. In general, the head of the Yakutian Laika is quite large.

Flat, dome-shaped, narrow skull with forehead not high enough and flat stop is a severe fault.

FACIAL REGION:

Nose: Of big size, with wide nostrils, black or brown in color.

Normally nose of a healthy Yakutian Laika must be black.

There is a well-founded opinion that the intensity of pigmentation, nose, mucous, skin and coat in particular testifies to the dog's health, its strong immunity and resistance to various allergens.

Pigmentation in general, including skin, coat, and iris of eye pigmentation is linked to the state of the dogs' neural system, its viability.

The color of the nose is determined by the content of pigment melanin in special skin cells (melanocytes). Due to melanocytes pigment reduction the coloration of nose begins to change - lighten up, getting brown.

A so-called «winter nose» often appears after winter, which is associated with a partial loss of pigment under the influence of the natural seasonal factor.

Brown nose of Yakutian Laika is OK only for brown-white and white-brown dogs.

Yakutian Laika also may experience partial depigmentation of the nose. But this is not a desirable norm. However, dogs of spotted colours, especially with white heads, sometimes have partial depigmentation of the nose, eye rims and lips. In general partial depigmentation does not affect dogs' health and working abilities. In

breeding programs one should seek for better pigmentation.

There is also a Yakutian Laika characteristic feature - nose, lips, and sometimes eye rims become pigmented only by 1.5 years. Fully depigmented nose is evaluated by the Standard as a disqualifying fault.

Muzzle: Well filled under the eyes, wedge-shaped, gradually tapering towards the tip of the nose.

Lips: Dry, tight-fitting, well pigmented.

Dog's muzzle should be moderately short (the length of muzzle is 38-40% of the length of the head), of good volume, well filled under the eyes, wedge-shaped, gradually tapering towards the tip of the nose, with a straight nose bridge.

The faults is a short muzzle, often accompanied by undershot jaw. If the muzzle is too long, usually the dog does not have a pronounced stop.

Jaws/Teeth: Teeth are of big size, white, preferably in a complete set (42 teeth according to the dental formula). Scissors bite or level bite. A tight undershot is acceptable for dogs older than 3 years.

On accessing Yakutian Laika teeth formula and bite it is necessary to take into consideration dog's age and living conditions. Usually Yakutian Laikas live and grow in severe climate conditions. And throughout the breed history no selection by number of teeth and bite was held.

At judging, you should prefer dogs with full dentition and a bite described in the standard. But this should not be the main purpose of examination, because at this stage the breed is forming, and dogs, which have absence of P1 and P2 or blunt incisors under age or even bite before 3 years are bred, although these features are not desirable.

Undershot and jaw misalignments are disqualifying faults.

While breeding it is necessary to strive for scissor bite.



As for jaws themselves, they should be rather wide to give space for correct bite.

EYES: Set straight and wide apart, but not deep set, almond-shaped.

Eye set can say a lot about the shape and size of the skull. If the head is of correct shape, eyes will be rather wide apart. If the skull is narrow, eyes will be set close to each other.

Eyes colour is dark brown, or blue as well as odd eyes (one brown, one blue) or blue segments on brown iris. Dry, tight fitting eye rims matching the colour of nose. Depigmented eye rim against white background permissible.

It's necessary to remember that eye color itself is of minor importance. It is necessary to evaluate eyes in complex: shape, set, dryness, eye rim pigment and color.

Preference should be given to eyes of almond shape set straight and wide apart, of brown or blue color or of different color with dry pigmented eye rims. It is worth pointing that brown color is preferable in relation to blue and dark brown preferred light-brown.



Yakutian Laika

Eye rims are dry, pigmented or partially pigmented for light colors; color of pigment is the same as color of nose.

Completely depigmented eye rims and lips are disqualifying faults, but you should not disqualify a dog for partial depigmentation.

How did dogs with blue eyes appear?

This question has always been interesting for researches and kynologists.

1. Dogs, originally brought from the Arctic North of Yakutia had blue eyes. And they can be regarded as the ancestors of the breed.

2. The inheritance (genetics) of blue eyes is not studied well. The author thinks that the Yakutian Laika's blue eyes appeared long ago as a result of mutation of unknown origin, which nowadays is not studied.

3. As for Chukotka and Kamchatka Laikas, Eskimos dogs and other Yakutian Laika close relatives, who can occasionally have blue eyes, the feature is not considered desirable at those breeds. The native people of Chukotka, Kamchatka and Alaska believed and still find dogs with blue eyes as aesthetically unpleasant and they always culled such dogs.

4. It can be assumed that blue eyes of Siberian Husky are due to such eyes at Nordic dogs exported by Americans from Kolyma, Chukotka and Kamchatka during the late 19th-early 20th centuries

and which were used for producing the Siberian Husky breed.

5. From the research experience of Kolyma-Indigirka Laikas, considered as the ancestors of the Yakutian Laikas, we can conclude that blue eyes do not affect its working qualities and health.

EARS: *Of triangular shape, set high, wide at the base, thick, erect or tipped. Ears covered with thick, short hair. Ears laid back while moving.*

Ideally, when seeing from the front, if you draw a line between the tips of the ears and nose, we should get the isosceles triangle. The ears should be symmetrical and of the same position, the size should be in harmony with the head size and overall appearance of the dog.

Occasionally there are dogs with tipped ears; this ear set is acceptable, but not desirable. Erect ears are preferable.

Yakutian Laikas' ear set have a number of features typical for this breed:

1. Ears get erect very late (sometimes only by 8-9 months).

2. One may breed dogs brought from the northern territories, where there have been no selection to erect ears. Erect ears does not affect working qualities of dogs.

3. Ears can be covered with overgrown coat that prevents them from being properly erect.





NECK: Of moderate set and length, muscular.

When watching the Yakutian Laika in profile the neck line from the occiput seamlessly connects with moderately pronounced withers. The dog must not have a break where the neck falls into withers. Short or too long neck is a fault for working dogs. Normal neck angle to the horizon is 45-50 degrees.

BODY: Compact.

Yakutian Laika has a well-developed body, ribs are moderately sprung.

Severe fault: short or square dogs.

While judging, it is important to remember that Yakutian Laika is a dog who must bear hard and prolonged physical exercise, and therefore there is a need to pay attention to a compact body, the development of muscles and strength of ligature.

Top line: Straight and firm, with a very slight slope from moderately pronounced withers to the base of the tail.

Topline is solid, short, with moderately pronounced withers.

A small slope from the withers to the tail, i.e. a little high in front - is an important feature of Yakutian Laika standard.

Back: Firm, wide, straight, muscular.

There is no direct indication of the length of the back in the Standard. Meanwhile the length of the back is a significant characteristic, as it corresponds to the length chest, without which the Yakutian Laika will not possess the necessary volume of lungs and healthy heart, located in the chest. The requirement of its large capacity can be achieved by the length, depth and width of the ribcage. However, the excessive width of ribcage will impede the movement of the forequarters on trot.

As a result, the volume of the ribcage can be ensured only by its length and depth. Obviously, the thoracic section of the spine in this case should be half of the topline.

Loin: Short, wide, muscular.

Short loin ensures the integrity of the topline, necessary for best transmission of drive from hindquarters to the front. Development of its muscles allows the loin to carry out its function of the spring in the best way. Strength, power and elasticity of the loin are important qualities, preventing the emergence of soft back and pacing. The length of the loin should be approximately half the length of the back.

Croup: Wide, muscular, long, rounded, almost horizontal.

The width of the croup is determined by the width of the pelvis and the development of muscles. A wide croup and well-developed ischiadic bones, hindquarters movements are free with a good drive.

Narrow croup, on the contrary, leads to restrained movements of hindquarters, which, moreover, do not have sufficient drive if ischium is not sufficiently developed.

When measuring modern Yakutian

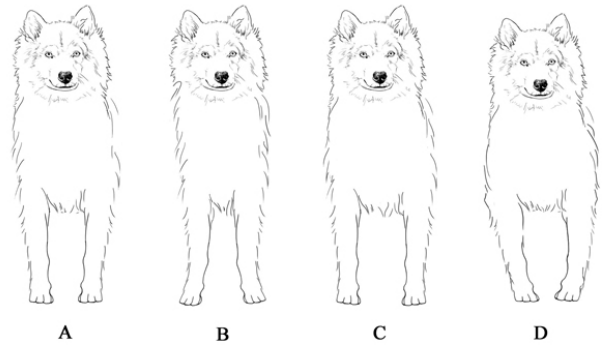


Yakutian Laika

Laikas we see that the upper part of the croup - the sacrum - is equal to the length of the loin. Here it should be noted that the length of croup is ensured by ischial pelvic bones. Females have extra length of them and that provides them with the reproductive function.

According to the Breed Standard croup should be almost horizontal. The word «almost» is a very important clarification, since Yakutian Laikas' croup should not be absolutely horizontal (flat).

If croup is horizontal, hindquarter angulation usually straightened, steps tend to get shortened, there is a typical trend to get high in rear. The drive function is weakened. So, it is clear why the croup should be slightly sloping.



Ribcage: A – Normal, B – Narrow, C -Oval, D - Too wide, barrel

Chest: Broad, rounded in cross-section, with well sprung ribs, long enough, moderately deep.

Underline: Belly reasonably tucked up.

The standard states Yakutian Laika's chest as wide. Width of the chest should not be excessive because a too wide (barrel-shaped) chest will prevent forequarters of the dog from sustained movements.

As it was already said, the ribcage of the Yakutian Laika should be long. Working dogs need a capacious chest to place heart, lungs and major veins.

Yakutian Laika's chest almost reaches the bottom of the elbows that allows the elbows lean on a chest bone and move parallel to the axis of motion. In case of shallow chest elbows acquire extra degree of freedom and can «hang out» on the move, i.e. deviate on sides, that lowers effectiveness of the movements.

Yakutian laika's chest is rounded in cross-section and has moderately sprung ribs. Chest shouldn't be either barrel or flat on sides.

The front of the chest of the Yakutian Laika should be moderately convex. It is necessary to increase its lateral surface, which can give space to longer shoulder and upper arm bones, which are able in this case to create a better angulation of the gleno-humeral articulation.

Development and volume of the ribcage are related to the endurance and strength of a working dog. Any deviations in the direction of a deeper or shallower chest must be regarded as a fault. And a flat or barrel ribcage should be regarded as a severe fault.



Tail: Set high, covered with a thick furry coat, curled up as semi-circle on the dog's back, sickle curve tail allowed. At rest or in long distance movement tail may hang loosely.

The tail must be long and elastic along the whole length. While judging it is necessary to examine it on breaks, length and possibility to straightening. This demand is caused by the fact, that the tail that lacks elasticity (in a tight curl) or a tail with poorly developed coat is easily injured and frozen.

Ideally Yakutian Laika's tail must be high set and curled on the back in semi-circle, saber-shaped tail allowed. Tail may hang loosely during long distant sledding or if the dog is calm.

Main faults in tail structure and set: short tail, break of tail, low tail set, tail in a tight curl.

LIMBS: Strong, muscular, straight, parallel.



FOREQUATERS:

General appearance: Straight, parallel, strong, very well muscled.

Like for majority of breeds, the main faults are lack of parallel, narrow front, toes out, toes in, inverted legs and loose elbows. Forequarters should be absolutely parallel when looked from the front.

As for hindquarters, they should be moderately wide, it is connected with wide chest of Yakutian Laika.

Shoulder: Sloping, of moderate length.

The length and lay back of shoulder are very important for efficient movements. Shoulder blade should be of enough length to allow long steps of forequarters, i.e. for a reachy action trot. Moreover, lay back of shoulder corresponds to the length of withers.

Short and straight shoulder blade leads to a shorter step of forequarters as well as to a shorter withers and lack of muscles in shoulder assembly.

Upper arm: Muscular, sloping, of moderate length.



Yakutian Laika

Upper arm bone length is almost equal to the shoulder blade. It must be of sufficient length to let elbows reach the bottom of ribcage. Upper arm is set approximately 45-50 degrees to the horizon, i.e. parallel to the neck.

Elbows: Tightly fit to chest, placed back.

Forearm: Rather long, parallel.

Metacarpus (Pastern): Short, strong, slightly sloped.

Pasterns should be strong and short. A small slope of pastern provides cushioning required on landing. It is especially important on the long-term moving on trot. A strong slope of pastern or long pastern weakens ligaments.



HINDQUARTERS:

General appearance: Strong-boned and well muscled. At rear view – straight and parallel.

Hindquarters should not be too wide. Too widely set hindquarters usually lead to an energy loss on moving. Narrow set is also undesirable. It is necessary to remember, that a Yakutian

Laika is a trotter dog. It is important to avoid loss of energy when on the move. Due to that quarters shouldn't differ from the axis when moving at high speed.

It is also important that front and hind quarters' angulation matched each other that lead to balance on the move. Ideally, the stride of forequarters should be equal to the stride of hindquarters.

Thighs: Broad and muscular.

Very little is said about the length and set of thighs in the standard however this factor is very important. A thigh should be long and oblique.

Normally a thigh is perpendicular to the bones of the pelvis and hips angle is about 100 degrees relative to the horizon. This structure provides a good angulation of hip joints and a wide step of hindquarters.

Normally, the thigh is of a correct length when shoulder and hip joints are at the same level; and elbow and knee joints are also located on one horizontal line.

Such structure provides to the horizontal topline, which doesn't make a dog work on lifting the center of gravity in motion and at which the drive from the hindquarters to the forequarters along the topline transfer in the most efficient mode.

Short thigh usually leads to high back end.

Stifle (Knee): Well defined.

A thigh is connected with a lower thigh and forms a knee angle joint which is approximately 115-120 degrees.

Lower thighs: Of medium length, strong. Hock joints angulation is well defined.

Normally a lower thigh should be equal in length to a thigh.

Lower thigh angulation is about 45-50 degrees to horizon. So, in stack a Yakutian Laika should have a lower thigh (up to a vertical rear pastern) parallel to an upper arm and a neck.

Hock joint, connecting lower thigh with a rear pastern must be well defined and be about 140 degrees.

Metatarsus (Rear pastern): Strong, vertical.

While looking from the side, a rear pastern must be vertical.

While looking from the back, quarters should be moderately wide, and rear pasterns should be parallel.

Any deviations from vertical and parallel rear pastern set break the stability and cushioning function.

Feet (front and rear): Well arched, tight, with very hard pads and thick coat (brush) between toes. Hind feet are slightly bigger than the front feet.

Yakutian Laika's paws should be oval, tight due to close-cupped toes.

While seen from the side, Yakutian Laika's paws look high, arched.

Loose paws with widely spaced toes springs bad and prone to injury.

Flat paw due to straight toes loses cushioning function that leads to extra stress on the joints and their injuries.

Hard pads and thick coat on paws has a protective function. Harsh climatic conditions in the native regions of the breed: cold, snow, ice make specific requirements for the paws of Yakutian Laika. The main one is protection from injuries and frostbite.

All in all Yakutian Laika's paws should be sufficiently large, compact, with muscular toes and well protected with coat.

The standard does not mention of the claws of the Yakutian Laika. Naturally due to the paws, claws of Yakutian Laika should be thick in structure, curved and directed tip to the ground. It should be said also that the color of the claws, as well as the color of the pads should ideally be dark.





Yakutian Laika

GATE / MOVEMENT: Fast, elastic.

Characteristic gaits are brisk trot and gallop.

To evaluate to the exterior, balance, physical condition and temperament of the Yakutian Laika, it's necessary to pay special attention to function and efficiency of their movements.

Yakutian Laika is a sledge breed created for long distant sled working with less energy efforts. Yakutian Laikas are neither sprinters nor stayers, they are marathon runners. Ideally Yakutian Laika must move freely. Its movements should be free and the dog shouldn't spend much effort to move forward.

The characteristic gait is brisk trot.

Trot is the fastest and most power saving gait for a dog. It should be said that Yakutian Laika can change character of movements, transferring to gallop when effort is needed. It usually happens when the dog, harnessed to a sledge, start moving. They don't use that gait long, after gaining speed they transfer to trot.

In motion all the parts of the dog interact, and that is why the balance of all parts is essential. Poor balance, sluggish movements are a fault.

COAT:

Hair: Thick, glossy, straight, coarse, of medium length, with very well developed thick and dense undercoat. On the neck it forms mane, especially clearly pronounced in males; thick feathers on the back sides of the front and hind legs; the tail feathered with a small fringe. Coat is shorter on the head and front sides of the legs.

Yakutian Laika lives in harsh climatic conditions in the historic homeland in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). Severe continental climate, very cold in winter and hot in summer, while maintaining low humidity has formed certain requirements for dogs' coat.

Yakutian Laika's coat is thick, of medium length, straight, harsh to the touch with a well-developed dense undercoat. It must protect from cold in winter and heat and

insects in summer, there is no need for special care or maintenance of the dog's coat. In real life mushers and owners of Yakutian Laikas do not deal with special grooming, everything happens in a naturally. In modern conditions, especially when Yakutian Laikas are kept in the homes and untypical climate zones for them, it's necessary to preserve the characteristics coat of the dog.

Yakutian Laikas shed seasonally, shedding is highly pronounced. Summer coat differs strongly from the winter one by length, but it remains thick and quite coarse in structure.

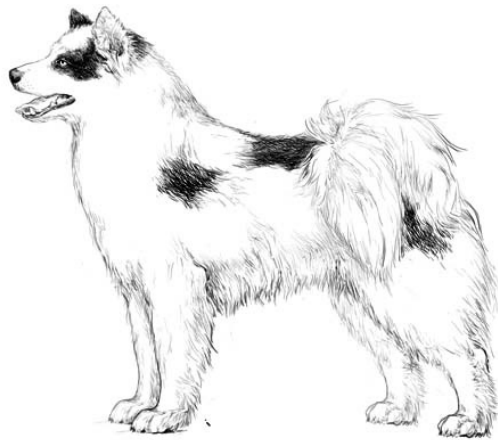
It is necessary to mention that coat (outer coat) should not be too long. In practice the average length of outer coat on males' body is from 5 cm; and to 15 cm on mane and featherings, and it is a little shorter at females'. Excessive coat makes a dog visually heavier and may make grooming more complicated.

Coarseness of coat to the touch is very important. Softer coat easily mats, it is poorly ventilated and does not stay dry.

Yakutian Laika's coat develops quite a long time. At the age of 1.5-2 years dogs have puppy coat: not too long, soft and wooly. And only after 2 years you can definitively say that a particular dog's coat is developed. Usually females' correct (adult) coat develops earlier.

Wavy, soft, too short coat with a poorly developed undercoat consider as a severe fault, and smooth coat is a disqualifying fault.





Colour: White and any mixed (double – or triple - coloured).

Yakutian Laika has a large variety of colours, this goes out from the varying degrees of coat colouring due to the formation of pigmented and unpigmented zones. All Yakutian Laikas have a spotted colour, which manifests itself in varying degrees, from solid white to moderately spotted, in which white spots can only be on the chest, legs, muzzle, withers, at the end of the tail.

All Yakutian Laika's colours may be divided on spottiness degree:

White colour without pigmented spots on the coat;

Spotted – white with some pigmented zones;

Piebald – pigmented with some white spots;

Mantle – pigmented color (type of spotted) with specific coloring. White muzzle with a stripe, dividing the head into two parts, white collar, white throat into white chest and belly, white legs and white tip of tail.

Spotted-piebald – the same quantity of pigmented and depigmented zones.

In all colours nose, eyerims, lips, pads of paws, nails must be pigmented or partially pigmented. Special attention should be paid to the presence of pigmentation on eyerims and lips of white headed dogs.

Pigmented parts of coat may be black, red, grey, tan and brown. There also can be ticking on a white (depigmented) background.

Coloring and pigmented zones may be both asymmetrical and symmetrical.

It is necessary to say, that combinations of grey and white or black and white are mostly typical for Yakutian Laikas. Red or brown combinations with white are very rare. So, in the native regions in Yakutia only few red dogs were born in 20 years of breeding. No brown were born at all.

Colour	Double coloured	Triple coloured
Spotted – white with some pigmented spots	White with black spots, White and grey, White and red, White and brown, White and black with ticking	White and black and red, white and black and tan, White and black and red with ticking
Piebald – pigmented with some white spots	Black Piebald Grey Piebald Red Piebald	White and black and red, white and black and tan, White and black and red with ticking
Extreme Spotting; almost white color. Dark spots may be only in the centers of pigmentation		



Yakutian Laika

There are often occur questions with color definition while judging. Young dogs before 1.5 years have black that often looks grey or reddish. And, as it was said above it is necessary to consider age, since Yakutian Laika is late in developing both color and final coat type.

Size and weight:

Height at the withers:

Males: preferable height is 55-59 cm.

Females: preferable height is 53-57 cm.

Correct size is very important for Yakutian Laika.

The ideal size for males is – 56 cm, for females – 55 cm.

Big-heavy or small-light dogs can't work efficiently in a sledge. Big – heavy dogs will get tired quickly and will spend too much energy on moving. Small dogs with light bone don't have enough muscle and can't make enough effort for a long work in a sledge.

At present time of breed development we see two tendencies: first – big high on legs dogs with flat ribcage. Second are small dogs, usually square, with short muzzle, round eyes and too round skull.

FAULTS:

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault is regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and on its ability to perform its traditional work.

SEVERE FAULTS:

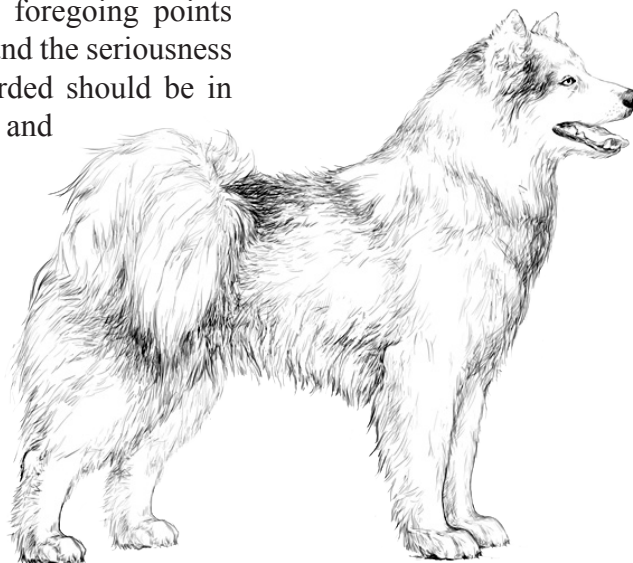
- A strong deviation from the described type of constitution, short legs;
- Square format;
- Flat, small, or barrel chest;
- Poorly balanced, sluggish movements;
- Wavy, soft, too short hair with a poorly developed undercoat.

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs;
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities;
- Disproportions in conformation;
- Males in feminine type;
- Overshot, undershot with a gap, misaligned jaws;
- Total depigmentation of nose, eye rims and lips;
- Any monochrome colour other than white.
- Short (smooth) hair;
- Any behavioural or constitutional deviations affecting the health of the dog and its ability to perform the work traditional for this particular breed.

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.



Coat Colour Genetics in Yakutian Laika

By M.N.Sotskaya

Coat colour according to the breed standard:

Colour: White and any mixed (double- or triple - coloured).

Yakutian laika coat colours: white, black, grey (agouti), tan point, brown, red.

All Yakutian laikas have a spotted coat. Spotting can be expressed to various degrees: from solid white to piebald with white spots occurring only in areas of primary depigmentation (on the chest, feet, muzzle, neck, tip of the tail). Spotting patterns can vary in symmetry.

Ticking in main color is allowed. The white coat of the Yakutian laika is extreme spotting with small amounts of colour in one or several pigment centres (e.g. on the tips of ears, around eyes, on the neck).

Coat colour genetics

Main alleles for the coat colour of the Yakutian laika

a^w – causes an agouti coat, a common allele for the Yakutian laika

a^y – causes a sable coat; likely to occur in a small number of dogs

a^t – causes a tanned coat

a – causes one of the eumelanin solid coat types; occurs in some black and brown (spotted) dogs

B – present in all non-brown dogs of the breed

b – causes a brown coat; occurs in brown, chocolate, and liver-coloured dogs

D – causes a colour of normal intensity; occurs in most dogs of the breed

d – causes dilution of pigment

E – allows extension of eumelanin pigments over the whole body; present in dogs of most colours

E^m – causes a dark mask, not common in the breed

e – restricts extension of eumelanins over the body; can cause a red or white coat

G – initiates progressive greying; not present in the breed

g – absence of progressive greying; present in all dogs of the breed

I – responsible for normal phaeomelanin synthesis

i – inhibits phaeomelanin synthesis

KB – causes a solid black or brown coat

k^y – causes agouti, sable, and tanned coats; occurs in most dogs of the breed

S – responsible for a solid colour without white areas; not typical for the breed

s – causes white spotting; present in all dogs of the breed

s^w – causes extreme spotting; occurs in white dogs

T – responsible for ticking on white areas; not desirable in the breed. Can occur in spotted dogs.

t – absence of ticking on white areas

Agouti

The group of Northern spitz-type dogs demonstrates extraordinary variety of agouti phenotypes. The agouti coat colour depends on the length, thickness, and location of hairs on the body. As a rule, short fur on the legs and muzzle is lighter as well as fur on the chest, culottes, etc. These markings form a specific pattern which slightly resembles a tan point or saddle pattern but is never as distinctively shaped. The head also has various markings



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that range from light tan shading on the cheeks, lips, and pips above the eyes to a distinct reverse mask.

Reverse mask

A reverse mask, common in the Siberian husky and the malamute, can sometimes occur. Modern molecular genetic methods have not yet identified this allele (or alleles), but it is obviously present in a number of breeds. Some researchers call this factor “*Husky Pattern Domino*” <http://nicholescritters.homestead.com/malcolorgenetics.html> The urajiro pattern typical of Japanese breeds is likely to be determined by a similar factor.

The shades of the agouti coat vary considerably. The hairs can be brownish with well-defined yellow, orange or red bands and correspondingly coloured markings with shorter or lighter fur. This wild type of coat is common for many Northern spitz-type dogs. The intensity of the grey agouti colour is determined by numerous modifier genes that cause variations in the width ratio of hair bands. Wider yellow bands result in a grey-red agouti, wider colourless bands result in an overall lighter coat, and considerably narrower yellow and colourless bands result in almost completely black fur.

Shading polygenes also contribute significantly to this type of coat. They promote widening of eumelanin bands at the tips of hairs. The grey agouti coat with long dark-tipped hairs is sometimes referred to as wolf sable. The main alleles responsible for this coat colour are **a^wa^w B-k^yk^y**.

In some cases the tipped agouti coat colour can be determined by heterozygotes **a^wa^t** due to incomplete dominance between the alleles. There are some alleles widely present in the breed that have not yet been identified conclusively by modern molecular genetic methods and that inhibit phaeomelanin synthesis in banded hairs resulting in a silver shade of agouti (similar to the salt-and-pepper coat of schnauzers). In this case light markings become white or light grey more or

less contrasting with the main colour of the coat.

When yellow and colourless hair bands are wider than black ones, the result is an overall lighter coat colour. Extreme lightening of phaeomelanin areas causes such dogs to look almost completely white.

When black eumelanin is replaced by brown, the result is a brown agouti.

Possible genetic formulae for the agouti coat colour:

a^wa^w B-C-D-E-k^yk^yss – grey agouti

a^wa^w bbC-D-E-k^yk^yss – brown agouti

Black

The Yakutian laika has two types of black coat colour:

1. Dominant, where the main genes responsible for colour are **B-D-E-KB**.

2. Recessive, where the main genes responsible for colour are **aaB-E**.

Yakutian laikas that are solid black or black with minor white markings are extremely rare, but black with white spotting is one of the most common coat colours.

A heavily tipped agouti coat can look almost black.

Black-and-tan dogs can look black-and-white as tan points can be almost completely reduced by white spotting.

Possible genetic formulae for the black coat colour:

1. a[?]a[?] B-C-D-E-KB-ss – dominant black

2. aa B-C-D-E-KB-(k^yk^y)ss – recessive black

3. awaw B- C-E-k^yk^yss – tipped agouti

4. atat B- C-E- k^yk^y ss – tan point

Brown

The Yakutian laika can have two types of brown coat colour: caused by **bb -D-E-K** genes and by **aabbE-** genes. Brown agoutis, sables with long brown hair tips, and brown tan points with points reduced by white spotting can appear brown. In this case the nose leather, eye rims, and nails are also brown.

Possible genetic formulae for the brown coat colour:

1. $a^?a^? bbC-D-E-KB-ss$
2. $aa bbC-D-E-KB-(k^?k^?)ss$
3. $a^?a^? bb C-E-k^?k^?ss -$
4. $a^?a^? bbC-E- k^?k^? ss$
5. $a^?a^? bb C-E-k^?k^? ss$

Unfortunately, these formulae do not include such important factors as the alleles that cause wider brown hair bands and determine the degree and distribution of white spotting.

Red

Red coat colour in Yakutian laikas is less common than black but can occur. There are various types of red coats.

The basic red coat colour is sable of the $a^?a^?k^?k^?$ genotype with a distinctive light “wild” pattern on the body. The pattern is similar to that of grey agouti dogs.

This type of coat is red with dark tipped hairs. The relative length of dark tips can vary significantly, which results in a lighter or darker coat colour. The variability of this character is determined by a system of modifier genes – shading polygenes.

The sable coat colour is highly age-variable. Puppies that still have soft, fine fur are grey and resemble agouti puppies. They acquire the distinctive colour together with the adult coat.

When the black pigment is replaced by brown, a sable dog’s hair tips become brown; if the hair tips are short, dogs phenotypically look pure red. Brown nose leather and pink lips indicate that a dog has brown pigment.

The second type of red coat is caused by the ee alleles restricting extension of eumelanin that has an epistatic effect on the other coat colour genes. Such dogs can carry any genes.

Possible genetic formulae for the red coat colour:

- $a^?a^? B-C-D-E- k^?k^?ss$ – red with black nose
- $a^?a^? bbC-D-E-k^?k^?ss$ – red with brown nose
- $a^?a^?B-C-D-ee KB-(k^?k^?) ss$ – red

White

A genetically white coat colour can be determined by various loci. In most cases it is initiated by the ee alleles in combination with the ii alleles that inhibit phaeomelanin synthesis in hairs. In fact, it is a diluted red. As experience shows, the ii alleles do not always completely remove phaeomelanin from the coat, so white dogs often appear to have a cream coat. White dogs with black nose leather, lips, and eye rims and dark-coloured eyes carry the B - allele. Homozygous white dogs carrying the bb alleles are born with brown nose leather and pink skin.

Many white dogs have the **extreme spotting** pattern, i.e. they are homozygous carriers of the $s^?s^?$ alleles. This is true for most dogs with spotted coats. Such dogs have minor dark spotting in areas of remaining pigmentation, e.g. tips of ears, neck, set of tail. The spotting can be expressed as single dark hairs, which is practically unnoticeable.

In some cases extremely light agoutis or sables can be almost completely white. Such dogs can have some minor shading on the back.

Besides the alleles mentioned above, other factors that do not have any direct effect on the coat colour can cause a white coat. Among such factors are the depth of pigment in hairs, the thickness and transparency of the hair cortex, the texture of hairs, etc.

Possible genetic formulae for the white coat colour caused by combinations of the ee and ii alleles:

- With black nose leather**
- $a^?a^? B- D-eeii (KB-)k^?k^? ss$
- $a^?a^?B- D-eeii(KB-)k^?k^? ss$
- $a^?a^? B- D-eeii(KB-)k^?k^? ss$
- With brown nose leather**
- $a^?a^? bbD-eeii (KB-)k^?k^? ss$
- $a^?a^? bbD-eeii(KB-)k^?k^? ss$
- $a^?a^?bbD-eeii(KB-)k^?k^? ss$

Tan

The tan coat colour is caused by the combination of the alleles $a^?a^?B-k^?k^?$. The allele combination $a^?a^?bbk^?k^?$ causes a brown tan



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point coat that is often considered brown, and its light variants are considered red. The presence of the *ii* alleles can turn tan points into almost white. This type of coat colour is usually combined with white spotting.

Genetic formulae for the tanned coat colour:

- a'a^t B-C-D-E- k^yk^y ss – black and tan**
- a'a^tbbC-D-E- k^yk^y ss – brown and tan**

White spotting

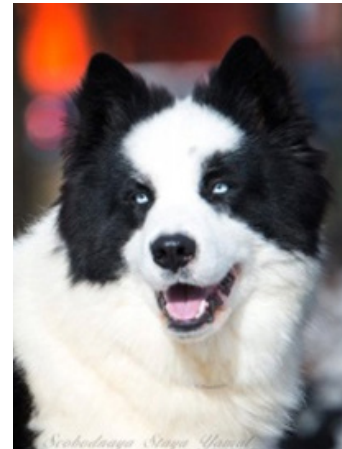
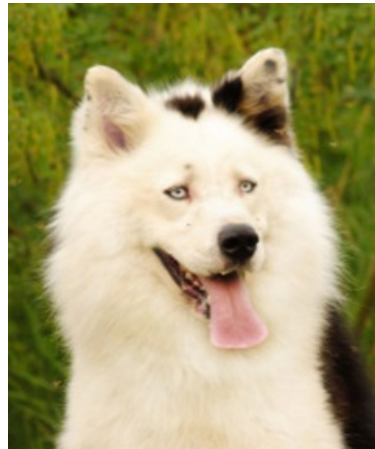
The Yakutian laika exhibits a wide variety of white spotting, from almost solid dark coats to almost completely white, with an array of intermediate piebald and spotted types. Virtually all dogs of the breed carry the homozygous pair *ss*.

Piebald and spotted dogs can develop ticking on white areas caused by the dominant **T** allele.

Pattern	Bicolour	Tricolour
Spotted – white with pigmented patches.	White and black, white and grey, white and red, white and brown, white and black with ticking.	White, black, and red; white and black with tan points; white, black, and red with ticking.
Piebald – pigmented coat with white patches.	Black piebald, grey piebald, red piebald.	Black, white, and red; black and white with tan points; black, white, and red with ticking.
Extreme spotting, almost completely white. Dark spots in pigment centres only.		

Dark mask on the muzzle

Agouti and sable coats can be accompanied by a dark mask caused by the **E^m** allele, but it is often covered up by white spotting.



Photos of Yakutian Laika

Zonal color





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Black color





Brown color



Red color





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White color





Tan color





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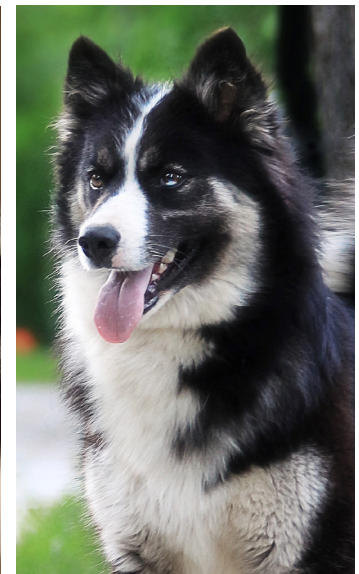
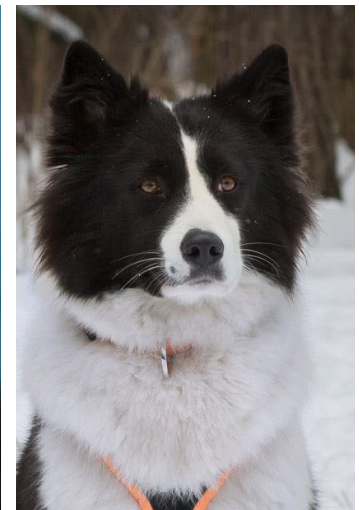
White spot





Dark mask on the face

Ticking on white background





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