

SV's have wonderful personalities. Their temperaments are sound, gentle and loving. The SV is very adaptable and is quite calm. Being a spitz breed, they sometimes have a tendency to bark; however, this can be corrected with training. These guys and gals are very adept at finding new uses for old toys. They enjoy being challenged and love to romp and play.

Swedish Vallhund History & Development:

The Swedish Vallhund is an original Swedish breed and a very old Spitz breed. Sweden has declared that this breed goes back over 1000 years to the time of the Vikings. According to historians, during the eighth or ninth century, either the SV was brought to Wales or the Pembroke Corgi was taken to Sweden. This accounts for the similarities between the two breeds. The SV is an alert, eager to please, energetic, healthy, and hardy dog. He is taller and not as long or as wide as the Corgi. The Swedish Vallhund was bred to work on farms and ranches. The SV is low to the ground and herds by rounding up & nipping at the hocks. The historian, Clifford Hubbard thought that the Swedish Vallhund was the older of the two breeds. The breed almost became extinct in 1942 when Bjorn von Rosen, who had worked to save several old Swedish breeds from extinction, remembered the SV from his boyhood and worked with Mr. K.G. Zettersten to save the breed. They found a few of the old SV's and began a breeding program. In 1948, the Swedish Kennel Club recognized the breed. The SV was known as "Vallhund" which meant "herding dog." In 1964, when the Swedish standard was revised, the breed became known as Vastgotaspets after the province in Sweden, Vastergotland, in which the revival of the breed originated. SV's are also known as "Spitz of the West Goths". In 1974, the first SV came to Ryslip Kennels in England. Sometime in 1983, two SV's were imported to a private owner in the United States from Starvon Kennel, England. Marilyn Thell of Rhode Island, USA, brought two SV's to the United States in July, 1985. The first litter of nine SV's in the United States was whelped at Jonricker Kennel, September 4,



1986.

Cheryl is always available to answer questions and concerns before and after a puppy moves on from her kennel.

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The Wonderful World of the Swedish Vallhund

Swedish Vallhunds are an ancient breed, said to be carried about by the Vikings on their voyages and may be the ancestors to the Pembroke Welsh Corgi, or at least influenced their development. Vals are from the Spitz line and were bred for farm work, especially herding.



Cheryl Albert has been breeding and boarding dogs for over 34 years. Her main line had been German Shepherds. She has since transferred her knowledge, quality and expertise to breeding the Swedish Vallhund. One of her dogs, Vastgota Rudolf Valentino, Rudy, is the first Swedish Vallhund to win Best Puppy in Show; he is the first SV Champion in Canada

and the first puppy to win the SV National Specialty at 11 months of age. He has sired numerous champions.

Swedish Vallhunds are marvelous with babies, children, teens, and adults. They like to play and please their family. They like to keep their family in sight and are merry companions with keen and watchful attention. Cheryl's dogs have their run kennels outside but are often in the home for play and sleep. These dogs are home dogs....and play with their toys and greet guests just as your own dogs at home would do. Caval SV's are so friendly and used to people because the puppies are socialized from birth onwards.



Caval puppies are very social and gentle. Much care is taken to socialize them....enhancing their instinctual great temperament. Time is taken to play with them...and through play to begin to teach them basic commands. Swedish Vallhunds are natural heelers and usually stay close to their owner.



SV's are self-confident dogs, lively and inquisitive. Vals are courageous, loyal, active and independent. They are agile and fast. SV's are eager to please and take well to training. They are friendly, healthy and hardy. The SV is alert, watchful and will stand his ground to observe what is happening but is not aggressive.

SWEDISH VALLHUND CLUB OF AMERICA STANDARD OF THE SWEDISH VALLHUND

GENERAL APPEARANCE—The Swedish Vallhund (SV) is a very old Spitz-type breed known since the time of the Vikings. For centuries the SV has been kept as a farm dog and used for herding cattle. The SV is a small, powerful, fearless, sturdily built Spitz herding dog. The correct relationship of height to length of body is 2:3. The SV has a wedge-shaped head, prick ears, and a close-fitting hard coat of medium length and sable coloring. The double coat and the characteristic “harness markings” are essential features of this breed. Tail may be natural (long, stub, or bob) or docked. The appearance of the Swedish Vallhund conveys intelligence, alertness and energy. Balance, outline, temperament and movement are of overriding importance. The SV is a thoroughly sound animal, versatile in its desire to do traditional herding or with proper training compete in companion events such as obedience, tracking and agility, and/or serve as a family companion.

SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE—*Height*-- Height at the withers for dogs ranges from 12.5 – 13.5 inches and bitches 11.5 – 12.5 inches. Minor variations may be seen; however, more important is the proportion. *Proportion*--The relationship of height to length of body, as measured from the prosternum to the rearmost portion of the buttocks, should be 2:3. *Substance*-- Strong, well boned, well developed, neither refined nor coarse, and a solidly built, muscular body.

HEAD— Rather long and clean. Viewed from above, the head forms an even wedge from skull to tip of nose and is well filled-in under the eyes. *Eyes*-- Medium size, oval in shape and dark brown with black eyerims. *Ears*-- Medium size, pointed, prick. Set at the outer edge of the skull above a line drawn from the corner of the eye. Ear leather should be firm from base to tip, smooth-haired and mobile. The dog should make good use of them. *Skull*— Broad and almost flat. *Stop*-- Well defined. *Muzzle*— Viewed from the side, the muzzle should look rather square, slightly shorter than the skull. *Planes*-- The top lines of the muzzle and skull are parallel to each other. *Nose*— In profile, the nose is on the same line as the muzzle and does not extend beyond the forepart of the muzzle. *Pigmentation*-- Black. *Lips*--Black and tight with no noticeable flews. *Teeth*— Strong, well developed, with full dentition in a scissors bite. Any deviation is a serious fault.

NECK, TOPLINE & BODY— *Neck*— Long, strongly muscled with good reach. *Topline*-- Level when standing or moving. *Chest* — Good depth. The ribcage is long with fairly well sprung ribs. Viewed from the front, the chest should be oval; from the side, elliptical. In a mature dog it should reach down two-fifths of the length of the forelegs and, when viewed from the side, the lowest point of the chest is immediately behind the back part of the foreleg. The prosternum is visible and not excessively pronounced. *Underline*-- Slightly tucked up. *Back*— Well muscled. *Loin*-- Short and strong. *Croup*-- Broad and slightly sloping. *Tails*-- Tails may be long, stub, or bob. May be shown natural or docked. All tail types are equally acceptable.

FOREQUARTERS— *Shoulders*-- Strongly-muscled. *Shoulder blades*-- Long and well laid back. *Upper arms*-- Slightly shorter than the shoulder blades, set at an approximate 90 degree angle, close fitting to ribs, but still very mobile. A line perpendicular to the ground can be drawn from the tip of the shoulder blade through the elbow to the ground. *Elbows*— Move



parallel to the body, turning neither in nor out. *Forearms*— When viewed from the front, slightly curved to give free action against the lower part of the chest; the pasterns and feet are parallel. Viewed from the side the forearms are straight. The height from ground to elbow is almost half the height from ground to withers. *Legs* – Well boned. *Pasterns*-- Slightly sloping, elastic. *Dewclaws*-- May be removed. *Feet*-- Medium sized, short, oval, pointing straight forward. *Toes*-- Tightly knit and well knuckled. *Pads*-- Thick and strong.

HINDQUARTERS – *Angulation*-- To balance the front. Well angulated at stifle and hock. *Legs*— Well boned. Upper and lower thighs are strongly muscled. Lower thigh is slightly longer than the distance from hock to ground. *Stifles*— Well bent. *Hocks (Metatarsal bones)*-- Perpendicular to the ground and viewed from the rear, parallel. *Feet, toes and pads*-- Same as forefeet.

COAT— Medium length hair, harsh; topcoat close and tight. Undercoat is soft and dense. Hair is short on the head and the foreparts of the legs and slightly longer on neck, chest and back parts of the hind legs. Dogs are to be shown in an untrimmed, natural state. Faults include woolly, curly, or open coats. Fluffy coats (longer hair on body and furnishings, with ear fringes) are a serious fault.

COLOR— A sable pattern seen in colors of grey through red and combinations of these colors in various shades. All are equally acceptable. Lighter shades of these colors are desirable on the chest, belly, buttocks, lower legs, feet and hocks, with darker hairs on back, neck, and sides of the body. Lighter harness markings are essential. Although a dark muzzle is acceptable, a well-defined mask with lighter hair around eyes, on muzzle and under the throat, giving a distinct contrast to the head color is highly desirable. White is permitted as a narrow blaze, neck spot, slight necklace, and white markings on the legs, and chest. White in excess of one third of the dog’s total color is a very serious fault. Any color other than described above is a very serious fault.

GAIT— Sound with strong reach and drive. The Swedish Vallhund is a herding dog requiring agility and endurance. Viewed from the front, the legs do not move in exact parallel planes, but

incline slightly inward to compensate for shortness of leg and width of chest. The forelegs should reach forward in a free stride without too much lift. Hind legs should drive well under the body and move on a line with the forelegs, with hocks turning neither in nor out. Feet should travel parallel to the line of motion with no tendency to swing out, cross over or interfere with each other. Short, choppy movement and overly close or wide movement is faulty.

TEMPERAMENT— The breed is watchful, energetic, fearless, alert, intelligent, friendly, eager to please, active, and steady, making a good herding and companion dog. Sound temperament, neither vicious or shy.

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault, and the seriousness of the fault should be in exact proportion to its degree. The following faults are to be so severely penalized as to effectively eliminate the dog from competition: Fluffy coat, any color other than described above, nose not predominantly black, more than one-third white, any bite other than scissors. ratified 10/04 **For Information, Please contact:**



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