



**FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)**

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**02.03.2011/EN**

**FCI-Standard N° 304**

**RUSSIAN - EUROPEAN LAIKA**

(Russko-Evropëiskaia Laika)

**TRANSLATION:** Anna Samsonova, edited by Dr. Eugene Yerusalimsky. Revised by Jennifer Mulholland and Renée Sporre-Willes / Original version: (EN).

**ORIGIN:** Russia.

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL VALID STANDARD:** 13.10.2010.

**UTILIZATION:** Hunting dog for all-round purposes.

**FCI-CLASSIFICATION:** Group 5 Spitz and primitive types.  
Section 2 Nordic hunting dogs.  
With working trial.

**BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY:**

This is a Russian breed of hunting dogs from the European forest areas of Russia. The first record about northern ear-pointed dogs was published by A. A. Shirinsky-Shikhmatov in the “Album of northern sledge dogs-laikas” in 1895. The dogs mentioned therein were named Cheremis and Zyrianskiy Laikas. The breed was limited to the regions of Komi, Udmurtia, Arkhangelsk, Yaroslavl, Tver, Moscow and some other areas of Russia.

In 1947 the off-spring of Arkhangelsk, Komi, Karelia, Votiatk and other Laikas were united into one breed under the modern name of: – Russian-European Laika.

The breed standard for Russian-European Laika as a purebred dog was approved in 1952.

The correct modern type of Russian-European Laika, as a recognized purebred dog, was not achieved by breeding different Laikas off-spring; it is the result of selective breeding over a long period of time

**GENERAL APPEARANCE:** Medium sized dog; of medium to strong built.

The overall impression is that of a square built dog, the length of the body (point of shoulders to point of buttocks) being equal to the height at the withers; however, the length of the body may be slightly superior to the height at the withers. The muscles are lean and well developed. Strong bone structure. Sexual dimorphism is clearly pronounced.

### **IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS:**

Males square to almost square and females slightly longer.

Index of format (height/length): males: 100/100-103

females: 100/100-105.

The height at the withers exceeds the height at the croup by 1-2 cm in males and it is equal to or exceeds the height at the croup by 1 cm in females.

The length of the muzzle is a little less than half the length of the head.

The distance from ground to elbow is slightly more than the distance from withers to elbow.

**BEHAVIOUR AND TEMPERAMENT:** Steady, evenly-tempered, with very well developed sense of scent and detection of game.

**HEAD:** Lean; viewed from above, it is wedge-shaped, triangular and longer than broad.

### **CRANIAL REGION:**

**Skull** : Relatively broad; and occiput is well pronounced.

**Stop:** Slightly protruding **superciliary arches** give the impression of a pronounced stop, but it is never sharply pronounced.

### **FACIAL REGION:**

**Nose:** Of medium size; the nose is black in all coat colours.

**Muzzle:** Lean and pointed. The length of the muzzle is a slightly less than the length of the skull. The planes of the muzzle (nasal bone) and the skull are parallel.

**Lips:** Tight and firmly fitted.

Jaws/Teeth: White, large, strong, completely developed and evenly positioned. Complete (42 teeth) dental formula; scissor bite.

Cheeks: Well developed; cheek bones and muscles are clearly pronounced.

Eyes: Not large, oval-shaped, with moderately oblique set eyelids; not deep set or protruding, with vivid and intelligent expression. Dark brown or brown eye colour in any colour of coat.

Ears: Pricked, not large, mobile, set on high, V-shaped, pointed.

**NECK**: Muscular, lean and dry, long-oval in cross-section, its length is equal to the length of the head. The neck is set at approximately 45° - 50° to the horizontal.

### **BODY**:

Withers: Well developed, very well pronounced, especially in males.

Back: Straight, strong, muscular, moderately wide.

Loins: Short, wide, well-muscled, slightly arched.

Croup: Broad, moderately long, slightly sloping.

Chest: Broad, deep, oval-shaped cross-section; reaching the elbows.

Underline and belly: Tucked up; the underline from the chest to the abdominal cavity is well pronounced.

**TAIL**: Curled or sickle curled; touches the back, the upper thigh or buttocks. When stretched reach down to the hock joint or be 2-3 cm shorter.

### **LIMBS**

#### **FOREQUARTERS**:

General appearance : Legs lean, muscular; viewed from the front straight, moderately wide and parallel. The height of the forelegs from the elbow to the ground is slightly superior to half the height at the withers.

Shoulder: Shoulder blades are long and well laid back.

Upper arm: Long, well placed back, muscular. The angulations between the shoulder blade and the upper arm is well pronounced.

Elbow: Fitting close to the body; elbows are well developed and placed backwards, parallel to the body axis.

Forearm: Straight, lean, muscular, of oval-cross section, viewed from the front moderately wide and parallel.

Metacarpus (Pastern): Short, slightly sloping when viewed from the side. Preferably no first digits (dewclaws). Forefeet: Oval, arched with tight toes.

### HINDQUARTERS:

General appearance : Muscular, with well defined angulations of all articulations.

When viewed from the rear the legs are straight and parallel.

Thigh: Moderately long, placed obliquely.

Stifle (Knee): Well angulated.

Lower thigh: Not shorter than the upper thighs; placed obliquely.

Metatarsus (Rear pastern): Placed almost vertically. Seen from the side, a perpendicular line, from the buttocks to ground, should fall close to the front of the rear pastern. The presence of dewclaws is not desirable.

Hind feet: Oval, arched with tight toes.

GAIT / MOVEMENT: Free movement.

SKIN: Skin is thick and elastic.

### COAT

Hair: Outer coat is harsh and straight. Undercoat is well developed, thick, soft, abundant and woolly. The coat on the head and ears is short and dense. The coat on the shoulders and the neck is longer than on the body and forms a collar; on the cheekbones it forms side-whiskers. The coat on the withers is also slightly longer, especially in males.

Limbs are covered with short, harsh, dense coat, which is a little longer on the back side of limbs. The coat on the rear legs forms trousers without feathering.

There is a protective growth of hair between the toes.

The tail is profusely covered with straight and harsh hair which is a little bit longer on the underside but without feathering.

Colour: The most typical colours are black with white or white with black. Solid black as well as solid white also occur.

**SIZE:**

Height at the withers: Males 52 - 58 cms. Females 48 - 54 cms.

**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.

- Deviation from the sexual characteristics.
- Apple head; prominent forehead; in-sufficiently developed cheeks.
- Over-developed [superciliary arches](#).
- Partly missing pigmentation on nose, lips and eyerims.
- Lips which are pendulous.
- Pincer bite, small, marked or sparsely set teeth.
- Absence of more than any of the PM1 and PM2.
- Eyes large, small, round, not obliquely set, deep set or protruding, light coloured,
- Back soft, narrow, or roached.
- Loin long, narrow, or arched.
- Croup that is flat, narrow or steep.
- Chest that is narrow, flat, barrel shaped, or shallow.
- Straight pasterns; weak pasterns.
- Cat feet, hare feet, splay feet.
- Restricted movement.
- Thick, loose or wrinkled skin.
- In-sufficient undercoat, absence of ruff and side-whiskers.
- Greying; flecks or specks on head and limbs of same shade as ground colour.
- Height 2 cm above limit.

**SEVERE FAULTS:**

- Strong deviation from the sexual characteristics.
- Light or heavy in bone; thick set body.
- Obesity or meagre.
- Head too long, stop under-developed or abrupt.
- Muzzle that is turned-up (dish-face); too long or coarse.
- De-pigmented on nose, lips or eyelids.
- More than 4 missing premolars, including PM1.
- Ears large, set low, not mobile.
- Round-tipped ears, over-developed ear-lobes.
- Shallow in chest.
- Defined east-west feet; pigeon-toed or bandy front.
- Straight or too obliquely set shoulders.
- Hindquarters narrow, with knees turning out; too narrow or too wide; over angulated or straight in rear.
- Heavy movement, stilted action or mincing gait.
- Long coat on the back-side of the forequarters; obvious fringes.
- Untypical coat during shedding.
- Tan (red) coloured markings on the head and the legs, different from ground colour.

**DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:**

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioral abnormalities shall be disqualified.
- Incorrect bite, lack of teeth (other than PM1 and M3), including the pincer bite before the age of 6 years old.
- Wall eye, flecked or of different colour.
- Ears dropped or semi-dropped.
- Natural stumpy tail, sabre or otter tail.
- Too short or too long coat or plumed tail.
- Any other colour than those accepted.

**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.



# ANATOMICAL FEATURES

