

Preserving the Norwegian Lundehund for the future

The most important action for preserving the Lundehund is to ensure that the breed is large and thriving. Future dog owners may contribute by acquiring a Lundehund if they are considering a smaller dog for companionship. The Norwegian Lundehund Association participates in the work of the Norwegian Gene Resource Centre in establishing a gene bank with frozen semen for long term storage. The aim is to store up to ten years old semen from ten dogs of each of the seven Norwegian dog breeds for use in case of an acute crises or a need of "historic" material for breeding purposes.



NORWEGIAN LUNDEHUND



Photo: Roar Torsteinsen

The Norwegian Lundehund Association

Would you like more information about Norwegian Lundehund?

The Norwegian Lundehund Association:

www.lundehund.no

Norsk Kennel Klub: www.nkk.no

Norsk Landbruksmuseum: www.umb.no/?avd=48



The Norwegian Puffin Dog - Lunde hund - is an old breed of dogs, used for hunting puffin (lundefugl) and other sea birds along most of the Norwegian coastline. The age of the breed is unknown. However, there exist 400 years old written accounts of puffin hunting with dogs. The Lunde hund has been an important element in the livelihood of people, especially on the coast of northern Norway. The dog retrieved live puffins from nests located in narrow passages in cliffs and crevices. The meat of the birds was used for food, the down and feathers for featherbeds or exported to southern parts of the country. Around 1850 bird hunting with nets took over, making the traditional puffin hunting with dogs less common. This, together with a decline of the population along the Norwegian coast reduced the need for the Lunde hund. However, in a small fishing settlement on the remote island of Værøy in Lofoten, where the connections with the outside world were extremely poor, the old hunting method with dogs was maintained. From this location the Christie family at Hamar, southern Norway, obtained a few dogs in 1930 and thereafter bred a substantial number of them. Unfortunately, almost all the dogs on Værøy died of canine distemper during the second world war. They were later to be replaced by dogs of the Christies' breeding. Later the disease swept even over Hamar, and by the end of the 1950s the Lunde hund was almost extinct - but again, in 1960 five dogs were sent from Værøy to Eleanor Christie who made an immense effort to preserve the race. This time she got help from other breeders, and this exceptional breed was saved.



Photo: Arild Espelien



Photo: Gunn Tove Ormset



Måstad, Værøy
Photo: Magnus Enger

Exterior

The Lunde hund is a small spitz type dog with an ideal shoulder height of 32-38 cm. The males are a little larger than the females. The body should be rectangular. The colour of the coat is red to fawn with white patches and sprinkled with black tipped hairs. The hairs are of medium length, dense and rough, with a soft undercoat.

Special anatomic features

The special anatomic features of the Lunde hund make the preservation of the breed particularly interesting. The best known characteristic is that the dog has six toes on each foot. The extra toes are endowed with a muscular system that gives them a practical functionality. The outer ear may be folded, closing the auditory passage and thereby protecting it from dirt when the dog works in narrow cliff passages. Extraordinary flexibility of body is demonstrated at the shoulders, enabling the forelegs to stretch out 90 degrees to the side, and in the neck allowing the dog to bend its head onto its back.

Ref: Den norske hundeboka, Ulvund tekst & forlag.



Lunde hund after successful blood tracking



An excellent family dog



In the show ring



On the agility track.

Photo: Gunn Tove Ormset



Photo: Magnus Enger

Perfect mates for outdoor life