

## *Preservation of the Lundehund for the future*

*The overall aim of the Norwegian Lundehund Club is to preserve the Norwegian Lundehund as a healthy and functional dog, and to conserve the breed specific characteristics.*

*The breed is still threatened by extinction. The main action to preserve the breed is therefore to ensure a sound and thriving stock of dogs. Thus, all owners of dams are encouraged to let their dogs have a least one litter to preserve the genetic material that we have today. In addition, the Norwegian Lundehund Club is actively working to increase the genetic variation of the breed.*

*The members of the Norwegian Lundehund Club engage in a variety of activities with their dogs, ranging from hiking trips to dog shows and different working dog disciplines. In that way, we contribute to highlight and develop the breeds potential as a healthy and functional dog.*

*If you are looking for a small dog for company, you may contribute to the preservation of the breed by getting a Lundehund. Friendly and curious as they are, the Lundehund is a perfect family dog.*



## Norwegian Lundehund

*Would you like to know more about the Norwegian Lundehund?*

[www.lundehund.no](http://www.lundehund.no)  
[www.facebook.com/norsklundehundklubb/](https://www.facebook.com/norsklundehundklubb/)  
Lundehundboka, Ingvild Espelien (red),  
Vigmostad & Bjerke 2012  
Norsk Kennel Klub (NKK) [www.nkk.no](http://www.nkk.no)



## THE NORWEGIAN LUNDEHUND



*The Norwegian Lundehund is an old breed of dogs, which was used for hunting puffin (lundefugl) along most of the Norwegian coastline. The exact age of the breed is unknown. However, there exists over 400 year old written accounts of puffin hunting with dogs.*



## ***The Norwegian Lundehund has been an important part of the livelihood along the Norwegian coast***

*The dog retrieved live puffins from nests located in narrow passages in cliffs and screes. 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 Lundehund.*

*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 Christie's breeding. Later the disease swept over Hamar, and by the end of the 1950s the Lundehund 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 the number of dogs increased gradually. Today, there are around 1700 Norwegian Lundehunds world wide.*

## ***Exterior***

*The Lundehund 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 Lundehund 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.*

*Source: J. Undsgård: Norske hunderaser, NKK, 2015*