

Alaskan Malamute - Siberian Husky Breed Standard Comparison

People sometimes have difficulty recognizing an Alaskan Malamute, or distinguishing a Malamute from a Siberian Husky. This chart is intended to help you with correct breed identification and based on the Alaskan Malamute and Siberian Husky breed standards.

However, remember there is a wide variation of actual size, build, and color of individual dogs. Identification may be more difficult with “pet quality” or some mixed breed dogs.

Comparison:	Alaskan Malamute	Siberian Husky
Appearance:	Heavy and powerful	Medium sized
Height (at shoulder):	Male: 25 inches Female: 23 inches	Male: 21-23.5 inches Female: 20-22 inches
Weight:	Male: 85 pounds Female: 75 pounds	Male: 45-60 pounds Female: 35-50 pounds
Function:	To carry heavy loads over long distance	To carry light loads at moderate speed
Build:	Powerful, substantial, heavy boned	Medium - shows balance, speed, endurance
Expression:	Soft and friendly	Keen, friendly, interested, mischievous
Eye color:	Brown, darker preferred	Blue, brown, parti-color (mixed), or one of each color type.
Ears:	Medium, triangular, tips rounded, set wide apart on head	Medium, triangular, back arched, set high and close on head
Head:	Broad and deep with bulky muzzle	Medium
Tail:	Waving plume, carried up and over the back.	Fox brush, carried in a sickle curve or trailing.
Feet:	Large, compact, snowshoe shaped	Medium, compact, oval shaped
Coat:	Thick coarse guard hair, shorter woolly undercoat	Straight smooth-lying guard hair, soft dense undercoat
Color:	Light gray to black, sable, red, and all white. Broken color patterns or uneven splashings are undesirable.	All colors from black to pure white. A variety of coat patterns, markings, and splashings are allowed
Disqualifications:	Blue eyes	Males over 23.5 inches Females over 22 inches