



**Standard n° 2/050**

**WDF American Wolfdog**

**ORIGIN: (Canada)**

**UTILITY: Pet dog to man**

**CLASSIFICATION: Group 2 – Companion Dogs**

#### **BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY:**

The term "American Wolfdog" refers generically to any dog that descends from crosses between dog and American wolf, unlike the Saarloos and the Czechoslovakian which descend from European wolves, since 2015 the federation has chosen to adopt the Canadian guidelines to draw up a strong standard that gives clear lines on the selection of this breed to see the results and be able to establish its unique traits, each American Wolfdog breeder has set his own objectives over time, to the point that there are countless lines and crossbreeds of wolfdogs that are clearly distinguished both by physical and character traits, also due to the great variety of dog breeds used in the selection: Siberian Husky, Alaskan Malamute, German Shepherd, Pyrenean Shepherd, Samoyed. Precisely for these reasons, to date, through the aid of an experimental register, it has been decided to avoid further mixtures for the strongest lines in order to finally see a solid functional morphology that is recognized as an official breed.

When we talk about the American Wolfdog or American Wolfdog, in English, we are therefore referring to a specimen that descends from the cross between the North American Gray Wolf (*Canis Lupus Lycaon*, *Canis Lupus Occidentalis*, *Canis Lupus Nubilus*) or the Arctic Wolf (*Canis Lupus Arctos*) and domestic dogs, usually primitive breeds, with all the resulting variations. In the past the content was determined by examining the stud book of the subject in question and the "Filial Generation" but with the passage of time it has become more common to classify through phenotype, characteristics and behavior, or with the help of DNA tests that show the percentage of wolf genes.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION:**

In appearance the American Wolfdog is similar to its North American wolf ancestor, with the three variations of grey, white and black coat. It is a large dog, easily exceeding 70 cm at the withers for both females and males. Up to 1.40 m long, with a tail between 30 and 40 cm, it can weigh over 40 kg. It has a robust but quite slender build, with long and robust limbs. Head and muzzle may generally be more elongated than in the generic wolfdog. The eyes have a round pupil and a color that varies from light brown to light amber, erect and short ears. It has a thick coat that it sheds with the arrival of the summer, usually coinciding with the end of winter.

The reactions and intensity of behavior are what make a high-content wolfdog a real challenge to work with. As a general rule, high content will follow many of the traits we find in pure wolves that have helped them survive in the wild (possessiveness, aggression, combativeness, alertness). Generally they are very sensitive to their environment, very stubborn and autonomous, without any need to please humans, something that we instead see in domestic dogs. They can be very shy and wary of something new or different (neophobia).

The level of neophobia can vary from person to person but generally even a new piece of furniture can arouse distrust. Another characteristic that can present itself in high content individuals is claustrophobia, whereby passing through a narrower street, staying in closed spaces or even in the car can be a real challenge. It is essential to work on self-control, for example through mental activation exercises, and not just focus on satisfying their physical-motor needs. They are very affectionate and bond strongly with their family. If not adequately accustomed and educated, it is very difficult to make them live with us inside the house and very often they prefer to spend most of their time outdoors, which is why they are not recommended for anyone who does not have at least a private garden. The thoughtful choice of breeding together with correct management and education allows them to be able to sleep and live at home, go out for walks in crowded places, go hiking in the mountains and other normal activities that every dog would like to carry out, but it must be kept in mind that many part of the work must be done in the first year and a half of the puppy's life to achieve certain results.

- Medium Content

He will demonstrate intensity and sensitivity in his behaviors, but not in the extreme way we see in high content individuals. The average content will have some very lupine traits and others attributable to the characteristics of the Nordic breed dogs that usually make up the mix. In light of this, like the high content, these animals require intense socialization and education although, in some cases, they can be more docile and cooperative than high content.

The level of adaptability in these animals varies, it is important that they are stimulated and accustomed to any situation from the first months of life: work on distrust, mitigate characteristic possessiveness, mitigate any predatory behavior, avoid the onset of separation anxiety and develop a healthy routine in their daily lives.

Given their strong bond with the owner and their high predatory nature, an escape-proof outdoor box or garden (equipped with anti-jump and anti-dig devices) is an essential requirement to keep these animals, and their neighbors, safe.

-Low Content

They are easier animals to handle. Be careful with this statement: it doesn't mean that they are easy in general, but, compared to the high or medium content ones, they are much more similar to the dog. They still require good socialization and education, but are certainly more docile and sociable than the two aforementioned.

Attachment to the owner, intelligence and typical distrust make even low-level wolfdogs a challenge in socialization and training for those used to working with typical dog breeds. They can adapt to apartment life but if they have not been adequately accustomed to being alone or do not have their needs met they may become destructive or attempt to escape.

## **BEHAVIOR**

It is mainly a pet, not very suitable for work and gets tired of it quite quickly.

## **HEAD**

Symmetrical, well muscled. Seen from the side and from above, it forms a blunt wedge. Sex should be unmistakable.

### **CRANIAL REGION:**

Skull: Seen from the side and from the front, the forehead is slightly arched. No marked frontal furrow. Occipital bone clearly visible.

Stop: Moderate.

### **FACIAL REGION:**

Nose: Oval shape, black.

Muzzle: Clean, not broad; straight bridge of nose.

Lips: Tight fitting. No gap at corner of mouth. Rims of lips are black.

Jaws/Teeth: Jaws strong and symmetrical. Well developed teeth, specially the canines.

Scissor or pincer bite with 42 teeth according to the usual tooth set. Regular teeth set.

Cheeks: Clean, sufficiently muscled, not markedly protruding.

**EYES:** Small, slanting, amber coloured. Well fitting lids.

**EARS:** Pricked, thin, triangular, short (i.e. not longer than 1/6th of the height at withers); the lateral point of the set on of the ears and the outer corner of the eyes are in a direct line. A vertical line from tip of ear would run close along the head.

**NECK:** Dry, well muscled. In repose forms an angle of up to 40 degrees to the horizontal. The neck must be sufficiently long for the nose to touch the ground effortlessly.

## **BODY:**

Topline: Flowing transition from neck to body. Sloping away slightly.

Withers: Well muscled, pronounced. Though pronounced, they must not interrupt the flow of the topline.

Back: Firm and straight.

Loins: Short, well muscled, not broad, sloping slightly.

Croup: Short, well muscled, not broad, falling away slightly.

Chest: Symmetrical, well muscled, roomy, pear-shaped and narrowing towards the sternum. The depth of chest does not reach to the elbows. The point of the sternum does not extend beyond the shoulder joints.

Underline and belly: Taut belly, tucked up. Slightly hollow in flanks.

**TAIL:** Set high, hanging downwards. When the dog is excited, it is generally raised in a sickle shape.

Length between 30 and 40 cm.

## **LIMBS**

### **FOREQUARTERS:**

General appearance: The front legs are straight, strong, clean and close together with slightly turned out feet.

Shoulder: The shoulder blade is placed rather far forward, well muscled. It forms an angle of nearly 65 degrees to the horizontal.

Upper arm: Strongly muscled, forms an angle of 120 to 130 degrees to the shoulder blade.

Elbow: Close fitting, turned neither in nor out, well defined, flexible. Upper arm and forearm form an angle of approximately 150 degrees.

Forearm: Long, clean and straight. The length of the forearm and pastern is 55% of height at withers.

Pastern joint: Solid, flexible.

Pastern: Long, forms an angle of at least 75 degrees to the ground. Lightly springy in movement.

Forefeet: Large, turned slightly outwards. Longish arched toes and strong, dark nails. Well defined, elastic, dark pads.

### **HINDQUARTERS:**

General appearance: Powerful. The hind legs stand parallel. An imaginary vertical line drawn from the point of the ischium, would run midway through the hock joint. The dewclaws are undesirable and must be eliminated.

Upper thigh: Long, well muscled. Forms an angle of 80 degrees to the pelvis. The hip joint is sturdy and flexible.

Stifle (Knee): Strong and flexible.

Lower thigh: Long, clean, well-muscled. Forms an angle of about 130 degrees with the hock.

Hock joint: Clean, solid, flexible.

Hock: Long, clean. Position almost vertical to the ground.

Hind feet: Longish, arched toes with strong dark nails.

**GAIT / MOVEMENT:** Harmonious, light-footed, ground covering trot in which the limbs skim over the ground as closely as possible. Head and neck incline to the horizontal. Pacing when walking.

**SKIN:** Elastic, tight, without wrinkles, unpigmented.

### **COAT**

Hair: Straight and close. Winter and summer coat differ greatly. In winter an immense undercoat is predominant and, together with the topcoat, forms a thick coat all over the body. It is necessary for the hair to cover the belly, the inside of the upper thigh, the scrotum, the inner part of the ear and the area between the toes. Well coated neck.

Colour: Yellowish gray to silvery gray with a characteristic light mask. Light hair also on the lower part of the neck and chest. Dark gray color with light mask is permitted, total white, cream and various light shades are permitted.

### **SIZE AND WEIGHT:**

Height at withers: dogs for both males and females starting from 70 cm without limits

Weight: at least 35 kg without limits

**FAULTS:** Any deviation from the foregoing points must be regarded as a fault and the seriousness with which the fault must be regarded must be in exact proportion to its severity and its effect on the health and welfare of the dog.

- Head heavy or light.
- Flat forehead.
- The absence of two PM1s (premolar 1) or both M3s (molar 3) is not to be penalized. However, the absence of an M3 in addition to the 2 PM1s or the absence of a PM1 in addition to both M3s is to be considered a defect.
- Big ear. High or low ear insertion.
- Neck carried high at rest; low neck position when standing.
- Withers not pronounced.
- Atypical top line.
- Tail short, set low and not carried correctly.
- Too much or too much angulation of the forelimbs.
- Weak pastern.
- Too much or too much angulation of the hindquarters. Insufficient muscles.

### **DISQUALIFICATION FOULS:**

- Aggressive or excessively shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioral abnormalities.
- Discrepancy in proportions.
- Defects in behavior and temperament.
- Atypical head.

- Missing teeth (except 2 PM1 and M 3, see § defects), irregular bite.
- Atypical shape and position of the eyes.
- Atypical ear shape and attachment.
- Dewlap.
- Strong croup inclination.
- Atypical rib cage.
- Tail atypical in set and carriage.
- Incorrect and atypical position of the front legs.
- Distinct and atypical coat.
- Loose ligaments.
- Atypical movement.

N.B. Males must have two apparently normal and completely normal testicles descended into the scrotum

N.B. Only healthy subjects able to perform the functions for which They were selected and that have the typical conformation of the breed, they can be used in reproduction

The Standard Commission

