

# Alaskan Malamute Comparison Guide: Breed Standard vs Pet Quality "Deviations"

Many people have difficulty recognizing an Alaskan Malamute, or distinguishing a Malamute from a Siberian Husky. This chart below intended to aid you in Malamute identification based on common "pet market" deviations from the breed standard.

This comparison assumes the dog is in good basic physical health and weight. Actual size, build, and color of individual dogs will vary. In dogs of unknown origins, too many deviations or excessive breed deviations are a strong indicator of mixed parentage.

Comparison:	Breed Standard	Common or Incorrect Deviations
<b>Height:</b> (at shoulder)	Male: 25 inches Female: 23 inches	Male: 23-29+ inches Female: 21-27+ inches, Common: 1-3 inches over standard.
<b>Weight:</b>	Male: 85 pounds Female: 75 pounds	Male: 65-110+ pounds Female: 55-100+ pounds, Common: 5-15 pounds over standard
<b>Build:</b>	Powerful, substantial, heavy boned	Medium boned for size, slender build
<b>Eyes:</b>	Brown - darker preferred, almond shape. NEVER blue.	Medium brown to yellow, shape semi-almond to rounded. NEVER blue.
<b>Ears:</b>	Medium, erect, triangular, tips rounded, wide set on skull, and stand-off from side of head when relaxed.	Some ears larger and/or thinner, pointed tips. Ear appear higher set with less bulky headed dogs. Occasional weak or "broken" ears.
<b>Head:</b>	Broad and deep with bulky muzzle	Skull not broad, giving head a narrow appearance. Muzzle thin or pointed (snipey). Excessive or slight brow stop.
<b>Tail:</b> (alert/happy)	Waving plume, carried up and over the back in a "question mark" (?) fashion.	Curved plume, over curled (tight tail), under curled (sickle), or curl lays flat against side or on back (snap tail)
<b>Feet:</b>	Large, compact, snowshoe shaped, and well arched.	Medium - large, may too oval or too round, loose/splay toed, weak arch
<b>Coat:</b>	Thick coarse guard coat with shorter woolly undercoat. (undercoat ALWAYS indicated, even when it is shed out)	Woolly coat (long &/or soft guard coat). Short and plush guard coat occasionally seen.
<b>Color:</b>	Gray to black, sable, red, and all white. Chest, legs, underside of tail and belly are white. Variety of facial markings. Broken colors and uneven splashings are undesirable.	Gray to Black most common. Sable trimmings common. Heavy facial markings common in darker dogs. Some dogs may have broken, or uneven color patterns.