



# • BREED FEATURE • WHITE SWISS SHEPHERD DOG



## They answered

A.1. My first litter of White Swiss Shepherd Dogs was 2011.

The WSSD are our breed of choice because they are a loyal, intelligent and a dog who is willing to please. They are a handsome striking dog, but also sound and strong which I like. They like to be around you without having to be on top of you, they are easily trained, emotionally sensitive and an excellent family companion.

A.2. Yes and No. In the beginning when I first started showing (2010) my answer would've been a resounding Yes! I had argued with judges who demanded I three point stack my dog like a GSD and was often told that my dog was nothing more than a white GSD who would've been pet homed or PTS if not for it being an import with a fancy name!

These days there seems to be a much greater appreciation for the breed.

This is largely courtesy to (I believe); some fantastic trainee lecturers who emphasize the differences between the GSD & WSSD and that the WSSD is it's own breed and not to be compared to a GSD;



breeders and exhibitors who have taken the time and effort to keep quality specimens in the ring and have those discussions with judges both inside and outside of the ring as well as making dogs available for them to go over and experience the tangible differences for themselves; and also to the fact that we do have many quality imports and now home bred dogs being campaigned and awarded in our Australian show rings, it has made people take notice of the breed and ergo increase their need to be educated on it.

Of course there are still those who think the WSSD is just a GSD in a white coat, but then there are also those who have controversial views on other breeds too and reality is that you cannot influence the minds of all.

A.3. Level top line

Body proportion; where overall outline is 12 : 10 (with correct balance of rib & loin of course) and depth of chest (by comparison to overall height to withers) is 50-55% but not less than 50%

Correct angulation in both front and rear

Straightness and correctness on the move

Correct Head proportions, with muzzle not shorter than stop to occiput, good wedge shape, oblique almond eye and well set ears.

A.4. In the ANKC breed standard it would be Purpose, of which one is not listed(!)

In the FCI standard I would like to see more visual aids in the form of photographs &/or sketches.

A.5. Yes.

- As in any medium to larger breed Hip and Elbow dysplasia can be an issue. All dogs should be x-rayed at an appropriate age and scored via an approved scheme

**“ Q. If you were able to add a sentence to the White Swiss Shepherd breed standard what would it be? A. In the ANKC breed standard it would be Purpose, of which one is not listed(!) ”**

prior to being used for breeding.

- MDR1 (Multi Drug Resistance 1) and DM (Degenerative Myelopathy) are both conditions that can be DNA tested for and therefore “affected” dogs are rarely seen.

- vWD (Von Willebrand's Disease) is documented for the breed however I have not personally seen or heard of it's occurrence.

- MegaEsophagus (MegaE) a condition where the Esophagus does not form properly and is documented in the breed however not seen commonly and puppies usually do not survive past the first months of life.

A.6. Ensure you purchase your puppy from a registered ANKC breeder. Make sure this is the right breed for you and do your research with personal encounters not just online. White Swiss Shepherd puppies require a large amount of socialisation to set them for adulthood and as dogs they also need to be in the home with their family not outside in a backyard.

Look for a puppy from health tested parents, from a breeder who seems dedicated and proactive in their breed.

**Rhiannon Stockdale  
SAFFIOIRAIRE**

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A.1. I have been breeding to the White Swiss Shepherd breed standard for 10 years, with my first litter whelped in 2005, well before recognition of the breed occurred in Australia. Although my lines prior to recognition were ineligible to be registered by the ANKC, they were thankfully exported & accepted by the FCI & used by several breeders throughout Europe infusing new blood into the breed during development. Having owned German Shepherds all of my life, including a white one, it was a natural progression to fall under the ‘Swiss Spell’, choosing the breed due to my passion for their development around the world as a separate breed. A loyal, sound, balanced, highly

## We asked Breeders

**Q.1. How long have you been breeding White Swiss Shepherds ? Why are they your chosen breed?**

**Q.2. Do you think some judges mistake the White Swiss Shepherd for a white German Shepherd ?**

**Q.3. Could you list in order of priority the 5 most important points you think a judge should look for in the White Swiss Shepherd ?**

**Q.4. If you were able to add a sentence to the White Swiss Shepherd breed standard what would it be?**

**Q.5. Does the White Swiss Shepherd have any health problems?**

**Q.6. What would your advice be to a potential puppy buyer when looking for a White Swiss Shepherd ?**

intelligent, all-round working dog suited to all disciplines. There is nothing I can't do with this breed! Oh, and of course their striking beauty is an extra bonus.

A.2. Initially, yes, it seemed like some judges viewed them as just a coat colour variation due to their origins & there will always be some judges that maintain that opinion. But over-all, I feel most judges have tried their best not to compare the two & judge them separately without bias. We have been lucky that quite a few judges have judged them in either Europe or South Africa prior to recognition in Australia.

A.3. Temperament! Temperament! Temperament!

Correct Proportions & Breed type

Head & expression

Movement

Coat

A.4. With the amendment to the tem-



perament/behaviour description (and several other areas) to the official FCI standard 347 in 2011, I wouldn't change a thing! Although the ANKC is yet to update it all judges should as an absolute priority print it off as the outdated standard does not describe the correct temperament of the breed at all.

A.5. As with most large breeds, there can be incidences of Hip & Elbow dysplasia within the breed. Quite common is MDR1; a mutation of the Multi-Drug Resistance Gene. Degenerative Myelopathy (DM) is also tested for. Although there are currently no litter registration limitations for the WSS, most, if not all ANKC/

NZKC breeders voluntarily screen for all of the above-mentioned issues. Responsible breeders only breed dogs with low hip/elbow scores & mate DM or MDR1 car-

**“ The WSS requires extensive socialisation & correct guidance during their critical periods of development to ensure they mature into a well-adjusted adult of high social competence. ”**

riers to clear dogs. Other issues that have occurred in the breed are allergies (grass and/or diet), aspergillosis, megaesophagus, exocrine pancreatic insufficiency & bloat. They are no more prone to cancer than any other breed of dog.

A.6. Please research the breed to be sure that this active & intelligent working dog will suit your lifestyle. The WSS requires extensive socialisation & correct guidance during their critical periods of development to ensure they mature into a well-adjusted adult of high social competence. They are not a breed to be locked in a yard with minimal human contact or environmental stimuli; the White Swiss Shepherd thrives on being part of the family. Find a breeder that you are comfortable with. Be honest about exactly what are looking for in a new puppy, so they can best guide you in choosing the right puppy for your needs & lifestyle. The breeder should be willing to show copies of their dogs ANKC/NZKC pedigree & health results. Wherever possible, try to meet the parents of your prospective puppy. Visiting shows or events is a great place to meet the breed in person and find a suitable breeder. My mantra is, ‘you get out of them what you put into them’, so if you have the dedication to put in the time, socialisation & training that a WSS needs, you will be rewarded with a lifelong & loyal companion.

**Angela Sneddon  
EISHUND  
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# THOR

SUPREME CHAMPION VALLGÅRDENS  
GHOSTLY GLADIATOR (IMP SWE)

MULTI  
BEST IN SHOW  
WINNER



# #1

WSSD IN  
AUSTRALIA  
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Angela Sneddon

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## The Breed Standard

### History:

In the U.S.A. and Canada white shepherd dogs have gradually become accepted as a distinct breed.

The first dogs of this breed were imported into Switzerland in the early 70s. The American male "Lobo", whelped on 5th March, 1966, can be considered as the progenitor of the breed in Switzerland. The descendants of that male registered with the Swiss Stud Book (LOS) and other white shepherd dogs imported from the U.S.A. and Canada, gradually multiplied. There exists now a big number of white shepherd dogs, pure bred, over several generations, distributed throughout Europe. For that reason, since June 1991, these dogs have been registered as a new breed with the appendix of the Swiss Stud Book (LOS).

### General Appearance:

A powerful, well-muscled, medium-sized, white shepherd dog with erect ears, double coat or long double coat; elongated shape; medium sized bone an elegant, harmonious outline.

Important proportions: • Moderately long rectangular shape; body length ( from the point of shoulder to point of buttock) to height at withers = 12:10.

• The distance from the stop to the nose leather slightly beyond the distance from the stop to the occipital protuberance.

### Characteristics:

Temperament: Lively, without nervousness, attentive and watchful; towards strangers slightly aloof but never apprehensive or aggressive.

### Head And Skull:

Strong, dry and finely chiselled, in good proportion to the body. Seen from above and from the side wedge-shaped. Axis of the skull and foreface parallel.

The skull is only slightly rounded with an indicated central furrow.

The stop is slightly marked, but clearly perceptible.

The nose is medium sized, black pigmentation desired; snow nose and lighter nose acceptable.

The muzzle is powerful and moderately long in relation to the skull; nasal bridge and lower of muzzle straight, slightly convergent to the nose.

The lips are dry, closing tightly and as black as possible.

**Eyes:** Medium sized, almond shaped, placed obliquely; colour brown to dark brown; eyelids well fitting with black eye-rims desirable.

**Ears:** Erect ears, set high, carried upright, parallel and directed forward; in the shape of an oblong, at the tip a slightly rounded triangle.

**Mouth:** Powerful and complete with a scissor bite. The teeth should be set square to the jaw.

**Neck:** Medium long and well muscled, with harmonious set on at the body, without dewlap; the elegantly arched neckline runs without disruption from the moderately high carried head to the withers.

**Forequarters:** Straight when seen from the front; only moderately broad stance and seen in profile, well angulated.

The shoulder blade is long and well laid back; well angulated; the whole shoulder strongly muscled. The upper arm is adequately long with strong muscles.

The elbows are close fitting. The forearm is long, straight and sinewy. The pastern is firm and only slightly oblique.

**Body:** The body is strong, muscular and medium long. The withers are pronounced and the back level and firm. The loins are strongly muscled. The croup is long and of medium breadth; from the set on gently sloping to the root of the tail.

The chest is not too broad; deep (about 50% of the height at the withers); reaching to the elbows. The ribcage is oval, well extending to the rear and the forechest is prominent. The flanks are slender and firm with the underline moderately tucked up.

**Skin:** Without folds or wrinkles with dark pigmentation.

### Hindquarters:

Seen from the rear straight and parallel; standing not too wide; seen from the side with adequate angulation. The upper thigh is medium-long and strongly muscled. The lower thigh is medium-long, oblique, with solid bone and well muscled. The hock joint of the rear pastern is powerful and well angulated. The rear pastern is medium-long, straight and sinewy. The dewclaws should be removed.

**Feet:** Oval, hind feet a little longer than forefeet, the toes tight and well arched with firm black pads. Dark nails are desired.

**Tail:** Bushy sabre tail, tapering to the tip: set on rather deep; reaching at least to the hock joint; at rest, it hangs either straight down or with a slightly sabre-like curve in its last third part. In movement it is carried higher, but never above the topline.

**Gait/Movement:** Rhythmical sequence of steps with even drive and enduring; front legs reaching out far, with strong thrust. The trot is ground covering and easy.

**Coat:** The coat is of medium length, dense, close-lying double coat or long double coat with abundant undercoat covered with hard, straight protection hair. The face, ears and front of the legs are covered with shorter hair. At the neck and the back of the legs the coat is slightly longer. Slightly wavy, hard hair is permitted.

Colour: White

**Sizes:** Height at withers Dogs 60-66 cm Bitches 55-61 cm

Weight: Dogs 30-40 kg Bitches 25-35 kg

Typical dogs with slight under or oversize should not be eliminated.

**Faults:** Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

Minor faults: - Slight deer colour (light yellow or fawny shading) on ear tips, back and upper side of the tail.

- Partial loss of pigment or flecked appearance on the nose leather, lips and/or eye rims.

**Serious Faults:** - Heavy appearance, too short in build (square outline)

- Masculinity or femininity not clearly defined - Missing more than two PM1; the M3 are not taken into account. - Drop (hanging) ears, semi-pricked ears, button ears.

- Strongly sloping topline - Ringtail, kinky tail, hook tail, tail carried over the back. - Soft, silky topcoat; woolly, curly, open coat; distinctly long hair without undercoat.

- Distinct deer colour (distinct yellowish or tawny discolouring) on eartips, back and upperside of the tail.

**Eliminating Faults:** - Overly shy or aggressive. - One eye or both eyes blue. - Protruding eyes - Entropion, ectropion.

- Over or undershot mouth - Wry mouth - Total loss of pigment on nose, lips and/or eye rims. - Total loss of pigment in the skin and on the pads

- Albinism

Notes: NB: Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.



*Grace*

**CH SAFFIOAIRE  
CLASSIC N TIMELESS (AI)**  
S: International Ch.Beau Brit od Bijelih Andjela  
D: Aust Ch Kesari of Skah Dakota (Imp NLD)

18 Class In Group  
3 Class In Show  
Current #1 WSS Australia  
(BOBDOL)

# Saffioiraire

White Swiss Shepherd Dogs



*Shiro*

**CH URAN SHIRO OF THE WHITE WOLVES HOME (IMP NLD)**  
Best In Group, Runner Up Best In Group, Class in Show & Class in Group Winner.