

Keeshond Weight

Weight (over or under) is as much a minefield for dogs as it is for humans. Some dogs (like humans) never put on weight, some can never lose it. It's difficult to pass an opinion without actually seeing the dogs or knowing their 'lifestyle' as there are so many factors to take into consideration. To start with, there is no 'one size fits all chart' as you can have 2 dogs of a similar height and size, but of a very different build – eg slim & lean like a Whippet or solid & chunky like a Labrador.

So a range of weights for a mature Keeshond bitch would be between 13k – 18k and between 17k – 22k for a mature Keeshond male; with a well boned dog/bitch of the correct size being somewhere in the middle of the range ie 15-16k (33-35lb) for bitches and 18-20k (40-44lb) for males. I would say at this point that no healthy Keeshond of any age, should weigh either over 22k (especially for a bitch) or under 11k (especially a male) without a very good veterinary reason.

The best guide to see if there is too much of your keesie is for you to actually go over your dog and be completely honest with yourself. Stand facing your keesie and look down over their back, you should be able to see evidence of a waist. OK, if they are in full coat, you may have to go over with your hands; but as your hands pass over the ribcage towards the tail, you should feel a narrowing for the waist.

Can you easily feel your dog's ribs? How firmly do you have to press through that 'full thick coat' to feel their bones? Too much wobble? Less food and more exercise won't do any harm – for us as well as our four legged friends! Likewise, if you can feel every vertebrae along their spine then your dog could do with adding the odd pound or so.

Regularly weighing your keesie really is the easiest way to monitor their weight; as it is so easy for the odd ounce (or gram) here and there to gradually creep on and settle unnoticed.

Many neutered Keeshonds will quickly pile on weight almost unnoticed and once this has happened, it can be almost impossible to get off. If you are considering having your keesie neutered, then please ensure that they are not overweight before they undergo the operation. After surgery you may well find that you have to decrease their daily rations and regular weighing is the only accurate way to ensure that you are feeding the correct amount.

Most veterinary practises now have weighing scales in the waiting room; and usually have no objection if you call in to use 'their facilities' if passing by. Either that or it's the tried and tested method of you first on the scales, then both of you on them. Struggling to lift your keesie? Well, you know what the answer is!!