



Siberian Huskies

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The Siberian Husky Dog

Introduction

Many people love Siberian Huskies, and for good reason. Also known as Huskies or Sibes, Siberians are gentle, playful and loving. A puppy at heart, they are clever, sociable and easy-going; they are also willful and mischievous. These are just a few of the reasons why this particular breed makes a wonderful companion for both you and your family.

As with any decision that will have a long term impact on your life, it is important that you make an informed decision before choosing a pet. The purpose of this informational eBook is to introduce you to the Siberian Husky and the characteristics unique to this breed. We will touch on adoption versus engaging a breeder and trace a few key points that are important to note in each stage of a dog's life, from bring home your new pup to making him or her comfortable in her elder years. Our hope is that you can derive a number of helpful tips and pieces of advice from this book. This complimentary book is packed full of information that will help you fulfill your dog parenting needs. Take a few moments to enjoy this information and you will spend many years enjoying a loving relationship with your Siberian Husky.

General Siberian Husky Characteristics

Siberian Huskies come in all colors from black to pure white. Any number and variety of markings on the head is common, including many striking patterns not found in other breeds. Color choices include black and white, red and white, gray and white, sable and white, agouti and white (which is sometimes referred to as the coyote color and contains a lot of dark gray coat), and white (not to be confused with a samoyed). Huskies' face and underbody are usually white; the remaining coat can be of any color. Their eyes are almond shaped and moderately spaced, which can be blue, brown, amber, or any combination thereof (including eyes which are half blue and half brown, which is referred to as being parti-eyed). Having one blue and one brown eye is referred to as being bi-eyed. The large "snow shoe" feet have hair between the toes for gripping on ice and their ears are set high and erect, with sickle-shaped tails. Siberian Huskies also have thick, wooly undercoats and soft outer coats. This breed is able to withstand temperatures as low as -58 degrees to -76 degrees F (-50 degrees to -60 degrees C).

Huskies can grow between 20 – 23 ½ inches in height and weigh between 35 – 60 pounds, depending on whether the dog is a male or female.

Huskies generally have a lot of energy, especially as puppies. They are good with children and friendly with strangers. They are not good watchdogs, for they bark little and love everyone. Huskies are very intelligent and trainable, but they have a mind of their own and will only obey a command if they see the point. Training takes patience, consistency and an understanding of the Arctic dog character. This dog will take advantage if he can.



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Huskies make an excellent jogging companion, as long as it is not too hot. Huskies may be difficult to housebreak. This breed likes to howl and gets bored easily. They do not like to be left alone, so if this is the breed for you, you may want to consider having two. They are good with other pets if they are raised with them from puppyhood. If you chose to have only one, be aware that a lonely Husky can be very destructive! Remember that the Husky is a sled dog in heart and soul. Huskies are thrifty eaters and need less food than you might expect. This breed likes to roam. Siberian Huskies can make wonderful companions for people who are aware of what to expect from these beautiful and intelligent animals.

Selecting Your Siberian Husky Puppy – Adoption or a Breeder?

It is usually a matter of personal preference when it comes to adopting a dog or seeking out a breeder.

A few words about adoption:

Look for a pet adoption shelter or rescue center in your community. Use your community resources, such as your library, newspaper, and any online information to understand the reputation of the shelter before you go there. Take time when selecting the shelter or rescue group you will adopt from and ask questions from other people who may have used their services before. Pay visits to each of the shelters and rescue groups you are considering and speak with the staff and volunteers about their organization and the pet or pets that you are interested in. Also inquire as to whether or not the rescue has a foster parent program that will let you bring the pet into your home for several weeks to see how it will fit with your current living situation. In any case, before making a final decision, find out as much as you can about the history of the pets you are considering. Go into adoption knowing that some pets are up for adoption because they have been left behind due to divorce or families having to relocate; not all pets in shelters or rescue centers come from abused or neglectful situations. Pet adoption or rescue is less expensive than purchasing from a dog breeder. For families who face economical challenges, this option is worth considering. By choosing pet adoption, you can have the satisfaction of providing a home for a deserving pet.

A few words about breeders:

Perhaps you prefer a Siberian Husky that comes from a reputable breeder in order to raise your pet as a show dog or breed your pet to further the advancement of new Huskies in your community. Breeders are very knowledgeable about the breed's overall health and characteristics. You can find dog breeders by looking in the newspaper, searching on the internet, or checking with the local vet. Make sure the breeder is associated with the AKC. Dog breeders can be very particular about the person wanting to purchase the dog. They may want to know what other animals are in the home, if you have a yard for the dog to play in, or if there are any children living in the home. Make sure the breeder's facilities are clean and always ask to see the mother and father of the puppy you want to buy. The breeder should be able to provide a written health guarantee and all shot records.

Either option is viable based on your own knowledge, expectations, and personal conviction. The most important thing to remember when selecting your pet is to choose the pet that is right for you. Pet ownership is a big responsibility; select a pet that fits your lifestyle.



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EXPERT TIP

Selecting a Crate

A dog should be able to stand and turn around inside a closed crate. If you have a Siberian Huskies Dog puppy, consider the average height and weight of an adult Terrier and choose a crate based on those specifications. The average size of an adult Siberian Huskies Dog is 15 lbs and 16 inches tall. Choose a sturdy steel or plastic crate for medium sized breeds such as the Siberian Huskies Dog.

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How to Choose Your New Siberian Husky Pup

Choosing a dog can be a difficult decision because there can be many different personalities and aesthetic qualities you may want to look for. Do you prefer to have the runt of the litter or the huskiest brute? Or, would you prefer a kiss of white sugar on the tips of your pup paws, or are you keener on a specific color combination? Sometimes you can make a decision based on the adorable facial expressions a pup makes. Can you resist those sweet puppy dog eyes that pierce right through to clench hold of your heart? Pet adoptions or rescues are viable options for selecting your Husky. Of course, finding a good breeder is always a good option too. Make sure you look for the following signs of a healthy dog:

- Bright and clear eyes
- Clean ears that are free of parasites
- Healthy coat and skin conditions
- History and lineage are necessary as the genetics of animals are much like that of humans
- Make sure paw pads are soft and well taken care of
- Plump bellies are common in healthy puppies, but be sure they're not too plump
- Tails and facial expressions can give strong clues about the pup's personality and disposition

Before You Bring Your Siberian Husky Home

It is important to puppy proof your home and be as prepared as possible to provide a safe and secure environment for your new friend. In an effort to prepare for the care of your new best friend, you should create a checklist and learn about the special needs of your pet. Make sure that your floors are free of clutter. This includes shoes and electric cords, as puppies like to chew. Use the rule "out of sight, out of mind" when introducing your puppy to his new environment.

Create a list of items that you need for your new pet. You will need the essentials to care for your pet such as, a good puppy food, a brush for grooming, toys for playtime, and crates or kennels for containment. Puppy pads and treats or other training products will come in handy as well. You will also want to have a selection of toys and training items. The reward system is great for teaching your pet important lessons. Some toys double as treat holders so that when playing games with your pet they have a fun way to get to their reward. Your pup will soon discover what you want from him if you use a loving manner to convey your messages. Siberian Huskies are eager to please and are quick studies. They respond well to positive reinforcement.

It is really important to start your pup with a good health regimen. Keep accurate health and immunization records throughout the life of your pet. This will make it much easier for you to maintain proper health standards for your animal. Be sure to introduce him early to his vet and his grooming process. These are good practices for new owners as well as the pups. Of equal importance is a healthy diet for your pet. It is a good idea to follow your breeder's or vet's guidelines for all of your pet's nutrition needs. Puppy food has different nutrients than adult or senior foods. Allergy-prone animals require special dietary ingredients as well. Being prepared is the most

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important aspect of introducing your new family member to his or her new environment. Purchase books about your pet's breed, ask questions from the breeder and your vet, read about your pet online or at your community library. Pay attention to the details and your new family member will make a quick and happy adjustment to his new home.

Your Siberian Husky through the Years

Your Siberian Husky Puppy

Each stage of your pet's life is characterized by special needs. Puppies' lives are full of learning experiences. Enjoy the time you spend with your puppy. Use chew toys, or balls to keep your puppy active and know that you can use these toys not only to play but also to train your pet. Puppies learn quickly and can develop bad habits if they are not properly stimulated. Conversely, they can learn good habits if trained lovingly and early on.

Healthy habits are established at this stage of life as well. Vaccinations, dietary standards, and proper grooming regimens are very important for puppies. Your Husky should have its own clean bowls for food and water. Sometimes it is helpful to place the bowls on a non-slip surface. There are many decorative bowls and placemats available to make your pets feeding time special for him. Take extra time to get your pup used to regular grooming. Use shampoos, nail clippers, brushes, and toothbrushes to keep your pup shiny and squeaky clean. When you introduce a new grooming device to your puppy, it is important to remember to let the pup become acquainted with the item before using it. Remember to put the item away when you are no longer using it or the pup might mistake it for a toy.

Your Siberian Husky Adult

As your dog begins to age, his needs begin to change. Keep surprises to a minimum by, yep you guessed it, being prepared. Keep your dog active and healthy. Change out his toys often to keep his interest. Sometimes adult dogs develop allergies. If you notice changes in the skin or fur, you may need to change his diet. If your pet develops allergies, you will see changes in his coat, skin, eyes or ears. If you suspect your dog has allergies, the best thing to do is take your dog to the vet. There are excellent remedies that will become an important part of your dog's routine.

As your dog ages, his nails, paw pads, coat, skin, eyes and ears need special attention. Make grooming a happy time for your dog. You should keep the coat clean and free of dander, fleas, and tangled or matted hair. Also keep nails trimmed, check the pads on their paws frequently for spurs, and keep teeth tartar under control. Keep up with all of your adult pet's needs by frequently checking supplies and making sure that you have the most efficient tools handy to keep your dog in good health.



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Your Siberian Husky Senior

When your pet climbs the hill into his senior years, his needs will change again. Dietary changes are the most prevalent in this life stage. As your dog ages, so does his digestive system. Make sure your Senior Husky maintains a proper diet and receives proper nutrients by starting him on daily vitamin supplements. Keep abreast of the latest trends in dental products. There are many tartar control products on the market today. There are bones, toys, and toothbrushes essential to older dogs' health and happiness. Although Siberian Huskies are free from most breed-specific health problems, it is not uncommon for them to develop hip dysplasia and occasional eye problems. Also, be aware of any changes in the gait of your senior. If your dog moves slower than usual or begins limping, it could be a sign of a joint problem. You may want to provide a more appropriate sleeping and lounging area for your pet, or an orthopedic dog bed. Maintaining a regular exercise routine and proper diet may help ward off aching hips and elbows. Just remember that dogs age in some of the same ways that humans do. You can help them manage aches and pains with the proper pet healthcare aids, knowledge, and care.

Senior pets have many changes in disposition and could easily be stressed by active young children. They may show signs of irritability when eating or when encouraged to do something they would rather not do. Huskies are genuinely lovable animals and are not known to cause harm, but grumpy seniors have a way of making sure that you are aware when they are unhappy. It is important to know that senior animals tend to do things their own way and in their own time. Care for your senior in a loving, gentle manner mixed with a little patience and understanding.

Most importantly, remember to cherish the special moments with your pet and keep them close to your heart. Display pictures of your dog around your home or office. Develop family traditions that include your pet; some families even hold birthday parties, specifically for their Huskies.

Siberian Husky Medical Considerations

Huskies are generally free of health problems apart from hip dysplasia and occasional eye problems, such as juvenile cataracts, progressive retinal degeneration (a disease that causes nerve cells at the back of the eye to degenerate, leading to blindness), corneal dystrophy (spots on the surface of the eye), crystalline corneal opacities and ectopy (displacement) of the urethra. They also sometimes develop zinc responsive dermatitis, a skin condition that can be improved if given a zinc supplement.



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