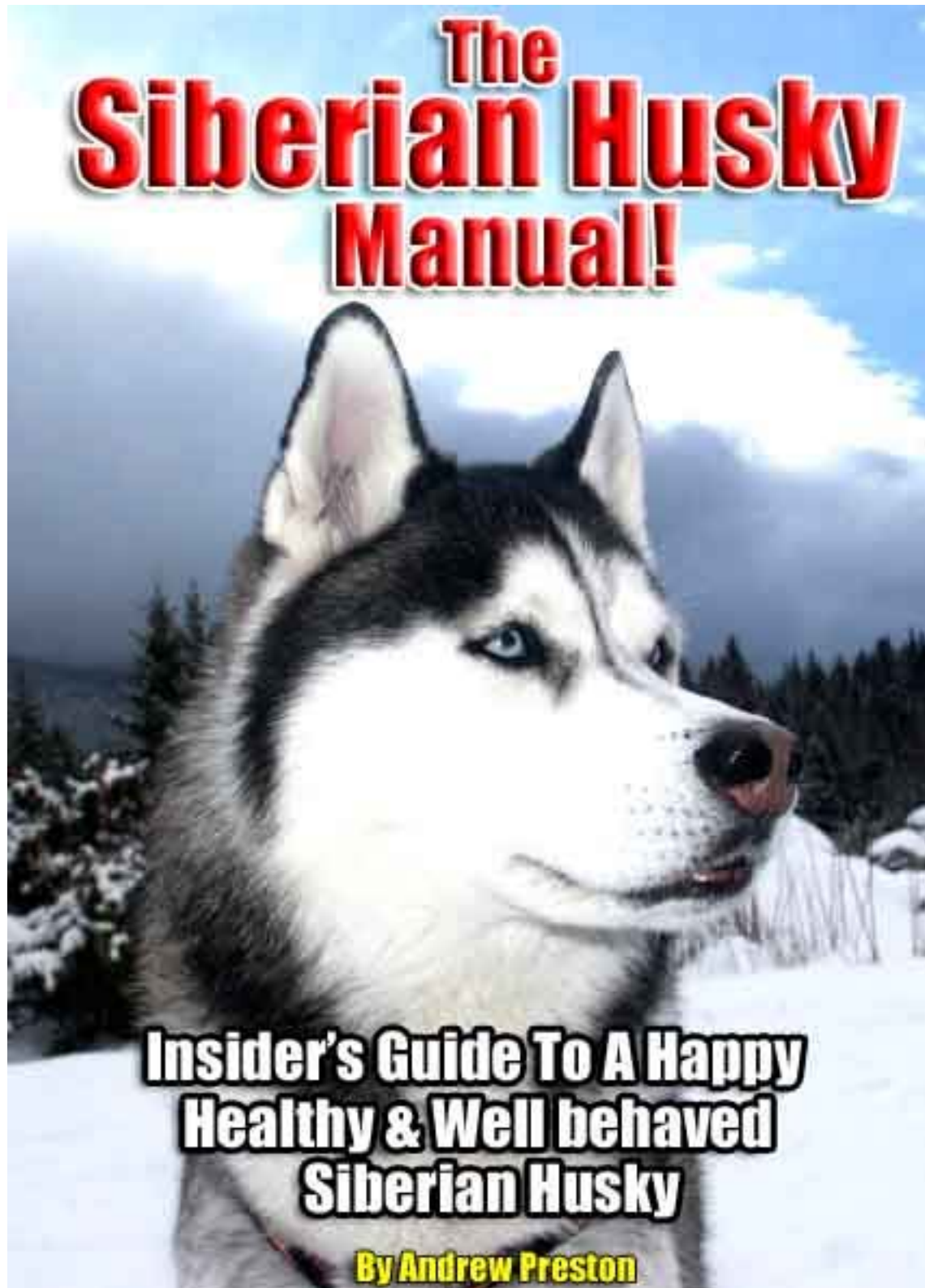


**The Siberian Husky Manual!**  
**An Insider's Guide To A Happy, Healthy & Well Behaved Siberian Husky.**



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## Foreword

Is that a wolf? No it's a Siberian Husky! Anyone who has had a Siberian Husky for a pet has often had to answer this question and anyone who has ever lived with one knows that it takes a special person to rear a Siberian Husky. This strong and sturdy working dog is a loyal companion without being sentimentally sappy, mature yet playful, sociable with people and other dogs and has an incredible amount of energy.

If you are an outdoor person with a love for trekking and hiking, you will love being with the backpacking Siberian Husky. They will love lugging a light load and be ready for every physical challenge. Siberian Huskies are brave hearts who love being where the action is. Not for them the fireside - what they want is a something to do. This breed is active, athletic, and intelligent and can rough it out in any kind of weather.

Siberian Huskies are pack animals raised around people so they need to have company around them. Besides you will need to be there for your Siberian Husky because his natural instincts will lead him to dig up escape routes! Owners of Siberian Huskies will tell you the importance of being as agile, alert and intelligent as they are. However, despite their intimidating wolfish looks, Siberian Huskies are amazingly gentle with kids and aren't much of guard dogs since they cozy up to strangers. They love toys of their own and can be quite a bit of the clown and entertain the family with their antics.

However don't let his playfulness fool you into believing that your Siberian Husky will do your every bid because he isn't a people pleaser. He's got a mind of his own and isn't always up to fetching that stick you throw, though he will happily pull a sled and whatever else that keeps him busy. There are quite a few challenges of rearing the free-spirited Siberian Husky and that's where this ebook steps in to direct you with what you need to know about this breed.

Find out if you have it in you to be an owner of a Siberian Husky. Read on to find out the history of this dog, the accepted breed standard and its unique personality. If you have one already then follow the guidelines on how you can care for your Siberian Husky in the best possible way and keep him or her healthy. Take advantage of the advice on the right diet and grooming techniques.

Don't be put off by people who will tell you that it isn't possible to train the Siberian Husky. Use the training tips to get around the stubborn streak in Siberian Huskies and get them to be more obedient. Find out what dangers you need to protect them from and what makes them content. It all depends on the choices you make for your pet and the patience you show.

If you are lucky enough to be a Siberian Husky owner, this ebook will be an invaluable guide to a happy and healthy pet. After all, you do owe it to your Siberian Husky to cherish the companionship, reward the loyalty and be his or her guardian angel.

## Chapter 1: The Origin & History of the Siberian Husky!

Where did it all begin for the Siberian Husky? As the name suggests, it all began in the freezing land of Siberia. A tribe known as the Chukchi lived along the cold Arctic coast of northeastern Siberia, where they hunted for seal and battled the severe weather. What they needed was a companion helper who was strong enough to haul their loads of harvested seals from the Anadyr River, resilient enough to take on the cold and friendly enough to live along with humans. That's how they came to develop a breed that we know today as the Siberian Husky but that began as the Chukchi dog some 3000 years ago.



### **A dog called Chukchi**

Picture this- a medium sized dog with adequate fur to keep him warm from the freezing winter winds and minimum needs when it came to food. During the day he would, thanks to his strength, haul the loads of seals harvested from the Anadyr River with the men of the Chukchi and in the evening he would settle around the women and play with the children. Herding reindeer was another task they performed without buckling down to the reindeer or the weather.

The dogs were so much part of their lives that they were even used as virtual blankets! The dogs were actually made to sleep close to their owners and their children for their warmth. It is said that they would speak of how cold the night was in relation to the number of dogs they used at bedtime to keep them warm, so they had a "two dog night" or a "three dog night"!

The gentleness of this breed sprung from living around the people at such close quarters and pulling the sled along with the rest of the other dogs. The aggressive strand came from being let loose in the summer to hunt in packs just as the wolves did. The Chukchi dog became so much part of the tribe that it even became a status symbol. Soon the wealth of a Chukchi man was measured by the number and quality of his dogs. The Chukchi dog even became part of many religious beliefs and folklore.

### **Onwards to Alaska**

The importance of their dogs increased even more when the Chukchi tribe managed to outsmart the Czar's soldiers who were sent in the nineteenth century to open the area to the fur trade. The Chukchi dog sleds were faster than the reindeer powered sleds of the soldiers so for a while the Chukchi people managed to survive till they were finally cornered and overpowered! They continued to live in the region but now that they were 'discovered' so were their dogs. Around 1908, Alaskan traders came back home with some Chukchi dogs and decided to call them the Siberian Husky.

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In Alaska they were used as sled dogs during the gold rush. It was when they ran at the 1909 All-Alaska (Nome) Sweepstakes, which is a 408-mile distance dogsled race from Nome to Candle and back that they proved to be better than the bigger freighting dogs. The Siberian Huskies had so much stamina that they could cover almost 100 miles in a day, pulling the sled with or without a load. Since they were much smaller than other sled dogs, people were surprised with their strength and endurance. In 1910 a team of Siberian Huskies driven by "Iron Man" Johnson won the sweepstakes for Charles Fox Maule Ramsay. From then on the Siberian Huskies dominated the Nome Sweepstakes and caught people's attention.

### **A man called Seppala**

One of the people whose attention they caught was Leonhard Seppala. He was a Norwegian fisherman (later a gold miner) who was given a pack of Siberian Husky females and pups to train, for the 1914 Nome Sweepstakes by his employer. You could call him the first official Siberian Husky trainer. He didn't hit it off very well the first year but patience pays and Seppala's patience led his Huskies to be a hit in Nome Sweepstakes in 1925.

Another feat that went down in history was a marathon effort of a team of Siberian Huskies during a diphtheria epidemic in the winter of 1925. A life saving drug needed to be brought into Nome from the far off town called Nenana. It was Leonhard Seppala who used his Siberian Huskies to deliver the serum to the people of Nome and catapult Siberian Huskies to national fame. People loved them for their heroism.

The demand for Siberian Huskies grew especially because:

- They were strong without being too big.
- Their nutritional needs were less than that of the bigger dogs.
- They didn't need excessive grooming.
- They could withstand climate extremes.
- They were sociable enough to live with humans.
- Their regal looks were irresistible.

Thanks to Seppala's dogs, Siberian Huskies, sled dogs and dog sled racing all became a craze. Some of his dogs toured the USA and more dogs were imported from Siberia. The last Siberian Huskies to be imported from Siberia was in 1930, the year that the Soviet government sealed off Siberia from external trade. It was a good thing that the Siberian Huskies crossed over the Anadyr River to Alaska, were they could be bred as a unique species. It was also in 1930 that the American Kennel Club officially recognized the Siberian Husky. In 1939, the breed was first registered in Canada.

### **The Siberian Husky today**

Even today Siberian Huskies are used for dogsled racing (though they are often being replaced by cross breeds) and are much faster than other pure sled dog breeds like the Samoyed and Alaskan Malamute. Siberian Huskies are also the chosen ones for

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recreational mushing, for skijoring, a sport where one or three dogs pulls along a skier and European ski-pulka. In fact Siberian Huskies are still mostly either the “racing” kinds or the “show” categories.

### **From working dogs to pets**

However their gentleness has made them popular family pets but don't forget that they used to hunt for themselves when the Chukchis set them free in summer, so they still have that predator in them very much alive. They are great with human adults and kids but they can prove to be quite a threat to smaller animals like cats, rabbits, chickens, squirrels and birds. Owners often use them as companions during hiking or dog packing.

As pets they are not high maintenance, with simple dietary requirements and minimal grooming. They do shed quite a lot and need a good brushing down with a metal comb but they have no doggy smell and are pretty clean animals. They do not need frequent baths. Overall they are healthy dogs that live up to the age of eleven to fifteen years and they only face health issues when they grow old. What they need though is a lot of activity and exercise. Their diet is decided according to the energy they use.

### **The cute quotient**

Appearance wise the Siberian Husky can easily get confused for a cute wolf. Despite the wolfish looks, the Siberian Husky does not have any biological link with wolves. It's a pure bred domestic dog. That however doesn't stop movie Moguls from using them as wolves in the films after all they are so much gentler! They are also beautiful. Siberian Huskies have a very magnificent, powerful look about them. They have double coats that are mostly black and white, gray and white or copper red and white. They can also be pure white or even have brown, reddish and biscuit shading. Often Siberian Huskies have very unique facial markings, which look like masks or spectacles and they also have white feet and legs, and tail tips that add to the wolfish look.

Their eyes are most commonly light blue but some have one blue eye and the other hazel or brown. No matter what color, their eyes are strikingly penetrative and intelligent. For a working dog that can pull heavy loads, the Siberian Husky is a medium-sized dog, weighing around 35 to 60 pounds (16-27.25 kg). The average height is about 20 to 23.5 inches (51-60 cm) but this medium frame packs in more than the strength of bigger dogs.

### **The energy quotient**

Their frame belies their energy! They are extremely active and it isn't a good idea to leave a Siberian Husky alone with nothing to do. They get terribly bored and end up doing the wrong things like chewing and digging. This breed has to be fenced in tight- and the fences better be strong and high enough because Siberian Huskies are known to dig under the fences, jump over them or find other escape routes.

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Siberian Huskies are known to be Houdini among dogs and it is better to reinforce the fence with wire netting to prevent them from running off. Remember they are natural running machines, how else do you think they won all those Sweepstakes in Alaska? Once your Siberian Husky decides he's got to do the great escape act, there is no chasing him down. Also they have awful sense of direction so they can't get back home. It's also a good idea to build them a sand box where they can dig for cool spots to their heart's content and walk them on a leash. Also if you are professional athlete and runner, you could clip their leashes to a strong waistband and let your Siberian Huskies give you a training tip or two.

You will need to reign in their energy and channel their strength. Training a Siberian Husky is of paramount importance and the owner must have the decisive upper hand. If you have a Siberian Husky, you need to show him that you are the boss and that you are the pack commander! This breed is not a one-master kind and that makes things a little more challenging but is all the more reason why you need to assume the role of the alpha dog. The Siberian Husky needs to be part of your pack.

### **The social quotient**

Your Siberian Husky might not exactly be possessive of his master but he doesn't like being alone either. He or she likes being around the family members and is good with kids. Siberian Huskies aren't the fawning type. They are intelligent companions who will act your equal and respect your space. That doesn't mean that they are serious and dull. They are quite playful and will love wrestling you or playing with toys, but they have a certain sense of maturity in them that doesn't make them out and out goof balls

They won't snap at visiting relatives or your friends. In fact they are social enough to even welcome strangers, so don't expect your Siberian Husky to be a guard dog. He isn't much of a barker and he doesn't have a suspicious streak in him. However his looks might just do the trick of scaring away any intruders!

A Siberian Husky would get along very well with another of his species and also with other dogs but if you have a smaller animal like a cat in the house, you might want to rethink about bringing in this working-hunting dog. It's not that Siberian Huskies are mean and destructive. It's just that the hunter in them tends to be aggressive towards cats and birds and even sheep. It's wise to keep them on a leash when you take them on walks because they might chase the neighbor's cat. In any case the leash is important- though they will love you and be loyal because they are part of the pack, they might not listen to you when you try to call them back.

### **The obedience quotient**

Well, let's say that training a Siberian Husky to obey has its challenges. It does not mean in any way that this breed cannot be trained. It just means that you need some extra patience and firmness. It takes special people to be owners of a Siberian Husky so if you are first time dog owner- do not go for this breed. You need to be a firm, mature and



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intelligent handler as this is a fairly independent kind of a dog who won't obey just because you love him.

What you need to remember though is that Siberian Huskies occupied a very elevated status among the Chukchi people. They will respond when shown the appropriate respect. Any kind of punishment, aggressive behavior and shouting won't help in training Siberian Huskies. They will become more stubborn. However cajoling won't help either. To train a Siberian Husky you will need to strike a balance and gain his respect. Also it helps to use a crate and a fenced yard. Show your Husky that you are the pack leader and he has to listen to you. As a working dog, the Siberian Husky values his human and is bred to be strong, have stamina and also to be loyal. You will just have to win it.

### **In praise of Siberian Huskies**

As a breed, few dogs can match the beauty and endurance of the Siberian Husky. It is a no nonsense, uncomplicated animal that might not be right for everyone but if he or she is the one for you then you've made a great bargain. They are easy to live with and good-natured as a pet. Siberian Huskies will strike the balance between being a loyal companion and an energetic pet. Even if they are known to be dogs that find the great outdoors irresistible, they can live in an apartment if they are taken out for enough exercise. They love to roam but they also really want to be housedogs.

The Siberian Huskies have come a long way from being working dogs among the Chukchi tribe, lugging sleds and herding reindeer. They have become part of an elite breed of pets who define their owner as intelligent, mature, energetic and adventurous enough to choose a Siberian Husky for a pet. In return all they need is genuine affection, attention, tender care, firm training, committed friendship and respect.

### **Did you know that...?**

- Research on the DNA of the Siberian Husky proves it to be one of the oldest breeds among dogs.
- A popular Chukchi belief was that two Siberian Huskies guard the gates of heaven so beware anyone who has been cruel to a dog in their lifetime, because the Huskies won't let you in!
- Most of the Siberian Huskies that are registered today can trace their family tree to that of the 1930 Siberia imports and of Leonhard Seppala's dogs.
- Siberian Huskies were used to haul the sleds and be companion-explorers in Admiral Byrd's Antarctic Expeditions.
- A statue of Balto, the lead dog from Siberian Husky dog sled team that delivered the diphtheria serum to Nome in 1925 stands in Central Park, New York.

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- Some Siberian Huskies are used as therapy dogs.

## Chapter 2: A Look at the Breed Standard



The Siberian Husky has been around for 3000 years but hidden away from the world's view till it reached Alaska in 1909. Once this dog established its claim to being a unique pure bred sled dog, it didn't take the American Kennel Club (AKC) long to give it the official seal of approval. In 1930 the AKC recognized the Siberian Husky and the first AKC registered Siberian Husky was named Fairbanks Princess Chena.

The AKC also worked out an official breed standard for the Siberian Husky basically intended to maintain the purity of the breed and evaluate the 'show' Siberian Huskies. The one who comes closest to the standard, is the best of them all. These breed standards should be kept in mind while choosing a pet. There will be a lot of deviations from the ideal but that doesn't make your pet less perfect than other Siberian Huskies. After all, who's perfect?! These are ideals that breeders need to strive for so as not to dilute the pedigree of the Siberian Husky.

Here's a look at the official breed standard of the Siberian Husky as laid down by the AKC:

### Physical Description

By now it's pretty clear that the Siberian Husky is a medium-sized working dog from the original land of the Chukchis. The AKC stresses that the ideal Siberian Husky must showcase his heritage, through his appearance. He should be quick, agile, and graceful on his feet and have a moderately compact body with the adequate amount of fur. What's important is that the Siberian Husky should have elegant and graceful actions and gait, with alert, erect ears and a brush tail.

The movements of the Siberian Husky should appear to be effortless. Also, again in keeping with his heritage, the Siberian Husky should be able to function with his harness on and pull a light load at a good enough speed over great distances. That's why the general appearance should showcase a balance of strength, speed and stamina. Overall the look should convey the power and speed that a Siberian Husky packs in his medium frame.

AKC standards also make it clear that a male Siberian Husky should look masculine without being coarse and commonplace while the females should look feminine without appearing weak. Both the sexes of this species should have a strong structure, firm and well-developed muscles and no excess weight.

### Height and weight

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The AKC lays down that the male Siberian Husky should not be more than 23 ½ inches. The ideal height is between 21 to 23 ½ inches at the withers. As for the females, they should be between 20 to 22 inches at the withers. The one disqualification for Siberian Huskies is when they are taller than the upper limit set by the AKC.

The weight of the Siberian Husky is seen in proportion to his or her height. The ideal weight is set down as between 45 to 60 pounds for males and 35 to 50 pounds for the female Siberian Husky. The idea is that the Siberian Husky should not look bulky, or bony or have any weight that is in stark contrast to its height. This breed should be well developed with firm muscles that give it a streamlined look of an active dog. In the show ring, Siberian Huskies with too much of bone showing or too much weight can be penalized.

According to the AKC, from a profile view, the Siberian Husky's "length of the body from the point of the shoulder to the rear point of the croup should be slightly longer than the height of the body from the ground to the top of the withers".

## **Head**

**Skull:** For this medium sized dog, what is needed is a medium sized head as well. The skull of the Siberian Husky must be in proportion to his body. It should be a bit rounded on top and then should taper from the widest point in the skull to the eyes. The major faults as laid down by the AKC are a head that looks too clumsy or heavy on the dog's body and also a head that has a sharply chiseled appearance.

**Expression:** Expression matters a lot in the Siberian Husky and the AKC mentions in the breed standard that the dog should look keen, friendly, interested and even mischievous! The bored uninvolved look is out- the expression should exude the energy of the Siberian Husky.

**Eyes:** This is probably the only breed that does not have a prescribed eye color. They can be blue or brown. They can also have one brown and one blue eye. The AKC also allows parti-colored eyes as well. The eyes should be almond shaped and be set slightly obliquely with enough space between the eyes. With regard to the eyes, the only faults are when the eyes are either too obliquely set or too close with no moderate gap.

**Ears:** A Siberian Husky's ears shouldn't be too large. They should be medium size, thick ears with a nice triangular shape. They should be close fitting ears that are set higher up on the head. The ears should also have the right amount of fur. A Siberian Husky should have ears that just arch at the back a bit and tips should be slightly rounded. They should also stand up straight, with the rounded tips pointing straight up too. According to the AKC the major faults of a Siberian Husky is when the ears are too large, or set apart too wide or not strongly erect.

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**Stop:** The stop of the Siberian Husky, which is the indented part of the skull between the eyes, should be well defined. Also the bridge of the nose should be straight from the stop to the tip. AKC lays down an insufficient stop, as a fault.

**Muzzle:** The front parts of the jaw, which is called the muzzle, should be of medium length. Basically it means that the distance from the tip of the nose to the stop should be same as the distance from the stop to the occiput, which is the back of the head. The muzzle should be medium width and taper off gradually to the nose. The tip of the muzzle should not be pointed or square. The faults listed by the AKC are when the muzzle is too snipy or too coarse; too short or too long.

**Nose:** A Siberian Husky's nose differs according to their coat color. Gray, tan or black Siberian Huskies have black noses while copper dogs have liver-colored noses. A pure white Siberian Husky has a flesh-colored nose. Even a pink-streaked "snow nose" is an acceptable breed standard.

**Lips and Teeth:** According to the AKC standards, the lips of a Siberian Husky should be "well pigmented and close fitting". As for the teeth- they must close in a scissors bite. It is considered as a fault if a Siberian Husky has any bite other than a scissors bite.

### **Neck, Topline, Body**

**Neck:** Breed standards demand that a Siberian Husky should have a neck that is held proud and erect when he stands. The neck should be of medium length and appropriately arched. When the Siberian Husky moves, the neck should extend and move slightly forward. A neck that is too short, too thick or too long, are seen as faults.

**Chest:** A Siberian Husky should have a deep and strong chest and the deepest point should be just behind and level with the elbows. The chest should not very broad and the ribs should be well sprung but flat at the sides, so that there is room for free movement. A chest that is too broad or has barrel ribs is a fault. Also ribs that are too flat or weak are seen as faults.

**Back:** It's a must that a Siberian Husky's back be straight and strong. That means the topline should be level from the top of the shoulders, which is called the withers, down to the croup or the rump of the dog. The croup should slope away gently from the spine but not at a very steep angle, as this would interfere with the movement of the hind legs. The back should be of medium length and definitely not slack. The loin (which refers to the part of the body on both sides of the backbone, just between the ribs and the hips) should be also taut, lean and narrower than the rib cage. There should be a slight tuck-up though. A back, which is weak or slack or with a sloping topline is considered to be a fault in a Siberian Husky.

**Tail:** The tail of the Siberian Husky should be of a fox-brush shape and set right below the level of the topline. It needs to be covered adequately with fur, but the hair shouldn't be too long and be of the same length all over so that the tail gets a round, bushy look. When the dog is alert, the tail should bend elegantly over the back in a sickle curve. The

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tail should not curl to a side or lie flat on the back but it is alright for the tail to trail when the Siberian Husky is at rest. According to the AKC guidelines though, a very snapped or tightly curled tail is a fault. It is also a fault if the tail is over-plumed or set too low or too high.

### **Forequarters**

**Shoulders:** The shoulder blade of the Siberian Husky should be well laid back and the upper arms should not be perpendicular to the ground. Instead they should be angled a bit backward from the shoulder to the elbow. The muscles and ligaments that bind the shoulder to the rib cage should be strong, well developed and firm. Straight or loose shoulders are seen as faults.

**Forelegs:** From the front, the forelegs should be moderately spaced, parallel and straight. The elbows should be close to the body and must not turn either in or out. From the side, the pasterns, which are the part of the leg below the knees or hocks, should look slightly slanted. The pastern joint must be flexible yet strong. The bones should look sturdy but not heavy. The length of the leg from elbow to ground should be just a little bit more than the distance from the elbow to the top of withers. It is acceptable to remove the dewclaws on the forelegs. Weak pasterns are a fault as are heavy bones. It is also a fault if the forelegs are too narrow or too wide in the front at the elbows.

**Feet:** The feet of Siberian Huskies should be oval-shaped. They should not be long though. The paws should be medium sized and the pads, or the soles should be hard and thick. There should be a good amount of fur around the and in between the toes and pads. The paws should not turn in or out when the dog is standing. Soft and splayed toes, large and clumsy paws or very small and delicate paws are all considered as faults.

**Hindquarters:** From behind, the hind legs should look powerful and strong. They should be adequately spaced and parallel. The upper thighs should have strong muscles and the stifles or the dog's knee, located on the hind leg above the ankle, should be well bent. The hock joint should also be well defined and set low to the ground. The dewclaws of the hind legs should be removed. The faults listed by the AKC include straight stifles, cow-hocks, and hind legs that are too narrow or too wide in the rear.

**Coat:** This breed has a double coat that should not be long. The hair should be medium length and not hide the outline of the Siberian Husky. However the dog should have a well-furred look. The undercoat of the Siberian Husky should be soft and thick and long enough to prop up the outer coat. The guard hairs of the outer coat should be straight and kind of smooth. The hair should not stand straight up or be harsh. Also it is quite natural for a Siberian Husky not to have an undercoat during the shedding season. It is acceptable to trim the whiskers and fur between the toes and around the feet for a neat touch up, but on no account should the fur on other parts be trimmed. A very long coat that is rough or too silky or has a shaggy look are all regarded as faults.

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**Color:** The breed standard allows all colors from black to pure white. Siberian Huskies can also have a variety of markings on the head be it mask like markings or spectacles. In fact, the Siberian Husky is probably the one breed that has very remarkable markings that add to its personality.

**Gait:** The Siberian Husky should have a natural and graceful way of walking. The AKC standards say that his gait should look smooth and effortless. This is an active breed and it should show in the gait. A Siberian Husky should be light on his feet and very quick. In the show ring he is expected to do a fast trot that shows off the power and steadiness in the forequarters and the hindquarters.

At an easy pace, the Siberian Husky should not single-track, but as his gait gets faster, the legs slightly angle inward so that the pads fall in a line right under the center of the body. So when the pad marks meet, the forelegs and hind legs should carry straight ahead and elbows and the stifles will be straight without turning in or out. Simply put, when a Siberian Husky moves, his hind leg should move in the path of the foreleg on the same side, while the topline remains steady and level. The AKC lists any kind of short prancing or choppy walk or lumbering or rolling gait as well as crossing or crabbing as faults.

### **Temperament**

AKC standards make it clear that the Siberian Husky should come off as friendly and gentle, but also attentive and outgoing. He should not have the suspicious and possessive alertness of a watchdog and should be good with strangers and other dogs. Even though a Siberian Husky should be sociable, he shouldn't be the over eager type. He should have a mature and reserved attitude, which would add to his dignity as a mature dog. The temperament of the Siberian Husky should reflect his intelligence and prove him as a loyal companion dog as well as an eager and efficient working dog.

### **Breed Standards in a nutshell**

<b>Must Have</b>	<b>Must Not Haves</b>
Medium size	Excessive bone or weight
Moderate bone, well balanced proportions	Heavy or coarse and disproportionate body
Ease and freedom of movement	Constricted or clumsy gait
Good disposition	Suspicious, unsocial
Proper coat, medium length hair	Long, rough coat
Correct fox brush tail	Over-plumed, tightly curled

**Breed Disqualification:** Male Siberians over 23 1/2 inches and females over 22 inches

Overall the breed standards suggest that this unique breed should be pleasing but strong. They shouldn't have a coarse appearance of being working freighting dogs. Neither should they be dainty and fragile. The Siberian Husky should be a dignified, mature, medium sized dog but with strong firm muscles that pack in power. They should be furred enough to showcase their streamlined structure. Siberian Huskies should look

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regally intimidating but gentle. They should live up to standards that prove their heritage as a loyal working and companion dog from northeastern Siberia.

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## Chapter 3: The Siberian Husky's Personality

The first thing that is striking about a Siberian Husky is the personality. Their intimidating wolfish looks are a front for their friendly, gentle and intelligent persona. They make great companion dogs if they are loved, respected and trained with patience. A lot of people feel that they are predator dogs with wolf blood in them but nothing can be farther from the truth.



They do not have a killer instinct in them till very small animals like cats or guinea pigs or birds rouse them. After all they were raised as working dogs who hunted to fend for themselves in the summer seasons. But they are also companion dogs who lived among the Chukchi women and children and learned to be affectionate to humans. Basically it's the Siberian Husky personality that convincingly proves them as one of man's (and woman's!) best friend.

Let's have a look at what goes into making up the unique personality of the Siberian Husky:

### **The Friendly heart**

Don't let anyone tell you that a Siberian Husky is not a friendly dog. He is very sweet and friendly with everyone, even strangers which is why of course he is a lousy guard dog. Essentially, the Siberian Husky is a social butterfly and loves meeting people. He is fearless and unsuspecting of humans, since he has been raised around them. He knows that humans are his friends and prefers their companionship. They are loyal to their owners but their friendly hearts won't be suspicious of visiting friend and relatives who might get scared of the "wolf" in your house, only to get bowled over by his eager friendliness!

The Siberian Husky hates being alone and is happy with his human family or another dog. His friendliness makes him seek out constant interaction so he cannot be left locked up in an apartment when you go off to work. He will stay at home alone once in a while but not everyday. He's the kind who wants to run along with you and dig in the sand box while you look on and generally be where you are. This is an active breed but they also love to sit in the family room with their humans and watch a movie. You cannot find another breed as friendly as the Siberian Husky because they really value your friendship.

### **The Loving soul**

A Siberian Huskies might not be lap dogs that thrive on sentimentality but they are capable of a lot of love. It is a fact that they are not one-dog owners but they will do what they can for their family. Many owners have trained their Huskies to be protective of their children because this breed loves children. There is a special bond between a Siberian Husky and children. It probably stems from their roots when the women of the Chukchi tribe raised the pups and their own babies together. Children were encouraged to

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play with the dogs and till this day, a Siberian Husky will be amazingly gentle and even display affection to a child. More than often, he will also be very protective of him or her.

It goes without saying that a Siberian Husky has a lot of fondness for his family. It's a loving dog that is huggable but perhaps not very expressive of his love. There is a certain reserve about him and he doesn't give in to sentimentality too easily. He will however greet you with an eager wag and wet kisses when you come back home because you are part of his pack and he loves you.

The Siberian Husky will be adequately protective but he will not display any possessiveness about you. This breed knows how to keep a distance but there is a line it doesn't cross and respects your space. However you will find that he has the kind of personality that shows his love by being alert, eager to please, and adaptable. Look into his blue eyes, and you will find a loyal and loving soul.

### **The Playful vein**

The Siberian Husky is a playful fellow with a definite sense of humor. There's nothing that he enjoys more than a playful fight with you on the carpet or the grass. He loves playing with kids and toys. It's a good idea for him to have his own toys too. Siberian Huskies are known to love to play the clown and if you laugh at their antics, they will perform for you again. Also if there is another Siberian Husky around, you can just sit back and enjoy a wrestling match! Siberian Huskies however won't be terribly good at fetch so don't get this breed and expect him to do what a Retriever does.

The athletic Siberian Huskies love to run. Running is a natural instinct and it's a way for them to express their free spirited personality. They will love to jog by your side. With a Siberian Husky around you can be sure that with the exercise you give it, you will be back in shape in no time yourself! His playful and feisty personality however can cause him to wander off so a Siberian Husky should ALWAYS be on the leash otherwise their running feet will take them too far away from home to find their way back.

### **The Mature intellect**

This free spirited breed also packs in a lot of brains. Many feel that that Siberian Huskies aren't very clever but that's a falsehood. They are in fact adult dogs and very intelligently independent. Ask any Siberian Husky owner and they will tell you that somehow their pet has the uncanny ability to know just what is needed from him and when and where he should be doing what!

The Siberian Husky is a serious, independent and no-nonsense sort that isn't sappy at all. You will find that your Siberian Husky will be very elegant, calm and dignified in side the house and won't be bumping into furniture etc. This breed has a very mature elegance and for working dogs they are defiantly not clumsy clots.

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They need the respect but they also need to be intelligently shown who is the boss. This breed is intelligent enough to side step your punishments and any negative reinforcements. You will need to deal with this mature dog in a very mature way. The personality of the Siberian Husky is such that he will only take orders from a more intelligent “alpha dog” in the pack. In return he will give you the mature company you need as you work, rest or just enjoy the scenery. He will not clamber for your attention and distract you.

**The Stubborn streak**

They are not very severely stubborn type but obstinacy is a major part of the Siberian Husky personality! It probably comes from being independent, intelligent and self-confident. This breed is stubborn in a very determined way. A Siberian Husky may not listen to you simply because he doesn't want to or because you didn't ask him the right way! This stubborn streak in their personality can only be circumvented by the right kind of owner who is mature, intelligent and proves himself as the leader of the pack.

Anyone who has owned a Siberian Husky will know that he needs to be shown who the alpha dog is. Once they know who is in charge, their stubbornness will wear down a bit and they will learn very fast. Patience and firmness are what are needed to get a Siberian Husky to get over the stubborn bent of mind but that won't be enough to get him trained enough to heed your call when he is running off. Keep him on that leash when you walk him and be firm.

**The Active mind**

The Siberian Husky is a high-energy dog with a very lively and alert mind. They are full of beans and born optimists. Also they have a very fearless personality which probably stems from being raised in extreme conditions as working dogs that belonged in packs. From this active and fearless mind, is born an undying sense of curiosity. They just have to know if the grass is greener on the other side of the hill- or fence as it is in their case. It's imperative to fence this breed in because they have a curiosity that is matched by an energetic personality.

It also means that when their active minds are idle, they get bored. When they get bored it means trouble! Trouble is usually manifested in this dog by digging and chewing bouts. If you don't have a sand box where he can dig, your Siberian Husky will dig up the flowerbeds, the lawns and try and dig in your bed too! He will also chew and tear up things like your carpet or your dining table.

The fact that a Siberian Husky is intelligent, independent, determined and has an active mind to go with all these personality traits, he ends up as quite a problem solver. Don't be surprised when you leave a bored Husky behind childproof gates, and come back to find that he's figured out a way to open them up! The Siberian Husky's active energetic personality needs to be kept occupied with exercise, toys and you.

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### **The Wild gene**

This is not to say that Siberian Huskies are as wild as wolves but it is a fact that the predatory instincts lie dormant in them. The wild gene is part of their heritage even though they are exceptionally gentle and caring towards children, adults and other dogs. It's the small animals that get their goat. The Siberian Husky are strong working dogs who used to once upon a time hunt for their supper, but an encounter with small animals like cats, squirrels, rabbits, birds, guinea pigs, hamsters, just stirs up their aggressive juices. They might take a pot shot at small dogs as well.

The wild hunting instinct in them is also that part of their personality that makes them skillful, quite cunning and patient. It also makes them fearless. As an owner it's up to you to keep their hunting mode in control and train them to prevent harming small animals. It is also another reason for not letting them loose in the neighborhood or they will decide to have a go at the squirrels in the trees and the neighbor's cat. However patient training can work wonders and some Siberian Huskies have been known to train their pets to be nice to their cats.

Generally speaking though, it's not a good idea to leave a Siberian Husky alone with a small animal, however trained he or she might be. One thing should be very clear and that is – Siberian Huskies are not cold-blooded killers. The Siberian Husky is not aggressive by nature because to be part of a team that pulls a sled, he would need to tow the line rather than go against it. They are not mean and the hunting instinct is just a leftover of their origins. You will need to be alert about this aspect of the Siberian Husky because his ancestors literally walked on the wild side of life.

You can use this table below to assess your Siberian Husky's personality. Tick off the traits that are applicable to your pet and see what you can do to help:

### **The Siberian Husky Personality Chart**

<b>Positive traits</b>	<b>Negative traits</b>
Friendly with kids, adults and strangers	Suspicious
Playful and occupied	Bored and indulges in chewing
Loyal and protective	Indifferent or too possessive
Accepting of commands	Stubborn and resists commands
Tolerant	Difficult
In control in the presence of other small animals	Aggressive towards animals smaller than him
Displays high energy	Listless and without strength

Every Siberian Husky differs

Well, with most of the general characteristics being same, it is a fact that the personality of every Siberian Husky differs from the other. Some owners have obedience issues and feel that the Siberian Husky is too headstrong. Yet others have had Siberian Huskies who took just three days to house train! Some are absolute clowns who love hanging around

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you and will howl with sorrow if left alone while are some that are independent enough to be by themselves.

Siberian Huskies are known to have even adjusted to the family cat to the extent of letting the cat lick their ears clean! What you have to understand is that Siberian Huskies have very pack oriented personalities and are very adjusting. They will take on the characteristics of the pack leader and adjust themselves to the pack they are living with. So if the cat is part of the pack, they might just make peace with it. Its prey drive can be controlled because they are clever dogs who understand what you are telling them to do. Whatever the individual personality, the Siberian Husky is intelligent and smart enough to learn the basic rules, and live with it.

The Siberian Huskies are really an unbelievable breed with a very special personality. All Siberian Huskies love people and make wonderful family dogs. The Siberian Husky's friendly and gentle personality makes it very adjustable to new environments and people. They won't make great watchdogs but they won't bite your guests either. They love their owners but aren't very possessive. Besides their curiosity and their love of exploration don't make them attached to home and hearth. They love to make their owners laugh and be happy though.

It's important to gauge the personality of the Siberian Husky. If you are with a Siberian Husky you are with a mature but delightful personality. It's kind of being with an old friend- you don't have to talk and impress him and he will understand and not fawn over you. His versatile and flexible personality makes him a good and soothing companion for people of all ages.

### Hunter vs Homebody

All that can scare off someone is the looks of a Siberian Husky. He will not bare his teeth at strangers and in fact if you took a close look, you would see the gentle personality shine through. The Siberian Husky is no wolf and the wild wolf act is just confined to his appearance. This breed is more a companion dog than hunter. It isn't a big dog but is very powerful and the strength shows in his body.

Strangely though the personality of this breed is pretty much in contrast with its looks and history. It is strange that an animal that can pass off as a wolf (at least in the movies) has such a tame, gentle and mild personality. For a historical background as a working dog that hunted in the wild, the Siberian Husky essentially has the personality of a happy homebody. He really likes to stay at home with you.

However somewhere deep inside, that nomadic wanderer might be waiting for a chance to spring but that's what gives the personality of the Siberian Husky some adventure and you, his trainer, some challenges!

## Chapter 4: Is the Siberian Husky the one for you?



The more apt question would be - Are you the right one for the Siberian Husky?! It takes a special person to be the owner of this special dog and if you are thinking of bringing him home you must be sure of why you want him as a pet. Since they are very independent, this breed is not recommended for first time dog owners. To handle a Siberian, you would need to have previous experience with handling of dogs and the patience to go with it. Training a Siberian Husky needs some familiarity and know-how of being around the canine

population.

### **Looks aren't everything**

Falling for a Siberian Husky's look should be the last reason for wanting him to be your companion. This is because many Siberian Huskies have been abandoned because their owners brought them home thinking their attractively fearsome appearance would make them great guard dogs only to be disappointed when he welcomes the burglars in! They are terribly accepting of strangers and no matter how they look, they are very gentle.

Also the attractive look of the Siberian Husky, include a double coat. This means shedding. A lot of shedding! On the surface, the fur is not too long but the undercoat is quite dense and when the weather gets warm, the Siberian Huskies, shed it out totally. Sometimes they have bald patches here and there and apart from jamming up the vacuum cleaner, they don't look all that great. This shedding has taken a lot of owners by surprise and is a reason for their abandonment.

### **The 11 questions you need to answer before you choose a Siberian Husky?**

This question is what all prospective owners of Siberian Huskies need to ask themselves. The best way to answer this question is to examine your own expectations of what you are seeking from a Siberian Husky. Are you part of the professional breeder network that wants a Siberian Husky for the show ring? Are you and your family looking for a companion pet or a watchdog or are you a single person in search of a buddy? Well, here are the questions you will need to answer to qualify as a Siberian Husky owner:

#### ***1. Have you ever owned a Siberian Husky or any other breed of dog before?***

If you have had a Siberian Husky before then you will have no problem accepting another into your home and heart. If you have had another dog breed as a pet, you should know that a Siberian Husky is bound to be different from all others. Every dog presents different challenges but since the Siberian Husky is an independent, determined, pack dog and not exactly the "I'll-do-whatever you say" types, training will become a

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challenge. With his breed you will need to prove your dominance so some amount of experience as a dog owner is essential.

***2. What kind of a house or apartment do you live in?***

Do you live in an independent house or a condo or an apartment or a farm? The Siberian Husky is a family dog with a love for the outdoors, but he can happily stay in an apartment if he gets adequate exercise. However you must have enough space for a Siberian Husky. A one-room apartment is not enough. If you live in a house, make sure that you have a very well fenced yard and garden. This is because the Siberian Husky's curiosity and energy will have him dig or scale the boundaries to find escape routes.

If you live on a farm be warned that your Siberian Husky will have too much temptation around him in the form of rabbits, chickens and other small animals that will stir his prey drive. No matter where you stay you will need to make sure that your Siberian Husky gets plenty of exercise and is prevented from finding ways to wander off.

***3. Where do you live?***

To own a Siberian Husky, you do not need to live in Alaska! Though they are originally from cold climatic conditions, they can live in Florida as well. In hot weather you will just have to make sure that they have shade and water and a bit of air-conditioning too. It's better if you get a Siberian Husky from your locality so that he's accustomed to the weather you are exposed to. This deeply intelligent dog is tolerant enough to adjust and double coats that protect them from all kinds of weather. However, they will shed, whether they live in the Tundra or the Tropics.

***4. Are you looking for a dog that will be a good companion to the family?***

Siberian Huskies are perfect as a companion to the family. They do not get attached to just one member and love the whole family. They will play games and never hurt or nip at family members. They are alert and tolerant of human behavior and love to make the family laugh. They might pretend that they can't hear when you call them sometimes but they really do enjoy sharing their lives with a family.

If however you are looking for a dog that will live in the backyard without daily interaction with you, the Siberian Husky would turn out to be totally unsuitable. They can be trained to live in kennels but they are the kinds who are happiest when they are inside the house with you.

***5. Do you want a dog that will love your kids?***

Siberian Huskies are especially gentle towards the children. They take to children instantly and your children in turn are totally safe with them. However they might get excited and want to play with a toddler and knock him or her down in the process. They are not the jealous kind who will resent you paying attention to the kids. Siberian Huskies

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will love to engage in a lot of activity with the children and will never intentionally bite or harm a child.

They are protective of children in the sense that if a stranger came into the house, they would put themselves ahead of the child to protect their pack. They are not aggressive towards people or children. With a Siberian Husky, you can be sure that your child is safe and has a friend.

***6. Are you looking for a guard dog that will watch over your property?***

Well, if you are looking for a guard, forget about the Siberian Husky. He has no sense of ownership and cannot be mean to strangers. Besides he is not a barker. The Siberian Husky has a very low bark, which he does not use against intruders. He only uses it when he is alone and sad. The Siberian Husky looks scary but is not scared of anyone or anything, which is why he cannot guard your property. He might even bring his own toys to give to the burglar! This is not to say that the Siberian Husky is dumb- it's just that he has been socialized to trust the human race and hence does not see any one of them as causing harm.

***7. Do you work and live alone?***

If you are the kind who works all day and lives alone, it might not be a wise idea to get a Siberian Husky. This is because they are dogs that like company. They do not like being alone. You cannot lock up a Siberian Husky in an apartment and push off for work. He will howl and cry and people around will be bound to complain. Also leaving a Siberian Husky alone and unsupervised is dangerous to his own well-being. The Houdini that he is he might find escape routes, or damage your house out of pure boredom.

A lonely Siberian Husky is a bored one and he will find his own avenues to entertain himself, which you might not approve of. They are family dogs who need a lot of socialization and though the Siberian Husky might adjust to living single, it's probably not fair to deprive him of company.

***8. Are you particular about your house being clean and garden being neat?***

If you like a spick and span house, you might need to think a bit, because a Siberian Husky is literally going to blow away his coat. They shed a lot and you cannot possibly stop that. They also like to roll in the mud but they actually clean themselves off. Overall they are very clean animals. You will not see a sloppy Siberian Husky. They walk around the house with dignity and élan but they will shed big time during the two seasonal shedding periods per year. With a Siberian Husky around, your vacuum cleaner will be an overused household gadget.

As for your garden, the Siberian Husky is a born gardener. The only thing is that he digs up in the wrong places! He will dig your flowerbed, under the garden bench and table and your vegetable patch as well. They will also get curious and dig near the fence to see if



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they can get out and be free. You will have to see that you have a strongly reinforced fence with netting, as Siberian Huskies are known to dig really dig deep. Alternatively you could have a special sand box made for him, where he can dig as much as he wants to.

***9. Do you want a dog that is obedient enough to be set loose without a leash?***

The Siberian Husky is not a retriever. He can be trained to listen to several commands and will be relatively obedient but might not always take orders. Also, this breed of dog is a natural runner. They are born to run. That is the reason why a Siberian Husky must always be on the leash when you are walking him or running with him. They will not listen to you once they set off on a chase and they could get lost because they are not capable of finding their way back home.

***10. Do you have other pets in the house?***

A Siberian Husky has a pack mentality so he is very accepting about his pack, however if your other pets are small animals, there could be a problem. Cats especially might be in constant peril from a Siberian Husky and it's not wise to leave the two alone. Some Siberian Huskies are known to be socialized along with the family cat since birth and show a great deal of tolerance but why take chances. Do not expect a Siberian Husky to be nice to rabbits, or hamsters and other animals.

Also they get along well with other dogs, if they are not too small in size. If your other pet is a Siberian Husky, then the two dogs will get along very well. They are part of a pack and that makes them happy with you the leader! They will play "rough" games with each other and not be bored.

***11. Are you looking for a low maintenance pet that is easy going?***

The Siberian Husky would fit in perfectly with this expectation. They are generally very light eaters and compared with other freighting dogs, they eat very less. All they need is a quality commercial food and a lot of exercise. Their grooming needs are equally simple and since they clean themselves off, they only need one bath in a year! They have no doggy odor but they shed, so you would have to comb out the undercoat. They are very easy going in the sense that they will not need constant attention. They just like to know that you are around and they like to get a lot of exercise.

**13 pointers that show the Siberian Husky is not for you :**

- Are a first time dog owner
- Want a watchdog to guard your property and kids
- If you live alone and have to leave him alone in the house when you go for work
- Cannot be around to supervise him
- Want him show a lot of affection and loyalty
- Want a huggable lap dog
- Expect him to be easy to train and quick to obey

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- Want a dog that is manageable without a leash
- Have small animals in the house like cats and hamsters
- You are allergic to or cannot deal with a lot of shedding
- Like maintaining a perfectly manicured garden (because he'll dig it up!)
- Cannot deal with the high energy
- Do not have the time and inclination to exercise him

**15 pointers that show that the Siberian Husky is for you :**

- Have had dogs for pets before
- Want a family dog that will stay inside the house
- Have kids who need a gentle friend
- Have a yard and garden that is properly fenced
- Need a low maintenance pet
- Want a clean and odor free pet
- Want a mature and dignified companion
- Can overlook the excessive shedding and love the dog
- Don't mind a digger in the garden
- Do not have another small animal for a pet
- Can commit to the exercise you will have to give him
- Have the firmness and patience to train
- Have the time to interact with him
- Know that he will not be left alone in the house for long periods
- Do not care for a watchdog

**Are you the right person for the Siberian Husky?**

Put yourself under scrutiny and ask yourself what kind of person you are and if you are the right human to be the alpha dog to a Siberian Husky. Sometimes it's better that a dog and his owner have perfectly matched personalities otherwise neither will be happy. To be the owner of a Siberian Husky you will have to:

- Be a kind of person who has maturity, patience, doesn't lose control and can build up the image of being the alpha dog.
- Be attentive to his needs, respect his space but command his obedience.
- Be energetic enough to keep pace with the Siberian husky and give it the exercise it needs.
- Be ready to reinforce the fences and boundaries so as to prevent him from wandering away.
- Be willing to keep him inside and give him the company that he needs from you.

Make a responsible choice and give the Siberian Husky the kind of life he or she deserves. Educate yourself on the mental and physical make up of the Siberian Husky and evaluate your own capability. Do not bring him home for his looks and wonder why he doesn't bark at strangers or why he sheds so much. Don't bring him home if all you want is a dog who will laze at your feet. The Siberian Husky cannot be what you want him to be. He is a high-energy dog who will be loyal to his pack if you love him. If you are prepared to deal with the shedding, have patience with training and fulfill the

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minimum nutritional and grooming needs of the Siberian Husky, you will have a friend for life. Be a responsible owner.

## Chapter 5: Where to Find The Right Husky for You??

If you have decided that the Siberian Husky is the right one for you and that you will be responsible and committed to its needs and requirements – the next step is to find out where you can get a Siberian Husky of a good quality. The increasing popularity of the Siberian Husky's has made it available with:

- Responsible Breeders
- Pet shops
- Backyard breeders



The best place to get a pedigree Siberian Husky is from a reputable breeder. The key word here is “reputable”. You could begin by contacting your local dog club for a list of breeders or check out the Siberian Husky Club of America (SHCA) Breeder Referral Directory on the web.

### How to know if the breeder is reputable?

The SHCA does have guidelines for breeders who are in the business of breeding the Siberian Husky to improve and maintain the pedigree, rather than for the money. Here are a few elements that indicate that the breeder is responsible and good.

- The breeder participates and follows all Siberian Husky competitions and activities.
- The breeder will explain the details of the advantages as well as the disadvantages of owning a Siberian Husky.
- The breeder will not attempt to sell you a puppy that is less than eight weeks, because this is a crucial time for the puppies to be with their mothers and littermates.
- The breeder will make sure that the Siberian Huskies, find good homes with caring families even if it means detailed questioning the prospective buyers about where they live, if they have a fenced garden, if they have children who will not be abusive, whether they plan to leave the dog alone etc. This will show that they are concerned that their dogs get a caring family.
- The breeder will give detailed tips about the requirements of the Siberian Husky.
- The breeder will give you a record of the dates and types of vaccinations and worming done, feeding instructions, a copy of a three to five generation pedigree, as well as registration papers if you intend to show your puppy.
- The breeder will give you a fixed time period within which you can take the Siberian Husky puppy to a vet you know veterinarian to check how healthy it is.
- The breeder will help and support those who have show dogs, or racers as well as other breeders, with his knowledge and advice.
- The breeders should also be in touch with rescue organizations for Siberian Huskies as that would show his/her concern for the abandoned ones.
- The breeder will be aware of the current genetic research on Siberian Huskies and breed them to eliminate hereditary defects.
- The breeder will make a thorough analysis of the dogs that are involved in the breeding of Siberian Huskies. The breeder would evaluate the pedigree of both

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the sire (the male) and the dam (the female) and make sure they are healthy and eligible for breeding.

- The breeder will not breed any dog that is not over 2 years and he will not use the same dam for breeding just because she is in heat.
- Will discourage you against breeding the dog yourself if you want a pet quality Siberian Husky and recommend neutering or spaying the dog. This will show his concerns regarding protecting the breed standards.
- The breeder should not be involved in any dealings with dog wholesalers or to pet shops.

**Why should never buy the Siberian Husky from a pet shop?**

Frankly speaking, getting a Siberian Husky from a pet shop is the worst possible option. That's because the puppies have not been bred properly and are sadly seen as goods to be sold for profit. Some are even sick. Breeding the Siberian Husky is a matter of responsibility and the pet shops are neither feels responsible nor cares about proper breeding or socializing. Often the Siberian Huskies found in a pet shop will deviate from the breed standard and have large ears, fine bone structure, tightly curled tails and extra woolly coats.

Thankfully unlike other breeds, this dog is relatively free from many genetic canine disorders. The SHCA has managed to keep a curb on genetic problems and tried to do whatever it possible can to have responsible breeders. However there are two hereditary diseases that attack the Siberian Husky- Canine hip dysplasia and inheritable eye disease. It is therefore imperative that care is taken to eliminate these problems during the breeding of the Siberian Husky.

The problem with the Siberian Husky in the pet store is that no one knows its pedigree. No one in the pet shop will know who the father and mother were and if they have been tested for these diseases. The pet shop attendants are merely doing a job and will not be able to tell you the personality of the Siberian Husky or if it is the right dog for you. Most of the time the puppies in the pet shop are from backyard breeders who are neither responsible nor care about the breed standard.

**Why are the backyard breeders irresponsible?**

Breeding a Siberian Husky is not about having a male and a female and letting things happen and selling off the consequence with a profit. Backyard breeders are irresponsible because:

- They are not educated about breed, do not care about genetic defects and have no knowledge of how to breed properly.
- They do not care about screening the breeding dogs for Canine hip dysplasia and inheritable eye disease.
- They are not affiliated to any other Siberian Husky concern, nor do they participate in the show, exhibits etc.

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- They sell the puppies without any guarantee or contracts and do not engage in socializing the pups.
- They are too eager to sell and make false claims about breeding Siberian Huskies with “rare green” eyes.
- They sell their pups to the pet shops and aren't very much bothered about what homes the puppies go to.
- The bottom line for them is the profit they make.

Also you will find a lot of websites on the Internet that advertise Siberian puppies for sale and promise to ship them to you after you pay online. This is not a good idea at all. You must see the puppy that you intend to raise. Just because it's a top ranked website does not mean that the breeder is reputable and has knowledge of the Siberian Husky.

**Companion, show ring or racer Siberian Husky?**

What kind of Siberian Husky do you want? Are you a professional who wants a racer quality or show quality or a companion dog. For a show quality, you would have to go to a dog show where you can meet other breeders who participate there, and get details of how you can get a show Siberian Husky or a racing one. You will have to go by the breed standards and make sure that the one you choose lives up to the criteria. You will have to be particular that the Siberian Husky is of the right height, weight and has the required physical characteristics, stamina and the right mental make up.

To choose a companion Siberian Husky, you need not be strict about the breed standard. Make sure you choose the right breeder though, through the local club, or other owners, the Internet, or through people you meet at a dog show.

**Do you want a male or a female Siberian Husky?**

There isn't much of a difference if you are getting a male or a female Siberian Husky, if they are neutered and spayed. A male that has not been neutered would want to mark their territory and search for female dogs. A non-spayed female would have a heat cycle twice a year. There is also the fear of an accidental but unwanted pregnancy. However most responsible breeders will sell pet quality Siberian Huskies that are neutered and spayed. So which sex you choose is a matter of your own choice.

**Do you want a puppy or an adult?**

A puppy Siberian Husky would give you a chance to set the rules of who is the alpha in the pack. It will be easier for you to house break him as well as train him for obedience. An older dog would be house trained but would require a certain extra firmness from you to get him to accept the rules of the house. However if you want an adult Siberian Husky, it is wise to go to a recognized shelter, which would advise you well and make sure that they match you to the right adult Siberian Husky. They sometimes even have young Siberian Huskies as well.

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A Siberian Husky rescue center would be careful to do a thorough medical check up and be committed to looking for the right home. Usually the Siberian Huskies are abandoned, not for any fault of their own but rather because their owners could not cope with the shedding, the digging and the obstinacy. Often this breed suffers because of incompetent handling of the owners. You should have no doubts about taking home a good-natured rescued adult Siberian Husky from a shelter.

**Why choose a spayed or neutered Siberian Husky?**

Not everyone can breed the Siberian Husky. It takes a person knowledgeable in the genetic composition of the Siberian Husky and the capability of improving and maintaining the breed standard. You cannot just breed your pet quality Siberian Husky them because you love them or because you feel your pet needs to have an inheritor. Breeding Siberian Huskies for reasons of sentiment and emotion can be damaging to the breed.

You could end up doing more harm, which is why a good breeder will insist that you take home a spayed or a neutered Siberian Husky as a pet. If you are a professional who owns a show Siberian or a racer/sledding Siberian, then you might retain co-breeding rights with the breeder and have a detailed contract written out. However if it is pet quality Siberian Husky you want, it is much wiser to choose a spayed or a neutered one.

**How much do Siberian Huskies cost?**

Good pet-quality pups would cost \$500 to 600 but show quality Siberian Huskies would cost more than \$ 1000. Pet shops would sell them cheaper for around \$200 to \$400 but remember, you would not only be encouraging the backyard breeders, but you would also be getting a Siberian Husky who has doubtful parentage. Sometimes money isn't everything, especially with regard to a Siberian Husky.

**What to check at the breeder's place?**

If you have decided to get a puppy, make a date with the right breeder. Check the litter as a whole and don't take the runt because you feel sorry for it or the aggressive one in the pack or the one that looks as cute as a stuffed toy. Choose carefully and evaluate them all. If it is a reputable breeder, he can show you proof of his credentials and let you ask questions. Here's what you should ask the breeder:

- Who were the parents and can I see them?
- Have the Sire and Dam been screened for canine hip dysplasia and inheritable eye disease, if yes can I see the records?
- How have you tried to improve the breed?
- How do you socialize your puppies?
- What tests have you carried out and what vaccines have the puppies taken?
- Do you show your dogs in any kennel even or dog show?
- Are you in touch with any Siberian Husky rescue centers?
- Can you give the references from other breeders who know you?

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- Can you give me the telephone numbers of other people who have purchased a puppy from you?

**What are the 8 easy steps to select the right puppy?**

- They are active and alert.
- They are not afraid and whimpering puppies.
- They have no discharge from their eyes and ears, are not pot bellied and their gums are pink.
- They do not resist when you try and hold them- this would be sign that they have been socialized properly.
- They have clean fur, free of fleas and no bald patches.
- They have the right weight and do not look underweight or overweight.
- They do not seem way more thirsty than usual and drink a lot of water.
- They do not have soiled bottoms that would indicate diarrhea.

**If you are choosing an adult Siberian:**

- Make sure that he/she is house broken, knows many commands, and has formed many behavior patterns. All you have to do is get it accustomed to your rules.
- If you are getting a rescued Siberian Husky find out why he was abandoned.
- Learn as much as possible about his habits, daily routine, likes and dislikes, diet and past history.

**9 ways to know that you have chosen the right Siberian Husky?**

It is a fact that the Siberian Husky survived by natural selection and the two major genetic disorders that threaten it are Canine hip dysplasia and inheritable eye disease. Both these risks are eliminated if you go to a reputable breeder. The best way to evaluate a Siberian Husky is on the basis of how capably it could carry out its original duty as a sledding/working dog. Some signs that you have the right Siberian Husky are that:

- The Husky has an alert, mischievous and pleasant disposition.
- The eyes are clear, the fur is clean, the ears are not set wide apart and that he has no sloping topline.
- The Siberian should not be fat or heavy and bulky.
- The Siberian Husky must look balanced when he stand and moves.
- He should be light on his feet as you walk him on a leash and take long strides.
- He should run with the power, elegance and speed of a born runner.
- When he jumps, he should look like he's in the air levitating!
- Above all it should be a moderate sized dog, with a compact body.
- Make sure the Husky you choose if not taller than 23 1/2 inches if it's a male and 22 inches if it is a female.

With all the above points in place, you can be sure that you've found yourself the right Siberian Husky and it's time to bring him or her home!



## Chapter 6: Bringing your Siberian Husky home



It's time for the homecoming and since your Siberian Husky is going to be part of the family pack, make sure he or she gets a special welcome. Your house should have enough space for a Siberian Husky. This breed will not be happy in a cramped and small living area. Make sure that your pet will have room to move around freely. Among the things you need to do is get the main items that your Siberian Husky will be using. Then sit with your family to decide of the rules for the new pet, including housetraining and common command phrases. The other thing you must do is making the house safe for the Siberian Husky and that means sealing escape routes!

8 Things you should do when you bring your Sib home:

### 1. Decide on the vet

You must make sure that you have chosen a vet for your Siberian Husky. You should avail the time your breeder gives you to have your own vet check the dog's health. Also get advice on what you would need in terms of the right food, the emergency medicines and advice on how to make him comfortable in your house.

### 2. Educate yourself

Get to learn about this unique breed, what they like, what threatens them and what you can do to make them comfortable. Read books, or get as much information on them from your breeder and the vet as much you can. Talk to other Siberian Husky owners on how they got their pets settled in and what food they gave, and how they trained etc. Visit dog shows and join a local dog club. Be mentally prepared to accept that you will have to change your lifestyle a bit to enjoy the benefits of a pet like the Siberian Husky.

### 3. Siberian Husky Shopping list:

These are some of the things that you would need to shop for. A responsible breeder would advise you on the essential things that you will need and buying a crate would be a wise idea as it would help to house train your Siberian Husky puppy as well as transport your puppy in the car, from the breeder's. Here's the shopping list:

Food and water bowl	Collar or for puppy or adult Siberian Husky
Crate	A towel
Chew sticks	Shampoo and conditioner
Leash	A wide-toothed steel comb
A bed	A mat rake
A first-aid kit	A flea comb

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Medicines	A bristle brush
ID Tags	Quality pet food
Doggie toothpaste and toothbrush	Baby gates and latches
Nail clippers	Puppy treats
Trimming scissors	Toys- different kinds

#### **4. Mark out the potty spot**

You and your family must decide on a particular place in the yard where the Siberian Husky is “to do his job”. Like Winnie the Pooh’s ‘Thinking spot’, your pet needs a potty spot. That same spot is where he or she would be brought back to again and again. Whether you are getting home a puppy or an adult, housebroken Siberian Husky, the first thing you should when you get them out of the car is take them to the potty spot. Begin to familiarize the dog from day one, before even you take him inside the house. Also decide on the times you and other members of the family take the pet out. For a puppy it would be every three hours and after every meal.

#### **5. Schedule the meal routine**

With a Siberian Husky around the family is a pack, so get all the members of the pack acquainted with the meal schedule. Puppy Siberian Huskies would eat around four times a day, till they are 18 months old while an adult Siberian Husky would eat two times a day. Also decide on the quantity, after consultation with the vet and the breeder. Feed your Husky at the same times every day and in the same place. The kitchen area would be a good place to set aside for them. Also make it a point to take them out to the potty spot after their food.

#### **6. Make the home safe**

Take a tour of the house and see what can be unsafe for the Siberian Husky. His curiosity will get him in every wrong corner. Get all the potentially dangerous chewable stuff out of the way. Some things that you would need to take care of is:

- Make sure the electric cords of your electronic gadgets are out of sight
- Keep the trashcans covered as Siberian Huskies are very curious and would be the first to stick their heads’ into the very interesting trashcans!
- Take care that you check the screens with the blind strings and tie them out of reach.
- It would be a good idea to make sure the bathroom doors are closed, because they love toilet paper and they way it unrolls.
- Shoes should be kept away in the closet.
- Make sure that the medicines are out of the way

Have plenty of chewing toys for your Husky or he will turn your sofa into one. A good idea is to put the crate with the pet in the kitchen area and fix the baby gates there so that your pet doesn’t end up messing the house or harming himself.

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## **7. Fence him in!**

This is an absolute requirement for a Siberian Husky. You must seal all possible escape routes that his Houdini among dogs can find. He can jump over a low fence and dig under it. He can also squeeze through what you think is an impossible hole. So walk around the house or apartment you live in and check for loose gates, easily un-lockable doors and windows.

Now for the yard and the garden. This is a Siberian Husky we are talking about so you will need a five to six foot sturdy fence or wall and gates. You will have to ensure that the yard is absolutely enclosed because you don't want to let out your Siberian Husky to the potty spot and come back to see that he's slipped out. There should be no gaps in the fence. Also you must dig under the fence and gates and line the bottom with two to three feet of chicken wire or a hardware mesh. This is to prevent the Siberia Husky from tunneling out a great escape route!

If you have a vegetable patch or prized roses, may be you would like to cordon them off from your Husky's attention, because he is bound to show off his digging skills. Make sure that there are no benches, tables or doghouses near the fence. The Siberian Husky will climb on to the table or roof of the doghouse and jump over the fence! A playhouse/ kennel with a flat roof is a nice idea, because Siberian Huskies, love to lie flat on the roof and watch everything, including you. Though they usually like to live inside, a good insulated doghouse with some amount of straw bedding is a comfy outdoor dwelling for a Siberian Husky and could be like a private place that gives him adequate shade when he is outside.

## **8. Poison control**

Ask the breeder and the vet what plants the Siberian Husky may be allergic to and remove them from your garden immediately. Also it would be a wise idea to move out the houseplants because your Siberian is bound to dig them up or chew up the plants. The whole idea is to ready your home, your family and yourself, to ensure that the Siberian Husky has a happy homecoming.

What steps to take to make your Siberian Husky comfortable at home?

Now that you have made your home safe for your Siberian Husky, it's time to bring him or her home. Make sure you have transported your pet safely from the breeder's and also make sure that you will be around in the first few days to give it the constant attention he or she needs. If you are to be the main provider of the Siberian Husky, you must be there initially to let him know that you are the one in charge.

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**\* First night howls**

Understand that your Siberian Husky has just been separated from his pack and is lonely, confused and feeling directionless. You will notice that either the puppy follows you from the first day itself, or shy away nervously. This breed is not a barking kind so the way a Siberian puppy will call out for his pack is by letting out his low howls. He's doing that so that he can get some reassurance that he is not alone. The pitch and type of howl will depend from puppy to puppy, but they will be bound to howl on the first night in a new home. Usually Siberian Huskies are very quiet dogs but their barking is a type of howling that goes like a "woo, woo, woo" sound. And they do it well enough to have you and your neighbors unsettled! This howling is very typical of pack animals but again this howling doesn't prove that they have wolf blood. They howl to call out to their pack and rarely howl when they are content.

Don't let this howling or crying, make you think that you are doing something wrong. Your puppy is just missing the familiarity of the breeder's place and the companionship of his littermates.

What you can do is move the crate into your bedroom so that he can be near you without. When he howls, reassure him with your voice that you are there. Some owners even sing back and howl and claim that it works! The Siberian Husky will call out and cry for the first few days but rest assured that the howling will subside once he knows you are there and once he gets used to the environment. However, the first night will be quite a howling one!

**\* The first steps**

The first few days, your new puppy and even the older Siberian Husky, will need you around. The very first thing to make sure is that your pet will not be alone in the first weeks. With a Siberian Husky, you cannot just leave them inside and leave for work. You must make it a point to be there and then once you find they are settled in and content, you can leave them for a few hours. On no account though, will a Siberian Husky be happy to be alone in the house. Someone or the other should be around because this is a dog that needs human interaction.

The first few weeks should be spent in seeing that your pet is content and is introduced to the housebreaking drill and that he recognizes that you are the alpha of the pack. These are a few of the first steps you would need to take, when you bring your Siberian Husky home:

**\* Set rules from day one:** The moment you bring your Husky home, take him to the potty spot and have him do his job before he enters the house. Introduce him to the family members and then put him in his crate to show him that this will be his special place. Take him outside every 15 minutes and after meals. Feed him at the same times and in the same place. Use simple commands with your dog like sit, stay etc., and keep

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repeating them. Do not encourage him to nip you or chew on anything that is not chewable. The puppy should know that for the rest of his or her life, there are rules to be followed in this house. That is why you must start from the moment he or she enters your life.

\* **Groom him early:** Begin grooming your dog early. Brushing your Siberian Husky is a good way to get him used to the grooming routine, as well establishing a bond with you. You can learn the way to brush from the breeder and teach your family members how to do it the right way. This is one of the ways to show your Siberian Husky that you care about him.

\* **Show your love:** Hold your new pet Siberian and show him that you care. Play games with the puppy like rolling a ball or get out some toys appropriate for your adult pet. Take the Siberian Husky out for walks and be around as much as you can. The idea is to get him to accept you as the leader of the pack. If you have brought home a rescued Siberian Husky, then there is all the more reason to show him your affection. He might be scared inside and eager for some love. If you do manage to convey that you care, you can rest assured that you will have a Siberian Husky that loves you back.

\* **Do not punish:** Have realistic expectations from your Siberian Husky. After all it's a totally new environment for him. He might chew, he might have accidents on the carpet but in no way should you physically punish him or rub his nose in to the ground. Be firm but do not punish him. As the alpha dog you have to be a good leader. If you get angry that means you have lost control.

\* **Teach the kids:** Show your children the right way to hold the puppy, by supporting the chest and the rear of the pup. Tell them not to tease the dog or pull its tail and not drag him. Siberian Huskies do love to play rough, but do not encourage them right away. Wait for them to get accustomed to the house, family and their new routine.

\* **Get the family involved:** Get your family into the picture in the routine of the Siberian Husky. Daily interaction with the family is a must for Siberian Huskies. Spend time together and laugh at his antics. Have your children in charge of making sure that the pet has fresh water and play with him in the yard. Siberian Huskies love children and will respond to their company. Get them to use the same commands and walk the Husky – always on a leash.

\* **Give him a job:** Don't leave your Siberian Husky alone and bored; after all he was a working dog. He has tremendous amount of energy. Get him puzzling toys to play with so that he can focus attention on it while you get away to do something. Keep him in your vision though, and use baby gates to cordon him off from the expensive carpets and sofas. Keep him busy with training routines and use up his energy! Keep practicing the commands like sit, stop and stay etc. Make sure you have set up a good exercise regimen. Spend a lot of time playing outdoor games with him if the weather permits. This will not only socialize him but make him happy too.

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**\* Introduce the other family pets:** Siberian Huskies get along with all kinds of breeds though they are especially happy if there is another Siberian around! Get the dogs that are already in your house for some time, to sniff at the new entrant. Give the dogs some time to know each other and please monitor them. Siberians never show aggression to other dogs but your earlier pets might resent a newcomer so be patient and minimize confrontations. Do not let the dogs eat their food in the same place till you see that they get along with each other. Also make sure you keep them apart if you have to leave the house for a while.

If you have brought home an adult Siberian you might want to keep the cat out of sight, or maybe not get a Siberian. There are many instances of tolerance on part of the Siberian Husky, but you cannot blame him later if he does indeed attack the cat. The puppy on the other hand can be trained to get along with a cat but it's entirely your decision and you may be putting your cat in harm's way. Also do keep the cat and puppy separate, till you are sure that they can get along with each other. The same goes for any hamster that you might have. The Siberian is a gentle fellow but sometimes he can't fight the instinct that leads him to stalk small animals.

Some don'ts to remember:

- Don't let your Siberian Husky manipulate you and overtake you as the alpha. You will lose your lead and end up with a disobedient Husky. Establish yourself as the leader.
- Don't allow your Husky to repeat unwanted behavior patterns. If you want him or her off the bed, set the rules early and correct his or her behavior.
- Don't let your Siberian Husky out in the yard unsupervised till you check that the gates are locked, the fences are strong and that there are no holes through which he will slip out!
- Don't walk your Siberian Husky without a leash. He is a natural runner and there is no chance that you can outrace him. Use a leash every time you go out and minimize the chances of him running after a squirrel and getting lost in the process.
- Don't let your young kids take out the Husky for a walk unsupervised.
- Don't let your Siberian Husky alone with a toddler. He loves kids so much that in his excitement he might knock the little one down.
- Don't leave any small animals near your Siberian Husky. He might go for the kill and it is not a good precedent to set. You must monitor the interaction because they might hurt each other, unintentionally.

**\* Be there for your Siberian Husky**

If you are planning to get a Siberian Husky, be there for him. This is essentially a social dog who hates being alone. Till he gets used to the house and the routine, make sure that you do not leave him by himself. Give the Siberian Husky a month at least, may be even more to settle in. You must understand, that things are new for him too but he is working at it. Let him gain confidence in you with your love, cooperation and care.

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At the same time be firm about the housetraining and take him out every 15 minutes. Follow the meal schedule. Be the alpha in charge and be firm with the obedience training and begin with the simple commands. Keep on at it with unyielding patience and go over the same thing again and again. This will show him that you are in charge and that you love him but he has to follow the rules of the pack. The idea is to create a repetitive pattern that the Siberian Husky gets used to and he only has your lead to follow. So welcome your Siberian Husky home and be there for him.

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## Chapter 7: The right diet for your Siberian Husky

The one convenient quality about raising a Siberian Husky is that they are not fussy about their food and they are light eaters. This goes back to the time when they lived with the Chukchi tribe and were trained to work long hours and lug loads but on relatively light stomachs. They eat a lot less than other freighting dogs like the Samoyed and the Alaskan Malamute. It's quite surprising how little they eat considering the amount of energy they have!



### **Watch the weight**

To keep your Siberian Husky healthy you will have to give him the appropriate diet and regulate the amount he eats. The average male Siberian Husky should weigh between 45 to 60 lbs, while a female should weigh around 35 to 50 lbs. You should see to it that your Siberian Husky stays within his or her prescribed weight because a fat Siberian Husky is not a healthy one. Overfeeding it because he looks thin may actually harm him in the long run. It is important that a Siberian Husky is lean, streamlined and active. A fat one might be cute as a stuffed toy but that is about it. You must see to it that you regulate the amount a Siberian Husky eats.

The amount of food a Siberian Husky needs is determined by the activities that he or she is engaged in. For example the amount of food intake required by a racing Siberian Husky would be different than the amount a pet Siberian Husky would eat. That is why you would need to watch and regulate the food that you give your Siberian Husky by deciding on a healthy diet.

### **What is a Healthy Diet for a Siberian Husky?**

Keep in mind that every living thing has its own unique nutritional needs- so has a Siberian Husky. So whether you choose to give your Siberian Husky fresh food as opposed to commercial pet food, a healthy diet is one that will be as close as possible to:

- Nutrient sources that are the same as those that were found in their place of origin. This would mean giving them food that they can easily digest according to their constitution rather than food items that are alien to them
- A balanced combination of protein, carbohydrates, fatty acids, vitamins and minerals that suit their body type as in skin, temperament etc.

Lets have a look at what the original diet of the Siberian Husky included:

- Salmon,
- Fresh water fish,
- Animals like otter and mink

Based on the original native food items consumed by his ancestors, the diet of a Siberian Husky would have to include a blend of fish and poultry to provide him the fats and proteins he needs. Note the absence of carbohydrates.



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**The nutritional needs of the Siberian Husky:**

- Your Siberian Husky's carbohydrate needs per kilogram of body weight is much lower than that of other dog breeds
- Your Siberian Husky requires a higher intake of fatty acids that includes the correct balance of linolenic, linoleic, and oleic acids. They will use these to convert them to the arachidonic acid.

When you decide on the Siberian Husky which you feel is the one for you, the breeder would inform you all about what diet the puppy is on at the moment and would recommend what you need to give him in the future, when he or she becomes an adult. In case of a puppy you would need to follow the same diet that he or she is used to till they are old enough to try something totally new. This is because; any sudden changes in diet would irritate his digestive system and make him sick.

**In favor of fresh food**

Most breeders, vets and owners of Siberian Huskies would tell you that fresh food is the best possible option for this breed. Being the working dogs that they are, they would appreciate a home cooked meal to commercially packed dog food. Think about it- wouldn't you prefer to eat something fresh over that packed TV dinner? Not only would fresh foods give him the nutrients he needs, it would also eliminate chemical preservatives and give you full control of what you are feeding your pet. The result would be a healthy Siberian Husky.

It would not be a tall task to cook for your Siberian Husky because they don't eat much and the food items they need like fish, doesn't take long to cook. You can combine the foods you know are good for him and also determine the amount of protein he gets from the meat and the amount of fatty acids he needs. Siberian Huskies are not fussy and are known to polish off casseroles that you might have left out side by mistake! A fresh food diet like the Biologically Appropriate Raw Food or Bones And Raw Food or BARF diet is great for the Siberian Huskies

**What is a BARF diet?**

Well, this diet includes exactly what it's expansion says Biologically Appropriate Raw Food or Bones And Raw Food. This kind of a diet would attempt to create the diet that a dog would eat if he were in his natural environment. This diet would differ from breed to breed and not include those items that are not suitable to the breed's digestive system.

According to the BARF diet, the best meal for a Siberian Husky would be low on carbs, high on proteins and omega fatty acids. If you decide on a BARF diet for your Siberian Husky you would need to give him or her raw meaty bones along with vegetables, entrails, fish, and eggs.

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The BARF or raw food diet uses natural ingredients combined with vitamins and minerals to provide a balanced diet for your Husky. The following suggestions are based on an adult dog, not a puppy. Discuss a raw diet with your veterinarian before you try it with a puppy.

- **Beef/organ meat/bone dust (4-5 times a week) - 1 - 1.5 lbs per dog**
- **Ground Chicken or Turkey (1-2 times a week) - 1 - 1.5 lbs per dog**
- **Fish (1-2 times a week) - 2 tins of sardines or salmon, or fresh**
- **Natural yogurt - 3 tablespoons**
- **Apple cider vinegar - 3/4 tablespoon**
- **Free range eggs (boiled - not raw - 2 times a week)**
- **Ultra Kelp - 1 tablespoon per day**
- **Vitamin C (powdered) - 1000 mg 2x day**
- **Vitamin E - 400 ui (2-3 times a week)**
- **Flaxseed Oil or fresh ground flaxseed- 1 capsule squeezed into food or 1 ground tablespoon**
- **Salmon Body Oil or Shark Oil - 1 capsule squeezed into food**
- **Zinc - 50 mg (2 - 3 times a week)**
- **MSM - 500 mg**
- **Glucosamine - 500 mg**
- **Veggie/Fruit Mix such as (1/2 - 3/4 cup)**
  - ◆ **Carrots**
  - ◆ **Alfalfa sprouts**
  - ◆ **Garlic**
  - ◆ **Egg shells**
  - ◆ **Green beans**
  - ◆ **Spinach**
  - ◆ **Yam**
  - ◆ **Beet**
  - ◆ **Rutabaga**
  - ◆ **Celery**
  - ◆ **\*Cabbage, Asparagus, Broccoli, Cauliflower**
  - ◆ **Apples**
  - ◆ **Oranges**
  - ◆ **Bananas**
  - ◆ **Strawberries**
  - ◆ **Blueberries**
  - ◆ **Potato**
- **Chicken racks/backs and/or necks (1 to 3 per dog daily)**
  - \* These vegetables should not be used frequently or in large quantities

We can't emphasize enough that the BARF diet (or Raw diet) is not the appropriate diet for all dogs and should be discussed carefully with your veterinarian. There are many websites that offer information about the raw food diet. Many people offer suggested benefits to the raw diet, while there are just as many opponents. Here are some of the pros and cons associated with this diet for your dog:

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Raw Diet Pros	Raw Diet Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides a fresh diet, without preservatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All health claims are anecdotal, not the result of long-term research</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raw bones are not dangerous. They are soft enough to bend easily and break well for the dog to digest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern about the nutritional balance of these diets. It can be difficult to formulate a balanced homemade diet in the best of circumstances</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clears up long-standing allergies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High protein and very high fat diets (fat contributes 40% to 70% of calories)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fewer visits to the veterinarian for health reasons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can be low in calcium, phosphorus, potassium, zinc, iron, manganese and magnesium</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eliminates dog odor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can have unbalanced calcium: phosphorus ratio</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Naturally cleans pets' teeth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can have excess vitamins D, E, zinc and magnesium</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produces much less stool, and stool is firm and disintegrates easily</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Questions about quality of ingredients</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mirrors what a dog would get in the wild</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns about health</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develops jaw, neck and shoulder muscles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raw bones are dangerous for the pet</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pets have more energy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secondary hyperparathyroidism</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduces arthritis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dermatitis (zinc)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better weight control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anemia (iron)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pets live longer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orthopedic conditions (Calcium/vitamin D)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bitches manage pregnancies better</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bioavailability (excess zinc)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better weight and survival figures in puppies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E. Coli/salmonella often found in raw meat</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A healthy pet fed on raw food manages the bacteria found in raw meat</li> </ul>	

*\*The above information found at **CBC MARKETPLACE: HEALTH » PET FOOD***

Regardless of the type of diet you decide to give your dog, your Siberian Husky will require plenty of clean water each day. You should plan to have fresh water on hand through out the day, whenever your dog needs it.

In addition to your dog's regular diet, you may choose to give him the occasional treat. Treats are very effective training tools. There are many treats available in a variety of

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quality. Some snacks contain health ingredients, and some are full of chemicals and fillers. Check the labels of treats carefully, if it's not something you would eat, don't give it to your dog.

**Advantages of Fresh food:** Since you monitor the amount of fatty acids, your Siberian Husky will have a glowing and healthy coat. You will also reduce the incidence of health problems like itching, hot spots, dandruff, excessive shedding, foot licking, face rubbing, loose stools and gas.

**Disadvantages of Fresh food:** You will have to take the time to buy, cook and prepare that right combinations for your Husky's meals. It would obviously not be as easy as pouring kibble out of a box!

### **Commercial pet food**

If you can't give your Siberian Husky fresh food then make sure that you give him a good quality pet food. Ask your breeder which one he uses and confirm with your vet if that's the right one for him. Remember that an expensive dog food does not mean that it's the best, though premium brands of dog food can be given in less quantity and maximum nourishment and the consequent stool size and amount is generally less.

What you must do is read the label on the dog food. Look for one that is low on carbohydrates and high in protein and omega fatty acids. Vets would usually recommend a Premium Grade Commercial, dry dog food because they are quite balanced and readily available. Also the Siberian Husky would have to chew the dry food and this would prevent tartar formation on his teeth. Soft wet food would get stuck in his teeth and encourage tartar build up. Settle on a brand and type that would suit your Husky's needs.

Please do not follow the direction on the packet as to the amount you should feed your Siberian Husky. Usually their recommended amount is far too much. Remember that Siberian Huskies are light eaters who can pull a sled to and fro with a very small intake. Feed your Siberian Husky according to the amount of exercise he gets. You are the best judge. Alternatively, you can ask your vet about the correct amount.

#### **Make sure that the dog food you give your Siberian Husky does have:**

- ingredients that have passed USDA inspection
- pure meat as the main two ingredients

#### **Make sure that the dog food you give your Siberian Husky does not have:**

- **BHA and BHT** that cause liver and kidney dysfunction, and bladder and stomach cancer
- **Ethoxyquin** that is a rubber preservative listed as a hazardous chemical.

**Advantages of commercial pet food:** Using a pet food is less time consuming

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**Disadvantages of commercial pet food:** You may be losing out on the nutrients from fresh food as well as exposing your dog to some amount of preservatives.

Along with the food you can consider adding vitamin supplements like Vitamin C or any that your vet recommends. Puppies, older adults or Siberian Huskies involved in breeding programs or that are already pregnant and lactating would need added supplements and extra vitamins.

**The ideal Siberian Husky meal be it fresh food or commercial should include:**

- Sources of better-quality protein like chicken meal, egg and fishmeal plus carrots, apples and more.
- Poultry and pork and red meats
- Uncooked bones that are not too big or hard to chip your Siberian Husky's teeth
- No corn, wheat, by-products, artificial colors or flavors.
- Chicken meal derived from human-grade processing plants.
- Eggs both raw and cooked because they are a complete protein that is easily digestible and full of vitamins A, B, E, K, biotin, sulfur and amino acids, which help in cell growth.
- Fish Meal that contains Omega-3 Fatty Acids, great for the Siberian Husky's skin and coat.
- Strong antioxidants from vegetable sources like carrots, spinach, celery, garlic, alfalfa leaf and apples and even fruits like grape.
- Cottage cheese, lactose reduced milk, all whole milk not skim.

**The deal on table scraps:** Avoid giving your puppy table scraps. As he grows, he is bound to beg for your diner and there is also no harm in giving him table scraps like honey on the cottage cheese or yogurts and anything else that is suitable for a Siberian Husky. Vary the meals if you see that your Husky is disinterested in the same diet. You can give a mix of canned and dry food or fresh food, but always watch their diet. If you are feeding it table scraps in addition to his regular meal, you will give your dog diarrhea or end up with a fat and unhealthy Siberian.

**Absolute Dietary No's:** Foods with beef, horsemeat, soy, avocado, yellow corn, or beet pulp as well as cereals, chocolate, or onion.

**Meal schedule for Siberian Huskies**

**For your Puppy:** you should follow the meal routine set by your breeder which will usually be three or four times a day- one meal each in the morning, afternoon and the evening, with a snack thrown in. Ovoid overfeeding and avoid table craps at this age since it might upset his stomach.

**At 3 to 4 months:** The meal schedule will be two meals a day of the same puppy food.

**At 7 - 9 months:** One meal a day of the puppy meal is more than sufficient.

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**At 8-10 month onward:** You will continue to feed your Siberian Husky one meal but switch to an adult dog food.

**At 18 months:** Your Siberian is considered fully mature adult dog, who should have one meal according to the exercise he or she gets and the energy he or she needs. Occasional treats such a dog biscuit in the morning or cottage cheese with honey when he is on once a day feedings is all right. A working Siberian Husky would need a diet and amount aimed at increasing his performance while a Siberian Husky that gets walks, hikes and gets enough exercise would need a diet aimed at maintaining his or her energy. It is very important to monitor their weight and make sure that they get adequate exercise.

**Should you feed a Siberian Husky extra if he/she looks thin?**

If you are giving your Siberian a healthy diet that gives him or her the nutrients he or she needs and he or she is growing to be an alert and active dog, then it doesn't matter if they look thin. In fact they should look streamlined and sturdy rather than have a fluffy, bloated cute look. The Siberian Husky should be active and capable of running, walking, hiking, without getting tired. If he is tired and gives up running- consult a doctor. If he is active, there is nothing to worry about.

Do not feed them more than the amount they take, if they are active and energetic. Ask your breeder and veterinarian for advice on whether your Siberian Husky needs more food or maybe additional supplements and vitamins, but do not feed him or her because you feel that they look thin.

**When do you switch from puppy food to adult food?**

Probably when the dog is 9 months old. Ask your vet or breeder to tell you what they think is appropriate for your Siberian Husky. Some recommend introducing adult food early while other delay till after 10 months. Some even feel that having puppy food for too long increases the chances of hip dysplasia, but these are not confirmed reports so best to ask your vet and breeder.

**8 ways to know that the diet you are giving is the right one**

You would know that the diet you are giving is the right one if:

- You are including more proteins and fatty acids
- You are giving him adequate fresh water
- You give him healthy snacks.
- His or her coat and skin are healthy with so signs of dry/itchy/flaky skin, hot spots, yeast infections in the ear
- He or she has no thyroid, liver, kidney problems or diarrhea
- Your Siberian Husky is active, energetic and capable of running easily without showing any signs of early tiring out.
- Your Siberian Husky's eyes are alert and bright.
- His or her weight is under control and they do not look bloated or fat.

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Just make sure that you give him the right food combinations and the right amount – and yes- add a little of your love to that – your Siberian Husky will have the best diet he needs.

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## **Chapter 8: 101 Delicacies for your Siberian Husky**

All of us know the way to any man's /animal's heart is through the stomach. Gastronomic delights are what enchant the senses. So, indulge your Husky and surprise him with personalized, fragrant, filled with love, tit-bits.

Come learn about all the wonderful possibilities. Add a dash of your own innovations and viola! Your Husky will be eating, exclusive, personalized treats.

The recipes are written for that incredibly lovable Siberian Husky, keeping in mind the myriad food items he is allergic to, and what really suits him.

*\* Cookies... Cookies.... Each kind better than the next!*

Now, to make things fairly simple ---

**I am sure you know what is basic to treat making---**

1. Knead the dough well.
2. Roll out or shape as required--- use your imagination --let the greased cookie sheet become your canvas.
3. Bake well for 15-20 minutes at 375degrees.
4. Cool and store as required—bottles, freezer, boxes—or stomachs (that is if you have many pets in the house).

This is how you make the cookies—what you need for each kind is outlined below.

### **1. Meat cookies**

**Ingredients:** 1 jar stained meat; 4 heaped tablespoons (tbs) milk powder; 6 heaped tbs wheat germ

**Method:** Prepare dough of the ingredients. Press with hand into cookie shape. You can make about 6 pieces. Place on greased cookie sheet and bake for 15 minutes in an oven set at 350 degrees.

### **2. Toy Cheese Cookies**

**Ingredients:** 2 cups flour; 1 cup cheese; 4 tbs water; ½ cup vegetable oil; ½ teaspoon (tsp) garlic powder.

**Method:** Make stiff dough by adding water little by little. Roll out on a floored surface and cut it into cookies about a centimeter thick. Cut in animal shapes with cookie cutter. Bake on a greased cookie sheet in an oven set at 400 degrees for 15 minutes. The cookies are done when the lower surface is nicely browned. Cool well on wire rack.



### 3. Chicken cookie

**Ingredients:** Plain flour 2 cups; cornmeal flour 1 cup; chopped and cooked chicken livers 1 cup; egg 1 (beaten); chicken broth ½ cup; mashed vegetables (with a little bit of parsley) 1 cup; vegetable oil 3 tbs; brown sugar 1 tsp.

**Method:** Sieve the flours together. Pour in broth, oil and egg in another bowl and mix thoroughly. Add the flour mix to it gradually. Fold in the livers. Make firm dough and roll out on floured surface. Cut into desired shapes. Place on greased cookie tray and bake at temperature 350/400 degrees for 15 minutes. Cool and store in refrigerator.

### 4. Nutty sesame flavored cookies

**Ingredients:** flour 2 cups; roasted wheat germ 2.5 tbs; sesame seeds ¼ cup; brown sugar ½ cup; margarine 15 tsp; ground walnuts ½ cup; yolk of an egg 1; one lemon rind (grated)

**Method:** Knead all ingredients until you make smooth firm dough. Divide dough into 6 parts. Roll each part to the shape of a cucumber. Wrap the parts in separate wax paper and freeze. When you want to make the cookies, thaw them. Slice each part into 1 cm thick slice. Shape each slice as you wish. Place in preheated oven of 375 degrees and bake for about 12 to 15 minutes.

### 5. Peanut butter Cookies

**Ingredients:** Wheat germ ¼ cup; oatmeal ¾ cup; flour 1 ½ cups; peanut butter ¼ cup; water ½ cup; salad oil and honey ¼ cup each.

**Method:** Put all the ingredients in blender and run it on a low speed until fully blended. Place 1 teaspoon-sized balls on the greased cookie tray. Now flatten them with a fork until they are of ¾ cm thickness. Bake to a golden brown for 20 minutes at 325 degrees.

### 6. No fuss cookies

**Ingredients:** Baby meat-2 ½ oz size 2 jars; wheat germ and milk powder ¼ cup each.

**Method:** Mix all ingredients and place on greased baking sheet as lemon-sized balls. Flatten balls gently with fork. Bake for ¼ hour at 350 degrees. Cool on wire rack and refrigerate.

### 7. Millet Cookies

**Ingredients:** Ground millet flour ½ cup; wheat flour 1 ½ cups; oats ½ cup; milk powder ¾ cup; hot water ½ cup; egg 1 (beaten); vegetable oil 1/3 cup; chicken bouillon 1 tbs; molasses 1 tsp.

**Method:** Knead all ingredients into dough. Roll out on floured surface ½ “ thick and cut in bone shapes with cookie cutter. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes.

### 8. Rice cookies

**Ingredients:** Rice 2 cups; oatmeal packets 2 (regular flavor- mixed with milk); flour 1 ½ cup; carrots 1 cup; spinach 1/3 cup; molasses ¼ cup; applesauce 4 tbs; brown gravy mix ½ tbs; vegetable oil ½ tbs.

**Method:** Stir all ingredients except flour thoroughly. Now add flour little by little until dough is smooth and stiff. Drop on greased cookie sheet with teaspoon. Bake for 20 minutes in pre-heated oven of 350 degrees, until golden in color.

### 9. Tough cookies

**Ingredients:** (1) For cookie; Flour 3 ½ cups; whole wheat flour 2 cups; cornmeal 1 cup; rye flour 1 cup; milk powder ½ cup; beef broth (liquid) 4 cups; kelp powder 4 tsp; fresh yeast in compressed pack 1 heaped tbs; warm water ¼ cup; a pinch of sugar.

For glaze: Large egg 1; milk 2 tbs.

**Method:** Crumple compressed yeast over warm water (110 degrees F). Add sugar and set aside yeast in a draft less area. It will now be full of bubbles. (Discard yeast with no bubbles as it may be outdated). Place all dry ingredients in a large bowl, stir and blend them. Add the yeast to this mix and 3 cups of broth. Make dough and separate to 2 parts. While kneading one, keep the other covered with a moist cloth.. Knead both halves well and roll out to ¼ " thick. Cut in desired shapes. Brush each piece with finely mixed egg and milk glaze base. Bake in oven at 300 degrees F for 45 minutes. Now remove the cookie trays out and invert the cookies. Place it back in oven and heat for a further 15 minutes. Cool and store golden brown cookies in airtight containers, at room temperature.

### 10. Rolled oat cookies

**Ingredients:** Whole wheat flour 3 ½ cups, rolled oats 3 cups; milk powder ½ cup; beef bouillon 1 ½ cups; cod liver oil 2 tsp; bacon grease ½ cup; eggs 2.

**Method:** Mix all ingredients to form sticky dough. Spoon it onto un-greased cookie tray. Bake at 325 degrees for 50 minutes. Cool and store in plastic bags. The cookies remain fresh for months together.

### 11. Simple cookies

**Ingredients:** Whole wheat flour 2 ½ cups; milk powder ½ cup; egg 1; powdered chicken 4 tsp; margarine 6 tbs; sugar 1 tsp

**Method:** Mix the dough and roll it out ½ " thick. Shape with cookie cutter and bake on lightly greased tray for 30 minutes at 350 degrees.

### 12. Cheese topped cookies

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**Ingredients:** Whole wheat flour 1 cup; boiled chicken liver 8 ounces; cornmeal ½ cup; garlic powder 1 tsp; egg 1; beef bouillon 1 tsp; yeast flakes 1 tbs; parmesan cheese for topping; vegetable oil 2 tbs.

**Method:** Mix all ingredients except cheese in blender. Press into cookie sheet 1 “ thick. Sprinkle cheese on top. Bake for 45 minutes at 350 degrees. Cut into 2 “ squares and replace in oven for 1 hour at 200 degrees. Cool and refrigerate in airtight containers.

### 13. Veggie cookies

**Ingredients:** Cooked, mashed vegetables (peas, carrots, potatoes, zucchini) 1 cup; cooked rice 1 cup; grated cheese ¾ cup; egg 1; applesauce 1/3 cup; brewers yeast 1 tbs.

**Method:** Mix all ingredients. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls on a greased cookie sheet. Bake in a preheated stove at 350 degrees for about 15 minutes, till firm and brown. Cool and freeze.

### 14. Tempting cookies

**Ingredients:** Cheese (parmesan, grated) ½ cup; whole-wheat flour 2 ½ cups; olive oil ¼ cup; apple sauce ¼ cup; large egg, well beaten 1; skimmed milk powder ¼ cup; garlic powder 1 tsp; grated cheese 3 tsp; garlic powder ½ tsp.

**Method:** Mix all ingredients (except the last two) in a large bowl, thoroughly. Roll the dough to the size of a cookie sheet. Now pat it on gently to a slightly greased cookie sheet, right up to the edges. Using a rolling cutter run through the spread making cuts of desired size and shape. Sprinkle the cheese and garlic on the dough now. Place the sheet in oven and bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes, when it turns golden in color. Switch off oven and allow cookies to cool in it. When cool, break them apart and store in airtight containers or freeze.

### 15. Rice soup cookies

**Ingredients:** Flour 4 cups; cornmeal 1 ½ cups; rice soup 1 small can; egg 1; garlic powder ½ tsp; vegetable oil; 2 tbs; for glaze: egg 1; milk 2 tbs.

**Method:** Mix flour, cornmeal, soup egg garlic and vegetable oil thoroughly. Knead to make stiff dough. Roll out to ½ centimeter thickness. Cut to desired shape. Beat the second egg well. Add milk and mix well. Brush both sides of cookie with glaze and transfer to greased cookie sheet. Bake for 40 minutes at 350 degrees.

### 16. Orange flavored cookies

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**Ingredients:** Whole-wheat flour 4 cups; cooked rice ¼ cup; cornmeal ¼ cup; egg 1; juice of 1 orange; vegetable oil 2 tbs; 1 ½ cups water.

**Method:** Mix all ingredients very well. Add extra water if necessary, to make a firm stiff dough. Roll out to ½ centimeter thickness on floured surface. Cut to desired shapes and bake on greased cookie sheets for 35 minutes or till golden brown at 350 degrees. Cool and store.

### 17. Saucy dip

**Ingredients:** Vanilla chips 3 cups; garlic and spinach powders 1 tsp each; carob chips 3 cups; turmeric powder 1 tsp; vegetable oil 1 tsp.

**Method:** Melt the chips in a microwave oven, or a double boiler. Add all the seasonings and oil. Dip the cookies you make in this nutritious sauce and place them in a lined with wax paper, until set.

## *Tasty Treats*

### 18. Dog food Sprinkle:

**Ingredients:** Marshmallow root, mullein leaf and alfalfa taken an ounce each; comfrey, dandelion and nettle an ounce each; chamomile, horsetail, and oat straw taken ½ ounce each; fennel seeds, garlic and catnip of an ounce each; red clover, rose hips and slippery elm of ½ ounce each; parsley 1 ounce; a dash of cayenne; thyme 1/2 oz.

**Method:** Get all the above ingredients in their powdered form. Blend the powders thoroughly, to get an almost homogenous mix. Store it in a dry dark jar, in a cool place. Mix or sprinkle a little of it on the dog food.

### 19. Special sprinkle for the mother dog:

To the above sprinkle and ½ an ounce each of milk thistle and chickweed. This sprinkle provides good nutrition for nursing or pregnant dogs.

### 20. Parmesan herb delight

**Ingredients:** (a) For the dough: Wheat flour 1 cup; broken wheat 1 cup; rice flour ½ cup; rye flour ½ cup; chicken broth 2 cups; warm water ½ cup; milk powder ½ cup; parmesan cheese ½ cup; yeast (dry) 1 packet; parsley (dried) 2 tbs; garlic paste 2 tsp; oregano 1 tsp; oregano.

For the glaze: Egg 1; milk 1 tbs

**Method:** Dissolve yeast in water. Add the cheese, broth, milk powder, and the herbs. Add in the floors and broken wheat gradually. Make smooth dough and roll out on floured board to a thickness of ½ inch. Use round shaped cookie cutters and cut out the treats. Place on un-greased baking sheet and bake for 45 minutes at 325 degrees.

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Remove from oven. Prepare the glaze by beating up the egg and milk thoroughly. Brush the glaze on the treats, on both sides. Return them to oven to bake for ½ an hour more.

### 21. Potato-peanut bites

**Ingredients:** White flour 2 cups; wheat flour 1 cup; rice flour and rye flour ½ cup each; mashed potatoes 1 cup, milk powder 1 cup; peanut butter 1 cup; chicken broth ½ cup; egg 1; warm water ½ cup; dry yeast 1 packet; molasses ¼ cup.

**Method:** Dissolve yeast with warm water in a large bowl. Place potatoes, milk molasses, chicken broth and peanut butter in a saucepan and stir on low heat until the mix starts boiling. Remove from heat and cool to room temperature. Add yeast mixture to this. Gently blend in the egg and the flours to make stiff dough. Knead for 5 minutes on floured surface and roll it out ½ inch thick. Cut out biscuits with cookie cutters. Place on un-greased baking dish about ½ cm apart. Use up all the dough by re-rolling the scraps. Bake for 45 minutes at 325 degrees. Cool overnight and freeze.

### 22. Oatmeal treat:

**Ingredients:** Wheat 3 cups, uncooked oatmeal 3 cups, water 1 cup; evaporated milk 1 cup; wheat germ ½ cup; molasses ¼ cup.

**Method:** Mix the first three ingredients together. Then add the next four gradually to form stiff dough. Chill for 45 minutes. Press into a cookie shape on greased cookie tray and heat at 325 degrees until nicely browned.

### 23. Chicken delight

**Ingredients:** Cornmeal 1 ½ cup; chicken liver 1 number; eggs 2; molasses 2 tbs; garlic powder ½ tsp.

**Method:** Mix the chicken liver, molasses and the egg in a blender. Put the mix in a bowl and gradually add the cornmeal and garlic powder. Mix well to get a uniform color. Now pour it into a baking pan and bake at 400 degrees for 20 minutes, or until a knife comes out clean. Cool. Cut into bite sized pieces and store in the refrigerator

### 24. Tasty crunchies:

**Ingredients:** Wheat flour 3 cups; margarine 1/3 cup; milk powder ½ cup; meat juice ¾ cup; egg 1; salt ½ tsp; hot water for kneading.

**Method:** place margarine in a large bowl and add the hot water. Fold in the egg. Add salt and milk powder and beat well. Add the flour little by little to allow for good kneading. The dough must be stiff. Roll out flour to ½ inch thickness. Cut in desired shapes. Place on greased baking sheet and bake for 50 minutes at 325 degrees. Allow cooling and drying until hard and crunchy.

### 25. Carrot and spinach treat

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**Ingredients:** White flour 2 cups; wheat flour 1 cup; water  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup; finely chopped carrots and spinach  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup each; egg 1; oil, sesame seeds/poppy seeds and garlic powder 1 tsp each.

**Method:** put together and mix all dry ingredients. Add the rest and mix well again. Knead well by hand and shape out lemon sized balls of the dough. Flatten them and make a hole in the center. You can pierce 3 smaller holes in the shape of a triangle for variety. Bake for 45 minutes in a preheated oven of temperature 350 degrees. When done, spray treats with water and sprinkle sesame or poppy seeds on them.

### **26. Beef delight**

**Ingredients:** Cornmeal 1 cup; beef liver 1; eggs 4; garlic powder  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp

**Method:** Mix all ingredients in a blender. Pour into an 8" square baking pan. Keep in preheated oven for  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour at 350 degrees. When cool cut into diamond shapes.

### **27. Apple treat**

**Ingredients:** Wheat flour 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups; plain flour  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup; oatmeal 1 cup; one large apple; water  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup; honey  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup; cinnamon  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp.

**Method:** Peel, core, slice and mince apple. Take care to see that no seed remains, as apple seeds are not good for your Chihuahua. Add the honey, cinnamon, apple, and oatmeal to a large bowl. Add in the flours gradually and knead to stiff dough, using the warm water. With a rounded teaspoon, spoon in the dough onto the un-greased baking sheet, keeping each piece 5 centimeters apart from the other. Dip bottom of a glass in wheat flour and use it to flatten the pieces to the size you want. Bake in preheated oven for  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour. Remove tray from oven and turn over the cookies. Place tray in oven again and bake at 325 degrees for another  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour.

### **28. Cooked liver treat**

**Ingredients:** Beef liver 1 cup; oats 2 cups; barley flour 1 cup; milk powder  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup; eggs 2; 1 tsp parsley; 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp garlic; bacon grease for sautéing..

**Method:** Sauté liver in bacon grease for  $\frac{1}{4}$  hour. Let it simmer for a further  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour. Add a little water, if needed, to prevent it from sticking to pan or burning. Cool and chop to small pieces.

### **29. Baked liver treat**

Use the same ingredients as above except the bacon grease. Blend all ingredients except the flours in blender. Now place in large bowl and fold in the barley flour and oats. Place in spoonfuls on un-greased baking tray and bake for 45 minutes at 250 degrees. Cool overnight.

### **30. Popular treats –1**

**Ingredients:** Wheat flour 2 ½ cups; milk powder ½ cup; meat dripping 6 tbs; egg 1 (well beaten); ice water ½ cup; brown sugar 1 tsp; garlic powder ½ tsp; salt ½ tsp.

**Method:** Mix flour with milk powder, salt, sugar and garlic powder. Cut in the drippings till the mix looks like cornmeal. Fold in the egg. Add the ice water and knead the dough into a ball. Place the ball on cookie sheet and press till it is about 1 centimeter thick. Cut the spread to desired shapes and bake for 30 minutes, on a cookie tray, in a pre-heated oven at 350 degrees. Remove from tray to cool and store.

### **31. Popular Treats –2**

**Ingredients:** Beef baby food 3 jars of size 2 ½ ounces; cream of wheat ¼ cup; milk powder ¼ cup

**Method:** Combine the three ingredients. Place teaspoon sized balls on greased cookie tray. Press gently with a ladle to ½ inch thickness. Make a hole in the middle. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes in a pre-heated oven. When cool, store in refrigerator. The treat freezes well and can be thawed when needed.

### **32. Popular veg treat – 3**

**Ingredients:** Carrot baby food 3 jars (2 ½ oz size); cream of wheat ¼ cup; milk powder ¼ cup

**Method:** Combine the three ingredients. Place teaspoon sized balls on greased cookie tray. Press gently with a ladle to ½ inch thickness. Make a hole in the middle. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes in a pre-heated oven. When cool, store in refrigerator. The treat freezes well and can be thawed when needed.

### **33. Potato surprise**

**Ingredients:** Vegetables (grated) 12 tbs; potatoes (boiled and sliced) 2 cups; cottage cheese (creamed) ½ cup; nutritional yeast 1 tsp; carrots (grated) 1 tbs; whole milk 1 cup; grated cheese ¼ cup.

**Method:** Layer a casserole dish with the first 5 ingredients. Pour milk on top. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Serve cool.

### **34. Muffin treat**

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**Ingredients:** Raw liver 1 lb; corn muffin mix 1 box, garlic 2 cloves.

**Method:** Mix liver and garlic in food processor till it becomes liquid. Add to it the corn muffin. Spread on cookie sheet evenly 2.5 centimeters thick. Set oven to temperature mentioned on muffin pack. Bake until firm. Cut to squares and freeze.

### 35. **Anti-Flea mix**

**Ingredients:** Cottage cheese 1/2 cup; Vitamin E 1001 U; garlic powder 1/2 spoon; 2 tbs bacon grease.

**Method:** Mix all 4 ingredients and add a little to dog food daily. It is effective at keeping Fleas away.

### 36. **Instant Liver treat**

**Ingredients:** Chicken livers 1 lb; corn meal and flour 1 cup each; egg 1; garlic powder 1 tbs.

**Method:** Liquefy chicken livers in blender. Add egg and run the blender again. Pour into bowl after a minute. Add garlic powder and cornmeal to it. Gradually fold in flour. Pour the mix into a greased pan. Bake at 400 degrees for 14 minutes. Cut into squares when warm. Freeze.

### 37. **Fresh 'n 'frozen**

Blend 1/2 quart fruit juice, 1/4 cup yogurt, 1/4 tsp cinnamon powder, thoroughly and freeze. Great on a warm day!

### 38. **Biscones**

**Ingredients:** Self raising flour 2 1/2 cups; small dog biscuits 1 cup; margarine 15 lbs; milk 1/2 cup; 1/2 cup chicken stock; salt 1/4 tsp

**Method:** Sift in salt and flour into a large bowl and rub in the margarine. Add the chopped biscuits. With a knife, stir to make a dough, after adding the stock and milk. Place on floured surface and knead till dough is smooth and firm. Pat it into a 2-centimeter circle and cut into rounds. Bake for 15 minutes at 350 degrees.

### 39. **Yummy chunks**

**Ingredients:** Beef bouillon 2 cubes; chicken pieces 1 cup; water 2 cups

**Method:** Dissolve cubes in water. Put the bouillon in ice cube tray and place some chicken pieces on it. Keep doing this until bouillon is used up. Freeze for 1/2 a day.



#### 40. 15-minute cheese treat

**Ingredients:** cheddar cheese 2 cups; margarine ¼ lbs; whole-wheat flour 1 ½ cups.

**Method:** Grate cheese. When it is of room temperature, rub in margarine and flour. Make 2 cylinders of 5 centimeters diameter each. Chill. Now cut ½ centimeter slices and place on greased baking sheet. Bake for 15 minutes at 375 degrees.

#### 41. Puppy treat

**Ingredients:** Flour 1½ cups; peanut butter 2 spoons; milk ½ cup; egg 1; a little water; salt a pinch.

**Method:** Blend all ingredients in processor, except flour. Put the mix in a large bowl and fold in the flour. Mix well. Place mix in a pan and bake for 15 minutes at 350 degrees.

#### 42. Turkey chunks

**Ingredients:** Loaf of uncooked bread dough or pizza dough 1; cooked turkey cut up to small pieces ¾ cup; cooked vegetables ½ cup; broth of turkey ¼ cup; flour 2 tsp; grated low fat cheese ¼ cup; sesame seeds ¼ cup; garlic powder ½ tsp;

**Method:** Roll out the pizza/bread dough and cut into 3-inch diameter circles. Keep aside. In a saucepan combine the broth and flour, stirring them together until the broth thickens. Add the turkey, vegetables and garlic powder to it. Continue to cook the contents on a low fire for some time. Keep aside. In a dish mix the grated cheese and the sesame seeds. Keep aside.

Now spoon on one or two teaspoonfuls of the broth and turkey mixture, on to a circle. Fold up the circle into half and press sides, sealing in the mixture. Now shape the semicircle into a ball. Roll the ball in the cheese-sesame mix. Do the same with all the circles and line them up on a greased cookie sheet. Bake it for 15 minutes at 375 degrees in a pre-heated oven, until golden brown. Cool and store in refrigerator.

#### 43. Lamb treat

**Ingredients:** Baby food lamb (2 ½ oz size) 2 jars; flour ½ cup; wheat germ 2 ounces; milk powder ½ cup; water 1/3 cup; garlic powder 1 tsp.

**Method:** Roll out dough made by mixing all ingredients, on a floured surface.. Let it be ½ inch thick. Cut in different geometrical shapes like circle, square rectangle, pentagon, hexagon and triangle. Place on slightly greased cookie sheet and bake for 35 minutes at 325 degrees, until golden brown. Cool and refrigerate.

#### 44. Puppies' special

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**Ingredients:** Wheat flour 2 cups; cornmeal 2 cups; milk powder 1 cup; Cheddar cheese 1 ½ cups; garlic powder 2 tsp; oil 4 tbs; water 1 cup.

**Method:** Mix all dry ingredients well in a large bowl. Add oil and water little by little alternately, stirring all the time. Make sticky dough. With a tablespoon scoop dough and flatten on greased cookie sheet to a circular or an oval shape. Bake in pre-heated oven at 400 degrees for 20 minutes.

### **Biscuit Bonanza**

#### **45. Reward Biscuits**

**Ingredients:** Wheat flour 2 cups; oatmeal ½ cup; cornmeal ¼ cup; liver powder and bone meal ¼ cup each; water ½ cup; eggs (well beaten) 2; wheat germ oil 3 tbs, Brewers Yeast 2 tbs

**Method:** Place all ingredients except eggs, oil and water, in a large bowl. Combine them well. Fold in the eggs, oil and water slowly and knead the dough to a stiff and dry consistency. Roll out the dough on a pastry cloth to a thickness of 1 centimeter. Use cookie cutter or knife to make desired shapes. Have a lot of bone shaped pieces in them. Your Chihuahua will adore them! You can re roll the scrap dough and cut it, so as all the dough is used up. Place on a lightly greased cookie sheet and bake at 325 degrees for 15 minutes. Cool them completely on a wire rack.

#### **46. Crisp discs**

**Ingredients:** Wheat flour 3 cups; uncooked oatmeal 1 cup; milk powder ¾ cup; cornmeal ¾ cup; hot water 1 ½ cups; margarine 1/3 cup; egg (well beaten) 1; Bouillon granules and garlic powder 1 tsp each.

**Method:** Place oatmeal, bouillon and margarine in a large bowl and pour hot water over it. After five minutes fold in the egg slowly. Now add milk and cornmeal mixing well all the time. Add flour little by little until the mix can be kneaded into very stiff dough (accounts for the crispness of the biscuit). Pat it out into one-inch thickness on a floored surface. Cut it into square or diamond shapes. Place on greased baking sheet and bake for 50 minutes at 325 degrees. Cool and dry it, until it is hard, and then store the biscuits in a tin.

#### **47. Veg treat biscuits**

**Ingredients:** Refined flour 1 cup; wheat flour 1 cup; mashed vegetables 1 cup; egg 1; milk powder ½ cup; wheat germ ½ cup; margarine 6 tbs; salt ½ tsp; brown sugar 1 tsp.

**Method:** Mix the flours and wheat germ, milk powder and salt in a big bowl. Add the margarine. Beat sugar and egg in a separate bowl and fold into mixture. Add vegetables and knead to stiff dough. Use cookie cutters of different shapes to cut the dough. Bake in oven at 325 degrees until done.

#### **48. Biscuit bones**

**Ingredients:** (1) For dough: Wheat flour 1 cup; rye flour, rice flour and cracked wheat ½ cup each; milk powder and beef broth ½ cup each; baby meat (2 ½ oz size) 1 jar; egg 1; olive oil 6tbs; honey 2 tsp; minced garlic 2 tsp; parsley 1 tsp. (2) For glaze: Egg 1; 2 tbs beef broth.

**Method:** Combine milk powder, garlic, egg, parsley, oil, baby food, broth and honey in a large bowl. Gently blend in the flours and the cracked wheat. Knead to stiff dough. Roll out sough on floured surface, ½ inch thick. Use bone shape cutters to carve out the biscuits. Place on un-greased baking dish each about ½ cm apart from the other. Bake in preheated oven at 325 degrees for ½ hour.

Beat the egg well and add broth to it. Stir well. Brush biscuits with glaze on both sides and return to oven for ½ hour more. Cool overnight and store in refrigerator. Can be frozen.

#### **49. Honeyed chicken biscuits**

**Ingredients:** Wheat flour 3 cups; cracked wheat 1 cup; chicken broth ¾ cup; egg 1; dry yeast 2 ½ tsp; honey ¼ cup; minced garlic 3 tbs; warm water ¼ cup.

**Method:** Dissolve yeast in warm water in a large bowl. Add honey, garlic egg and broth. Blend in cracked wheat and flour. Knead for 5 minutes. Roll it out ½ “ thick on floured surface. Shape with cookie cutter and place on un-greased baking tray and bake for 45 minutes at 325 degrees.

#### **50. Bread biscuits**

**Ingredients:** Beef or chicken stock 1 cup; bread pieces 1 cup; whole wheat 1 cup; Bulgur wheat 1 cup; skimmed milk powder 1/4 cup; salt ½ tsp; yeast 1 ½ tsp, sesame seeds 1 tsp (for sprinkling).

**Method:** Knead into stiff dough and roll out to 1 “ thickness. Place on baking sheets and cover with kitchen towel. Keep in warm place for 45 minutes. The dough will rise. Now place it in oven and bake for 45 minutes at 325 degrees. When baked, switch off oven and return the cookies to the cooling oven and let them be there overnight. The well-hardened biscuits can be stored in airtight container the next day.

#### **51. Bread biscuits (Veg)**

**Ingredients:** Vegetable stock 1 cup; bread pieces 1 cup; rye flour 1 cup; Bulgur wheat 1 cup; skimmed milk powder 1/4 cup; salt ½ tsp; yeast 1 ½ tsp, sesame seeds 1 tsp (for sprinkling).

**Method:** Knead into stiff dough and roll out to 1 “ thickness. Place on baking sheets and cover with kitchen towel. Keep in warm place for 45 minutes. The dough will rise.

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Now place it in oven and bake for 45 minutes at 325 degrees. When baked, switch off oven and return the cookies to the cooling oven and let them be there overnight. The well-hardened biscuits can be stored in airtight container the next day.

### **52. Meat juice biscuits**

**Ingredients:** Meat juice  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup; whole wheat flour 3 cups; skimmed milk powder  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup; margarine  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup; egg 1 (beaten well); salt  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp.

**Method:** Knead the dough well and make it into small cylindrical shapes of about 3-4 inches length. Place on greased baking sheet and bake for 50 minutes at 325 degrees.

### **53. Liver Biscuits**

**Ingredients:** Beef liver 1 lb; Wheat flour 1 cup; all-purpose flour  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup; corn meal 1 cup; garlic powder 1 tsp.

**Method:** Puree liver in food processor. To a bowl add dry ingredients and liver, the flour little by little. Knead for a stiff dough. Spread on greased cookie sheet about  $\frac{1}{2}$  " thick. Bake for 20 minutes in a preheated oven at 350 degrees. Cool and cut into 1" squares. Freeze.

### **54. Bacon delight**

**Ingredients:** Whole wheat flour 3 cups; bacon 4 slices (crumbled); egg 1; milk  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup; bacon grease  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup; cold water  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup; garlic powder 1 tsp.

**Method:** Mix all ingredients well and roll out on floured surface,  $\frac{1}{2}$  centimeter thick. Cut in desired shapes and bake at 325 degrees for 40 minutes. Cool and store in airtight jars.

### **55. Wheat germ biscuits**

**Ingredients:** Uncooked oatmeal 3 cups; rye flour 3 cups; plain wheat germ  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup; evaporated milk 1 cup; water 1 cup; margarine 5 tbs; molasses  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup.

**Method:** Mix the flours until well blended. Then add all the other ingredients. Chill the stiffly kneaded dough for 30 minutes. Roll out teaspoonfuls into balls and flatten them on greased baking sheet. Bake at 300 degrees for 60 minutes. Cool and store in airtight jars.

### **56. Wheat biscuits**

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**Ingredients:** Whole wheat flour 3 cups; milk powder ½ cup; egg 1 (beaten); chicken broth ¾ cup; margarine 1/3 cup; parsley flakes and minced garlic 1 tbs each;

**Method:** Mix broth with margarine in a large bowl. Add to it other ingredients except flour. Stir in flour ½ cup at a time to blend into stiff dough. Continue kneading for 5 minutes. Roll out to ½ “ thickness. Cut to desired shape and bake on greased tray for 50 minutes in oven preheated at 325 degrees F. Cool until dry and hard. Store in airtight jars.

### 57. Microwave biscuits

**Ingredients:** Whole-wheat flour 1 cup; plain flour and quick cooking oats ½ cup each; milk powder ¾ cup; shortening 1/3 cup; bouillon granules 1 tbs; egg 1; hot water ½ cup; sugar 1 tsp.

**Method:** Mix the flours. Add oats, cornmeal sugar and milk and stir. Mix in shortening, egg, bouillon, and hot water. Knead for 5 minutes; roll out ½ “ thick, and cut in desired shapes. Microwave at ½ power for 6 to 10 minutes, with the rotating plate.

### 58. Chicken flavored biscuits

**Ingredients:** White flour 1 ½ lbs; Quaker oats 8 oz; raw liver 15 oz; chicken flavored bouillon cubes 3; eggs 2; water 1 cup.

**Method:** Mix the flour and oats. Chop liver to tiny pieces. Crumble in the cubes. Add eggs and chopped liver. Add enough water to make a firm but sticky (slightly) dough. Roll out to ½ “ on floured surface and cut to desired shape. Dip the cutter in flour before cutting each piece. Bake for 60 minutes in preheated oven at 350 degrees. Col and refrigerate.

### 59. Glazed cheese biscuits

**Ingredients:** Rye flour 1 cup; white flour 2 cups; rolled oats 2 cups; cornmeal ¾ cup; Grated cheese 1 cup; milk ½ cup; boiling water 1 cup; beef bouillon granules 3 tsp; egg 1. For topping: beef broth 1 cup; garlic powder ¾ tsp; oil 3 tbs.

**Method:** Add bouillon and oil to boiling water. Add oats to it. Keep aside for 15 minutes. Now stir in cornmeal, milk cheese and egg. Fold in the flours, ½ cup at a time. Knead for firm non-sticky dough. Roll out to 1/4 “ on floured surface and cut to desired shape. Thoroughly combine the ingredients for topping. Place biscuits on greased cookie sheets and spoon on the topping. Turn them over and add the topping again. Bake at 325 degrees for 45 minutes. Turn off oven and leave biscuits in it to cool with the oven. (About 6 hours)

### 60. Tomato flavored biscuits

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**Ingredients:** Whole-wheat flour 1 ½ cup; all purpose flour 2 cups; wheat germ 2 cups; chicken bouillon cubes 8; dry yeast 1 packet; hot water ¼ cup; tomato juice 1 ½ cups; sugar 1 tsp.

**Method:** Pour water into a large bowl and add yeast and sugar. Keep it aside for 5-6 minutes. Crush cubes with a fork and add them to the bowl. Add tomato juice, one cup of the all purpose flour and wheat germ. Stir well and make a smooth batter. Now add the remaining flour and the whole-wheat flour. This makes a stiff firm dough. On a floured surface place a handful of the dough (rolled as a ball). Cut to desired shape. With a spatula place cookie on greased baking sheet. Repeat procedure till all dough is used up. You can add more flour if you still find the dough sticky. Bake at 300 degrees for 60 minutes. Turn off oven and leave biscuits in it to cool with the oven.

### **61. Bubba's day out biscuits**

**Ingredients:** Whole-wheat flour 4 cups; all purpose flour 2 cups; wheat germ 1 cup; cornmeal 1 cup; cracked wheat 2 cups; milk powder ½ cup; warm water 1 cup; warm chicken broth 2 cups; hamburger grease ¼ cup; egg (beaten) 1; dry yeast 1 packet; honey ¼ cup; salt 1 tsp.

**Method:** Dissolve yeast in warm water. Mix broth, milk powder, honey, egg, salt and m grease in a large bowl. Add the water-yeast mix. Fold in the flour, cornmeal, wheat germ and cracked wheat, slowly to make firm dough. Roll out ½ " thick on floured surface. Cut into bone shapes. Place on lightly greased baking sheet and bake for 45 minutes at 350 degrees. Allow cooling in oven.

### **62. Rover loves this**

**Ingredients:** Whole-wheat flour 3 cups; cornmeal 1 cup; wheat germ 1 cup; meat juice 1 ½ cup; uncooked oatmeal 1 cup; grated cheese 4 oz; margarine ¼ cup; milk powder ½ cup; beaten egg 1; salt ¼ tsp.

**Method:** Pour hot water over oatmeal and margarine, in a large bowl. After 5 minutes add milk powder cheese, salt and egg, stirring well. Now add cornmeal and wheat germ. Add the flour, ¼ cup at a time and keep stirring. Make very stiff dough. Pat on floured surface to ½ inch thickness. Cut to shape and place on greased baking sheet. Bake at 300 degrees for 60 minutes. Allow cooling with oven turned off.

### **63. Roger loves this too!**

You can make the above biscuit vegetarian by substituting 1 ½ cups water for meat juice.

### **64. Hard and crisp**

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**Ingredients:** Whole-wheat flour 2 cups; flour 3 ½ cups; cornmeal 1 cup; cracked wheat 2 cups; rye flour 1 cup; milk powder ½ cup; egg 1; dry yeast 1 packet; chicken stock 1 pint; warm water ¼ cup; salt 4 tsp

**Method:** In a large bowl, pour warm water over yeast to dissolve it. Add stock and egg. Add all dry ingredients. Knead for 3 minutes. Roll out the stiff dough to ¼ inch thickness. Cut to desired shape with cookie cutter. Place on greased sheet and bake at 300 degrees for 45 minutes. Switch off oven and allow biscuits to cool in it overnight.

### **65. Crisp and vegetarian**

**Ingredients:** Whole-wheat flour 2 cups; un-bleached flour 3 ½ cups; cracked wheat 2 cups; milk powder ½ cup; rye flour 1 cup; vegetable stock 1 pint; egg 1; warm water ¼ cup; dry yeast 1 packet; milk 1 tbs.

**Method:** Beat egg, with 1 tbs milk and keep aside. Dissolve yeast in warm water. Add the stock. Add the cracked wheat, milk powder. Fold in the flours ½ cup at a time till you make firm, stiff dough. Roll out to ¼ inch thickness and cut to desired shapes. Brush with egg/milk mixture and place on greased baking sheet. Bake at 300 degrees for 45 minutes and allow cooling in switched off oven.

### **66. Mixed vegetable biscuit**

**Ingredients:** Whole-wheat flour 2 1/2 cups; milk powder ½ cup; pureed, cooked vegetables 1 cup; salt and garlic powder ½ tsp; margarine 6 tbs; egg 1 (beaten); brown sugar 1 tsp; ice water ½ cup; liver powder 3 tbs.

**Method:** Mix flour, milk powder, salt, liver powder, sugar and garlic powder well. Add beaten egg, margarine, pureed vegetables and enough ice water to make dough. Roll out ½ inch thick on floured surface and cut in animal shapes. Place on slightly greased cookie sheet and bake for 25 minutes at 350 degrees. Remove from oven and cool on wire rack.

### **67. Carrot and spinach biscuits**

**Ingredients:** Whole-wheat flour 2 ½ cups; milk powder ½ cup; pureed, cooked spinach ½ cup;

Cooked carrots ½ cup; 1 cup; salt and garlic powder ½ tsp; margarine 6 tbs; egg 1 (beaten); brown sugar 1 tsp; cooled vegetable stock ½ cup; liver powder 3 tbs.

**Method:** Mix flour, milk powder, salt, liver powder, sugar and garlic powder well. Add beaten egg, margarine, carrot, spinach, and enough stock to make a dough. Roll out ½ inch thick on floured surface and cut in animal shapes. Place on slightly greased cookie sheet and bake for 25 minutes at 350 degrees. Remove from oven and cool on wire rack.

### 68. Crispy crescents

**Ingredients:** Whole-wheat flour 1 1/2 cups; plain flour 1 1/2 cups; rye flour, oats and cornmeal 1 cup each; liver powder 1/4 cup; beef broth 2 cups; vegetable oil 1/2 cup; egg 1; garlic powder 1 1/4 tsp.

**Method:** Mix flours, in large bowl with other dry ingredients. Now add the egg, oil and beef broth. Add extra flour if you feel it is needed. Make stiff firm dough. Roll out 1/2 inch thick on floured surface and cut in round shapes. Cut each circle into half. Poke through the cookie until it goes halfway. Place on slightly greased cookie sheet and bake for 125 minutes at 300 degrees. Put off the oven and let the biscuits remain in it, until hardened.

### 69. Chicken broth biscuits

**Ingredients:** Whole-wheat flour 2 cups; cornmeal 1/2 cup; chicken broth 2/3 cup; oil 6 tbs.

**Method:** Mix all ingredients together thoroughly. Knead to a firm dough. Roll out 1/2 inch thick on floured surface and cut in the shape of triangles. Bake for 30 minutes in a pre-heated oven of 350 degrees. Cool and store.

### 70. Peanut crunchies

**Ingredients:** Whole-wheat flour 2 1/2 cups; plain flour 3/4 cup; cornmeal 1 cup; oats 3/4 cup; eggs 2; crunchy peanut butter 1/3 cup; applesauce 1/4 cup; vegetable oil 1/4 cup; water 1 1/2 cups.

**Method:** Mix all the liquid ingredients thoroughly. Combine well the dry ingredients. Pour the liquid mixture into this bowl, while stirring continuously. Knead well to make a firm dough. Roll out 1/2 inch thick on floured surface and cut in the shape of diamonds. Bake on un-greased cookie sheets for 20 minutes at 400 degrees in a preheated oven. Turn off oven and leave the biscuits in it for an hour to harden just to that crunchy bite consistency.

### 71. Favorite dog biscuits

**Ingredients:** Flour 1 cup; wheat germ 1/4 cup; brewers yeast 1/4 cup; canola oil 1 tbs; chicken stock 1/2 cup; garlic clove 1 (chopped); salt 1 tsp; chicken broth 3 tbs.

**Method:** Mix flour, wheat germ, brewer's yeast and salt in a large bowl. Combine 1 tbs oil and garlic in another mixing bowl. Add the 1/2 cup chicken stock and the flour mixture to it alternately, little by little. Make dough (it will be sticky) by kneading for 3 minutes. On a floured surface, roll out the dough, 1 centimeter thick. Cut to desired shape and place on greased baking sheets. Bake for 10 minutes in a pre-heated oven at 400 degrees. Now baste the cookies with the 3 tablespoons of chicken broth. Bake for 10 more



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minutes. Turn off oven and leave biscuits in it to cool for 90 minutes. Store the crisp and hard biscuits, when cool.

**Munchy chunks**

**72. Tasty treat**

**Ingredients:** Wheat germ flakes and kibble 1 cup each; hot water 1 cup; ground chuck 1; honey, vegetable oil and Borden's Mirra Coat ¼ cup each.

**Method:** Grind kibble in blender. Mix all ingredients, make nickel sized balls and freeze.

**73. For the underweight dog**

**Ingredients:** Egg yolks 5; unflavored gelatin envelopes 5; ground chuck 2; old-fashioned oats and wheat germ 2 ½ cups each; peanut oil and molasses ¼ cup each.

**Method:** Mix all ingredients and make lemon-sized balls. Freeze.

**74. Munchy Meatballs**

**Ingredients:** Kibble 2 cups; hamburger 1; Linatone vitamin oil, honey and wheat germ oil ¼ cup each;

**Method:** Grind the dry kibble in blender. Add all the ingredients, to it. Mix into a dough and shape out spheres. Freeze for storage and thaw when needed.

**75. Veg delight**

**Ingredients:** Vegetables (grated) 12 tbs; boiled oatmeal 3 cups; cottage cheese (creamed) ½ cup; nutritional yeast 1 tsp; carrots (grated) 1 tbs; whole milk 1 cup; grated cheese ¼ cup.

**Method:** Layer a casserole dish with the first 5 ingredients. Pour milk on top. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Serve cool.

**76. Liver Munchies**

**Ingredients:** Liver 1 lb; whole-wheat flour 2 cups; egg 1; garlic powder ½ tsp.

**Method:** Place ingredients in blender, except flour and run it at medium speed. Add flour to the mix little by little after placing it in a large bowl. The batter should be thick and easy to pour. Spread into a greased pan. Bake till dry (325 degrees, 30 minutes), and cut into 1-centimeter squares. Freeze and feed dog without thawing.

**77. Alphabet chewies**

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**Ingredients:** Liver powder 4 tbs; rye flour 2 ½ cups; milk powder ½ cup; well beaten egg 1; margarine 6 tbs; brown sugar 1 tsp; garlic powder ½ tsp; water ½ cup.

**Method:** Place dry ingredients in bowl and mix well. Rub in margarine. Fold in egg. Add water and make stiff dough. Roll out ½ inch thick on oiled sheet and cut in shapes of simple alphabets, like U, O, I, L, J, V, C, Z and N. Place on greased sheet and bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees. When cool, refrigerate.

### **78. Chicken chewies**

**Ingredients:** Chicken gizzards, finely chopped 4 tbs; rye flour 2 ½ cups; milk powder ½ cup; well beaten egg 1; margarine 6 tbs; brown sugar 1 tsp; garlic powder ½ tsp; chicken broth ½ cup.

**Method:** Place dry ingredients in bowl and mix well. Rub in margarine. Add the chicken gizzards. Fold in egg. Add water and make stiff dough. Roll out ½ inch thick on oiled sheet and cut in shapes of simple alphabets. Place on greased sheet and bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees. When cool, refrigerate.

### **79. Cool yummys-1**

**Ingredients:** Chicken bouillon 1 cube; chicken pieces 4 small pieces; water 1 cup.

**Method:** Dissolve bouillon in water. Chop down the chicken further to 1-centimeter squares. Mix both and freeze.

### **80. Cool yummys-2**

**Ingredients:** Beef bouillon 1 cube; beef pieces 4 small pieces; water 1 cup.

**Method:** Dissolve bouillon in water. Chop down the beef further to 1-centimeter squares. Mix both and freeze for 12 hours.

### **81. Meat 'n' rice crunchies**

**Ingredients:** Rice flour 1 ½ cups; skimmed milk powder ½ cup; baby food meat 1 jar (2 ½ oz size); chicken broth 5 tsp; well beaten egg 1; water ½ cup; honey 1 tsp; garlic powder ½ tsp.

**Method:** Combine all ingredients in a large bowl.. Make stiff dough. Roll out ½ inch thick on oiled sheet and cut in shapes desired. Bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees. Cool until hard and crisp.

### **82. Cheese and bean surprise**

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**Ingredients:** Uncooked beef ½ lb; mashed black beans 1/3 cup; cottage cheese 1/3 cup; chicken broth ¾ cup.

**Method:** Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Make stiff dough. Mould the dough in shape of bones. Bake for 45 minutes at 375 degrees. Cool and store.

### **83. Cheese squares**

**Ingredients:** Whole wheat flour 3 cups; milk 1 cup; soft bacon fat ½ cup; shredded cheese 1 cup; egg 1; garlic salt 1 tsp.

**Method:** Combine flour and garlic salt in a large bowl. Stir in the bacon fat. Add the cheese and egg. Keep adding the milk till and knead thoroughly. Make stiff dough. Roll out dough on floured board 1 inch thick. Cut in square shapes and place on greased cookie sheets. Bake for 12 minutes at 350 degrees and cool.

### **84. Banana bake**

**Ingredients:** Flour 1 cup; fast cook oats 2 cups; banana 1; eggs 2; milk ¾ cup; rice 1/3 cup

**Method:** Mash the banana. Beat the eggs well and add to banana. Pour in the milk and stir well. Fold in the flour and oats gradually and mix well. Spread uniformly on a plate and microwave for 3 to 3 ½ minutes. Cool, cut and serve your little friend, bite-sized pieces.

### **85. Special doggy doughnuts**

**Ingredients:** Wheat flour 2 cups; beef broth 2/3 cup; oatmeal 3 tbs; egg 1; garlic powder 1 tsp.

**Method:** Place flour in bowl. Add broth. Fold in well-beaten egg. Now add oatmeal and garlic powder. Roll out 1/2 " thick on a light-floured surface. Cut with doughnut cutter. Bake in shallow baking dish as a single layer at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. After the doughnuts cool and harden place in jar and refrigerate.

### **86. Meat munchies**

**Ingredients:** Ground beef ½ lb; grated cheese 2 tbs; whole wheat bread crumbs ½ cup; carrot 1 (grated); egg 1 beaten; tomato puree 1 tsp; garlic powder ½ tsp.

**Method:** Put all ingredients in a large bowl and mix thoroughly. Roll into appropriate sized meatballs. Spray cooking sheet with non-fat cooking spray and place the meatballs on it. Bake for 20 minutes at 350 degrees in a pre-heated oven, until they are golden brown. Cool and refrigerate. Can be frozen too.

### **87. For the underweight pet**

**Ingredients:** Dry dog food 2 cups; cream cheese 2 packets; peanut butter 1 ½ cups; corn oil ½ cup; cottage cheese (non fat) 1 cup; browned hamburger 1 lb.

**Method:** Put dog food in blender and crush it well. Add other ingredients to it. Make stiff firm dough. On a wax paper place the dough, spread it and roll tightly. Refrigerate till firm and slice when needed.

### **88. Just-for-the-Chihuahua dog treat**

**Ingredients:** Whole wheat flour 4 cups; apples 2 (peeled, seeds removed completely and pureed); carrots 2; nutmeg and cinnamon 1 tbs each; honey 2 tbs; vanilla ¼ tsp; egg 1; water 2 ½ cups; salt ¼ tsp.

**Method:** Shred carrot. Mix all wet ingredients well in a bowl, and add the pureed banana to it. Mix well and set aside. Combine dry ingredients. Add wet and dry and mix once more, thoroughly. Apply non-stick spray to a muffin pan. Fill each hole to fill ¾ Bake at 350 degrees for 60 minutes.

### **89. Carrot bake**

**Ingredients:** Whole-wheat flour 1 cup; large carrot 1; oats ½ cup; egg 1; sugar 1/3 cup; wheat germ ½ cup; milk ½ cup; maple syrup ¼ cup; olive oil 2 tbs; cinnamon ½ tsp.

**Method:** Put all dry ingredients in a large bowl and combine well. Put all wet ingredients in a small bowl and combine well. Mix both to a smooth batter. Put it in a small greased pan and bake at 375 degrees in a pre-heated oven for 20 minutes, or till the knife comes out smooth. Remove from oven and cool. Store in airtight container and refrigerate.

## *Chihuahua dog food*

### **90. Dog food 1**

**Ingredients:** Dog meat with bone meal 5 lbs; cracked wheat 2 ½ pounds; water to cover mix in saucepan.

**Method:** Place mix on a low heat for 45 minutes. When cool divide into meal size portions and freeze.

## *Dog food 2*

**Ingredients:** Cooked vegetables 2 cups; cooked egg 1; oil 2 tbs; milk 1 cup; nutritional yeast 1 tsp; bread slices 2 or 3.

**Method:** Mix all and serve according to meal size you give your pet.

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*Dog food 3*

**Ingredients:** Vegetables (grated) 12 tbs; cooked rice 3 cups; cottage cheese (creamed) ½ cup; nutritional yeast 1 tsp; carrots (grated) 1 tbs; whole milk 1 cup; grated cheese ¼ cup.

**Method:** Layer a casserole dish with the first 5 ingredients. Pour milk on top. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Serve cool.

91. **Chicken rice**

**Ingredients:** Basmati rice 1½ cups; chicken breasts without bone and skin 4; water 3 cups; salt 1 tsp; kibble (as recommended on pack for a meal); fat free cottage cheese ½ cup.

**Method:** Add water to the rice. Steam or pressure-cook it, until done. Microwave chicken until fully cooked. Combine rice and chicken. Add the salt. Flavor the rice with the sprinkle suggested in the “Treats” section. Take the amount of kibble recommended for a meal. To it add appropriate amount of chicken rice mix. Add the chicken juice for flavor. (Do not store chicken juices for next serve.) You can refrigerate the extra food(chicken and rice separately if you wish) for further meals. The kibble, chicken and rice should make up 1/3 of meal. For the other 2/3 add fat free cheese to the rice mixture and serve.

92. **Garlic chicken meal**

**Ingredients:** Whole wheat flour 1 cup; plain flour 1 cup; white cornmeal 1 cup; chicken giblets and heart 1 lb; juice of the boiling chicken giblets ½ cup; fresh garlic cloves 6; eggs 3 (well beaten); olive oil 3 tbs.

**Method:** Put eggs, chicken stock, garlic and chicken in blender. Blend for a good mix, though not too smooth. Allow a few chunks to remain. Now add the flours and cornmeal. Make a firm dough. Spread evenly on floured board ½ inch thick. Shape in circles and bake one greased sheet for 20 minutes at 450 degrees. Cool and freeze. Your Chihuahua will love it cold!

93. **Chicken and carrot meal**

**Ingredients:** White rice plain and cooked 1 cup; cooked carrots 1 cup; chicken breasts (devoid of bone and skin) 3; fat free cottage cheese 1 cup; water to cook chicken; salt 1 tsp.

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**Method:** Boil chicken in a little water till done. Mix rice and cheese. Add the water you cooked the chicken in. chop the chicken and add to rice-carrot mix. Add salt. Serve hot the recommended amount, for a meal. Store extra in refrigerator.

#### **94. Turkey omelet**

**Ingredients:** Mashed potatoes 2 tbs; cooked turkey meat (diced) ½ cup; cooked vegetables ½ cup (chopped); fat free cottage cheese ¼ cup (grated); egg 1; olive oil 2 tsp;

**Method:** Heat oil in saucepan. Whisk egg and potatoes in it. Spread it in the pan. Place turkey pieces and vegetables, on top of the spread. Cover and cook on low flame, till the egg gets done. Sprinkle cheese and continue cooking till it melts and omelet is golden brown. After it cools, cut into wedges. Can be refrigerated.

#### **95. Delicious stew**

**Ingredients:** Potato ¼ cup; rice ½ cup; carrot ½ cup; hamburger 2/3 cup; garlic powder ¼ tsp; water 2 cups; salt 1 tsp.

**Method:** Cut meat into bite size pieces. Slice potatoes and the carrot. Put all these in a pot and add ½ the water. Turn on the flame high and cook the mixture with the garlic added. Add the rice and keep on the high flame, adding the rest of the water little by little. When the ingredients are cooked, allow strain off the stew and allow it too cool. Your pet can have the stew now. Also solid rice and vegetable mix can be flavored with the sprinkle detailed in “Treats” and served as a meal in the recommended amount.

#### **96. Rice and turkey**

**Ingredients:** Broccoli ½ cup; turkey ½ lb; rice 2 cups; water 4 cups; garlic 1 clove; vegetable oil 1 tsp.

**Method:** Put all ingredients in a large pot and cook on a high flame. When done, cool and serve.

#### **97. Vegetable stew**

**Ingredients:** Basil leaves 1 tsp; zucchini 1; squash 1; eggplants 1 (peeled and cubed); potato 1 (peeled and cubed); tomatoes 28 ounces (cut up and juice kept separately); olive oil 3 tbs; garlic cloves 4; grated cheese ¼ cup; sugar 2 tsp; salt 1 tsp.

**Method:** Put oil in saucepan and sauté the garlic for 3 minutes. Add all the vegetables, tomato and sugar to the pan. Bring to a boil. Once boiling, reduce flame to a simmer for 30 minutes. Add salt and simmer for 15 minutes more. Cool and top the stew with the grated cheese.

### **98. A spaghetti meal**

**Ingredients:** Beef (ground and cooked) 1.25 lb; spaghetti noodles 1 pack; canned tomato sauce (salt less) ½ can; olives ¼ can; mushroom ½ of small can; spices for taste like basil, oregano and garlic 1 tsp each (powder or crushed); vegetables (diced and frozen) 3 cups; water 4 cups.

**Method:** Put 2 cups water in a pan with 2 tsp olive oil. Boil well. Add noodles. Strain and rinse noodles and keep aside. In another pot, put 2 cups of water and add the frozen vegetables, boil for 15 minutes. Remove cooked vegetables and add the tomato sauce, meat, mushrooms, oregano, basil and garlic. Cut up the olives and add to mix. Makes meal for 3 dogs.

### **99. Scrumptious meal**

**Ingredients:** Beef (ground) 1/2 lb; turkey (ground) 1/2 lb; cooked brown rice 1 cups; fresh vegetables 2 cups (potatoes, green beans, sweet potatoes, spinach and carrots); hardboiled eggs 1; mackerel ½ a can; garlic 2 cloves; chicken livers ½ lb.

**Method:** Put all ingredients in a blender and run till well mixed. Put the blended mix into a large pot; add water to cover the contents of the pots. Keep the pot on a low flame for 120 minutes. When it is done, cool and place in plastic bags. Keep one meal size in each bag. Freeze. When its feed time, thaw out a bag to feed the dog.

### **100. Yogurt 'n ' fruit**

**Ingredients:** Baby food (fruit) 1/2 a jar (mashed); flavored yogurt 4 oz; cinnamon powder ¼ tsp; fennel seed powder ¼ tsp.

**Method:** Put all ingredients together and mix well. Place in ice cube tray and freeze.

### **101. Turkey and rice meal**

**Ingredients:** Turkey (ground) 1 lb; egg 1; cooked rice 1 cup; peas 3 ounces; carrots 2 (diced); apple 1 (diced); garlic powder ½ tsp; salt 1/2 tsp.

**Method:** Put all ingredients in a large bowl and combine. On a baking tray mould the dough in the shape of a bone. Bake for 45 minutes in a preheated oven of 375 degrees. Cool and serve.

## Chapter 9: What you Should Know About Caring and Grooming?



Take one look at a Siberian Husky- there's no way you can pass him by without an appreciative wolf whistle! They are really regal, with their smooth fur and their interesting markings. You would think it's a lot of work to make a Siberian Husky look that good. That's where you are wrong! The very best part of having a Siberian Husky for a pet is that when it comes to caring and grooming they are low maintenance.

Some owners would actually go as far as telling you that Siberian Huskies actually clean themselves up, kind of like cats. Even when they roll in the mud, which they enjoy doing, they will clean up later. They have zero body odor, which is a fantastic trait for a housedog, that can't bear to be apart from his pack. Since they are such clean freaks, they hardly need more than one bath a year.

### Siberian Husky Shedding

The only woe is that they shed. They shed not just a little bit here and there, but a whole lot, which if you gather together could pile up in a little mountain of fluff! Siberian Huskies have double coats, so when it is shedding season, they actually blow out their entire undercoat. Some Siberian Husky males shed once a year in males while females shed twice a year in spring and fall. Overall, Siberian shedding season comes twice in a year (thank heavens!) and anyone who's has lived with a Siberian Husky know that the shedding can last for three weeks, sometimes even more, leaving the dog look bald in patches. Not a pretty sight, but essential for the Husky.

During the shedding period, your house will be messy and there will seem to be more Siberian hair all over the furniture and you rather than your dog! Even though he is not exactly a longhaired breed, you will be horrified to see that his hair will often come out in clumps, leaving him bare. All this is an essential to keep him insulated and encourage the growth of a new smoother coat. In fact the new coat that is growing, literally pushes out the old undercoat! What you will have to do is chin up, still love him despite his bald looks and make friends with the vacuum cleaner.

Once this period is over, Siberian Huskies hardly shed much, not till the next period. Meanwhile they grow a new coat in the next three to four months In between the shedding season, you will find that your Siberian Husky doesn't shed much. They are easy to care for and so is your house! All you have to do is give him the right diet for his skin and coat, brush him or her regularly, trim his nails, check his teeth and make sure he gets exercise.

### **Dose climate affect Siberian shedding?**

As a matter of fact, it does. If you stay in a colder climate, you will find that there will be definite seasons when your Siberian Husky shed out his undercoat completely while he



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hardly sheds at other times. However if you live in a warmer climate, the shedding periods might be more diffused with the Husky shedding all year round. If you live in a climate that has high humidity levels or gets very hot the shedding could be worse. That doesn't mean that you can only keep a Siberian Husky if you live in Siberia! Huskies do very well in cold and warm parts of USA, whether it's Alaska, California or Florida as well as other parts of the world, be it England or Australia.

The double coat is what protects the Siberian Husky from the varying degrees of heat and cold of a climate. The undercoat keeps them warm in winter. When the climate warms up, they shed the under coat to be cooler, while the outer coat still protects their skin from the sun. That's how important his coat is to a Siberian Husky. So caring for a Siberian Husky, would have to begin by caring for his coat.

### Grooming the Siberian Husky coat

Let's begin with a warning- never shave the coat of the Siberian Husky, even if you are living somewhere in the middle of a desert. The coat is their insulation in face of the sun, snow and rain. One of the best ways to care for your Siberian Husky is inward out- by feeding him or her food like fish that are rich with omega fatty acids and may be even asking your vet to recommend supplements like linseed oil or fish oil capsules that contain these fatty acids. These will all work internally to improve their skin, make their coat glossy and even reduce the shedding.

#### **The need for grooming:**

You will still need to groom your dog even after giving him the right sustenance. Grooming would keep the Siberian Husky's skin smooth, free of mats, mites and other irritants besides making him or her look good. It will also show him that you care. Grooming is a time when your Siberian Husky feels pampered by his alpha and establishes a bond with who ever may groom him. It gets him used to your touch and open to human handling, which is the reason you should start grooming your puppy as early as possible.

Apart from being like a massage session where in the natural oils in his coat are stimulated, grooming can also be the time when you give your Siberian Husky a thorough check up of his body as in any lumps or cuts or skin or ear problems. You can catch on early to the fact that something is bothering him and take him to a vet. Your handling during grooming will also make him more open to the vet's touch too, so that a trip to the doctor won't be traumatic. Grooming is an opportunity for regular inspection for any parasites, lumps, skin problems, ear problems etc., that can become serious if undetected for long periods.

#### **Is it OK to shave a Siberian Husky?**

You should NEVER shave a Siberian Husky. If you think you cannot deal with shedding, don't get a Siberian Husky, but don't shave the coat of your Husky to circumvent the

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shedding. Here are some of the reasons why you should not even trim, leave alone shave your Siberian Husky's coat:

- The Husky's coat is his protection from the sun's UV rays and without it he could get a heatstroke.
- Dogs do not cool off their body by sweating. The canine equivalent of sweating is panting, sweating at the paws and cooling the blood in their ears. Shaving is thus not a way to keep a dog cool.
- Since the Siberian Husky doesn't have much pigmentation in its skin, he will get exposed to the sun and even develop skin problems like cancer.
- The coat not only keeps your Husky cool, it protects him or her from insects and parasites.
- Shaving a Siberian Husky also interferes with the normal process of shedding and inhibits the growth of the new undercoat

Be a responsible owner and instead of taking shortcuts like shaving, groom him regularly and ask the vet for supplements that can help keep his coat healthy.

**What are the essential grooming tools?**

Some of the basic things you will need to groom your Siberian Husky are:

Shed blade	A good Shampoo
Coat rake	Spray bottle filled with water
Rubber curry brush	Conditioner
A wide toothed metal comb	Towel
Pin brush	A blower/dryer
Nail clippers	Quick Stop

**The best time to give a Siberian Husky a thorough grooming?**

Probably the very best time in when the Siberian Husky is in the middle of his shedding, as the grooming would help to get rid of the old, dead and already loosened undercoat. If you don't then the hair is likely to get matted and hard to remove.

In the normal routine of things, groom your Siberian Husky every 10 to 12 weeks. There is really no need to brush your Siberian Husky every day, though he would enjoy it and it would reduce the shedding. The minimum requirement is that you give a really good brushing at least once or twice a week. This will help to keep the coat shiny, healthy, minimize the need for a bath and you will have a happier pet. Keep the bathing to an occasional once a year affair as Siberian Huskies really don't need frequent bathing.

**Husky Bath time**

Siberian Huskies usually do not have any bad body odor but you never know. So when you do think that your Siberian Husky is dirty and needs a bath, here's what you will need to do:

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- First brush out your Siberian Husky well. Use the shed blade or the coat rake or both. Make sure that all the loose undercoat hair is brushed off and that there are no mats. If you put your Husky under the water without brushing you will tangle up his hair even more.
- Make sure there is a rubber mat in the bathtub, in case he slips and then put your Husky in after the brushing and keep talking to him soothingly.
- Get his wet thoroughly with warm water– since his fur is quite dense, it would take 15-20 minutes to wet him well.
- Once he's wet to the skin it's time to apply the shampoo. Dilute the shampoo before you apply it and lather all over his body. Make sure that the shampoo is dog appropriate and is not yours!
- Use a rubber curry brush rub him down in circular massaging strokes, as this would stimulate the Siberian's body oils.
- Now rinse him off well, so that there is no trace of the shampoo. Any shampoo left behind will just irritate your Siberian Husky and make him or her itch.
- Towel him off and dry him well and get out the blow dryer. This will not only help to dry the water on his skin, it will also blow away the residue loose fur of the undercoat.
- As he dries, use the undercoat rake to brush him again.

Now your Siberian Husky does not need to see the bathtub till next year! With regular brushing twice in a week and grooming once in every 12 weeks, your Siberian Husky will stay clean and healthy.

### **Bathing Alerts**

§ If you bathe your Siberian Husky more than he needs it, you could be robbing his coat of some essential body oils that keeps his coat glossy.

§ Choose a whitening shampoo for light or white Siberian Huskies. Avoid human shampoos as they might be too strong for their skin type.

§ Choose a conditioner with sunscreen – there are some available for dogs. This type would give the darker red dogs keep their color and prevent black dogs from developing a red tinge from the sun.

### **Brushing out a Siberian**

With a Siberian Husky, you will end up doing more raking than brushing! The aim is to always get rid of the loose hair and keep the coat smooth and clean:

- First get rid of the clumps. That's where the shed blade comes in handy. You will need to use this tool on your Siberian to comb out clumps of loose hair.
- Now you must begin brushing your Siberian against the growth of the hair with a coat rake. Start from the head and work towards the rest of the body.
- Add a few drops of conditioner in the water and spray your Siberian Husky's coat. This will help control the static, loosen mats and prevent hurting as you untangle some mats.

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- Once the mats are rid off, comb the coat with the metal comb after with you can add the finishing touches to your Siberian Husky's coat with the regular pin brush.

### **Regular Brushing**

Do make sure that you brush your Husky every once in a week. If you have the time and inclination, two times a week is great. For the regular brushing you will need to use the wide-toothed comb, which has rounded off tips that do not hurt your Siberian's body. Also use the brush that is long enough to brush through the hair but also reach and massage the skin. What you should do first is:

- Use the comb to untangle the mats and knots if any and loosen the dead hair.
- Untangle the mats, bit by bit. Do not pull or tug off the mats.
- Comb the undercoat well.
- Use a fine-toothed comb out the fur under the chin and tail, as well as the ears.
- Now take the brush and brush the coat forward, over the head and shoulders, and then combing it back.
- Please do remember to comb out the hair around the legs and the rear part of the dog.
- You can trim the scraggly hair around the feet and the toes of the Siberian Husky to make it look neater, but remember-do not trim or shave the coat of your Husky.

### **Tick trouble**

Siberian Huskies are outdoor dogs and like all canines can get ticks. You will have to make sure you do routine checks on his coat for ticks. The way to remove these critters is to use forceps. List them out and make sure you lift out the entire thing out and not leave some parts of it behind. You could also when you spot a tick, dab it over with some regular Vaseline and then pull it out. You might see that your Siberian Husky's skin looks a bit red and irritated at the spot where the tick was clinging but that is normal. You can wash of the area or dab on some antibacterial.

### **Trimming the nails**

You must check your Siberian Husky's nails periodically and get him accustomed to your handling. This would make him feel at ease when it's time to trim them. Usually you would need to trim your Husky's nails once in two or three weeks. Use the pliers' style nail clippers that are available and easy to use.

- Push back the skin and make sure you can see the part of the nail you want to clip.
- Watch out for the quick, which is the vein that runs down the center of the nail and can cause bleeding if cut. If it does, don't worry- apply the quick stop and press it down.
- Siberians are usually very active, so their nails automatically file their nails while walking running etc., but you can use a file and sand them down.
- Make sure that the dewclaws are cut and trimmed to size.

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The Siberian Huskies don't need to have their nails trimmed every week, but it's good to keep a watch out for those extra long nails, because they are runners and long nails would affect their speed and even hurt them.

### **Dental care for Siberian Huskies**

You wouldn't neglect your teeth so don't neglect your Siberian Husky's. Ask your vet to show you how you can brush your Husky's teeth. Usually when you take him for a check-up your vet will clean your Husky's teeth and scrape off the tartar but if you have a dental rake you can scrape off the tartar yourself. If you can't, leave it to the vet, but please watch out for your Siberian Husky's dental hygiene:

- To get him to allow you to brush his teeth. Begin by handling his face till he is accustomed to it and stick your finger in and feel his gums. Once he gets used a bit, you can add toothpaste to your finger and rub along the teeth. Then he will have no problem when you do it with a brush.
- Open his mouth and make sure that his or her teeth and gums look healthy. If you see any rotting teeth, make an appointment with the doctor. Rotting teeth could be because of an internal problem as well.
- Make sure that your Husky does not have bad breath! This could be symptom by itself for some other problem or because of too much tartar buildup. Feed your Husky with dry food that will help to keep teeth clean. Hard rubber chew toys can also help pets' teeth stay strong.

### **Cleaning out the ears**

Siberian Huskies are clean freaks and clean up by themselves like cats. But if you need to clean out his ears, ask a vet first the correct way to do so. Check the hair around the ears and inside the ears too, for ticks and mites. Remove them and dab with antiseptic solution. You could use a cotton ball dipped in mineral oil to deal with the mites.

### **The Matter of B O**

Body odor is something that Siberians do not have. However if your Husky smells funny even after a bath, do not bathe him again. They don't need frequent baths. You could spray a few drops of conditioner and brush him out.

In time, you will find that it takes very little effort to keep your Siberian Husky well groomed. Their coat sheds out the dirt, the Siberian by nature cleans up for itself, a bath is needed once in a year, brushing is a weekly affair and they have no doggy odor- what more can you want in a dog? If you love him enough, you will cope with the shedding, use that metal comb and brush regularly, bathe him once in a while and see to it that he has a healthy diet. What he or she eats will show on his or her looks. It's really not hard to maintain a Siberian and grooming him or her is a great way to show your care. It's also a way to get your Husky to love you back.

## **Chapter 10: Some Red Alerts That Spell Health Problems**

Siberian Huskies are comparatively very healthy to other breeds. They are sturdy working dogs and very from being frail or delicate. With regular grooming, a good diet and plenty of exercise a Siberian Husky can live up to 15 years of age, with some usually age related problems here and there. However, there are some diseases that Siberian Huskies are more prone to. These are

- Hip Dysplasia
- Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA),
- Hereditary Cataracts
- Corneal dystrophy
- Hypothyroidism
- Zinc-deficiency skin problems

### **Common Health Problems Facing the Husky**

#### **Canine Hip Dysplasia (CHD)**

This is a genetic disorder and again the only way it can be prevented is by screening the sire and dam that are involved in the breeding program. Canine Hip Dysplasia is the improper setting of the femur into the hip socket. Simply put, the elbow and hock joint are too loose a fit and the bone keeps slipping out. Siberian Huskys as well as many other breeds have this genetic problem. The hip socket isn't adequately formed since birth and the ball joint of the hip instead of fitting in the right way, is too loose and keeps slipping out of the socket. Thankfully the Siberian Husky is one of the few breeds that has seen a decrease in the occurrence of hip dysplasia from 1980 through 1995

Siberian Husky associations require breeders to have their Siberian Huskys hips X-rayed and certified by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) as not having hip dysplasia once their Siberian Huskys are two years old. Meanwhile preliminary X-rays should be done on every Siberian Husky once he or she turns one year old whether or not he is a breeding dog, or show quality or companion. The one way you can help a Siberian Husky with his disorder is control his weight, as any extra weight would stress the joint and cause more pain.

#### **Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA)**

This is hereditary eye disease wherein the vessels in the retina waste away. It's through genes but is detectable if you screen your Siberian Husky. A responsible breeder will also test both the sire and the dam for this disorder. The only way to find out if your Siberian Husky puppy can get PRA is to examine the details of his parents and grandparents. Ask your breeder for the tests and eliminate the chances of your Siberian developing the disease, as he or she grows older.

A Siberian Husky suffering from PRA will have night vision problems and then slowly and gradually he loses daytime vision. After a while he can become totally blind. There is

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still no cure for this deadly disease. The only way you can prevent your Siberian Husky from getting PRA is by screening his parentage.

### **Hereditary Cataracts**

These are cataracts formed not by old age but by inherited anomalies. The major symptom is opacity in the lens of a Siberian husky as young as 3 months. The lens of the eye that focuses on the rays of light to project an image on the retina becomes opaque. This does not allow the light to enter the eye and the vision is impaired. A recessive gene causes it and research is on to identify and isolate it.

### **Corneal Dystrophy**

This is another hereditary eye disease that affects just the cornea. Corneal dystrophy can begin as small white dots on the cornea and cause hazy vision or opaqueness. This disorder affects young adult dogs and also females more than males. So even if the tests were performed on his or her parents and on them when they were born, it's a good idea to have your Siberian Husky checked by a good ophthalmologist in a gap of at least every two years. There is at present, no effective therapy for the condition.

### **Hypothyroidism**

This is a problem when the thyroid gland does not secrete the normal amounts of thyroid hormone. The clinical signs you should watch out for are weight gain even though he or she eats very less of food, bald spots on his coat and loss of fur that is not caused by normal shedding. Siberian Huskies are energetic dogs but with this problem that are listless, without energy and want to stay in warmer areas of the house and garden instead of their usual cool spots.

### **Zinc Responsive Dermatitis (Zinc Deficiency)**

Zinc deficiency is common in Siberian Huskies and can lead to loss of hair around the areas of the lips, chin and eyelids. Sometimes even the feet, hocks and elbows are affected. What happens is grayish brown crusts form and consequently become red open skin wounds. Take the advice of a vet and confirm the spots as Zinc deficiency problems. A Zinc supplement would help but it is for a vet to decide. The hair does grow back and often a maintenance dose is continued with.

### **Other Red Flags for a Siberian Husky**

These are some of the major diseases faced by Siberian Huskies which can be dealt with by regular check-ups, screenings. Make sure you keep your appointment with the vet and care for your Siberian as well as you can. As your Siberian ages, he will be bound to get the normal vision problems that even happen to us humans. Take care of his diet and see if he is not allergic to any particular food item. It can be safely said that though the Siberian Husky needs a fish diet, the occurrence of Salmon poisoning is rare in this

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breed. Also make sure you have an emergency kit stocked for your Husky. Ask your vet what you need to have. Here's what your first aid kit should have:

The First Aid Kit for a Siberian Husky
Tweezers and Tourniquet
Scissors and a rectal thermometer
Rubber gloves and rubbing alcohol
Cotton balls and a dosing syringe
Gauze rolls and pads to pad wounds
Vet Wrap and Cold Pack incase of an injury
A gentle eyewash
Antibacterial spray
Triple Antibiotic ointment that will heal a wound faster
Milk of Magnesia or activated charcoal: which will help you incase of poisoning

You will find that this kit comes in handy to deal with miscellaneous problems that may happen. Apart from the major diseases, other red flags to be aware of when it comes to caring for your Siberian Husky are:

**Hot spots**

These happen when the Siberian Husky keeps licking in the same spot and that leads to hair loss and skin lesions known as Hot Spots. It might seem a trifling matter but once there is hot spot, the bacteria spreads to other areas and even penetrates the deeper layers of the skin within 12 hours! Ask your vet and use a good antibacterial spray on the wound. Some owners even swear by Tea tree oil but do confirm with a vet. After being treated the hair will grow back in about two weeks.

**Plant Poisoning**

Check your garden for some plants that could be poisonous for your Siberian Husky. Some of them are Amaryllis, Nephthysis, Fern, Azaleas, Bird of Paradise, Chrysanthemum, Fichus, Elephant Ears, all Ivies, the Berries of Mistletoe, Peace Lilies, Philodendrons, Mums, and most Bulb plants. Often you might see your Siberian Husky supplementing his diet with grass and even snails. This hunting dog is sturdy and can actually stand up to many outdoor elements that can be fatal to other breeds. But if you see him drooling a lot, vomiting, having diarrhea, seizures, convulsions, or coma- call poison control, administer Milk of magnesia and rush him to the vet.

**Enlarged lymph nodes**

Basically watch out for any abnormalities. When you brush and groom your Siberian, run your hand around his lymph nodes. Sometimes if they are larger on one side, and do not subside, ask the vet to check it out. If there are any abnormal bumps and cuts on the body have them treated.



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**Heatstroke**

As with any other breed, do protect your Siberian husky against heat. Your Siberian can withstand any climate as long as he gets water, a bit of air-conditioning and cool spots in the garden. Do not expose him to excess heat and do not leave him in the car with the windows rolled up. Siberian Huskies can get dehydrated and die on a hot day if they are not cared for. Also do not give him baths to keep him cool or shave them off. Siberians should not be bathed too often.

**Watch out and check it out with a vet when:**

- Your Siberian Husky seems to be bumping into things and seems to be unable to see.
- Your Siberian husky has hair loss that is severe and cannot be attributed to shedding.
- Your Siberian Husky is putting on weight or boating despite a normal diet.
- Your Siberian husky is too tired to run. This is an energetic breed and any signs of listlessness could be a symptom.
- Your Siberian Husky has persistent bad breath, which could indicate an internal problem with the stomach.
- Your Siberian Husky is vomiting and has diarrhea.

**Precautions that a Siberian Husky needs:**

- Immunizations against diseases like distemper and parvovirus, parainfluenza, adenovirus.
- Booster shots for the above.
- De-worming for internal parasites at regular intervals, decided by the vet.
- Rabies immunization every three years
- DHLPP & Corona booster repeated annually.
- Bordetella vaccine
- Regular eye tests.
- Annual physical examination and blood tests for diabetes, thyroid disease, blood cancers, and kidney and liver diseases.

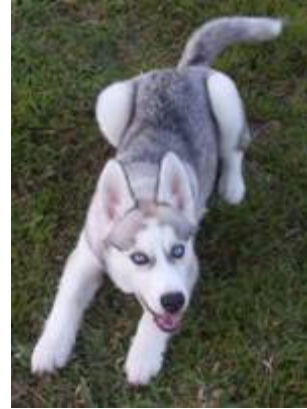
A responsible breeder will screen for most of the major diseases that afflict a Siberian husky, so you won't have to worry on that account. You will find your Siberian Husky as a remarkably robust animal. Apart from his regular normal checkups and vaccinations, he will just need the minimum attention from you in terms of diet, exercise and grooming. Do keep him on the leash when you take him for a walk lest he cuts loose and has an accident on the road. Make sure the fence is strong so that he doesn't run off and catch a disease from other animals. You will find out for yourself that he is not at all hard to take care of.

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## **Chapter 11: 23 Keys to a Happy and Healthy Siberian Husky**

A Siberian Husky is an undemanding pet, but you still have to care for what might make him a little more comfortable than he already is. He or she depends on you as the alpha to care for the pack. Do take an involved and educated interest in his well-being. So here are a few pointers that can make your Siberian's life happier and healthier:



- Establish yourself as the alpha of the pack. That would give him or her a direction and lead in life to follow.
- Give him his special corner in the house, which he or she can a den. They feel secure and safe in small places.
- Make sure your Siberian Husky has a clean and dry bed. Line his or her crate with a blanket, towel or dog pillow. Clean his bed stuff regularly.
- Do not leave him or her alone. The Siberian's a family dog and needs his people. Don't expect him to be by himself. Get him another Siberian Husky to play with or another dog, if you live alone.
- Give him or her the right diet and a regular supply of fresh water.
- Fenced the yard and check for any potential escape routes. Get an expert to fix a dog run that your Siberian Husky cannot dig out or climb over.
- Give your Siberian Huskies a sand box, where they can dig to their hearts content or lie in cool spots. Add a kiddie pool if you can, if you live in a warmer climate.
- Add a doghouse to the garden that would give him or her a lot of shade as well as be a private place outside. Add a flat top to the doghouse, so that your Siberian can lie on it and pass his time watching you. Add a sprinkler to the garden when it's hot. Make the garden interesting for him.
- Let him or her have a good collection of toys that he can alternately play with. Siberian Huskies get bored easily so give them a variety to make things more interesting.
- Use a harness leash and keep him on the leash, during all training sessions and walks whether in the neighborhood or in the park. Do not experiment without the leash.
- Be sure your dog understands your commands and praise him for the times he obeys.

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- Do not physically punish him or her at any time.
- Train your children to use the command word “No” to avoid rough play. Never leave very young children around a Husky unsupervised, till they are trained.
- Do not expose the Siberian husky to small animals, especially cats. Siberian Huskies retain that predatory streak in them and will attack them instinctively.
- Make sure that your energetic Siberian Husky gets a lot of exercise. Play a lot of games, run with your husky on a leash or go for a hike. Take dog-packing trips and bond with your Siberian Husky.
- Deal with the shedding and do make sure that you comb out the undercoat as well as is possible. Brush your Siberian regularly if not twice, then once in a week. Groom him well.
- Make it a point to train your Siberian at the opportune time when he will be able to assimilate what you teach. You can determine the best time by waving a treat and seeing if he or she looks interested. If no, then forget about the training, they are sated and too content. If you see the glint of excitement- begin the training. If he's interested in the treat, it means he's got a hunger in him and so he will be more likely to perform and obey you to get at the snack!
- Use healthy but tiny pieces of real food like chicken, cheese or liver as rewards and make your Siberian's training more worthwhile for him or her!
- If you cannot deal with the obedience training please consider a "puppy kindergarten" class, when your Siberian is about 4-5 months of age, so that a professional can teach him or her some rules. Get help from a competent trainer before you decide that your Siberian Husky is beyond training.
- Do not breed your Siberian Husky unless you are a professional breeder. You would be causing more harm to their genetic strand than doing any good. It is a responsible thing to spay or neuter your pet Siberian Husky.
- Let your Husky know that you are there for him and her. Often they howl when they don't see you but if you manage to make them see that you are a permanent member of the back, they will feel reassured and safe.
- Do not ever abandon your Siberian Husky by leaving him or her on the roadside. If you come to a point when you cannot deal with a Siberian Husky, contact a Humane Shelter and leave the animal there. Try and take an interest about where he or she was placed and tell the truth of why you had to let go.

## **Chapter 12: How to choose a Vet for your Siberian Husky?**

When one takes a moment to think about it --- perhaps the most difficult and agonizing decision to be made on behalf of your Siberian Husky is choosing a vet.

The first and most essential step is to educate your self on the Siberian Husky and aspects such as diet, health care, behavioral problems, and emergency care. This will enable you to understand what the vet is saying and you can then be a part of any decision making process where the well being of your Siberian Husky is concerned.

### **After all, it is the vet who will:**

- Ensure good health of the Siberian Husky
- Treat the Siberian Husky with care when sick.
- Be a good advisor and friend to you the pet-parent when you are worried.
- Give timely advice.
- Be available on call at all times.
- Put the interests of the Siberian Husky ahead of everything else.
- Be educated and well informed of new developments in the field of medicine.

### ***A or B—who is the Perfect choice?***

In this vital decision of choosing between A or B, you the parent must make an informed decision.

### **The right way to go about choosing a Vet:**

- Ask a friend or the breeder to make a recommendation. Even other Siberian Husky owners will be helpful and candid about their own experiences.
- Make an effort to visit the clinic when you are not expected there -- it will give you a chance to see how it functions.
- Check for cleanliness, a professional atmosphere, and a feeling of comfort combined with professionalism.
- Request a tour of the facility – meet the staff.
- Find out what kind of practice it is – allopathic or holistic.
- Determine whether the vet is a member of any organization/body. Do check with the Medical Board and ask if there are any complaints registered.
- Try and find out how many Siberian Huskys are patients—many vets do not have experience in the care of “Huskies!”

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- Ask if the same doctor will treat your Siberian Husky every time. Also, whether anyone will stay with the dog if ever an overnight stay at the clinic becomes necessary.
- Take your Siberian Husky for a visit and see how he is treated by the staff/doctors.
- Find out what the charges are and whether they are available for emergency calls. Also whether they accept insurance plans, credit cards, and if they have in place any health care schemes.
- Find out whether the clinic offers/knows about alternative treatments such as acupuncture, chiropractic, and herbal treatments.

The “key” is to however trust your own instincts.

And the wrong way...:

- He is handsome or friendly.
- Because the clinic is a hop, skip, and jump away from your home.
- The interiors are done stylishly.
- His rates are the lowest.

You must choose him only because, “he is the best” and you are in total/complete agreement with his philosophies.

There are basically two different lines of thought/treatment.

The “Allopathic” represented by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) that practice medicine known as allopathic, conventional, or western medicine.

OR

The “Holistic” philosophy represented by the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association (AHVMA) which uses holistic or natural methods to treat dogs. This kind is known as holistic or natural medicine.

What is the difference? You will find when you do a bit of research that their very perceptions differ.

***Allopathic-the most popular medical treatment***

Its foundation is based on:

- Drugs.

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- Medications.
- Chemicals.

In this, whatever the ailment your Siberian Husky may have the vet will prescribe some medication. Unfortunately, although one can perceive an immediate difference in that the Siberian Husky will feel better in no time at all – the symptoms of pain /discomfort will just disappear- in the long run the treatment is detrimental to the well being of the dog.

When a foreign substance enters the Siberian Husky's system the immune system reacts and tries to "get rid" of the foreign substance. This stresses the immune system. It also affects the organs such as the liver, heart, kidneys, skin, immune system, and digestive tract.

In addition, the drugs, chemicals, and other medicines invariably have some side effect. And, according to leading vets, often the medication does little more than mask the symptoms. It does not address the actual problem or cure it.

### What is holistic health care?

The holistic stream is, today becoming extremely popular. It is a safe, modern, and trusted avenue to health care. In this line of treatment, the vet will take into perspective not just the symptoms or disease but the mind, spirit, and environment too.

The focus is not "cure" but "prevention." The holistic vet will endeavor to build up the Siberian Husky's resistance so that it can resist any bacterial/viral diseases. The system works to nurture good health from within.

They use:

- Medicinal herbs.
- Nutritional supplements.
- Vitamins and minerals.
- Enzymes and anti-oxidants.
- Chiropractic manipulation.
- Acupuncture.
- Homeopathy.

The trick is in urging the immune system itself to work on the ailments.

You may wonder, whether a holistic vet is a "hereditary" medicine man or faith healer. Rest assured, he is a vet who has graduated from a veterinary school and has received/qualified for the same licenses and certifications as the allopathic practitioners.

Then, due to his beliefs/convictions he has furthered his education and understanding to the canine/animal world by studying holistic medicine.

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The holistic vet will:

- Study the history of your Siberian Husky and check whether the nutrition is optimal. He will recommend an ideal diet based on your abilities and life style.
- He will recommend any vitamins and mineral supplements your Siberian Husky may need.
- The vet will use—homeopathy, herbal treatments, and natural remedies as cures.
- He will be more than happy to work with chiropractors, acupuncturists, reflexologists, and non-traditional medical techniques that are not yet accepted by western medicine such as “ reiki.”
- The vet will involve you in all aspects of treatment and use your insights about your Siberian Husky to treat the dog.

Many vets will have “RPHAVC” on their signboards—it means:

R = Raw Food.

P = Prevention.

H = Use of homeopathic and /or herbal treatments.

A = Work in tandem with alternative health practitioners.

V = Vaccination is recommended only in moderation.

C = The client is always involved in any decision making process and treatment.

As the pet parent, you should have in insight into various alternative medical treatments:

### ***1.Homeopathy***

Dr. Samuel Hahnemann was the founder of this field in the 1800s. It works on the principle that disease occurs when the life force is disrupted. So, the system uses substances derived from natural things to simulate/create symptoms of the disease so that the body can set its mechanisms into action to counteract the stimulus. The doses administered are so small /minute that they do not cause any toxicity.

Vets use homeopathy to heal.

Examples are:

- Arnica—is safe and can be kept in the Siberian Husky's first aid kit. It is beneficial in traumas, shock, injury, sprains, and bruises. It stems bleeding and aids in healing wounds. It is known to reduce bruising and muscular pain.
- Arsenicum—this is recommended for vomiting and diarrhea. It is useful in treating food poisoning.
- Rhus Tox—used for rheumatism, arthritis, as well as joint pain. It is also advised when a dog has skin problems. This is a popular remedy.

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These are not prescription drugs that are to be used or bought over the counter. It is thus important for a qualified person to study the dog's history and then determine a suitable dosage and treatment.

## ***2. Herbal***

Herbs have been a part of our existence from time-immemorial. Unfortunately many of us in the modern world have discontinued/forgotten the uses of the plants around us. Holistic vets have often found that prescribing simple herbs helps alleviate many diseases.

Garlic—is used for treatment of coughs and bronchitis. Regular use helps maintain general health and is known to prevent heart diseases.

Raspberry leaf—this is a traditional remedy for problems in whelping and is useful in preventing pseudo pregnancies in dogs. It is a known uterine tonic.

Lavender and Marjoram --- when rubbed into the skin these mixed with a oil base are know to relieve cramping and sore muscles—known to be excellent for working dogs.

There are thousand of herbs available, but one must be knowledgeable to use them – your vet will know a good herbalist. Learn about herbs their uses as well as their pros and cons.

## ***3. Acupuncture***

This is a healing method that encourages the body to heal itself. This is done by inserting needles and applying heat to acupuncture points. Veterinarians use acupuncture to treat – lameness, urinary incontinence, arthritis as well as back injuries and paralysis.

Most Siberian Husky s accept the treatment well – each session takes 20-30 minutes and in most cases just 3-4 treatments are required.

## ***4. Chiropractic Care***

This is an old form of healing that is extremely beneficial for the treatment of spinal injuries and ailments of the joints, muscles, and nerves. It focuses on the relationship between the spinal column and nerves and offers increased flexibility, an enhanced quality of existence, and greatly improved health.

It basically addresses the root cause of problems—nerves that are stuck or pinched by a tight muscle or rotated joint. In Siberian Huskys and other dogs this treatment has had considerable success in arthritis, joint problems, hip dysplasia, radial nerve paralysis, as



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well as Wobbler's syndrome. It reduces the pain suffered by the animals and does away with the need to administer pain medication.

It has been found that chronic gastro-intestinal problems also respond to chiropractic treatments.

### ***5. Flower Remedies***

This is known as Bach's Rescue Remedies and is known to be successful in calming down Siberian Huskys that are stressed, excitable, or injured. In this form of healing, extracts of flowers and plants are "potentized" and used.

Disease, according to Dr. Bach is the immediate result of imbalances or negativity. Flower remedies set right the imbalance by steadying the emotional and spiritual well-being.

A Bach practitioner would use single or combinations when treating a dog—however according to the "rules" the number used should not exceed seven.

Fear is treated, by using three remedies—

- Mimulus –treats fears of known causes.
- Aspen—treats groundless fears.
- Rock rose—treats acute fear or panic.

Similarly:

Bleeding heart – is a remedy for animals that are grieving the loss of a family member or another animal.

Cherry Plum—is a remedy for aggressive pets--those that fight or bite.

Impatiens – is used for animals that are hyper or impatient. They are snappy, irritable, rush here and there, or pull at their leash.

Olive – is a remedy for animals that have been drained by a chronic illness. It helps rejuvenate and heal.

These are just a few examples. There are thousands of remedies available—but one must always take the advice of a knowledgeable practitioner. Some conditions that can be treated with Flower Remedies are:

- Abuse/abandonment.
- Pre-surgery and post-surgery jitters/upsets.
- Grief, fear, hyperactivity.
- Excessive grooming.

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- A Change in Home/environment.
- Inappropriate elimination.

### ***6. Aromatherapy***

Just as we humans are sensitive to aromas so also our Siberian Huskys. You will be surprised that when used wisely aromatherapy has contributed to healing.

Studies indicate that since dogs are extremely sensitive to smell this form of healing is successful but one must use limited amounts of essential oils as their sense of smell is at least 20 times more than that of humans.

Cedar wood and pine oil are known flea repellants – when rubbed into the coat it protects the dog from fleas and gives the coat sheen. It is also known to heal small abrasions and cuts.

Lavender is known to promote healing and reduce the risks of infections from wounds—however a bath is seen to be more beneficial than direct application.

Rosemary mixed with lavender is known to relieve joint pains.

Essential oils are safe and not toxic.

### ***7. Massage***

The touch that heals would be the most appropriate nomenclature for this therapy. Massage is a proven method to reduce tension in dogs it gives them a sense of well-being. This therapy has found use in reducing aggression and in behavior modification. Circular motions, ear slides, and vigorous body rubs are recommended for Siberian Huskys after studying the dog history and taking into consideration their size and delicate constitution.

Benefits include:

- A sense of wellness.
- Reduction in stress.
- Increased flexibility and movement of limbs.
- Reduced pain.
- Quick recovery from traumas or surgery.
- Improved blood circulation.
- Removal of toxins from the body.

There are many forms of massage available and which one is to be used should be decided by a qualified vet. Random choices are not recommended.

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***8. Reiki***

In Japanese it means –universal life energy. It concentrates the inherent energy present in the body to where it is needed the most. The healing works on many levels—physical, mental, emotional and spiritual.

***The Power of Healing***

Although one has many avenues to select from in holistic treatments, sometimes due to the gravity of the disease or the condition of the dog one will have to adopt allopathic medicines.

So, as the Siberian Husky parent you will need to keep an open mind every time that you will need to make a “health care” decision on behalf of your pet.

***Basic and Specialized***

Some vets undertake “general practice” – they will do annual physicals, diagnosis, treat diseases, clean teeth, do vaccinations, x-rays, simple surgeries, and dressing of wounds, draw blood for tests, and conduct in-house diagnostic tests.

Others vets undertake specializations in the field of ophthalmology, dermatology, dentistry, cardiology, oncology, or orthopedics – to name only a few fields. They sometimes come as consultants to the “general practitioners” clinic.

It is your general practitioner who will tell you when you need to consult a specialist – depending on the disease, its prognostics, and required treatment.

Since vets are human their temperaments vary—some will be charming while others may be brusque. Some are finicky and will only treat certain breeds. Others have no tolerance for breeds like “toy” breeds or terriers. Yet others will refuse to do things like de-clawing/ear cropping; or will stick to only what they believe in having no open mind to what the owner feels or thinks.

And, of course if you are lucky you will find a vet who will be your “friend” share your worries and fears –stand by your side in times of need and, befriend your dog.

Many you will find are more than vets—they will advice you on food, training, which events to participate in which shows are good and so on. They will hold group sessions where many pet-parents can come together and discuss doubts and concerns.

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Some even volunteer with rescue groups as well as therapy dog groups.

Vets today have preventive care programs –ask about them.

Most important, the vet must care enough for his office to maintain detailed records – from birth onwards of your Siberian Husky This will give him on tab information about allergies, vaccination schedules, past work ups, x-rays and so on.

Choose wisely and knowledgeably and you will have no regrets.

## Pet Care Begins at Home

A word of advice/caution it is not just the vet that has responsibilities—you, as the pet-parent must also:

- Teach our Siberian Husky well so that he is a perfect citizen—he must be willing to allow the vet and his technicians to touch him.
- Teach your pet how to remain calm on the grooming/examination table. With a Siberian Husky this is important, as one wrong agitated leap off the table may mean grave injuries or even death.
- Socialize the Siberian Husky well so that it is not fearful of the waiting room where other dogs, cats, and birds may be waiting for the vet.
- Learn how to control the dog at all times – aggression as well as fear can create mayhem in a vet's clinic.

### **As pet-parent you must also learn to give your pet a weekly check:**

- Check the Siberian Husky's ears, eyes, nose – for signs of infection.
- Check the skin and coat thoroughly for signs of lumps, mats, lesions, scabs and so on.
- Check the legs and feet one at a time.

Many owners use commands such as “nose”, “teeth”, “foot” and so on while doing the “once over” this teaches the Siberian Husky that you are going to check/handle each of these body parts. Believe me, it makes a vet's life much easier to treat a Siberian Husky that co-operates.

### ***Be Sure***

A vet is your partner in pet-care. The partnership has to last at least 15 years if not more. So ensure that the vet you choose is not nearing retirement nor has a “travel” bug. Find someone who has a family and is committed to the practice. He/she should be passionate about animals and pet care must be a “mission statement” in their lives.

## Chapter 13: Emergency SOS Care

It is extremely important for a pet-parent to know first aid and emergency care. Sometimes knowing what to do can save a Siberian Husky's life.

Experts recommend that dog owners should attend a regular first aid class. Then you can pass on what you have learnt to other family members and practice the routine at home. In the event of an emergency, you will be well equipped to handle it efficiently.

### What to do in an Emergency:

1. Find out what the problem is—jot down the symptoms.
2. Make the Siberian Husky as comfortable as you possibly can.
3. Ring the vet/animal clinic and systematically describe the problem and take down what they advice that you should do until help arrives.
4. Try and keep the dog as calm as possible.
5. Wrap him in a heavy and warm blanket to keep him warm and to restrict his movements. You need one more person to help you accomplish this.
6. If your pet has consumed poison, don't induce vomiting.
7. Nor should you attempt the kiss of life if the dog stops breathing, because of the poison.

### *Bleeding*

If the dog has a wound or abrasion, you must:

- ❖ With sterile gauze or a clean handkerchief apply gentle pressure on wound.
- ❖ Increase pressure and absorbing effect with more cloth/bandage/cotton without removing the first piece of cloth.
- ❖ If the bleeding doesn't stop, locate the nearest pressure point. Compress the artery against the underlying bone there. To do this, use the flat part of your finger not fingertips.
- ❖ Still bleeding? Now tie a tourniquet. Be very careful. This is only a last resort. Tourniquets sometimes cut off circulation or cause gangrene. Only if you are sure it is the best and last option, try it out. Ensure intermittent release.

### *Breathing Difficulties*

There are many reasons why your dog may experience breathing difficulty

- Constriction of the air passage of lungs by a collar that is strangling.
- Electrocutation.
- Drowning.
- Heart attack.
- Chest injury.

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- A foreign body may be lodged in her throat.
- The dog's own tongue, if she is unconscious.

If your pet has difficult breathing, clear air passage, and administer immediate artificial respiration.

- If you cannot see breathing movement place your ear on the dog's chest and listen for a heartbeat or take its pulse.
- Start artificial respiration immediately.
- If the heart has stopped within the last minute or so but you think the dog is not yet dead, administer both artificial respiration and heart massage together.

### ***Artificial Respiration***

It is best you learn how to administer artificial respiration at a first aid class. Just for your ready reference the steps are outlined:

- Open the dog's mouth.
- Hold the tongue and pull it forward well this is to keep the back of the throat clear.
- Wipe away any dirt/mucus/blood.
- Remove obstructions if any.
- Remove restrictions around the throat, like a collar or belt.
- If there is fluid in the mouth because of drowning, hold the dog upside down, by holding up the rear legs for a maximum time of half a minute.
- Still not breathing? Close the dog's mouth, place your mouth near her nose and exhale strongly.
- Observe chest to see whether lungs inflate.
- Remove mouth and repeat this after every 10 seconds.
- Continue this process of exhaling and releasing for an hour, or at least 30 minutes, until the dog starts breathing or is pronounced dead.

### ***Heart Massage***

If the dog is lying still and you cannot hear any heart beats here is what you must do:

- If you cannot hear heartbeats, strike with your fist the chest area. Do this once or twice.
- You should strike the region just below the left shoulder
- If heart does not respond start a massage.
- Place the dog lying on the right side.
- You should place the dog on a flat, even surface.
- Put fingers of one hand on either side of the chest and press firmly, not hard.
- Now release pressure.

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- Do this continuously so that you can perform 70 such compressions/release routine in a minute.

### ***Burns***

Due to an inborn fear, animals stay away from fire. It is no surprise that very few animals suffer from burns from a naked fire.

But dogs do tend to get burned by one or the other odd mishaps. What are they?

- When your Siberian Husky enjoys a doze by the fire his tail or any other part of the body may get singed or burned by flying sparks.
- He may step onto a hot surface, unaware of its temperature and burn his feet.
- You have observed what a great champion your Siberian Husky is at chewing off things, especially when young. The pup will also find tasty, electric wires --- which are not meant to be chewed. And, it is more than likely that his mouth will get singed and electric shock may also singe him a little.
- The other kind of burn is when the puppy touches spilt motor acid or other cleaning solutions.

#### **To care for heat burns you must:**

- Soak the affected area with a soft cloth that has been moistened.
- Cover the wet dressing with thick, dry towels.
- Treat the dog for shock.
- Give plenty of fluids if you feel the dog may get dehydrated but avoid fluids if the dog is vomiting.
- Refrain from applying any form of grease - oil, butter, ointment, etc.
- Call the vet if you feel the burn needs professional medical attention.
- A superficial burn may be very painful for the dog. It reddens the skin and singes her hair.
- A deep burn may not be as painful, because the burn would have destroyed nerve endings.

To care for chemical burns you must:

- Wash the affected area thoroughly, especially if the face is affected.
- In the case of an acid burn, add one tablespoon of sodium bicarbonate to one liter of water to wash.
- If it is an alkali burn, use plain water.
- Dry washed area and apply soothing ointment, maybe olive oil.

See that your dog is muzzled and restrained, prior to any treatment.

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***Collapse***

- Apply suitable first aid, as soon as possible, until you reach the vet. Check the pulse, breathing, and temperature. If necessary, apply heart massage or artificial respiration or both, as detailed above.
- Handle the dog with great care, for she may have an internal injury, or a broken bone.
- Treat her for shock.

***Shock***

Shock is not just the feeling of disorientation one feels after a fright, a prolonged illness, or a mishap. It is much more serious and, in dogs, is characterized by the following:

- Coma.
- Unconsciousness.
- Weakness.
- Collapse.
- Lowering of temperature of skin and the legs.
- Staring eyes.
- Dilated pupils.
- Rapid and weak pulse, at the rate of 2 to 3 per second.
- Pale color of mouth, lips and eyelids.

**You have to:**

- Call the vet, and reach him as soon as possible, as your pet may need immediate administration of IV fluids to save his/her life.
- If there is a delay in reaching the vet, then give the dog fluids orally. One should give glucose mixed in slightly warm water, once every half hour, four or five times.
- Never attempt to feed a pet orally if the dog is:
  - Convulsing.
  - Vomiting.
  - Unconscious.
- Administer artificial respiration and heart massage, if necessary.
- Keep all airways open.
- Monitor pulse and temperature, every 30 minutes to report to the vet.
- Observe if there is blood in urine, or any other anomaly, to report to the vet.
- Apply splint to an injury or bandage in case of an extensive wound.
- Wrap your pet in a thick soft towel to conserve body heat.
- If the dog is unconscious, keep the head as low as possible or, lower than the rest of the body.



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- If conscious, keep the dog horizontal and well wrapped up.
- Massage limbs gently, to keep up circulation, only if you are sure there are no broken bones.

***Convulsions/Fits***

There are two kinds of convulsions:

- ❖ Continuous or repeated convulsions –these signify something very serious –take the dog to a vet or animal hospital immediately.
- ❖ Single convulsion--this lasts for only a few minutes and may not recur for the next 24 hrs.

If your Siberian Husky has a seizure you must:

- Restrain the dog gently. Try to see that the dog does not injure itself. Cover the dog with a blanket.
- Keep your hands away from the mouth as you may get a deep bite.
- Once you have restrained the dog take the pet to a vet.

***Injuries to the Eyeball***

- In case of bleeding near the eyes, apply direct pressure and take her immediately to the vet.
- Penetration by a foreign object causing laceration of the eyeball is very serious. Place a damp cloth over the affected eye and reach the vet at once.
- Never try to wash away or move the body. You will end up harming the dog, instead of helping her recover.
- You can apply cold compress to treat a bruise

***Frostbite***

Here is what you can do to keep the Siberian Husky in maximum comfort (in the event of frostbite) until you hand the dog over to the care of the vet.

- As soon as you detect the problem, move her to the warmest room in your home.
- Place a moist warm towel on areas of frostbite. Keep a few of the warm moist towels aside so you can switch the towels to maintain constant warmth of her body.
- Keep doing this until the affected area looks flushed.
- Severe frostbite can damage the ears or paws of your dog. Reach your dog to the vet as soon as possible so that he can assess the extent of damage to her body

Caring for the Siberian Husky is a challenge in itself. Everyday you encounter new experiences, you learn more about the pet and as a responsible owner, and you strive to make her a happier and safer member of your house.

## **Chapter 14: Breeding**

One of the most difficult decisions that a pet-owner must make is to breed/ or neuter. Breeding should only be undertaken for the right reasons and, after carefully weighing all the pros and cons.

### **Ask yourself:**

- ✓ Why do I want a Siberian Husky litter?
- ✓ Is my Siberian Husky the best and most suited for breeding?
- ✓ Are the bloodlines perfect?
- ✓ Am I capable of finding the right homes for the pups?
- ✓ Until they find homes, do I have the facilities to care for them?
- ✓ Can I afford the costs of whelping and caring for the pups?
- ✓ Will I be able to give the bitch all the time and attention needed during the time she is whelping?
- ✓ When the puppies come, will I be available for them 24 hours a day for the next 10 to 12 weeks to care for them?

Unless your answer is a definite “yes” to all the questions, you cannot even consider breeding the dog.

In case you have answered in the affirmative then you will need to --- find out about breeding in detail, and have your Siberian Husky vetted for suitability. Have all health checks done.

### **If your dog is female then you must:**

- ✓ Have an in depth knowledge of her cycles and keep a record of the times she is in heat.
- ✓ Maintain her monthly weight records.
- ✓ Take her to the vet for a total health check up before mating.
- ✓ Her physical well-being is of utmost importance, and it is good to get that confirmed by the vet.
- ✓ The dog must definitely be over 2 years old for mating.
- ✓ Check her pedigree and registration papers. Confirm that no ancestor had any health concerns.

### **If the dog is male:**

- ✓ The health of the sire is to be monitored, though as not as closely as the bitch's.
- ✓ However, the sire must be certified to have an excellent health profile.
- ✓ You should remember that his best sperm count is between winter and spring.

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- ✓ He should be free of inherited health problems, which he may pass on to the pups.
- ✓ A show or championship dog would make a good sire.
- ✓ If you do not own the sire, you will be more selective in choosing him.
- ✓ Some breeders prefer to have a sire and dam of different types in regard to coat, shape of head etc.
- ✓ Colors of the pups can never be predicted, though the colors of the sire and dam have an increased chance of repetition.
- ✓ Experienced breeders can select breeding pairs for better litters, in a more consistent manner.
- ✓ The temperament and characteristics of the male dog should compliment that of the female.

### ***Registering the Litter***

In the case of “pure bred” dogs this is an essential factor.

- Both the sire and the dam must be individually registered at the AKC.
- The litter must be whelped in the US.
- Registration of the litter must be done before the pups are individually registered with the AKC.
- A litter registration application form needs to be filled and submitted.
- The owner of the sire and the dam must sign and submit the completed registration forms.
- Registration is done on payment of a registration fee.
- The breeder (you) should be a registered member of AKC.

The rules are by and large the same in kennel clubs all over. It is good to be aware of them so that you can choose an appropriate sire and dam for breeding and to register the litter.

These rules are more relevant if the future owner of the pups want to “show” the pups of the litter. However, registration keeps things in order and the pups can always be accounted for.

### **The Breeding Process**

Well before the female is expected to start a “heat” you must ensure that the “sire” is staying with you. As soon as the Siberian Husky begins her heat you will notice a subtle change in her mood as well as blood spotting and swelling of the vulva. In the case of the Siberian Husky ovulation occurs between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> day of the heat cycle. When

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the male and female are kept together, the female will allow the male to mate during ovulation.

The tie lasts for about 20 minutes and the female may need your assistance if either Siberian Husky is a novice, in order to prevent them from injuring each other. If the tie is successful, it is repeated approximately every 24 hours until the bitch refuses.

A larger litter is usually the result of several successful ties, rather than a single one. Small litters have one to three pups. While a medium litter has about 4-5 pups, and a large litter has 6 or more pups. Generally, a bitch that comes from a large litter is more likely to have a large litter. A medium litter is the best to have in terms of expenses incurred and the feasibility of managing the young pups. (The cost for a medium litter including food, vet care, worming, medication, and immunization ranges between US\$ 100 and US\$ 2000).

### ***About to be a Parent***

If the tie is successful, the bitch will show signs of pregnancy within a month. The gestation period is 63 days, from tying.

Indications of pregnancy are:

- Overly affectionate behavior.
- Morning sickness.
- Weight gain.
- Enlarged nipples.

The vet is the one who will confirm the pregnancy by doing a physical check as well as tests. A week before the delivery, an x-ray will indicate, the number of pups to be expected in the litter.

### **Whelping**

As the time for birth draws near, the bitch will show you in several ways that she is getting ready for it. She looks for corners and scratches at the area in an attempt to create a spot where she can snuggle in. She will also eat more than usual. Give her the best nutrition, in the quantity she needs. Feed her 2 or 3 smaller and very healthy meals. The vet will recommend an ideal diet for a “would be” mother and her litter.

#### **Tips:**

- 55 days after the day of successful tying, you must begin taking her temperature twice a day.
- The average temperature will hover steadily between 101 and 102 degrees F.

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- During the last few days before the delivery of the litter, the temperature will drop to the 100.2 to 100.8 degrees F.
- It may even drop below 100 and rise slightly.
- Just 24 hours before delivery, the temperature will drop below 98 degrees F.

The bitch loses her appetite about a day or a half a day before the delivery. This is a positive indicator of the onset of labor. You must immediately contact the vet. Keep the emergency numbers handy in case you need him at a time when the vet is not in the clinic.

Now it is time for you to prepare for the whelping.

**You will need:**

- A whelping box—it is just a container with a smooth floor and smooth walls (like an inflatable child's pool, made of plastic). Ready made, disposable whelping boxes are available in the market, which have collapsible walls and waterproofed floors. The boxes are available in sizes suitable for "small", "medium," and "large" dogs.
- Heating lamps that can be set up at convenient spots so that the bitch is not directly under them.
- Old newspapers.
- Scissors.
- Wipe cloths.
- Detergents.
- Clean bowls of water for the bitch.
- Buckets.
- Paper towels.
- A First Aid Kit.

Place the box in a warm room where you spend most of the time. The best option would be the bedroom. Right from the day the bitch goes to labor, till the puppies are a month old, the room is out of bounds for children as well as other animals of the household.

As she thinks she belongs to you, she will be most comfortable by your presence throughout her labor.

**Labor stages:**

1. Dilation of cervix: Place her in a comfortable spot, keep her warm and stay with her. She will pant continuously, drink water, and go to the toilet a few times.
2. A few hours later, the water will break and the contractions will become more intense and frequent.

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3. Now the bitch should be moved to the whelping box, and placed on a spread of newspapers.
4. The amniotic sac comes into view and then goes out of view again and again as the first pup gets ready to come out.
5. If there is a green discharge (when a placenta has come away) and the pups do not come out at a reasonable time, call the vet for doing a C-section delivery.
6. When a puppy appears, hold the slippery one in a towel and pull it free during a contraction. Remove the birth sac from its head and check whether it breathes. Cut the cord
7. Consult the vet about the procedures you will have to adopt if the newborn pup has problems, breathing through the nose.
8. Weigh the pup. The birth weight should be about ½ a kg or a little less. Watch over her as she gives the puppy a good lick over. She may gobble it down, or tear up its stomach to reach for that piece of cord seen in its tummy.
9. After the lick over, it is feeding time. Keep the puppy's mouth on the nipple for suckling.
10. Even while suckling the bitch tries to lick the pup. You have to manage to get the pup to continue suckling. Once done, by then the dog's next contraction would have begun.
11. If it takes more than two hours, simulate her contractions, after asking the vet how to go about it.
12. Change the newspapers for the next pup, which may come a quarter of an hour or after an hour.
13. Sometimes the bitch becomes too tired after the first delivery and is not able to garner energy for delivering the other pups. The vet may be called for a C-section delivery in such cases.

Once all the pups are delivered, the bitch settles down for a snooze as the puppies crowd in for suckling. The whelping box is now cleaned and soft bedding is placed for the pups with fresh towels to be changed daily.

### The Newborn Siberian Husky

This will be the beginning of many busy days to come. Keep the pups in the kind of whelping box mentioned earlier. See that the mother dog does not lie down on the pups. She will have blood discharge for several days after delivery. You have to make efforts to keep the box clean with regular change of towels, and newspapers.

A 250-watt lamp placed above the box can provide constant heat for the puppies. You may avoid using the lamp if the pups are born in summer.

Due to inability to generate body heat, pups need the extra heating arrangement, without which they may fall prey to Herpes.

For about a day, the puppies squeal, whine and cry, trying to get used to the new world they have just entered. Later, they are comfortable, warm, and well fed. This makes

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them happy and content; they relax, feed, and tumble around for the next few days. A puppy, which continues to cry, is not well. Check him up for abnormalities.

Puppies are identified by their birth weights, sex, and birth colors. The Siberian Husky pups have unusual birth colors, which gradually change to normal colors within a few days. Weights are monitored daily. Unchanged birth weights indicate that the pups are not feeding well enough. Tube feeding may be done for them. Puppies generally gain 50 to 100 grams a day. Starting of at a little less than a pound, the pup will weigh about 8-9 pounds or more when he is 1 ½ months old.

As time moves on:

### **The first fortnight**

- On the day after whelping the puppies must be taken for a general check up and the dewclaws, if present are then removed.
- The bitch meanwhile is provided the best of a healthy diet, to help suckle her babies.
- Puppies may open their eyes a week after birth, or after a fortnight or maybe after 3 weeks.
- Get from the vet, a prescription for an eye lubricant that is to be applied from day 7. This will help prevent potential cases of eye tacking.
- If the pup shows discomfort in opening the eyes, tacking must be resorted to.
- The first de-worming should be done after a fortnight.
- Meal supplements advised by other experienced breeders and or the vet may be started when the pup is 2 weeks old.
- The little pups' welcome yummy and great smelling food.

### **A month later**

- De-worming is done for the second time when the pups are almost a month old. On both occasions, the vet will be the one to advice you on the best manner of the procedure.
- Meanwhile, the bitch is encouraged to be reasonably active, but she abhors visitors.
- Once the pups can walk without toppling over, their living area can be increased.
- The bright little pups start showing signs of their mettle, some may try to bark away your friend who has come visiting them, while the more adventurous one may clamber over the most unlikely of obstacles and plop over on the other side.
- Month old puppies are taken outside the house for toilet activities. Puppies love the warm sunshine and start sniffing around with joy.

### **After 6 weeks**

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- The pups can now follow you when you call them out. They know they have to complete toilet before getting back in.
- The bitch still suckles them and licks them up occasionally.
- Arrange for their first vaccination and third de-worming now.
- They are bigger now and tend to have scuffles.
- You have to protect the milder pups as the Siberian Husky have sharp teeth and claws.

From 6 weeks till the date the pups are taken away by prospective owners, they will continue to grow in height and weight. Screen all the pups for inherited and genetic abnormalities, so that you can give the buyer copies of the certificate, to prove that the litter is a healthy one. Ensure that the timely vaccines and inoculations have been administered to increase the immunity of the pups against common Siberian Husky health problems.

Your responsibilities are far from over --- you need to match the pups to prospective owners, monitor their well being life-long, and be prepared to take any of them back either due to the owners disability to look after them or due to ill health of the pup itself.

A breeder remains a parent for life.

### Your Questions, Our Answers

**Q. Is it true, that spaying females and castrating males, helps prevent many diseases in the ....?**

*Yes, that is true. Spaying the female dog helps to prevent blood as well as breast and uterine cancers. Even when the bitch has cancer, spaying can help arrest hormonal stimulation that helps the cancer progress. Castrating males can help prevent prostate diseases. It also curbs aggression, dominance, and libido in male dogs.*

**Q. How do I get a Siberian Husky spayed or neutered?**

*Spaying or neutering will depend on the age, sex, and type of dog you have. Surgery is carried out when the dog is aged between 1 ½ to 3 months. Find out about the special programs available from the local pet care center or the vet.*

*You need information on:*

- *Pre and post operative care that the dog will need.*
- *Medicines for post operative care that will be prescribed by the vet.*
- *Symptoms that you will need to watch out for.*

*Fix an appointment with the hospital for the surgery.*



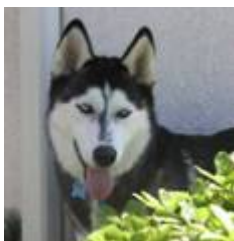
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- *Pick up the pet on the same day, after the operation, or on the next day, (it depends on the doctor, and the hospital), and proceed with the recommended postoperative care.*
- *The hospital is interested in the pet's recovery. Call them the day after he is taken home, to report progress.*
- *In case of following complications call the hospital on the regular or emergency number and get the dog for treatment as soon as possible.*
  - *Inflammation.*
  - *Lack of appetite.*
  - *Vomiting.*
  - *Abnormal discharge.*

*Remember that spaying or neutering is a major surgery and can be done only by a well-qualified and skilled veterinary surgeon.*

*Select the vet/hospital with care for it will be a once in a lifetime procedure that ensures the good health and protection against myriad health problems for your Siberian Husky*

## **Chapter 15: Easy steps to house train your Husky effortlessly**



You must understand that your Siberian Husky doesn't know the difference between a Persian carpet and a bunch of old newspapers. It's no point, getting angry with him or feeling frustrated. Patience and perseverance is the key to housebreaking any dog and the Siberian Husky is not an exception. Work with your Siberian Husky and show him the way.

The most important thing to remember is that Siberian Huskies are intelligent enough to perceive any kind of frustration, uncertainty or nervousness in your demeanor and they will be quick to doubt your leadership and begin to disobey. Show them you are in control and in charge. Begin on the right foot as a strong owner who is the alpha of the pack.

### **First steps to house breaking**

**# Learn the signs:** When you take your new puppy or older Siberian Husky out to the potty spot, observe their behavior and remember the actions and mannerisms that accompany their elimination processes. Whenever you see these signs inside the house, rush them to the potty spot. You will have to keep a lookout for all the telltale signs and walk them outside. This will tune them to the fact that they need to take their business outside.

**# Stop the wandering:** Oversee your new pet and prevent him from wandering all around the house. Once he relieves himself inside the house he may smell his way back there and do it again. So stop him before he gets to the wrong places. If you do catch your Siberian Husky in the act of eliminating on your favorite rug, say 'No!' very firmly and take him outside. Use the word 'No' as a simple command and praise him with a common phrase like ' Good job' after he eliminates in the right place.

**# Spend time outside:** A Siberian Husky is an outdoor dog and if the weather is good, it's a great idea to spend a lot of time outside. This would also help you to prevent him from wandering all around in the yard and garden and doing his job in places you do not want him to. When he does roam, guide him back to the potty spot. Being outside would help him to like the feel of grass and mud while eliminating and he would want to leave the house in search of these surfaces, instead of your carpet.

### **# Establish a routine**

Take the Siberian Husky to the potty spot first thing in the morning as well as last thing in the night. Set the alarm on if you have to but please take your Husky out in the morning because he will have a bladder full of accidents ready to occur! Do not give him too much water after his evening meal but if he is restless do take him out. Keep taking him out every 15 minutes for the first few weeks and also after meals and nap times, even

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if you don't see any signs. Always wait till the puppy has finished his job, pet him, praise him and then bring him in. It will please the Siberian Husky that he has made his alpha dog happy and he will be likely to repeat his behavior.

## **Crate Training-The best method to house train your Siberian Husky**

Instead of seeing the crate as a cruel confining box, see it as the Siberian Husky's private place. Everyone likes having some space to call his or her own, so does the Siberian Husky. Use the crate from the point of view of housebreaking your Siberian Husky rather than locking him or her away. If only some owners who abandoned their Huskies, had learnt how to use the crate to their advantage. Use the crate correctly, not as a means of punishing your Siberian Husky and slowly reduce the time that he is crated.

### **1. What would you use the crate for?**

A dog crate is usually an enclosure with a top and a door and comes in all kinds of sizes and types. It's like a little custom-built kennel that can be transported around. It comes in handy for security, safety during travel and illness and in the housebreaking drill. To use it as a tool to house train your Siberian Husky, you must get him to think of it as his den. Put him in from day one as a puppy and let him rest there. Once he accepts it as his sleeping den, he won't want to mess it up because Huskies are clean freaks.

### **2. Which crate is the best one?**

Your Siberian Husky would like a crate that is a dark and gives the impression of being a den. It could be plastic or metal, but plastic is lighter. Make sure that the crate is not too large otherwise the Husky might use one corner of it as the potty area. The best size is one that is roomy enough so that is not cramped but with just enough room for him to stand, turn around, and lie down. Ask a breeder for the right size and then when your puppy is small, cordon off half of the area in the crate with a box, so that the puppy doesn't eliminate in the corner.

### **3. Can you use the crate as a bed?**

Yes! Line the crate with a nice old blanket that you have used yourself, so that he gets your scent and feels assured that you are around. You can also move and put the crate in your bedroom during the nights. This way when the puppy gets restless, you can take him out of the crate and to the potty spot. Also this would ensure that your Siberian Husky does not feel alone at night and doesn't bark his low howls and disturb the neighborhood! It would also give him the sense of sleeping in the same room as his pack.

### **4. Can a Siberian Husky be happy in a crate?**

Siberian Huskies like to have a private place or den of their own. They like small, dark corners to snuggle into and they also learn from the minute they are born, that they should not dirty the place they sleep in. That's why, once they get to like their crate, they are eager to get out of it and take their potty business elsewhere. So the crate actually facilitates early housebreaking. It also keeps your small puppy tucked away from harm's distance and prevents him from chewing up your furniture or ripping off your cushions.

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Siberian Huskies really like their den and also use it as a play area to play by themselves with a few toys of their own.

**5. How would you get the puppy to like the crate?**

The day you bring your puppy home, you must first walk him outside in the potty spot and then bring him inside. Hold him and put him inside the crate with a blanket. If he wants to come out of it, put in a puppy treat inside the crate and let him go inside and get it. Stroke him as he sits and gently close the door, as he looks settled. Keep talking to him and let him see that you are around. Praise him if he doesn't let out a howl as you walk away. Once he falls off to sleep, he will begin to feel comfortable about the crate and slowly begin to think of it as his den. You can have two crates and put one inside and one outside and leave the doors open- you will find that the Husky will gravitate towards them when he wants a snooze.

**6. Can you crate train an older Husky?**

It would depend on the nature of the older Husky. Some adult Huskies love the darkness of the crate and take to it readily. You will need to entice them in with treats and toys and be near them with the door open. Try and shut the door after the dog is asleep and take it from there. Do not ever give the dog the impression that he's a bad dog if he doesn't stay in, because he might think that you are caging him in. Get him to see the crate as a sleeping area and keep yourself in his area of vision.

In case you have brought home an abandoned Husky from the shelter, the owners before you might have used the crate as a way to punish him or her because of their excessive chewing, etc. Such dogs might be very upset to be crated. Go slow with them and leave puppy treats inside but leave the door open for a while. Sit with him if he seems agitated to be left alone in the crate. If the crate is clearly antagonizing your older Husky, get an exercise pen, which is a fenced area. However, you will have to be alert and watch over him and take him outside as often as you can to the potty area.

**7. What do you do if the puppy has an accident in the crate?**

If you are putting him in the crate, you must take him out first thing in the morning as early as you can or whenever he whines in the middle of the night. However if you somehow slept through it and he's had to do his deed in the crate, then clean it out thoroughly. Use a mixture of light vinegar and water that can eliminate and neutralize the smell of the urine. Change the blanket and give him another one that you have used and still has your smell on it.

As much as is possible, do not let him soil the crate because the odor of his own smell will make him repeat the act. If you are using a crate, you are the one who must take him out, even if it means sleepless nights or setting the alarm!

**8. How long can you leave the puppy in a crate?**

You cannot leave him in for a long time till he seems adjusted to the crate without howling for you and looks comfortable and settled in there. When it comes to a time that

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you have to go out and leave him, then consider the following steps to prepare him for when you have to leave home:

- Now that he sees the crate as his private quarters and you want to leave him inside for a while, first be sure that you have taken out anything that he can chew and choke on like a stuffed toy or his rawhide bone or any other item that could be dangerous.
- Then exercise him as in take him for a long walk and see that he has done his potty business.
- Once you get home, remove the leash and collar, guide him to the crate and close him in. Do not talk to him or stroke him or give him any inkling of the fact that you are about to leave.
- Walk off and be out of sight. He might howl a bit but let him. See how long he is upset. If he stays quiet for a minute, come back and praise him and give him a hug.
- Next time leave him in for a longer time and keep up this practice till you can leave him in there for an hour. Keep at it till it's natural for him to be by himself in the crate.

However two hours is the maximum time you can crate your dog after which he will need to go outside to the potty area. Some one in the family will have to take over and let the Siberian Husky out for potty breaks. Do not leave your Husky in the crate for longer than four hours- it's not fair and not practical and the poor dog will be bound to use the crate as a bathroom.

**Some crating No! No's!**

- Do not leave your Siberian Husky in the crate with a collar or a leash on- he might get strangled.
- Do not leave any toys inside that could prove to be dangerous to him.
- Do not leave him for longer those 2 to 4 hours without a potty break.
- Do not let him soil the crate.
- Do not use the crate as a punishment.

**House training a Siberian Husky while you are at work**

This is difficult and slightly unfair for the Husky. Before you bring home a Siberian Husky, you should know that it needs an alpha in the pack and if you are the person who will be the one to give him primary care person, it would do wonders if you are there to guide your puppy or older dog. If you still have to go ahead and leave him alone then use a crate and leave for work after he's comfortable with the crate. The options you have are to use the crate and get someone to help out.

Give him his exercise, see to his potty business and leave him in the crate. Then ask your neighbor or family member who will give him his meals, to wait for a while and take him out and then crate him again. The neighbor or family member would have to do this at regular intervals. The problems involved is housebreaking without you is that the Husky might not listen to others. He also may break into inconsolable howling. What's best for

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your Siberian Husky is that the primary care giver is around so work it out and give your Siberian Husky the best.

## The Golden Rules of Housebreaking your Siberian Husky

You would need to:

**Firstly** see to it that your Siberian Husky is not allowed to roam around the house, till he or she knows the rules and is housebroken. This means that you are the alpha in charge of preventing him from wandering about the house and doing his job in the wrong places, including the crate, if you are using one.

**Secondly**, you must see to it that your Siberian Husky gets to go to the potty spot as often as he can. This means that you are in charge of seeing that he has access to the potty spot at frequent intervals, after meals and naps and first things in the morning and last thing in the night.

**Thirdly**, be patient and never let your frustration show. Praise your Siberian Husky when he does his job in the right place and show your disapproval with a very stern 'No'. Do not be physical aggressive but do be very firm.

**Fourthly**, set a very repetitive pattern and consistently stick to it. Feed your puppy or older Husky at the same time everyday, take him out after every meal, etc. Being repetitive helps to establish a routine and once they get used to a routine, the more likely they are to get into the housebreaking drill on their own.

### House breaking logistics

**Consider Getting a Doggie door:** Fix the kitchen door with a smaller doggie door that your Siberian Husky can use once he knows that he has to go. Slip him through the door till he can use it himself. However you **MUST** make sure that the fencing is adequately strong and that your Siberian Husky will not be able to dig his way out.

**Consider a potty annexure near the kitchen:** What you could do is cordon off the kitchen from the rest of the house, leave the crate near the doggie door and plan it such that the doggie door lead to a fenced off potty area. This way your Siberian Husky can slip out the doggie door, do his job and you will have no fear of him escaping into the main garden and out of it or soiling the house inside.

### Housebreaking No! No's!

- Don't rub his nose in the mess- he will just get more stubborn.
- Don't use cat litter that will stick to your Huskies feet. In fact don't use litter boxes at all. Encourage them to go outside. If you must let them go inside then opt for newspaper, which can be thrown, away along with the smell that attracts them.
- Don't lock him in a small room. That's cruel and unfair. Train him well enough to go outside on his own through the doggie door.

Be tolerant, loving and firm all at the same time while housebreaking your Siberian Husky. Some Siberian Huskies are housetrained in 2 weeks while some take their own

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time. Do not desert your Siberian Husky if he takes too long. Have patient consistency and be in control.

## Chapter 16: Introduction to Obedience Training



It's best to start off on an honest note. Training a Siberian Husky can be a challenge. This does not mean that they cannot be trained, or that they are not intelligent enough to take orders or that they are wild as the wolves they resemble. It just means it's a challenge that can wear out the ordinary person who is either a first time dog owner or someone who doesn't love his Siberian to go that extra mile. Let's admit it, the abandoned Siberians are those who have been found to be 'difficult' but is it just fair to lay the blame on them?

Where a Siberian Husky is concerned, you are the alpha of the pack, and if you can drill that into his head, he will be his master's voice. It can be safely said that for every Siberian Husky that is difficult, there is a trainer who isn't effective and skilled enough.

### **Let's find out what makes a Siberian Husky difficult:**

- Siberian Huskies need strict masters, a fact born from being a working dog among the Chukchi people.
- Siberian Huskies are very independent- a trait that comes from being left to hunt in the wild the Siberian summers.
- They are self-thinking dogs that are not open to being compromisingly obedient just because you love them.
- They are extremely intelligent and can sense when you are in control. So they will manipulate by choosing to ignore your commands.
- Siberian Huskies are extremely energetic and if they do not get ample exercise they will tend to be bored and more undisciplined.
- They are fearless from being in the extreme climate of their origin and till you can command their respect, they will fearlessly be disobedient.
- They are not one-master dogs because they grew up in packs and were essentially socialized with the entire family and community. Besides they were busy getting their job done rather than sucking up to the master.

### **Let's see why some owners aren't as effective and skilled at training Huskies:**

- Some Siberian Husky owners dilute their authority by pampering the dog as a puppy because he is so cute and exasperated when he doesn't listen as he grows.
- Sometimes they forget that a strict master doesn't need to be physically hard
- Some owners want quick results and lack patience. They assume that the dog they have brought home will pick up the rules of the house in a matter of a few days of routine.
- Sometimes owners fail to channel the excessive energy of the Siberian Husky and end up with a bored pet that ends up with too much energy to be controlled.



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- Often, owners show their exasperation and the dog picks up this weak link and becomes even more disobedient.
- Some owners simply do not know enough about this breed and expect the Siberian Husky to become a Golden Retriever the moment he steps in the home!
- Some owners just do not go out and get help with the training and assume the Siberian Husky is stupid.

### Training yourself to train a Siberian Husky

Well, now we know that Siberian Huskies are not naturally inclined to discipline and obedience. However they are not stupid nor are they too wild. It's just that they are very willful fellows and required to be impressed with you. They aren't the kind who can laze around watching you warm your feet near the fireplace. They want to be given some work to do, a challenge to deal with and to run as free as the wind. Above all they lead to follow a lead. All they need is a very strong and commanding leader of the pack- that's you. You can begin the challenge of training your Siberian Husky by:

**Research work:** No one is asking you to join a university! All you have to do is learn more about the Siberian Husky before you bring him or her home. Talk to the breeder and the vet. Look up resources in a library or online. Contact Siberian Husky clubs who can give you a lot of information about the breed. They can also link you up with owners who have successfully trained dogs and can help you out with what you should and should not do with a Siberian Husky.

**Set Rules:** Another thing to do before you get the Siberian Husky is to set the rules. You and your family should be clear about where the dog will sleep, the potty area, the commands that you will use and who will be the main caregiver. Decide ahead on the food you will give, as well as the amount and where he or she will eat, the route you will walk the Husky and the games you intend to play. Set a routine that you and the family will follow and establish as a repetitive scheme of action.

**Equip yourself:** Talk to the breeder and find out what you need to reinforce and ready your house for the Siberian (as in the fencing etc) and what you would need for training and caring for the Siberian Husky (as in crate etc.). Find out the best collar to use and the right leash. Get a lot of toys appropriate for a Siberian that he can't tear apart or swallow.

**Start Early:** Begin the training right away. Don't just concentrate on the house breaking aspect. Try and blend in the obedience training with the housebreaking. Use simple commands like "No", "Stop", "Good Job", "Sit", etc. Use the commands consistently and enforce the puppy or the older Siberian to listen. Reward and acknowledge your pet when he listens. If he doesn't, then try again. Drive home to the puppy that what you want as the leader of the pack is to listen to you.

**Ditch the punishing:** Punishing the puppy or older Siberian by locking him up in a crate or room or any negative physical action like hitting and scolding will only make your

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task difficult. It will harden the Siberian's resolve not to listen to you and also he will realize that you are not in control. Send out the right message and be in control.

**Be firm:** Learn from your Siberian Husky and be as stubborn and persistent as he or she is. If your resolve turns out to be stronger than his, your Husky will accept that you are the boss. As he begins to listen don't turn ecstatic and gooey over him. Continue to be firm and continue to demand obedience as well as stick to the routine. Be firm, consistent, and repetitive and do not give in.

**Raw materials for training your Siberian Husky**

Nylon or leather collar - not a choke chain
Whistle
6 ft. leash - (nylon is o.k. for puppies - but opt for a leather leash later as it won't slip in your hands.)
Harness leash is best for Siberian Huskies
Tennis Ball, toys, chewing toys
25 ft. lunge line - in order to keep control of pup and let pup get used to a collar and leash.
List of commands and your voice
ID tag with your phone and address

**The main command words to begin with are:**

- Your Siberian Husky's name
- "No"
- "Good Dog"

Note that your Siberian will respond to how you say the word. Keep a commanding voice according to the severity of the word and action. Also always use your Siberian Husky's name before every command. He should know that he's the one expected to listen instead of having that "who me?" look, when you ask him to sit!

**How do you begin training the Siberian Husky?**

- First allot a comfy corner. Let him or her get used to the crate or corner, which is where he or she will sleep. Make sure it's a small cozy den-like place that is out of everybody's way, but in the line of your vision. Let this crate or corner be his or her comfort zone.
- Use the first week to concentrate on Housebreaking your Siberian with repetitive trips to the potty spot, every 15 minutes, after meals, first thing in the morning and last thing in the night. Use easy command words that he or she will associate with going potty. Watch for signals or use an alarm to know when he must go!
- Stick to fixed timings for meals, sleeps and exercise. Take your Husky out to play and always use a leash. Do not trust a Siberian Husky without a leash. Get the

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puppy used to the leash and collar as early as possible, but do take them off when you crate them.

- Also get him to understand when you want him to keep quiet. If you are using a crate and the Siberian begins to whine or howl, tap the crate and firmly use a command that should indicate consistently to keep quiet- say something like “good dog” or a simple “quiet”. Make sure that the pup can see you. Use the command when the puppy or older dog make a noise and reward them when they stay quiet for a while.
- It's now time to train your Siberian Husky to be alone. Feed him, walk him, let him do his potty business and then leave him alone without a word. No need for goodbye etc. Just leave him there without a word. Practice leaving him till he can stay alone, without whining for a considerable time.

### **Chewing and your Siberian Husky**

Let him chew. Dogs have to chew; it's their way of finding out and getting familiar with things. It also uses up some of their energy. That doesn't mean you sacrifice your sofa! Have lots of good chew toys- one or two will not do. If he chooses to chew on an object that he shouldn't, say something like “drop it” and take it away firmly. Be firm and give him a chew toy. Use the bitter green apple anti-chew spray on your furniture and your Siberian will hate putting his mouth near those things. Get a teething puppy some baby rings and old socks etc. Freeze them and give it to him so that it soothes his gums. Do not make chewing your hand a game for him. Though it seems fun when he's a puppy, it will be an irritating (and painful) habit as he grows. Discourage it.

### **Bonding with your Siberian**

They might not take orders but the good thing about this breed is that they take to their human family immediately. They are very sociable and love being with their human pack and for any kind of training to be effective, it is important that you bond with your pet.

- Use his name often and call out to him, when he whines or howls.
- Get him to understand that “No” means No.
- If he's in crate bring him into your bedroom on the first night.
- Let him know that you are the ace in the pack and that he cannot go over your head to do something. Show him you are in control.
- Show your affection though, by petting him, holding him and rewarding him with snacks when he responds to your bid.
- Don't let other family members give him snacks whenever they feel like- it will undermine your authority.
- Take him on walks and allow him to explore things but always on a leash.
- Grooming time is a great way to bond. Brushing your pet establishing a physical way of expressing that you care.

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## Establishing yourself as the Alpha

If you are the primary care giver, you need to be the role model and the alpha of the pack. Here's how you can build up the image.

- Always be ahead of your Siberian. Do not let him lead you during walks, or even through the entrance of your house or when you are climbing upstairs. Let him or her follow you.
- When you come back from home, don't go up to him. Ignore him till he comes to greet you.
- Similarly, you must call him to you to get a reward or treat instead of rushing up to where he is.
- Before you give him his meal, make sure you eat first. He should know that the alpha has the first right to eat and then he gets his chow. This is not cruel- this is necessary to establish you as the authority.
- Do not adjust with your dog by stepping around him when he is in your way. Move him from the path first. He should adjust to your ways after all you're the alpha.
- Tell him to lie down while you brush him and handle him. Frown when he growls and do not coax him as if he is doing you a favor. Ignore him when he tries to distract you with his antics. (You can enjoy and laugh at them when he knows you are the alpha)
- Also make him accept the fact that you can put your hand in his mouth and he dare not bite. Do it slowly but firmly when he's a puppy. It will also help when you have to brush his teeth.
- Look at him straight in the eye, when it's time to discipline and be firm about your displeasure.
- Make sure that your chair and bed are off limits to him till he accepts your dominance. No one messes with the alpha- even a Siberian Husky!
- When you play always make sure that you are the one in control of the toy or tennis ball or whatever it is you are playing with. After play is over the ball literally should be in the alpha's court.
- Always use his name when you use command or give out praise and treats. But do not use his name when you are displeased with his action. Bad Dog is all you need to say.
- Make him feel secure in his presence- the alpha dog protects all the others. That will make him look up to you.

All the above and load of love will create respect in your Siberian for you. Training can be a challenge but as long as you and your Husky know where you stand and who is in control, training can be a breeze.

### **Training with the leash**

With Siberian Huskies, training is all about follow the leader- the leader being you.

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Get your Siberian Husky used to the leash as soon as he is 8 weeks old. Do not let him get used to going for walks without it. They are fast runners who in the excitement of the running experience, don't bother to listen to your calls and get lost in the process.

- Begin with a buckle collar and not a choke chain.
- Use a harness lead, because since this is a dog brought up in a pack, the neck is a vulnerable part- in the sense that canines are a species that jump at each other's throats. So since the harness lead doesn't pull at the throat, it's more acceptable to Siberian Huskies.
- Even if your puppy or older dog resists it at first, be firm about the leash.
- Before taking them outside, let them wear the collar in the house and trail around the house with the leash trailing them around.
- After a few days take the puppy out but you should lead the way and get your Siberian to follow you. This way you can be in charge.
- Before training, make sure that the Siberian has been fed, played with and has been left alone for an hour or two.
- Once it's training time, pick him up, put him on the leash and but **DON'T SAY A WORD** to your Siberian.
- Take him to the spot where you plan to train and set him down.
- The moment he begins to pull in one direction, tug at the leash and go the opposite way. You might pull him off his feet but the idea is to get it into his head that he should follow you and that you won't be following him.
- The moment he pulls again in another direction, pull away in the opposite direction and this time yank him off his feet a bit, so that he knows you mean business and that he won't get his way. This is not cruel- pack dogs want you to establish the lead or else they will be undisciplined and rootless.
- All through out **DO NOT SAY A WORD**. Do not use the command words at all- you are not trying to get him to listen and understand- you have to get him to obey. Not saying a single word is a way of not giving him a chance to disobey.
- The aim is to set the rule that you will lead and he will follow. After being prevented from going his way, he will turn around and look at you for directions, because he doesn't want another yank!
- You should make sure that the Siberian is as near as you while walking as possible.
- When you see that your Husky is near you and willing to follow your lead speak to him and tell him that he's been good. He'll hand on to your words of your praise and might happily tug in another direction but you must gain walk in the opposite direction and yank him off.
- Avoid the typical scene of the dog ahead, pulling at one end of the leash and the owner being dragged along at the other end.
- Be consistent with this way of training and never leave the Husky off the leash. Just because he's obeyed your commands for the last four times, does not mean that he can be trusted off the leash.

Consistent leash training would be very effective in establishing you as the alpha of the pack. In no time, your Siberian Husky will learn that you are the one who will decide the course of action and the route to take and he will look up to respect your authority. Don't

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expect the Siberian to give up the tugging. His instinct is to pull and you cannot train him out of it totally. You can get him to follow your lead.

### Why does a Siberian Husky pull at the leash?

His job was to pull the sled of his master, so the moment you put a Siberian Husky on a harness, he does what he knows best- pulling! However if you insist that you will do the pulling and he will have to follow, he will learn the all-important lesson that he has to follow your lead. You will have to continually have to remind him that you are the one he has to follow, whether he is a puppy or an adult. With a Siberian Husky pulling on the leash might surface at any time. Do not relax back, if he performs well for some weeks. If you do not consistently show him that you are the leader, he'll happily pull you along like a sled!

### Training with commands

The key is to hold your Siberian Husky's attention. The idea is to repeat consistently but repetition is something that bores a Siberian Husky. So what you need to do is:

- Divide the training sessions into 15 minutes each and spread it out to two or three times a day.
- Make sure he has had adequate exercise and that you use all the familiar command words consistently.
- During training sessions, do not speak to the dog unless you want him or her to respond to you.
- Be clear about what you want him or her to do.
- Go along with their sense of humor but retain control.
- When your Siberian jumps on someone say "No" or "Off." When he jumps to get your attention, play blind and ignore it.
- When you give him his food, tell him to "Sit", instead of attacking the food bowl.
- Teach him to sit and then say, "Stay". Walk away for a while and if he moves say "Stay again.
- Once he learns to stay, teach him "Come" and get him to come to you.
- If he does not respond to your command, show your displeasure in your face and tell him that you are not happy.
- Insist on repeating a command till he does what you want him to.
- Once the Siberian Husky does what you asked him to do, stop there, reward him and move on. Do not repeat the same exercise again.

### What if the Siberian nips and scratches and plays rough?

Siberian Huskies do get overexcited – especially with kids. Even while play they try to have the upper hand and may get a little rough and even knock down your toddler. In the heat of the moment, he might scratch but it is not out of the intent to hurt.

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- As the puppy grows, don't allow him to nip at you.
- Do not encourage them to chew on your fingers for fun.
- If he nips at you, pull away and say "No, bad dog".
- Teach your children to use the command, "No".

Do not conclude that your Siberian cannot be trained and give up on him. Siberians play rough- if you watch to Siberian Huskies at play; you would think they are fighting! This breed is very affectionate and gentle to humans- don't doubt its intentions, just train it to be in control, through the effective use of command words.

### **Training a Siberian not to jump**

If you don't want your puppy to jump at all when he's older, then teach him when he's still a puppy. Often owners think it's a cute thing to do and then are taken aback when the puppy is a full-grown adult who can jump and knock him down!

- When your Siberian puppy or dog jumps at you pay absolutely no attention. If you display your glee at how cute he or she looks, you will have to contend with repeat performances from the jumper.
- He is jumping to get your attention so do not give him any- do not even look at him and pretend that you don't even see him. Do not even say a word like "bad dog". Just ignore it.
- When he stops and stays still for a while turn to him and say, "good boy" in a very calm tone.
- If he begins jumping again, turn away from him and ignore it. When he stops turn to him again.

### **If the jumping dog is an adult Siberian Husky:**

- Walk forward as the Siberian jumps, because if you walk backwards, it will encourage him to lunge at you.
- Walking towards him will also force the Siberian back on all fours because there is no room enough to balance.
- Do not yell at him or shout- this will get him excited. Ignore him till he is calm.

### **If your Siberian Husky jumps on others:**

- Teach him to respond to the command "Off", the moment he lunges at anybody else and guide him away. For friendly Siberian's this is the way to greet people.
- Put your dog on the leash and train with a friend or family member. When the Husky jumps at the other person say "off" and take him to the side with a tug of the leash. Do not yank him off.
- Make him sit till he is calmer. If he repeats a jump at the other person, again say off and guide him away.
- Reward him when he responds to the "off" and sits calmly.
- Teach your Siberian Husky that he will be greeted only if he sits.
- Teach all the family and friends to only pet him when he sits.

During training keep your Siberian on a leash. At all other times make sure he is fenced in, or in his crate or kennel. Do not think you can train your Husky to be free off the leash. He will be lost and hurt in the process. Also train yourself to have the right attitude:

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- Don't have grand expectations from your Siberian.
- Be consistent and patient.
- Make your Siberian understand that "No" means stop what you are doing.
- Do not tolerate disobedience and incorrect behavior.
- Maintain control at all times.
- Be relaxed and calm.
- Don't speak unless you want a command heeded to.
- Be firm but with kindness.

Your Siberian Husky is kind of like a wayward child that needs the extra disciplining and like a child, he responds to a good authority figure that can be respected for his or her patience, gentleness and maturity.

### **The Secret to Dog Training**

For the best of the best Specialist Dog Training books that reveal all the tightly held secrets to Training Dogs, visit my review page [Here](#), or use this web site link in your internet browser [http://www.ezy4u.com/review\\_page.html](http://www.ezy4u.com/review_page.html)

Here I give my thoughts as to the value of each of these resources. If you are serious about training your Husky, then I highly recommend you check these out.

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## **Chapter 17: How To Change Your Siberian Husky's Temperament For The Better**

What usually attracts the unwary pet owner to a Siberian Husky is his appearance. But the next, after that is his endearing temperament. His cheerful attitude, coupled with a sense of adventure, makes him the darling of every family he joins.

Breeders too have a soft spot for this breed as they have a natural flair for being big winners in the show ring. But sometimes, despite the best of care and love, the jolly temperament of the Siberian Husky is hidden and what surfaces is a biter or a very shy Siberian Husky

*Why do some Siberian Husky's become shy? It is said that if the Siberian Husky's genes display good temperament, no amount of careless handling can damage that. But, sadly, even good genes do not forgive bad handling and turn the best of Siberian Husky's into biters and aggressive dogs.*

❖ **Degrees of shyness:** There are degrees of shyness in Siberian Husky's that forms the root cause of various temperament problems. If he's just a little shy, he may not be suited for the show ring, but he's the perfect family pet. But if he's very shy, he can be very aggressive and can end up biting too, unless firmly handled. When this happens, your Siberian Husky is said to display "fear aggression." Such Siberian Husky's may also suffer from another temperament problem—separation anxiety.

❖ **Aggression in Siberian Huskys:** It is true that Siberian Huskys experience aggression that manifests itself in various ways. In fact, this is said to be one of the most widespread problems that companion pets face. After all, what could be more frightening than finding a very angry animal attacking you?

To make a tame loving dog into an aggressive monster is really quite simple. All it takes is your meanness, and the job is complete and the dog chaotic. Naturally, in such a situation, your Siberian Husky is left with no defenses except to be angry and snarling whenever he sees you. This is chiefly a reaction out of his fear and anxiety, the feeling of not being confident in his own environment.

The influences on a house pet are many. This means that there are various sources from where he can pick up both positive and negative influences. Think of the Siberian Husky who growls at you when you pick up his toy or ask him to get off the sofa. When he bites you in response, he is responding to the aggression that has built up inside him. So, to explain to such dogs that this is not the right response is an onerous task.

As a pet owner, you should aim rather to prevent aggression in your pet than attempt to get ride of it once it sets in. As you know, this embraces several factors: socialization, training for confidence, manners and social structure.

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### What to do with an aggressive Siberian Husky:

If your Siberian Husky strikes you as being very aggressive, send him to the vet first, if only to rule out physical causes. For instance, if your Siberian Husky is in great pain or discomfort, he may demonstrate this by being very mean or irritable. But before you get into figuring his behavior out, first determine that he is physically fit.

The causes of aggression are many. So, it would be worthwhile for you to identify the cause of his aggression and then give him the relevant help. The next step is to give him obedience training—both to socialize him and to prevent aggression from occurring.

❖ **Kinds of aggression:** Siberian Huskys express their aggression in various ways. These are:

- **Chained reaction:** This is the combination of fear and territorial aggression as a result of chaining a dog. New pet owners take in a dog and then chain him up for long hours a day while he watches the rest of the family go about its business from where it lies chained. This builds up a feeling of anger and resentment in him and he expresses this by barking, jumping on those around him, particularly kids who enjoy this. They laugh at him and then go away, ignoring him once more.

As time passes, he develops a territorial feeling about his space and no longer wants a game. He feels cheated by the fact that the very family who professed to love him ignores him now and is happy to leave him in chains. One day, when he can't tolerate it any longer, he reaches out and bites the person closest to him.

If you, as a pet owner, cannot have your Siberian Husky around the house, mingling with your family, then please don't bring him home.

- **Possession aggression:** This happens when we make the mistake of going over to our pet while he's eating. Your Siberian Husky probably interprets your presence as your coming over to take back his bowl of food—something he will never want to part with! This feeling stems from the basic fact that dogs don't share their things. Such a dog usually guards his possessions—whether they are his food, toys or even his master.

One way of overcoming this is to attack the problem while in puppy hood. Begin by giving him something and then taking it back. After a while, return it to him. From this he will learn that though someone may have what he wants, if he is patient, it will come back to him. To make it easier for him, teach him to respond to "give."

- **Cage rage:** You cage your pet for no reason for indiscriminately long periods. And what do you expect? First of all, anger. Then, the feeling in your Siberian Husky that the cage belongs to him. This feeling comes out of caging your pet and then forgetting all about him. This angers him and he flares up. Further, he feels trapped and immobile when the whole world is doing things and happily too! So, he stays in his cage and fights the way he knows best.

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Cage rage can also manifest itself as hyperactivity. This may just be a temporary reaction, which goes away the moment the dog's independence is restored to it.

▪ **Dominance aggression:** This happens when each of your dogs wants to establish himself as the boss. This feeling could also come about between pet and master. Further, it could also be experienced by strange dogs and dogs of a household.

*If you have more than one dog that experience this problem, the solution lies in leaving them to sort out their differences. Usually, they don't take long to resolve their differences. So, if you interfered only to expedite the solution, it will only aggravate the problem, with no solution in sight.*

When you take your Siberian Husky out and he gets aggressive with strange dogs, you need to watch them all carefully. Whatever happens there, as the pet owner, you need to play leader in this situation. If you find yourself being ruled by your pet, it can be the seed of a lot of problems in future. But if you find yourself being in the eye of a storm, you could immediately implement the following:

▪ **Obedience classes:** Here, put yourself first. Even if you go with your pet, be the first to walk through the door, first up the stairs, first to enter class, etc. Don't give him the option of figuring out when he wants to be a pet, or when he wants to be the first in the car. Don't let him tower over you, either while sitting or standing i.e. don't sit while he stands on a chair or sofa or on the stairs. Height is a determinant of power and leadership position.

Don't give in to him easily. Does he want something to eat or drink? First, make him sit. Then, let him work for it. Or maybe he could just do a trick or two for it. The idea is that aggression breeds aggression. If he is aggressive with you, he needs to learn to accept it from you too. This doesn't mean you punish him as that will only worsen the problem.

▪ **Fear aggression:** manifests itself when a dog feels cornered, and feels he must fight his way out of a situation. Ears laid flat against the head, head held low and tail tucked between his legs while growling are sure signs of fear aggression. Remove your dog immediately as he may be a fear-biter, and take steps now to properly socialize him. Obedience classes are a must for a fear aggressive dog.

When a dog is aggressive to other dogs, it is an indication that he was not properly socialized. A well-trained and socialized dog will want to play rather than maim another dog that approaches him.

**Fighting fear aggression:** To get over this problem, your Siberian Husky pup needs to be trained in a puppy kindergarten class where he will be given obedience training. Here, he should learn his lessons with the use of positive reinforcement training methods. By this we mean that the pup be praised, given treats and positive attention for good

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behavior. He should also be socialized or exposed to various social situations in a positive light.

Remember never to pat your aggressive Siberian Husky on his head or behind his ears. Instead, you should pat him on the nape of his neck and on his chest. This is so because these signs show dominance and can cause aggression in your ....., as they can either scare him off or challenge him to show his might. This, according to him, is a power struggle, which he has to win.

▪ **Does he bite you?** You should not really tolerate him biting you or tearing your clothes. Say “no” very firmly whenever he does this. You could also take his muzzle in your hand and shake his head gently, while saying “no.”

*Once he learns the connection between his action and your reaction, he will learn not to do it. Meanwhile, you can move on to something else: distract his attention by giving him a toy. Once he changes his ways, give him positive reinforcement by saying “Good boy” to him several times.*

Don't be an indulgent parent by cuddling him whenever he makes a mistake. This gives him the wrong signals that you appreciate his behavior when you really don't. Be careful of how you treat him at this stage because it could be that this biting is because he is teething.

If your dog is a biter of things, you can make him grow out of this habit by saying “give” gently, while also asking for the toy that's in his mouth. Once he gives it to you, reward him generously. From this, he will learn that if he gives you what you want, he will, in turn get something better.

▪ **Obsessive compulsive disorders (OCD):** This condition manifests itself in those dogs who are stressed, anxious or bored and can prove to be a very testing time for the pet owner. In such a condition, he is very dangerous to those around him and can be so destructive that he breaks things around the house and yard, attacks angry neighbors, and is completely uncontrollable. They display odd behaviors such as obsessive digging, continuous biting at their own feet, barking at nothing and attacking inanimate objects.

If he is bored, you will see him digging, barking at no one in particular and chasing his tail. Take this as your cue to increase your Siberian Husky's physical activity level. Tire him out by playing with him, taking him on long walks, opening up a fun avenue for him. Do this and you have a happy Siberian Husky That apart, such activities bring you closer to your pet, while also reducing certain health risks, such as accidentally swallowing poison and overeating.

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- **Depression:** A fallout of physical ailments, the commonest are Distemper, Parvovirus and Coronavirus. These are often fatal and therefore should be checked in time.
- **Rabies** also leads to inexplicable aggression. This ends in death and is highly contagious too. Brain tumours, neurological disorders or seizures can also cause aggression.
- **Submissive urination:** Your Siberian Husky may also suffer from another kind of condition, different from anything discussed so far. This is called submissive urination and is all about your Siberian Husky urinating all over you the moment she gets to see you at the door. How do you cure your Siberian Husky of this? Simple. Just ignore it and it will go away.

What you have to realize is that through this unusual means, your dog is saying something to you. But what? And why is it using such body language to convey its message? Actually, when your Siberian Husky begins by showing you his belly, then pees a little, he is saying, "I love you, boss. Let me please you." But to you this is disgusting and you are angry to see him pee all over you. As a result, you scold and punish him. This confuses the pet and he realizes he will have to try harder to please you, but is at a loss to do this, as his only weapon has been taken away from him.

This is why it is best to ignore the problem. If he wants your attention, go up to him and say "Hi" quietly and clap your hands while asking him to "sit." This will put him in a position of obedience. Now's the time for you to praise him, let him out for a walk while you quickly clean up his mess so that he does not associate your warmth with his mistake. Soon, your Siberian Husky will realize that urinating on you is not the best way of welcoming you home, and this odd behavior will gradually disappear.

Of course, there are those pets who cannot get over this problem. They insist on greeting long-lost friends with a puddle. Scolding him in the usual way will do nothing to solve the problem. Instead, lay washable throw rugs at the entrance of your house and keep a roll of paper towels handy to absorb his puddle. But remember, if it comes from his love, you should accept his "love" with a grateful smile.

### How to interpret the behavior of your Siberian Husky?

- **His ears back and growling too!** Why is your Siberian Husky sending you messages he doesn't meant to? So, you have perhaps caught him doing two contrary things, such as wagging his tail at you while also growling a bit fiercely.

So, how will you interpret his behavior? If your Siberian Husky has his ears pulled back, it proves he is scared and upset and may even bite you if you reach out to be nice to him with a pat or kind word. So, ideally, you should walk away calmly and leave him alone.

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▪ **His tail tucked between his legs:** Your Siberian Husky is frightened and nervous about being close to people. With a little help from the vet and a counselor, he will be more confident and a happier pet to have around.

▪ **Protecting his pillow:** If your Siberian Husky protects his pillow, it means he's trying to guard something that he thinks belongs to him. The reason why he growls is that perhaps he has been receiving praise and rewards from his owners every time he guards something. Since they don't understand his anger, they calm him down with a small treat. Now, every time your Siberian Husky is hungry, all he has to do is to growl at you.

As a remedial measure, you, the Siberian Husky's owner, must ignore such behavior till the time the Siberian Husky gets up and walks away from the pillow or whatever he guards. Once he does this repeatedly and of his own will, begin rewarding him with a lot of your attention. Let him know he's been a "good boy." Reward him with a treat.

▪ **Ears pulled back and a tail tucked in:** Obviously, your Siberian Husky is scared. So frightened is he that he avoids making eye contact and may even crouch in a corner. He may also display another kind of behavior called the "approach-avoidance" where your Siberian Husky may run continuously towards one person and then away from him. Such a dog is frightened and the hair on his coat will often stand on end.

## Chapter 18: Caring for your Husky as he Ages

As your beloved Siberian Husky ages, you will notice the subtle changes. The golden years are really special and will draw you closer to your pet than ever.

You will find that the Siberian Husky has become a creature of habit. Any changes in life-style are unacceptable. Even if you were to change the place of the feeding dish, the dog will, express disapproval.



Older dogs have different needs when compared to the young adult or the puppy you brought home so many years ago. The whole perspective changes ---exercise is not as vigorous and the dog values it's extended resting time. With the onset of age, the metabolism, activity level, and function of the internal organs change. Thus, the diet should comprise of less fat and proteins but more vitamins. Prepare her meals keeping this in mind.

Consult a vet and draw up an ideal diet for the dog -- the food must be adjusted according to whether the dog has any serious ailments like cancer, kidney failure, or diabetes.

With ageing, for the Siberian Husky, his home and environment become heaven on earth. Any change in routine is both confusing and upsetting. The dog prefers his family and people.

### ***What Causes Ageing?***

1. The adrenal gland responds to messages from the brain and triggers various functions/ reactions in a dog. When the gland slows down, it is a sure sign of ageing.
2. The consequence of this physiological deterioration spreads all over, and there is a general slowing down and fading away of the functions of the dog's vital organs.
3. The resultant effects are: hearing as well as vision impairments.
4. Slowing down of coordination and reflexes.
5. Malfunctioning of the five senses – taste, smell, hearing, sight, and feeling.
6. Impaired blood circulation --- the heart slows down and insufficient blood supply reaches the lungs and other parts of the body.

In a Siberian Husky, the signs of aging begin to appear between 6-8 years. In general, a relatively large and healthy dog will age much later than an illness prone, smaller counterpart. Also, dogs spayed and neutered before they are six months old tend to live longer.

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## What are the Signs of Ageing in the Siberian Husky?

The signs of ageing in general are:

- A slowing down of metabolism and immune systems.
- A lack of energy/enthusiasm for:
  - ❖ Long walks.
  - ❖ Playing.
  - ❖ Climbing stairs.
  - ❖ Being active in extreme temperatures.
- The skin loses its pliability and the efficiency of the sebaceous glands to keep the coat healthy and gleaming reduces considerably.
- Wounds take a longer time to heal
- Allergies are more severe.
- Deterioration of bones and muscles cause stiffness in body after periods of inactivity.
- Non-malignant tumors appear around the mouth and on the skin.
- There is a higher incidence of constipation or diarrhea.
- Loss of teeth and bad breath.
- Signs of irritation in the presence of loud noises and activity of children.
- Heart problems that are sometimes triggered off by tooth decay.
- The possibility of skeletal degenerative diseases.
- A higher tendency to become dehydrated after illness.
- The graying of coat.

The above signs are found in all dogs in general. Another significant change in the Siberian Husky is a loss of muscle tone. Muscular atrophy and reduction in muscle size is common. The abdomen may sag and the thighs may begin to look thinner. Please provide regular and moderate exercise. This will help keep muscles in reasonably good condition, improve muscle tone, and reduce the stiffening of arthritic joints.

Moderate and non-exhaustive exercise will keep the dog active and alert. One of the best ways to keep an aging dog fit is swimming. Swimming strengthens muscles without stress on joints and muscles.

### *Subtle Changes*

As a rule, the affectionate, playful, and intelligent personality of the Siberian Husky largely remains unchanged with old age. However, on some occasions you may find that your pet becomes:



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- Irritable as well as confused and tends to be absent minded.
- Becomes stubborn.
- Barks incessantly for no reason at all.
- Walks aimlessly around the house until exhausted.
- Yearns for more attention and affection than usual.
- Does not like being left alone.
- Stand quietly in a corner of a room, or when outside stands still, sniffing the grass or feeling the breeze.

Old age, an inevitable reality, can be made comfortable for the Siberian Husky, if you, the owner stand by the dog's side in time of need. Offer unconditionally, the special care and security the dog hankers for. This will ward away most problems and make the dog's senior citizen years as graceful as possible.

***Veterinary Care***

Take your dog to the vet for a check up, every three- six months from the time she completes six years – this will enable the vet to detect any problems early. Early detection and immediate treatment prevent escalation of illness/diseases. The vet will perform special tests to detect problems of old age.

- Blood tests for probable liver, kidney, and pancreatic problems.
- A special blood test, to see whether she has unusually small red blood cells. (microcytosis), and/or a high level of potassium content.
- Electro cardiograms for heart disease.
- Vision tests.
- Audibility tests.

The vet will advice a geriatric diet which:

- Contains easily digestible nutrients.
- Does not lead to intestinal upsets.
- Prevents obesity.

***Extra Grooming***

Your Siberian Husky will appreciate any extra grooming/massage that you offer. Grooming and massage helps circulation and works out any kinks.

- Brushing the coat and skin regularly prevents dryness.
- Massaging stimulates the glands under the skin.
- Lumps, abnormalities, and tumors, can be brought to the immediate attention of the vet.

***Feeding Habits***

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With age, the digestion process slows down.

So, you would need to:

- ✓ Keep the diet light, but nutritious.
- ✓ Keep the daily intake of food almost the same, but divide the quantity into 2-3 smaller meals--- increase the frequency of meals.
- ✓ As always make available fresh, clean, drinking water.
- ✓ If you are opting for a geriatric diet that has ingredients she is not used to, mix small quantities of it, initially with the daily diet and then, gradually increase the proportion of the new food each day until the new replaces the old.

***Exercise***

Encourage your Siberian Husky to be reasonably active. Tempt the dog to play with toys. Take the pet for a walk on good days and cancel on the days the dog is off color.

With age the Siberian Husky will not be able to tolerate as much exertion as when young. You, the pet-parent will instinctively recognize the limitations. Adjust to the needs of the dog—rework the Siberian Husky's routine.

You must:

- Pause for rest a couple of times during the walk, so that the Siberian Husky can catch a breath.
- Avoid tiring games.
- Reduce the frequency of the dog climbing stairs.
- Not to stop any activity that the dog is used to --- just reduce the intensity and duration.

***Hygiene***

As the pet-parent, you can prevent the onset of many infections by:

- ✓ Grooming the coat and cleaning the teeth every day.
- ✓ Bathing your pet more frequently.
- ✓ De-worming her once in 3 to 6 months to ward off various intestinal infections.
- ✓ Taking care to see that the dog is dry at all times.

***A Comfortable Bed***

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Ensure that the bed your elderly Siberian Husky uses is soft and comfortable, with a fleecy blanket of thick material. There are special beds available for dogs with spinal and other problems—one that adapts to the contours of the dog, making the dog extremely comfortable.

Ensure that the bed is always in a warm place, well away from drafts.

### *Ailments*

There are some ailments that are associated with age. As a pet-parent it is important and essential for you to know about these problems as well as what to expect. Consult your vet, join a group of Siberian Husky owners, and attend workshops and seminars that address the problem of Siberian Husky disease as well as geriatric care.

### *Arthritis*

Like humans, almost 25-30% of dogs are affected by stiffness, pain, swelling of joints, and difficulty in walking. Arthritis is a debilitating disease that will affect your Siberian Husky's well being. Also known as Degenerative Joint Disease, the dog will find simple everyday actions difficult as well as painful.

If your Siberian Husky displays:

- A reluctance to walk, climb stairs, jump or play.
- A limp in one or all legs.
- Signs of lagging.
- Difficulty in getting up.
- Pain when touched.
- A personality change.

Please consult your vet --- ask about treatment. Many pet owners have found that alternative therapy shows great results.

### *Hearing*

Hearing problems are very common with age --- you will find that your Siberian Husky does not respond to your call and cannot follow your commands unless you repeat them often.

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A dog often loses hearing sensitivity in old age. Request your vet to conduct auditory tests as well as check for ear infections/diseases.

If your dog has a hearing problem, then you should communicate using hand signals and touch.

You must request your family members and friends never to startle the Siberian Husky or approach the dog from behind.

### ***Obesity***

One of the most prevalent problems in old age for a Siberian Husky is obesity. With age and reduced activity, the metabolism slows down, and fewer calories are used -- the dog tends to gain weight.

A thinner dog is healthier than an obese one. Obesity stresses the heart, lungs, organs, joints, and muscles of a dog. If you find that your pet is in a moderately good condition with the onset of age, you may just have to reduce her normal feed to an optimum amount to maintain her weight.

### ***Urination***

With the onset of age most Siberian Huskys experience the need for frequent urination. Just as you adjusted to the dog's needs when it was a puppy now, once again, you will need to offer your help.

You may need to take the dog out to eliminate 2-3 times at night.

In case the Siberian Husky experiences urine leak, consult the vet he will advise you what to do. Spread a polythene sheet or washable pad over the dog's bed.

If there are instances of bed-wetting, extend your understanding. Never shout/punish.

Wash the bedding frequently using solutions that reduce odors. Dry the bedding in the sun. Always try and keep the bedding dry and clean.

### ***Dental Disease***

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Dental disease is a big problem in ageing dogs – you will have to check the Siberian Husky's teeth and gums every day for infection, sores, and redness.

Ask the vet how to care for dental hygiene – he may recommend special creams/medications. Or, even a change in diet.

Oral diseases are sometimes a sign of more grave internal problems – ask the vet to run the essential tests.

What you should watch out for is:

- Bad breath.
- Gingivitis.
- Inflamed gums.
- Tartar build up.
- Caries.

### ***Vision***

Another common problem of old age, is failing sight. Cloudy eyes usually indicate this. Eyes lose retinal cells and the retina becomes disorganized. The lenses of the dog's eyes lose focus and loss of sight sets in gradually.

The Siberian Husky will compensate for the loss of vision by using the sense of smell and other instincts such as touch.

You will need to help the Siberian Husky by not changing/altering the positions of objects at home – the environment must remain exactly to what the dog is familiar with. Otherwise, the dog will become confused and disoriented.

### ***Constipation and Diarrhea***

Studies indicate that there is an increased incidence of constipation and diarrhea in ageing dogs. This is probably due to a reduction in exercise and, the inability to digest fibrous foods. The vet will suggest methods to keep the dog as free as possible from these two problems—you will need to make subtle and intelligent changes in the Siberian Husky's diet.

Often, the cause for the problem may not be just old age but some intestinal infection/tumor.

Consult your vet if the problem persists.

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*Chest Diseases*

With age, susceptibility to heart and lung diseases increases. Regular check ups at the vet will reveal any onset, and the vet will not just prescribe medications but educate you on the precautions as well as care.

- Administer meticulously the medications prescribed by the vet to improve quality of life.
- Limit the salt content in the dog's diet.
- Monitor any increases/decreases in weight.
- Limit her activities -- do not allow any strenuous activities.

*Problems Encountered by Intact Dogs*

Dogs that are not spayed or neutered before they are six months of age tend to develop health problems with advancing age. Prostate disease in males and uterine infections or breast cancers in females are the most common.

- You should get the dog spayed or neutered before the first birthday.
- Or, if your pet is breeding quality, consider spaying/neutering soon after it has had litters.
- The vet must examine any lump in the female breast tissue promptly.
- Blood in urine of male dogs must be reported to the vet for further diagnosis.

Offer love, compassion, companionship, and togetherness to your Siberian Husky when it ages.

Your Questions , Our Answers

**Q. How should I care for my dog's eyes? Can I prevent blindness in old age?**

*There are some precautions that you can take to protect your Siberian Husky:*

- *When the dog is in a vehicle ensure that the face is inside and that dust and other floating particles do not enter the eyes—if possible, drive with the windows rolled up.*
- *Take the dog for regular eye checks.*
- *Ensure that the six- monthly check- up by the vet includes an eye examination.*
- *Seek the vet's intervention, the instant you detect an eye problem.*
- *For those who rear purebred dogs, the breeder would have supplied them with certificates pertaining to the eye health of the sire, dam, and puppies from the Canine Eye Registry Foundation (CERF)*

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**Q. I heard that a Siberian Husky could be rid of blindness caused by glaucoma by laser surgery. What are the signs I have to watch out for, to detect glaucoma?**

*Glaucoma is a condition, which can affect any dog breed. A fluid build up, leading to eye pressure causing partial or total blindness.*

*Signs to look out for are:*

- ✓ *Cloudiness.*
- ✓ *Excessive tearing of the membrane.*
- ✓ *Swelling of the eyeball.*
- ✓ *Sensitivity to light.*
- ✓ *Pain in the eye.*

*Laser surgery or pressure relieving medication can control this condition. In extreme cases, the eyeball is removed by surgery.*