

Week of September 1st

Welcome to the first weekly Arctic Tails newsletter! We'll be covering training methods, enrichment of the week, and a featured Breed.

This week we'll be covering recall training and its importance, touch therapy for enrichment, and you guessed it! Siberian Huskies.

Recall training or essentially your ability to consistently call your dog and have them return to you is dependent on a combination of consistent verbal cues and reward. First, start out in a controlled environment like your living room where there are very few distractions and your dog will be focused on you. Then slowly build up distractions and environments to condition your partner that the cue is constant. You're familiar with Togo and I 😊 We started out when he was a puppy in a small fenced field where I (and Sierra) could easily correct his wandering behavior and reward him, mostly with excited silly sounds and clapping as he wasn't food motivated. Dogs and dog breeds are incredibly diverse and as such their needs vary. Even among sibling pups, personalities quickly become noticeable. Therefore, you'll have to adapt to your partners specific interests and what distracts them. Togo, as a Siberian has a naturally high prey drive and is interested (distracted) in wild animals, particularly moose, ducks, magpies, horses and just about everything that can run fast. Avoid getting frustrated or angry as anything beyond the correction of your partners behavior is excessive and will only work against you.

Touch therapy is helpful in desensitizing your dog for regular care such as nail trimming or teeth brushing. As with most training, this will be easier and more effective the younger your dog is; this becomes normal as they age making the whole process less stressful for everyone.

From Wikipedia 😊

Siberian Huskies originated in Northeast Asia where they are bred by the Chukchi people for sled-pulling, guarding, and companionship. It is an active, energetic, resilient breed, whose ancestors lived in the extremely cold and harsh environment of the Siberian Arctic. William Goosak, a Russian fur trader, introduced them to Nome, Alaska during the Nome Gold Rush, initially as sled dogs. Huskies usually howl instead of barking and have been described as escape artists, which can include digging under, chewing through, or even jumping over fences.

Because the Siberian Husky had been raised in a family setting by the Chukchi and not left to fend for themselves, they could be trusted with children. The ASPCA classifies the breed as good with children. It also states they exhibit high energy indoors, have special exercise needs, and may be destructive "without proper care".

Siberian Huskies have a high prey drive due to the Chukchi allowing them to roam free in the summer. The dogs hunted in packs and preyed on wild cats, birds, and squirrels, but with training can be trusted with other small animals. They would only return to the Chukchi villages when the snow returned and food became scarce. Their hunting instincts can still be found in the breed today.

From ASPCA - WEEKLY ENRICHMENT The key to a happy and healthy dog is regular enrichment and allowing them to engage in their innate behaviors, such as playing, chasing, smelling, chewing and scavenging. By allowing your dog to engage in these behaviors, you allow them to be physically, emotionally and mentally satisfied. Dogs who don't receive stimulation tend to find ways to enrich themselves, resulting in unwanted behaviors.





