MUIRYETT HUSKIES



MUIRYETT'S ENCHANTED OF LASINSKI J.W. INGA

Inga gained her Junior Warrant at 17 months. Green Star + BOB St Patrick's Day 94. Judge Luis Migel V Anto Teixeira (Portugal). CC + BOB Darlington 94. Judge Micheal Karroch (Germany). CC Birmingham National 96. Judge Georgia Lawrence.

Inga is owned and loved by Susan & Iain Livingstone, BVMS, MRCVS:

57 Strathview Road, Lochview Estate, Bellshill, Lanarkshire. Tel: 01698 749844

Puppies hopefully available from Inga late 97.



SIBERKIN

MUIRYETTS BLACK SATIN Kimo awarded CC Working Breeds of Scotland 95. Judge: A Kolbe – Germany

MUIRYETTS ZARABANG Zara awarded CC, BOB National Working Breeds 96 Judge: Mike Stockman.

Highly placed throughout 96 Champion – Open Level MUIRYETTS SKIO & CHEEKY VIXEN AT SIBERKIN Meecha & Jade both placed at Champion – Open throughout 96.

M & R Enterkin, 18 Little Denny Road, Denny FK6 5AS 01324 825496



KRYSTALGAZER

1 CC & 2 RCCs

Dam Iceberg Top Brood Bitch 1993 – Runner up 1992 (SSHC of GB)

Breeder of Soft Amber First Scottish Champion and other Multi-CC and J.W. Winners.

Home to Hodo, Top Sire, 1996 Dog World. Breeding for standard and temperament.

Enquiries:

Alice Forrest, Parkfoot Farm, Hartwood ML7 5BT 01501-823101



MUIRYETTS WISEMAN

In September 1995 we bought our Husky Murphy and have never looked back.

We started showing May 1996 at Open – Champion Level and have achieved excellent results.

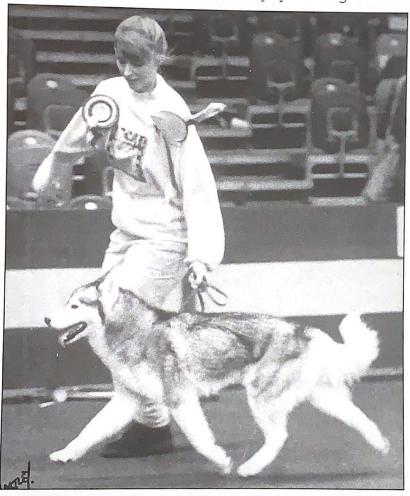
He is a good natured dog and a much loved member of our family

Ruth, Rab & Max Hearton, 70 Mortonhall Park Crescent, Edinburgh EH17 8SX

0131-6660058

The Judges' Choice

We asked a number of judges to select the all time greatest Siberian Husky. The dogs could be from the past or present, from anywhere in the world. There was no overall consensus as to the most popular dog.



Above: Ch Forstal's Meshka in the Show Ring.

LEONARD PAGLIERO – Forrardon – "Siberian Huskies did not gain championship status until Crufts 1986, by which time Mrs Leich's Forstals Mikishar The Amarok was 10 years old. Nevertheless, even at that age he sparkled, quickly and easily becoming the first UK male champion in the breed. He won three CCs and one RCC, but there can be no doubt that had challenge certificates been on offer he would have achieved many more. As it was he did well at Open Shows including some BIS and he

also stamped his mark on the breed, siring three outstanding Forstal's champions; Deki, Meskha and Chutki.

"I first saw him in 1981 when he was six years of age and I made him BOB at the City of Birmingham show where CCs were not yet available. I described him then as 'a lovely dog, possessing all the qualities of the breed and looking well able to pull a sled for a long period with a free tireless gait thrusting in

. . . with a free tireless gait, thrusting in front and driving behind. All this was true for he was an excellent command

lead dog.

"A remarkable dog who will long be remembered by all who knew him as one of the greats, but even so, for me he was outshone and outperformed by his son, Mrs Leich's **Ch Forstal Meshka**.

"Unhesistantly I rate Meshka as the greatest Siberian Husky I have ever seen or judged. I regard him as the role model for the breed and at 13 years of age he is still giving pleasure to his owners.

Structurally I cannot fault him. He is thoroughly masculine, ideal in size, proportions and balance, strongly timbered with sound muscle, pleasing to the eye and perfectly constructed to perform the function of a good sled dog. Indeed, he has proved himself to be, like his sire, not only a splendid dog in the show ring, but a key lead dog in the field. However, more than his physical qualities, he is remarkable for his excellent firm, steady character and temperament, exuding intelligence, alertness and activity. To all this must be added his superlative gait. He moves with a powerful easy action that is a delight to watch, indicating enormous endurance. which is admirably illustrated in the accompanying picture. It is like watching poetry in motion.

"I have judged him several times as a youngster and when fully mature, but the most memorable occasion was at Crufts in 1989 when I made him Best-of-Breed. He went on to be placed second in the Working Group beaten only by the ultimate BIS winner. He was so near gaining the top award and I was keenly disappointed that he did not do so, but there were compensations for he was BIS at the SKC, RBIS at the East of England, winner of the Working Group at Leicester and at the LKA, all won in 1990, and winner of the Pedigree Chum Stakes Final two years later in 1992. A record that will take some beating!

"My greatest bitch is another magnificent animal, Keith MacCallum's Ch Forstal's Noushka. She achieved fame in 1985 when at the Working Breeds Association of Wales show I had the pleasure of making her the first Siberian Husky to win a group at a championship show. The following year she became the first UK bitch champion.

"Like Meshka she was thoroughly typical of the breed in every way, splendidly made, beautifully balanced and always presented in perfect condition. She had a lovely head, and feminine expression and her character and temperament were excellent.

"I gave her the Working Group for a second time at Bath in 1986 and it was

only by a whisker that she missed going BIS, finishing up in the Reserve spot. An outstanding bitch, it was a privilege to have known and judged her.

"However, there is another Siberian itch who always had a special appeal in me, Mr and Mrs Greenland's ajarani Krystal Shimmer. Not the eatest achiever for she did not come a champion although she ned one CC and one RCC, but she interest adorable gentle, friendly extrover nature. Invariably shown in such impercable polar white condition that I dubbed her the 'Snow Queen'. Soundly

constructed and perfectly presented I

will always remember her as a great

representative of the breed."



SUE KNOWLES – Sarawana – "I find it a a daunting task to try to name the greatest ever Siberian Husky. So many have contributed in so many ways, either with their progeny or just by being beautiful standard fitting specimens of the breed, catching the judge's eye in the ring so giving the breed prominence in the public's eye.

"In my opinion the greatest ever Siberian Husky is **Ch Zoox Gadzheek**, whelped 24/4/84, and winner of five CCs and 10 RCCs, a Black and White dog bred and owned by Mrs C McRae. He came upon the scene at a time when the breed was in its early days and breeding mostly consisted of outcrosses to the latest import (pet or otherwise) into the country, consequently we had much divergence in type.

"Zheek is a very standard fitting Siberian with the most wonderful head, but he has that magical spark within him that shouted 'look at me', and his magic lay in his ability to pass this onto his offspring. Such a strong influential sire, he stamped his 'spark' and type so strongly. A perfect mover, he was a pleasure to watch in the showring with his great personality. He was also a very strong and willing worker in harness.

"He has sired five champions, many of whom are producing champions of their own, he also features in many CC winners' pedigrees. Zheek was the foundation sire of the Sarawana line and he gave me Ch Sarawana Zcherazarde and Ch Sarawana

Zhoozhzhat. Yes he has left his mark on the breed most definitely – he helped standardise the breed in the early days. Although I hasten to add my equal choice is **Ch Snoshoe's Russky of Forstal**, whelped 1/5/86 and bred by Mr B Rose and owned by Mrs L Leich. He won 16 CCs and four RCCs and was Black and White.

"I first judged and made Russky Best in Match Sh CGB as a junior. I was knocked out by his conformation and above all his powerful movement.

"Conformation wise I find him very difficult to fault. Russky could be the blueprint for the Breed Standard; but one had to see him move, so powerful and determined, yet so light footed he could be moving in the air, I have yet to find another Siberian to match this manner. Another great gent of true Siberian temperament, friendly and tolerant of others, yet an incredible worker. This just goes to show, Siberians do not have to be demented idiots to be supreme workers, we do need to keep our unique personality in the breed.

"My third choice moves onto the bitches and Ch Zoox Miduchenka, whelped 8/11/88, bred and owned by Mrs C McRae and winner of 17 CCs and four RCCs, she was a Black and White bitch. She was one I never judged, but knew well. There was nothing flashy about her, in fact, she had that calm, often aloof manner about her which meant she could so easily have been overlooked standing in the showring, but when the judges put their hands on her, then moved her, she just took their breath away. Her movement was so true and strong; her conformation was excellent and everything just slotted into the right places to make her one of the all time greats."

FERELITH SOMERFIELD – Oudenarde – "My first choice is Mrs Liz Leich's **Ch Forstal Meshka**, who won consistently in all types of competition over

several years, and when he was a veteran. Handled by Ali Koops he always looked well and fit and was a working dog, but in addition he had a degree of glamour. A lovely natured dog, he was a great ambassador for the breed and must have attracted a lot of new enthusiasts. He is also a good sire, with three champions and one CC winner so far.

"Second is a dog who always made me tingle, Mrs Chris McRae's **Ch Zoox Gadzheek**. He was, I believe, a good working dog, but I only knew him in the ring in which he dominated. A great showdog and forceful mover, with fantastic outline and for me the right balance, with the correct amount of leg length to back and good substance. He won the first CC to be awarded in the breed. Again he has been a good sire.

"I apologise for all my choices being males, but I must include as third, Mr and Mrs Simon Luxmoore's **Ch Zima Toaki**. He is the breed record holder, winning under all types of judges, and has been at the top for several years. He is still going strong."



CAROLINE KISKO - Polamights - "I can only base my choices on dogs who have performed consistently well both in harness and the showring as I consider the Siberian in the UK still to be primarily a working dog which should look good too. All my choices fit my ideal of the dual purpose dog, and I would be proud to own any of them.

"In my opinion the greatest ever



Right: Ch Zoox Gadzheek.

➤ Siberian Husky is **Ch Zima Toaki**, he fits my criteria as a truly first-class lead dog with consistently good attitude in harness, but is also a super looking dog and a wonderful mover in the ring. He has only been used at limited stud, but all his offspring have proved to be good lookers and excellent workers.

'My second choice is Ch Snoshoe's Russky of Forstal - although now a veteran he continues as a force to be reckoned with on the trail and has been a consistent winner at top level in the ring. Another beautifully balanced dog with wonderful movement and truly typical

"My third choice is Ch Zook Miduchenka, another all time favourite who held the breed record for CCs for some time. Miduchenka was worked in harness, but retired early so perhaps did not have the same opportunities to excel as my first two choices.



KRYSTYAN GREENLAND - Rajarani -"In the past 10 years many good dogs have won CCs and gone on to become champions; but it would be true to say that probably some of the breed's best dogs are never shown. There has always been a plethora of good bitches, but males have, over the years, proved to be somewhat lacking, hopefully this balance will improve. It has been our task to steer away from the untypical chocolate box dogs seen in some other countries, and to this end we have succeeded. However, in recent years some breeders have chosen to pursue excessively extreme types, so that some dogs do not really resemble Siberian Huskies in type. This must be watched and guarded against. Over the years many dogs have impressed me, all had the essential construction for function, the beautiful ground covering gait, and the characteristic type that marks a top quality Siberian apart from other sled dog breeds. It was a hard task to choose just three dogs, but each represents a greatness others should aspire to reach.

"In my opinion the greatest ever Siberian Husky was **Ch Forstal** Kooshak: a gorgeous Piebald bitch, born 7/9/81, bred and owned by the Leich family. Although she only won three CCs (all with BOB) she was truly a

Right: Ch Forstal Kooshak.

great, she gained her title at seven years of age. Her sire Goosack of Kolyma was probably the most influential sire the breed has seen. Likewise, her dam, Roy-A-Lin's Apatchy Girl of Forstal is behind many of today's top

'Kooshak typified everything a Siberian Husky should be. One judge summed her up well when she wrote 'She is truly lovely, graceful, alert, well balanced and reflects the endurance and power of a good Siberian.' She really was a dual-purpose dog, equally at home on the trail. She had an ultra feminine head with that foxy and mischievous expression. She also had the lovely dense double coat that so many Siberians lack today. Her construction was second to none and that showed in her long striding, powerful yet lightfooted gait.

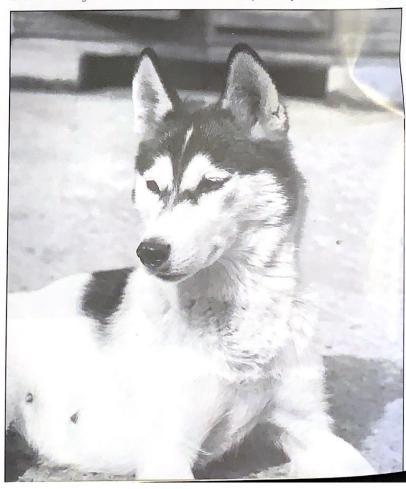
"Her qualities as a dam speak for themselves. She produced four champions including the Group and BIS winning Ch Forstal Meshka, double Crufts CC and Group winning Ch Forstal's Kike Mara, Ch Forstal's Nakal (himself the sire of a Crufts CC winner) and Ch Forstal's Maska (sire of a champion in his only litter). Her liaison with Ch Valchonok Prince of Forstal is behind many of today's top winners.

"My second choice is Ch Zoox Miduchenka; a Black and White bitch born 8/11/88, owned and bred by Mrs Chris McRae. This breeder had produced a string of beautiful Siberians

from the first ever CC winner Ch Zoox Gadzheek, to the lovely Zoox Zalanazara. Then, along came 'Chenka' a star from the first time she stepped into the ring as a puppy. She gained her first CC at WKC '89 and was made up in less than a year at Bath '90. She had quality, class, type in abundance and was a superb mover. Her head was terrific, so foxy with the lovely high set ears, beautiful almond eyes and finely chiselled muzzle. She was ideally balanced with super angulation both front and rear, and the correct long ribcage and arch over the loins. She always had that aloofness that demanded attention. and when she moved around the ring, she certainly received it.

"She won 17 CCs, and is the Bitch CC record holder, She was a superb bitch; for those of us that competed against her, she was the one to beat. She is sorely missed by those of us that knew her. Her star quality will never dim.

"My third choice is Dutch Ch Zoltan of Chenok. It was hard to choose between Zoltan, the Leich's Ch Snoshoe's Russky of Forstal and the Robertson's, Ch Zoox Nyla of Chatanika. However, Zoltan for me is the epitome of a male Siberian. Bred by Hansbos in Switzerland now owned by Mme Maïe Paranthoen in France. He was a superb working animal. Apart from this he was of terrific Siberian type - pure white in colouring, of moderately rangy build. His head is stunning with the most wonderful eyes and proud head carriage. He





Above: Ch Zoox Miduchenka.

too has a true Siberian coat. He exhibits the proportions that breeders should be aiming for and judges should be looking for. His movement is light and effortless, and he has magnificent temperament. Many males in this country are either too heavy or too narrow and fragile looking. His mid-standard attributes are what a lot of dogs in the UK could do with, hopefully his grandchildren will soon have an impact in this country!"



CHRISTINE MCRAE – Zoox – "How do you define 'greatness'? There are many different factors to be considered – visual impact, showring success, the ability to reproduce quality stock, and in a breed like this, I think working ability and temperament also play a big part. My three choices all have outstanding working ability, are superb examples of the breed and have the gregarious nature which allows them to fit in with both humans and other dogs, something which appears to be lacking in many modern day Siberians.

"In my opinion the greatest ever Siberian Husky was **Goosack of Kolyma**, he stands out in my memory beyond all others, he was imported by the Leich family in 1980, having raced in a winning

championship team in Europe. He soon settled in at Forstal, proving to be a real gentleman and superb working dog. To my mind, he was a dog ahead of his time, and by today's standard was little used at stud, but he has produced four champions to different dams, and his name appears in the pedigrees of nearly all our champions and many other great Siberians.

"In those early days, when the breed was so varied, he steered it forward in the right direction, stamping a type which is still evident today. I don't think his worth was really appreciated then, but to me he was the greatest, and gave so much to the breed – his name and type live on through his progeny. I'm sure that if he were around today he would easily have gained his crown

"My second choice is **Ch Snoshues Russky of Forstal** – winner of 16 CCs and four RCCs. He was the product of an outcross between Seppala and Anadyr lines. I admired this dog, from the first time I saw him, then at Crufts in 1990, I had the privilege of awarding him the CC.

When judging the breed, it is always a good idea to have a picture of the ideal Siberian in one's head – if one pictures Russky, one won't go far wrong, the breed standard seems to have been written with him in mind. He is a truly great example of the breed, and moves like a dream. At 10 years he still looks as good as ever, a great ambassador for the breed. Incidentally he is also a Goosack grandson.

"My third choice is **Ch Forstals Kooshak** – daughter of Goosack, and the first Piebald champion in the breed. Winner of three CCs and three RCCs. I gave her the CC in 1987 and wrote – 'She typifies the Siberian Husky – she is truly lovely, graceful, alert, well balanced and

reflects the endurance and power of a good Siberian'. She was moderately rangy, of medium bone, with a very feminine foxy head, keen friendly expression, ears set high, neck carried proudly and an excellent angulation. Her coat was dense and of good texture, and she was well muscled in lean hard condition. She was the best mover of the day, flying round the ring with ease, always quick and light on her feet, a joy to watch. A good brood bitch – she has produced four champions."

JOHN & PENNY EVANS - Mikalya -To make the choice of the greatest ever Siberian Husky proves difficult when one is considering a breed whose relevant history in the UK only spans a period of 30 years, with Challenge Certificates being available for the last ten. A further 'spanner in the works' must be the fact that the first examples of the Breed which came to the UK were of a rather untypical type, in as much as they were not necessarily from dual-purpose kennels. Time, travel and increased knowledge has persuaded enthusiasts that whilst the British dogs were working, their efforts were strictly limited and that overseas kennels, particularly in Canada and mainland Europe were promoting a different style of dog.

"These dogs, whilst maintaining the wonderful elegance and looks of the breed, could also work in harness with such ease of performance that the original UK dogs were, to a degree, put into the shade. These dual purpose dogs also brought about a change in the



Right: Dutch Ch Zoltan of Chenok.

showring, since their fluid working action proved successful with the judges too. The description in the Breed Standard of their gait as being 'smooth and seemingly effortless' began to have greater relevance to the dogs being shown.

"Thus, through careful breeding, the original lines were interbred with the newcomers and the breed seen today is the result of this evolution. It is pleasing that the breed remains capable of doing its job whilst, on the whole, not losing its character, type and temperament. It has to be said that changes have occurred, but it is still possible to identify the Siberians of the early days with those of today, which in a roundabout way, leads us to make the supposition that it is extremely difficult to make a single choice.

"One dog that must be considered is Ch Forstal's Mikishar the Amarok, first CC winner in the UK, along with the Forstal's Anoushka, he is certainly the front runner for our Best Ever, but impossible to compare with dogs of today's breeding.

"Ch Forstal's Aneka must also be considered. Founder of the very successful and influential Zoox Kennel. A very feminine bitch and certainly one of the best brood bitches of all time. Again her influence continues to this day.

"Ch Zoox Dukara was an extremely typical bitch being the result of these early changes to the breed. Her sire, Dubchek of Michrischa, though not a winner in his own right, must be acknowledged as one of the most influential sires of the breed. Dukara's offspring included Ch Zoox Zachara who could certainly be considered in the running for the greatest of the newcomers and thus Dukara must be acknowledged.

"Moving onto the present day and the

dogs who are influencing the breed:

mention. Record holder for the breed, and top male. By his achievements, he deserves a place in this history. Very typical of the breed, he is a good dual purpose dog, though his influence has not carried to the same degree in his offspring.

"Ch Aceca's American Pie, is just starting on his career to fame. Well proven in the showring, he is the most successful working dog Piebald so far. His offspring are just being launched on their show careers. Time will tell if 'Spot' can achieve fame not only in his own justly deserved right, but also through his progeny.

"Surprisingly enough though, on the whole, bitch classes prove far more difficult to judge due to the quality of the exhibits, no one bitch stands out from the rest at present. The Bitch Ticket is less easily 'forecast' than that for the dogs. It can also be considered that some of the best Brood Bitches over the years, providing consistency and continuation of type, have not made great achievements in the showring.

"Therefore, without identifying one dog as entirely better than the rest, we hope these thoughts provide a Role of Honour for future Champions to follow."

HARRISON – Brushbow – "My nomination is Patterson's Ch Forstal's Chutki, for his closeness to the Breed Standard in type, temperament and movement. He had an excellent head, earset and skin pigment, with superb body proportions and angulation, tail carriage, double coat, firm feet, and a ground eating stride. He was sweet natured and also a valued working dog. He gained

his crown with BOB at Crufts Centenary in 1991 from the Veteran Class when he was aged 11 years and I wrote then 'Personally I feel the worth of any Sibenan can only be truly assessed after he has turned five, when it is generally feel that maturity has peaked. The winner of this Class, the CC and BOB is more than double this age. His owner and breeder (Liz Leich), are to be congratulated on producing such a Standard-fitting dog who is still keen to give of himself.

Rehomed at age six he has achieved this plus four Reserve CCs all as a veteran.'

"Unfortunately Chutki was a one-off. The result of an outcross mating, he neither closely resembled either parent or grandparents; his littermates varying in type too. Sadly, he was only used at stud a few times and has not yet featured in any linebreeding to lend his influence to the breed via the gene pool."



HELEN GUTTERIDGE - Qiqem - "It is impossible, I'm afraid, for me to comply with the request to choose the greatest ever Siberian Husky. There must have been any number of excellent examples in the past, and many in other countries now, which I will never see. I have restricted my choice to dogs in this country that I have seen in the flesh. In my opinion the three main criteria for a 'great' Siberian Husky are: firstly one that conforms closely to the standard. Secondly one that performs well in harness and thirdly one that passes these characteristics onto their progeny. The key areas of the standard, apart from sound structure of course, are head characteristics, coat and gait. Not many Siberians in the showring nowadays are downright coarse in the head, but many are rather plain, or common, in that they lack the chiseling foxiness'. A really good Siberian head will combine the equal skull to muzzle ratio with the almond, definitely slant-set eyes, high set erect ears, lips that fit tightly where upper and lower jaws meet, and no jowliness. There is a clear distinction between the muzzle and the rest of the face.

"The coat should not feel coarse, and should make one think of fur rather than hair. Many Siberians move soundly.



Left: Ch Forstal's Chutki.

Right: German Ch Quinnriver's Bambi.

Photo: Leich

without obvious gait faults, but a Siberian which moves well for its breed stands out. Dogs such as these seem to almost float round the ring, without effort and without audible footfall. It is all too easy to become entranced, watching them circle the ring until their poor handlers are on the point of collapse.

"Siberians which perform well in harness love their work. They are consistent and tough, but amenable to command. Do not interpret my choices as indicating that the quality of today's Siberians has decreased, far from it. Each of them still feature in the pedigrees of excellent examples of the breed, thereby fulfilling my third criterion.

"My first choice in **Ch Zoox Gadzheek**. An outstanding Black and White dog whose stamp on his progeny, is unmistakable. Foxy, refined, but still masculine, he had ring presence and was also a great asset to his owner's racing team.

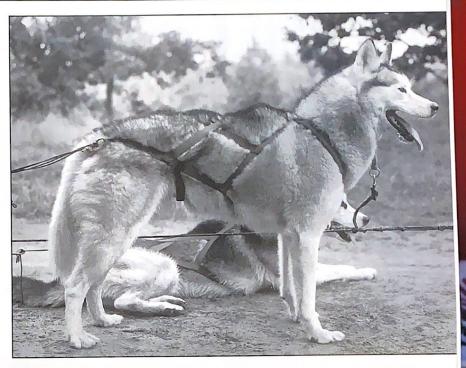
"My second choice is **Ch Mikishar** the Amarok. A Grey and White dog with a very distinctive and attractive face, he was the first male UK champion. Another consistent worker, who helped to train his owners' novices in his latter years, long after dogs of most breeds would have retired to the fireside.

"My third choice is **Ch Zoox Miduchenka**. An excellent bitch sired by Dubchek of Mikrischa, one of the breed's most influential studs. Another deserving an honourable mention in this field must be Wapahkwa's Avik."



SIMON LUXMORE – Zima – "The Siberian Husky has been present in this country for only 30 years and Challenge Certificates have only been on offer since 1986, so this assignment presents a difficult task.

"My wife Sheila and I have owned and worked Siberian Huskies for the last 15 years. During this period we have had the great good fortune to run this magnificant breed of working dog thousands of miles in harness. This, together with visits to top Siberian kennels in North America, Canada and Scandinavia as well as using some of our own dogs as a benchmark, has allowed us to observe the potential for



top class working performance.

"Greatness is necessarily a subjective assessment and during the short time CCs have been awarded, only a very few Siberians could lay claim to being truly top quality, by any standard.

"From around 50 champions and 60 other CC winners only a handful of Siberians have achieved success under both Breed specialist judges and all round judges. Of these only one or two have received significant support from both groups.

"In trying to make my choice as objective as possible, I have not discriminated against those Siberians who for whatever reason have not been worked regularly in harness. Whilst experience of working Siberians in harness is an undoubted advantage in judging the breed, one cannot of course assess a Siberian's work ethic whilst judging in the showring.

"In my opinion the greatest ever Siberian Husky was **Danlee Paook**, sadly no longer with us. This superb Black and White dog was a rarely exhibited Siberian, owned by Dave and Jan Foad. Born 2.5.81 his sire was Goosack of Kolyma and dam, Forstal's Alyenki. He won two challenge certificates in 1987, and worked for many years as an outstanding lead dog for Dave's teams. I would like to think I knew this dog as well as most of his admirer's did, enjoying his lively 'willing to please' personality. In hard working conditions he was a magnificant dog.

"Paook had a very masculine head, with a keen alert expression. Always 'up on his toes', he possessed tremendous strength in his shoulder, with super angulation, and that effortless ground covering gait.

"My second choice is **Ch Forstal Kooshak**. Owned and bred by Liz Leich 'Koosh' was born on 7.9.81. This outstanding Piebald bitch possessed a magnificant head, with an engaging aloofness in expression. Again she had excellent angulation, finished with a plush smart coat. In hard working conditions she was tough to fault in any respect. 'Koosh' was also dam of four Siberian champions, including Ch Forstal Meshka who achieved such success in group and stake classifications.

"I found it ironic that Koosh should keep her son off my final short list of three.

"My third choice is Ch Snoshoe's Russky of Forstal. Bred by Brian Rose and owned by Liz Leich, Russky was born 1.5.86. This Black and White dog has caught the attention of both specialist and all rounder judges during his successful show career. A top quality performer in harness, he possesses a delightful personality, lively, willing and playful. Clean cut in profile he is a real showman. Apart from a pleasing head and smilling expression, his excellent angulation affords him a lightfooted gait which is the admiration of many."

LIZ LEICH – Forstal – "The invitation to contribute to this Kennel Gazette feature arrived just as we received the International Siberian Husky Club Special Issue Newsletter, commemorating 50 years in the breed for Earl and Natalie Norris. This couple and their Alaskan/Anadyr Siberian Huskies have had a profound influence on the development of the Siberian: their dual goals of improving

▶ performance of the Siberian, while still retaining type, have been a source of inspiration to other kennels. They still consistently field a team of pure-bred Siberians to take part in the famous Iditarod marathon sled dog race from Anchorage to Nome. Their example determined our choice of direction at Forstal Kennels where we have always work-tested our dogs (within the limits imposed by climate in this country) and ensured that our showning winners/breeding stock have been working dogs first and foremost. Alaskan/Anadyr lines have formed a core to our foundation stock.

"In my opinion, therefore, the greatest ever Siberian Husky has to be the dog that Earl and Natalie Norris rated as their best ever, **Alaskan's Nicolai of Anaydr II** (died 6th September 1981, just short of his 14th birthday). This Black and White dog became a team leader in his second year in harness, often running single lead – a position that requires tremendous drive and enthusiasm. He proved to be a prepotent sire and gave rise to subsequent generations of outstanding leaders.

"In the early 1980s, Earl Norris's first string team was made up almost exclusively of Nicolai II progeny. Photographs show him to be an athletic, graceful animal with that look of 'instant action' so typical of the Siberian sled dog. His head is refined and foxy, yet masculine. He presents a picture of great strength through balance and the leverage provided by good angulation, rather than bulk. He has the length of leg, the arched loin and sloping croup of a dog that can run all day and run fast. Unfortunately, at short notice I could not obtain photos of him to accompany this article. To be rated their best ever by a couple with the level of experience in the breed of the Norrises, who have had so many outstanding animals, he must have been quite something.
"It is interesting that, of the 51 cham-

"It is interesting that, of the 51 champions made up to date in this country, 34 of them go back to Nicolai II's sire, Alaskan's Astro of Anadyr, and 27 go back to Nicolai II himself. Among these 27 are some of our top-winning Siberians, Ch Zima Toaki, Ch Snoshoe's Russky of Forstal, Ch Forstal's Kike Mara Ch Aceca's American Pie and Ch Zoox Miduchenka

Miduchenka.

"The Siberian has so many aspects to his make-up that to achieve 'greatness' he must be an outstanding all-rounder. This brings me to my second choice who is really an unsung hero in this country, **German Ch Quinnriver's Bambi** (owned by Christine Hillier-Jackson). This dog was brought to this country in the early 1980s following a very successful working and show career in mainland Europe. His picture, taken during a stay at Forstal, shows him to be beautifully balanced, and well angulated, with excellent reach of neck, firm topline and long sloping croup. His leg length is greater from elbow to ground than from elbow to

withers. His chest is deep, but not heavy. His coat is well-furred, but clean-cut in outline. His head is masculine, but not coarse with high-set ears and typical gentle, yet mischievous expression.

I find it helpful to carry a mental picture of my ideal Siberian when I am judging, and this dog fits the bill. He has it all, but no feature is over-stated. We had the privilege of having him to stay with us when we hoped to use him at stud. He proved to be that natural 'gentleman' that is a pleasure to have around. Sadly, he was an older dog when he came to this country and a virus in quarantine depleted his fertility so that he never sired a litter in the UK. This was a great shame for the breed over here as he had so much to offer."

Siberian Husky Club

National Siberian Husky Club of Great Britain, Mrs P Evans, The Old Post Office, 3 High Street, Lamport, Northampton NN6 9HB. Tel: 01604 686281 EV.

Scotland Scottish Siberian Husky Club, Ms H M Fielden, Achagavel, By Ardgour, Fort William, Inverness-Shire PH33 7AF. Tel: 01967 411231.



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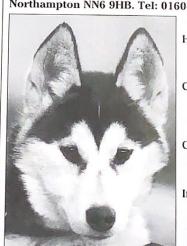
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 \cdots aiming for the best for our breed \cdots

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ALASCOTIA

"RIO" & KIDS



Left: SONTELL'S SORION OF ALASCOTIA (Rio)
Right: ALASCOTIA'S MOONDUST (Dusty)

Rio, our young red boy has *3 RCCs* among his many wins, and Runner-ups. Top Sire SSHC 96.

Our beautiful Dusty has many 1sts, BPs, P Groups and RBPIS.

GEORGIA LAWRENCE 94 Stafford Road, Greenock 01475 634354



ALASCOTIA'S MICHIGAN

Mitch (grey blue eyed) has several 1sts and BOBs including WBAs Ch. He also won the *RDCC at Crufts* in a record entry! Superb Temperament and devoted companion.

MICHEAL FITZPATRICK 18 MacGillivray Avenue, Saltcoats Ayrshire KA21 6BN



AMBER FLAME (Dam Alascotia's Winsome)

Amber is red, blue eye. She is a Group winner, with many BPs and BOBs, also several Crufts qualifications.

Above all she is a loving family pet.

ALISON WOOD 96 Bathurst Drive, Alloway, Ayr 01292 443142



Left: ALASCOTIA'S DREAM (Tia)
Right: LYNASKA'S SUSHANA (Bowie)

Tia (red) and Bowie (grey) have multiple Ch Show 1sts, and many BOBs. They have also had a successful first season in harness with several high placings.

ANN & ALEX SHAW 11 Baird Place, Monkton by Prestwick 01292 479870

AWRE

SIBERIAN HUSKY'S FIRST EVER LITTER BRED UNDER THIS AFFIX AND WHAT A PAIR THEY TURNED OUT TO BE

D.O.B. 12.6.94 - Dam: Lemaka Clara of Yawren - Sire: Muiryett's Silver Spirit of Sontell - Possible second litter due Xmas Day 96

CFA: Owned and bred and very much loved by Mrs Wendy McKean, 7 Manson Avenue, Prestwick, Ayrshire KA9 1EZ. Tel. 01292 474795



YAWREN'S RED PERSUADER (CFA) J.W.

1995 WINS INCLUDE: Champ Shows: 1 CC with BOB; 1 Res CC Junior Warrant; 13 First Placings; 1 Best

Puppy in Breed.
Top Scottish Siberian Husky Dog at Champ Show Level.
Open Shows: 26 First Placings with 5 BOBs; 2 Best Working Puppy;
1 Best Working; 1 Group 4.

1 Dest Proteining, 1 Group 4.
1996 WINS:
Champ Shows: 2 Res CC + 1 Res Best Dog (No CCs); 5 First Placings.
Top Scottish Siberian Husky Dog at Champ Show Level.
Open Shows: 1 Res Best in Show; 1 Best Working; 1 Group 3; 14 First Placings with 8 BOBs.

ZICO: Bred by Mrs Wendy McKean. Owned and very much loved by Mr & Mrs B. P. Hogg, 105 Deanburn, Penicuik, Mid Lothian EH26 OHZ. Tel. 01968 672997



YAWREN'S GRAY WULFF OF KAYZIC (Zico) J.W.

1995 WINS:

Champ Shows: 2 First Placings; gained Junior Warrant.
Open Shows: 26 First Placings with 7 BOBs; 1 Res Group.
Top Scotlish Siberian Husky Dog at Open Show Level.
Ireland: 1st Puppy & Junior Best Puppy, Res Working Puppy, Res Green Star Ist Graduate.

1996 WINS:
Champ Shows: 1 Res CC; 3 First Placings.
Open Shows: 16 First Placings with 9 BOBs; 1 Best Working, 5 Group 3, 1 Group 4.
Leader at present for Top Scotlish Siberian Husky Dog at Open Show Level.
Ireland: 3 First Placings, 1 BOB, 1 Green Star, 2 Res Green Stars. Eyes Clear. Hips Score 5/4 = 9.



"...at Work" Ch ZIMA TOAKI/ZIMA WAPAHKWA

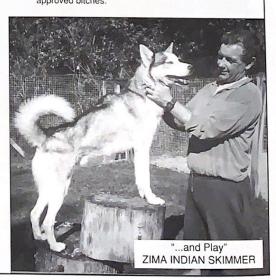
Sheila and Simon Luxmore Moorside Cottage, The Narth, Monmouth, Gwent NP5 AQJ Tel: 01600 860 185





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CHEECHAKO'S DARK AS NIGHT (BRUSHBOW ZINZAN × TIKCHIK'S KITE)



1 RCC **2 BOB** 2 CCs

Many thanks to the specialist judges who thought so highly of Darkas -

Penny Evans Lynn Harrison Linda Pritchett As is to be expected from his Alaskan/Anadyr lines Darkas is also excellent in harness and has the flexibility to run in any position on the team. He may be available at stud to approved bitches.

Enquiries to -**Lindsey Sutherland** 11 Manse Grove • Stoneyburn West Lothian EH47 8EW • Tel: 01501 763314

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SKIMARQUE CALL OF THE WILD (Kit) Crufts Qualified

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