

AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL DEVOTED TO PUREBRED REGISTERED DOGS

BLOODLINES

MARCH-APRIL 1998

VOLUME 80, ISSUE 2 \$6.00

U N I T E D

B , I N C .

**ALL YOU
NEED TO
KNOW ABOUT
WHELPING**

**TOP TEN
SHOWCASE**

**HOT NEW BREED
FROM THE NORTH-
ALASKAN KLEE KAI
AND FROM TURKEY,
THE KANGAL DOG**

**ARE YOU RIGHT FOR A
SIBERIAN HUSKY?**

**HOME RESCUE
ENDANGERED IN
TEXAS? ...SEE SCAN NEWSLETTER**

DATED MATERIAL: POSTAL CARRIER PLEASE DELIVER BY MARCH 30TH

**FRED MILLER
MAN OF THE YEAR**





A Toy Alaskan Klee Kai (owner unknown).

Photo by Bill Forbes.

In the mid-1970's, my husband and I had come down from Alaska to visit his relatives in Oklahoma. Of their various farm dogs, one of them was a 17-pound, gray and white female Husky. They called her 'Curious' because she was a curiosity to them. I thought this little creature was so cute that I asked if I could take her back to Alaska with us. They seemed quite pleased to be rid of an extra dog, and thus I acquired my first little Husky. It seemed as though everywhere we went, people flocked around the vehicle to exclaim and marvel about this little dog. We went into a restaurant and discovered it empty because the patrons were over at the window looking out at our little dog! I knew I had to find a way to duplicate this little wonder.

Unbeknownst to me, my brother-in-law and his wife in Fairbanks, Alaska, had an accidental mating between a small dog and an Alaskan Husky, who were the ancestors of the dog I now had possession of. They too knew they had a good

by Linda S. Spurlin®1998
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thing started. However, with all due respect, they had much softer hearts than I, and their breeding program suffered for it. I, by then, had, by trial-and-error, successfully bred a few more curiosities. Then in the early 1980's my brother-in-law chose to stop breeding his little dogs and sold them to me with advice his family would not allow him to follow. His words had been my silent belief all along, but now I followed them openly and religiously. He said, "Breed the best, and cull the rest." With my now larger gene pool I began to see results of this hard core approach quickly and this served as encouragement to be even stricter with my breeding program.

For those of you who are not familiar with the Alaskan Husky, you should know that this sled dog is an important part of the history and legend of Alaska. Their endurance, speed, and heart make them some of the best racing sled dogs in the world. They are not the fictional Husky of the famous Jack London books, and they are not the beautiful Siberian Huskies, which the Russians imported from the Kamchatka Peninsula in the 18th century to haul their sled loads of fur. Neither is the Alaskan Husky related to the Malamute whose ancestors were the Eskimo dogs used by the people of coastal Alaska. Instead, the ancestors of the Alaskan Husky were a scruffy little Indian dog used by the people of interior Alaska. It is suspected that the whale-bone dog sleds discovered in Savoonga, which anthropologists "guesstimate" to be nearly 5,000 years old, were pulled by the great ancestors of today's Alaskan Husky. However, this little Indian dog did not gain much respect in the dog world until the last 50 years or so.

The Alaskan Klee Kai in Brief

Country of Origin

United States (Alaska)

Type of Dog

Northern Breeds Group

Recognized by the United Kennel Club
January 1, 1997.

General Appearance

Small version of the Alaskan Husky.

Temperament

Affectionate with family members, reserved with strangers and in unfamiliar situations.

Varieties

Toy (up to and including 13 inches);
Miniature (Over 13 inches up to and including
15 inches); and Standard (Over 15 inches up
to and including 17 inches).



CH 'PR' Kokak's Tamarak, the first U.K.C. Champion. He is a 16-pound Miniature bred by Cecile Huggins and owned by Eileen or Clarence Gregory.



Mikiyomik Nakit Alasco is a Toy Alaskan Klee Kai owned by Eileen or Clarence Gregory.

Photo by Bren Solomon.

During the first half of the century the Siberian Husky, for the most part, reigned supreme as leaders in the racing world. Then in the late 1940's, when dog sled racing began to become a profitable occupation, the tides turned and Alaskan mushers began in earnest to develop the little village Indian dog into the Alaskan Husky as we know it today. These are the ancestors of the Alaskan Klee Kai. The Alaskan Husky is a mixture of the best, and so was the creation of the Alaskan Klee Kai. I also added a small dose of Siberian Husky, and just the right amount of smaller dogs of similar conformation for developing my original stock.

helpful by following our guidelines. They sent pictures, called us to update information, brought their dogs to visit and spayed or neutered at our recommendation. The Wasilla Veterinary Clinic, in Wasilla, Alaska, patiently answered my countless questions over the years and thus aided us in loading even more information into our bulging computer program.

And always, always came the tourists. My guest book had signatures, addresses and requests from nearly every state. And when each person came to visit, whether or not they realized it, they were being interviewed for the possibility of being judged fit parents for one of my babies. First

One day, a good friend brought her mother to meet me. This woman changed my life as I knew it. I allowed her to take a few pictures of my dogs to take back to Colorado with her. Then she began a full scale assault to convince me that the world needed these dogs and that it should begin with her! I firmly believed that the gene pool was too small, and that my breeding program was not ready for the rest of the world. However, with 30 dogs to feed and provide veterinary care for, I was eventually tempted into selling the first miniature husky to my friends as a Christmas gift for Eileen Gregory in 1987.

Then began the flood of letters, telephone calls and newspaper reporters. The paperwork grew. We had to think up a name for the little huskies. We finally derived the name Klee Kai from the Eskimo words meaning "little dog." My kennel records become so extensive that Mrs. Gregory offered to store the information on her computer. Our long distance telephone bills become enormous as we charted information on each dog. Every puppy from every litter was carefully inspected for conformation, medical soundness and personality.

The puppies were weighed, measured, and re-evaluated regularly. Fortunately, the majority of buyers respected our dreams of a genetically sound dog and were extremely



Eileen Gregory with (from left to right): Kiana, a Miniature; Pamiyyok Nakit Alasco, a Toy; Alaska's Juneau, a Miniature; and Glacier Witch, a Standard.

and foremost in my heart was to match the perfect dog with the perfect master. I feel it is important to include that my idea of the perfect master is more than just one who loves his or her animal. Owning any animal is a big responsibility. When people have asked me about the temperament of my dogs, I usually tell them that whether a dog turns out to be a good dog or a bad dog pretty much depends on the intelligence of the owner. While it is true that certain breeds can be difficult to live with if forced to live in an environment not suited to them, it is the responsibility of the responsible pet owner to channel a dog's energies. If a person does not have the time, patience, or location to deal with the personality of a particular animal, then perhaps that person would be better off with either a different breed of dog or perhaps even a different animal altogether. Just because a person may love a particular breed does not necessarily mean that it is suitable for them. Some people may be better off with a gerbil, bird, or even a goldfish for a pet. No one should own any animal, whether it be a dog, a horse, or a mouse, unless they

The three sizes of the Alaskan Klee Kai (from left to right): CH 'PR' Kokak's Tamarak, a Miniature; Mikiyomik Nakit Alasco, a Toy; and Alaska's Own Eklutna, a Standard. They are owned by Eileen or Clarence Gregory of Peyton, Colorado.

are capable of making that animal a respected, valued and well-behaved member of their household.

I would encourage every dog owner to go with their dogs to a good obedience class whether or not they intend to show that animal in the obedience ring. Any dog that cannot be trained to be a trustworthy member of society has, in my opinion, a very serious problem, that most likely begins with the owner. A good obedience instructor can help the inexperienced deal with these situations. Even the experienced can usually benefit from new ideas and techniques. I dearly love going to classes under different instructors and usually come home bursting with new ideas on the same old things! Follow the old suggestion of "Don't send your children to church. Take them!" I feel the same about dog classes. Don't send your dog, take him with you!

I knew eventually, that even though my goal for my little dogs was just to have them be a beloved little companion dog, that there would be those who would purchase them who would be interested in showing them. This would require recognition by a major kennel club. Although my heart was not in it, my files show that my first contact was with AKC in 1988. Since that time, the Alaskan Klee Kai has received full recognition by the Federation of International Canines, the American Rare Breed Association, Canine Parity Shows, and, of course, the Alaskan Klee Kai Association of America.

Our most recent recognition has been by the United Kennel Club. The United Kennel Club has agreed that for the first several years they will only acknowledge Alaskan Klee Kai whose pedigrees can be traced through the Alaskan Klee Kai Association of America because of our strict rules regarding each Alaskan Klee Kai being granted breeding privileges only after being inspected to be sure they are entitled to that privilege. All those who do not



Photo by Bren Solomon.

meet with breeding approval must then either be spayed or neutered. The Alaskan Klee Kai Association of America's Board of Directors has always respected my concerns to encourage better breeding habits among responsible owners and thus continue to better the breed. I firmly believed, and still do, that only the best should be allowed to breed, and my own sales contract reflected this with a strict spay/neuter clause.

However, as the world of the Alaskan Klee Kai changed, I found I did not bond as easily. I longed for the days when my friends and I created the Breed Standard over pots and pots of coffee. What I really wanted was to see a wet nose pressed against an elderly cheek, instead of someone telling me that I was playing God if I did not allow their inferior dog to breed.

The time finally came when I re-evaluated my priorities and decided I would rather stop breeding the Alaskan Klee Kai than compromise my beliefs anymore. In January of 1995, I flew with 9 of my remaining Klee Kai to Mrs. Gregory's kennels in Colorado, and left 18 years of my efforts in her hands along with a few tears, much advice, and many blessings. Looking back, I must say I have met a lot of wonderful people along the way, and an equal number of good dogs. I took many dogs to the airport to go "Delta Dash" to begin new homes in other states. I sent dogs coast to coast, from Los Angeles to Maryland, and many points in between, including the Yukon. People still continue to send me photos and updates on their dogs.

I am grateful to the people who carry on my dream as I intended it. By breeding only the best, the Alaskan Klee Kai can continue to become a breed to be proud of. A breed as genetically sound and free from defects as possible can only be accomplished through the dedication of responsible breeders who follow their conscience instead of their hearts or their wallets.

Although I no longer breed the Alaskan Klee Kai, I still closely monitor their progress and offer my services in an advisory capacity to the Board of Directors of the Alaskan Klee Kai Association of America. The Alaskan Klee Kai was first incorporated in Alaska, in 1990, under the name "Klee Kai of Alaska," which was later changed to "Alaskan Klee Kai." The parent club and offices were moved to Colorado after my retirement. I am proud of the support of the Board of Directors who, thanks to the wonderful world of e-mail, are in constant contact from various locations, including Alaska, New York, and several points in between.

Please remember that purchasing an animal is just like any other investment. You should always research the product you are interested in purchasing. You should inquire as to guarantees and expect them in writing. You should personally inspect the product before a decision is reached, and above all else, you should read the contract first and be sure it includes the things you think you agreed upon before you sign it.

You should also ask to see the parents of the animal you are interested in. It is very important to see the environment in which you prospective pet has been raised. Puppies, like children, can be affected their entire lives by how they were treated at a young age. Any respectable breeder should allow you to visit their facility, as their schedule allows. They should also understand the importance of matching the right pup with the right family. I believe if a breeder does not have time for you, you do not have time for that breeder. You may also want to consider asking for advice from a veterinarian. Those recommendations may help ward off potential problems from the very beginning.

In closing, I would like to offer this pearl of wisdom. May you have the good fortune of becoming even half as wonderful as your dog already thinks you are. *B*

The Jumper

From Purina News Service

A dog's jumping is its way of welcoming people. What seems acceptable to a dog is not always acceptable behavior to us, especially when the dog tips the scale at 50- or 60-plus pounds. Or when those toenails scratch that shiny new paint job on the van.

The first step in solving, **yes, solving**, this behavior problem is to **teach** (not scream, beat or yell) your dog the "sit" and "stay" commands. A dog that has been to obedience school is far more manageable as you work to solve a specific behavior problem.

Oh yes, now I hear the classic response from many fanciers, "All he has to do is show, that's all that matters." Well, essentially you are right, but fundamentally most dog owners would agree that a dog that can listen, understand, obey and perform their duties at the same time, is the greatest pleasure to own or handle.

When you consider dog-training books, schools and techniques, you should have no trouble finding a method to train your beloved companion. Training is not only the key to producing good behavior; it also builds trust, respect and a bond between owner and animal.

Behavior modification is recommended by many animal behaviorists to correct the problems that we encounter while raising our "best friend." When choosing a training method the most important thing to remember is so simple, negative discipline produces negative results. Think about it, when you scream or yell at the animal, is it really learning anything except, "Get me away out of here, or worse yet, wants to get away from you." Isn't that what you would be thinking if you were the one being yelled at? Instead take a few minutes every day to instruct your dog, talk to your animal, be firm but respect him or her.

Let's take, for instance, the jumping thing that annoys so many of us. The

Purina News Service suggests grabbing the front paws of a jumping dog and hold them tightly for a few seconds and then give the command, "Down." When the dog is freed and in a sitting position, reward your dog by petting and praising him. Praise your dog the same way you would when it does well in the ring or comes to your side by command.

Now, remember, this technique will need to be repeated a few times before your dog will understand. The praise for your dog's good behavior should be given consistently. After the paw grabbing has been used several times, you, a family member or a guest should try to intercept the approaching dog before it jumps, give the "sit" command and praise the dog if it obeys.

Also, remember to remain consistent with your method of choice, eventually you will communicate to your dog that it does not need to jump on you to get your attention or affection.