

Little Toy Husky a big hit in town

By DEBBIE BRISCOE
Of The Star Staff

Bonnie Conklin loves her two-pound, three-month-old Toy Husky in a big way.

Kai, who will weigh in at about 7 pounds at adulthood, takes turns sleeping with family members and joins Bonnie and husband Doug at their office — Eagle River Electronics in the Parkgate Building — during business hours. "We can't leave him at home," explained Doug.

"No," agreed Bonnie.

The two first learned of the toy breed while on a trip to Seward. "We saw a family taking their dog for a walk and we just thought it was a puppy, but it was not a puppy. It was an 8 month old Klee Kai miniature husky," said Bonnie. "They are very unique. They are very cute." A toy Klee Kai will not get bigger than 10 pounds. A Miniature Klee Kai generally will weigh in tops at 19 pounds. Breeders say temperament reflects the environment the dog was raised in and the general personality of its master.

The couple, who had once owned a regular husky and liked the friendly nature of the husky, fell in love with the toy breed immediately and contacted breeders Rick and Linda Spurlin in Wasilla to inquire about purchasing one. About three weeks later they had picked out Kai (means little dog in Eskimo) to be the new addition to their family.

Bonnie said the breed, which was developed in Alaska in the early 1970s, has a lot of husky characteristics. "They are a very sturdy dog even though they're



Bonnie and Doug Conklin pose with their Toy Husky, Kai.

little," she said. "They can be an outside dog or an inside dog. They are very loving and outgoing. He kind of squeaks instead of barks and he bounces when he runs. He just kind of hops."

She said Kai draws a lot of attention. "In fact, when you go somewhere you have to plan on being gone longer than normal," she said. "It is just like when we had our twins." Recently they were asked to bring Kai to a local business function. "He was the hit of the event," said Bonnie. "Everybody wanted to hold him. They'd all say 'Where did you get him?' And they wanted to know all about him. Whenever we tell people what he is they say, 'Well, I never heard of a toy husky. Where did you get him?'"

"We have people coming in (Eagle River Electronics) everyday because they've heard about him," she said. "Doug said six people came into look at him just

yesterday (last Thursday). He's kind of the mascot of the building. People will take him to their shop and keep him for a while. He'll go to anybody.

"They're just good dogs. They're good with kids. They give lots of love. It doesn't matter who you are. They want to please you...."

Before she could finish, she was interrupted by a neighboring tenant from the Sports Locker. "Can I have my dog back now," he said.

"See," Bonnie said, smiling. "He wants to take him."

"We're really glad to have him," she continued, hugging Kai who was snuggled against her chest, asleep. "He's just a lot of fun. Tell people to stop by and see him."

For more information about the breed call Rick and Linda Spurlin in Wasilla at 373-6633 or write to them at P.O. Box 874215, Wasilla, Alaska 99687.

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