

A Siberian Husky Needs.....

Good food: Siberians can be fussy eaters. Human food will make them want more of your food and less of their own. Stick to good quality dog food. Siberian Huskies have a very efficient metabolism—although they are a working breed, unless they are working extremely hard in harness every day they will not need a high protein food. Too much protein in an adult dog can cause hyperactivity (“Mad Sibe Syndrome”)

A lot of fresh water: keeps them hydrated, especially during warmer weather

Exercise—Physical and Mental: They are a working breed & need regular exercise although you will be amazed at how much time they spend asleep or snoozing. Even more importantly they need mental stimulation. A bored husky is one of the most destructive forces known to nature!

A secure area: They are superb escape artists. They can dig under or jump over most fences, so a secure 6ft up & 2ft down fence is recommended.

Your attention: they love human company. Although they can be left alone for short periods, they love to be around you.

A crate: It’s not a cage – it’s their den. Keeps them safe and secure for short periods when you are not there.

To respect you: You don’t like working for a boss that you don’t respect & neither do they. Don’t put yourself in a position where your role as the leader is questionable. Be a strong leader & they will be a strong follower

To trust you: you have to earn their trust as they allow you to manage their life. It’s not offered easily

To play: Siberians are puppies their entire life. They love life to the full.

To be messy: They are double coated, which means the short underhair is shed at least twice per year. You won’t believe how much fur can come from one dog!

To dig: Yes they love to dig and dig. Nice gardens don’t last for long with a rampaging Siberian.

A dry place to sleep: yes they can survive extreme temperatures, but they want to sleep in a dry space near you

To push you: as a pack animal they will constantly be striving to be pack leader. You must ensure that is always you.

Remember: you chose them to be a part of your family. It’s a two-way relationship. The more you put in, the more you get out.

More About Siberian Huskies.....

People with cats or small animals/birds etc need to be aware that Siberian Huskies have a strong prey drive, and can thus be aggressive to cats, and other small animals. People in rural areas should be extra careful. They are usually OK with other canines—even small dogs, but care needs to be exercised with small dogs.

Prospective Husky owners need to be aware that Siberian Huskies can be a very challenging breed. Siberian huskies are very intelligent dogs, and can be somewhat stubborn. Because they were bred to perform tasks with less human control, they are very independent. They can be hard to train, especially with the "Come" command. Siberian Huskies are always looking for signs of weakness, so owners need to maintain the dominant position, without being overbearing. They can become very difficult to own if you don’t do this. Siberian Huskies should be trained from a puppy.

People living in apartments, houses with no fenced yards, or houses with small yards are likely to be turned down by responsible breeders and Rescues alike. Siberian huskies love to be outdoors. They have a strong capacity for endurance, and a lot of energy. Fencing needs to be very secure, as they are intelligent enough to find a way out by climbing, jumping, digging under or eating through fences which are not husky-proof. Small compounds, whilst at least providing huskies with a chance to go outdoors, will not enable them to get enough exercise. That restless energy could then be expressed in somewhat disruptive and mischievous ways.

People who are looking for a guard dog should look elsewhere: Although Siberian huskies can look a bit wolf-like and fierce, they are actually the world’s worst guard dog because they love everybody—burglars included.. They also tend to exit stage left at the first sign of real trouble.

Someone who wants a quiet dog should also look elsewhere: Beautiful as they are, Siberian husky dogs are not quiet. Whilst they don’t bark much, they howl and yelp similar to a wolf. Unless you have a large property, or don’t mind this chattering, another dog breed may be more appropriate. Siberian husky dogs are playful, energetic, spirited, and intelligent dogs. They are not for the faint hearted, or those that want a lap dog. They suit experienced owners who can deal with their quirks in a loving but firm and positive manner.

For more Information about the breed—look on our website: www.shwauk.org.uk
Email us at shwauk@btinternet.com, or join our Facebook Group.



THE SIBERIAN HUSKY

A Brief Guide to the Breed & its Welfare



www.shwauk.org.uk

Email:
shwauk@btinternet.com

Siberian Husky Welfare Association (UK)

Our aim is to educate new or potential owners about the breed to try and reduce the numbers coming into the welfare system through ignorance.

For those animals that need to be rehomed, we will provide a safe haven until a suitable home can be found. We are facing unprecedented welfare problems within the breed, largely as a result of indiscriminate and irresponsible commercial breeding by people who put the interests of their bank accounts above the interests of the breed.

These people prosper because innocent and naïve people who are enthralled by our breed are unable to distinguish between a good, responsible breeder and the other kind. The internet, although a wonderful tool in many respects, hasn't helped either, as anyone can create a flash website, say all the right things and appear, to all intents and purposes to be a genuine, responsible breeder.



Rescue Dogs

If your heart is not set on having a baby puppy, why not consider giving a home to a rescue dog.

Contact us via our website:

The Siberian Husky Welfare Association (UK)
www.shwauk.org.uk

Rescued Siberian Huskies are also occasionally available through local or national all-breed rescue centres. If, through unfortunate circumstances you need to rehome your Siberian Husky, please do it through a recognised national organization.

Recognising a responsible breeder.

So, how can we help people coming into the breed make the right decision and avoid buying a badly bred dog which may develop health and temperament problems later on, only to add to the task of our already overburdened rescue organisations?

* Don't buy the first puppy you are offered – all husky puppies are gorgeous and the temptation is huge – make sure the breeder and the puppy are right for you. A good breeder will be there for you throughout the life of your puppy and beyond. A bad breeder won't want to know you once they have your money!

* Never buy a dog from a newspaper or internet puppy sales site. Good breeders rarely need to advertise.

* Most breeders breed litters to improve their stock for the show ring or the trail. If they are doing neither you have to assume that their main motivation is cash! If you don't get the (friendly) third degree about your knowledge of the breed, the security of your garden & house etc. it is unlikely that they are a responsible breeder.

* Make sure that the mum, dad and pups are Kennel Club registered. KC registration is a reasonable assurance that your pup's pedigree is genuine.

* Will they let you see the mum and dad and all their other dogs? You can learn a lot from the condition and temperament of the adult dogs in a breeder's kennel.

* Although as a breed, the Siberian Husky is very healthy, all responsible breeders will screen their dogs for hereditary defects. Ask if the parents of the puppies are hip & eye tested and ask to see the results.

* Will they expect you to sign a puppy contract in which you undertake to return the dog direct to the breeder if for any reason you cannot keep it? All responsible breeders will insist on this.

For more information on what to look for in a puppy and a breeder, check out our leaflet: "Buying a Siberian Husky Puppy"

Finding a responsible breeder

Visit large Championship Dog Shows and find the Siberian Husky benches. Here you will find a wide variety of Siberians, their owners and breeders. You also need to decide whether you want a dog you can show and/or race as well as being a pet. At most big shows all types are represented. If you buy a catalogue you will have access to the addresses of all the owners at the show. • Similarly in the winter you can visit some of the racing events which happen all over the country. Details of rallies can be found on www.snopeak.com

Siberian Husky Breed Summary

Siberian Huskies ARE	Siberian Huskies ARE NOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A medium sized working dog• Intelligent, friendly & alert• Energetic and playful• Very inquisitive• Superb hunters• Prolific escape artists• Destructive if bored• Faster than you!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A watchdog or guard dog• Related to the wolf• Easily trainable• Able to walk off-lead• Loyal or obedient• Aggressive• Only blue eyed

Eye Colour Examples



Not all Siberians have blue eyes. They can come in any shade of blue or brown, one of each colour, or parti-colours equally acceptable.

Coat Colour Examples



All colours and markings, including white, allowed. Variety of markings on head is common, including many striking patterns.

Please Note: There are no "rare" colours in Huskies and breeders shouldn't charge more for particular colours.

www.shwauk.org.uk