

Working Huskies/Exercise

Exercise

The Siberian Husky is a working breed like no other! Easily adaptable and can be quite happy with a few miles walk a day. However in all fairness, the Siberian Husky only truly wants to work.

To keep a Siberian Husky happy, fit and healthy is to allow it to work. It is irresponsible to allow it to run free off the lead as the instinct is to run, hunt and inevitably it will not come back.

The easiest and fun way to exercise a Husky is to use a large wheeled scooter, or a bicycle (bike joring) or for the very active jogging/cross country (Canix) information on how, is on the Club site.

Working

The British weather, limited space and permission to train and race make opportunities to work sled dogs more limited here compared to the US, Canada or Europe. However, Sled Dog racing continues to grow in popularity, using rigs or scooters instead of sleds. This is called Dry Land Racing. In winter 3 to 7 mile working rallies are held throughout Britain, and in January you can see the dogs in their natural snowy environment at the annual Sled Dog Rally in Aviemore, Scotland. Anyone coming to a race should make themselves known, ask for the Rally Organiser (usually wearing a hi viz vest) to check on public viewing areas.

The Siberian Husky is an extremely beautiful breed, it is unfortunate some people cannot see past this and do not understand exactly what they are taking on. Meaning welfare associations and rescues are becoming inundated.

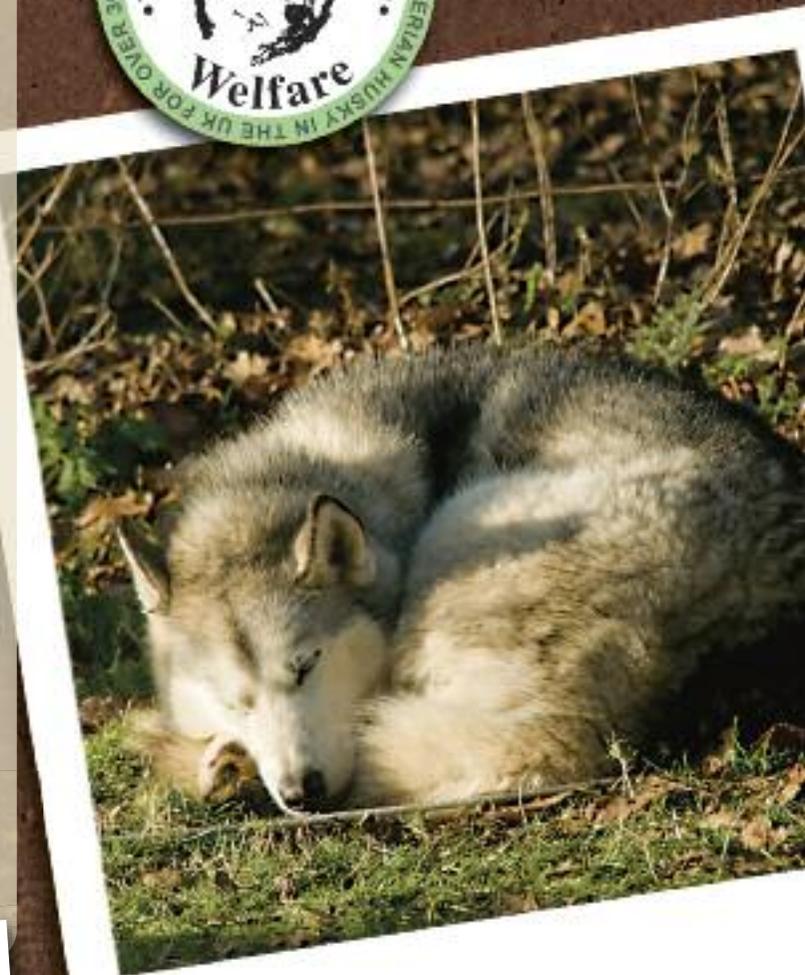
So unless you have the time to devote to this unique breed please look but don't touch.

SHCGB welfare team appear at various events throughout the year.

Details of which can be found at www.shcgbwelfare.org.uk



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Learn about Huskies
& Welfare...



About welfare

The Siberian Husky Club of Great Britain operates the Welfare Scheme for all Kennel Club Registered Siberian Huskies requiring a new home.

The scheme is run entirely by a team of volunteers and uses foster homes not kennels to care for the dogs that come in. As well as fostering and adoption, Welfare also offers advice and support for people who are finding owning a Siberian Husky difficult, and breed specific educational visits to other rescue organisations, schools and colleges.

All SHCGB Welfare dogs in our foster care system are assessed by experienced Siberian Husky people for a minimum of 2 weeks before being offered for adoption. (Occasionally in special circumstances dogs are adopted directly from home to home or other rescue facility to new home). All dogs come with 4 weeks free insurance, a year's free membership to the SHCGB, are vaccinated, wormed and health checked. All dogs are neutered/spayed. Dogs are NOT rehomed with any KC paperwork but are given a special welfare number which will allow them to compete at any working event organisations.

An adoption donation of £200 per dog is usually requested.

If a person/family is interested in adopting a Siberian Husky through SHCGB Welfare, then lifestyle questions will be asked in a telephone style 'informal discussion' about the home, family, other pets and children, etc and breed advice given, then a home visit is arranged for an experienced Husky owner to come and assess the home situation to make sure that the garden is secure and to double check that a potential new owner is happy with their decision to take on a husky. This is so that the most suitable dog is matched to a person or family. On passing the adoption process the Welfare secretary then matches the person to a suitable dog or vice versa, this can take time for the right one to be found so be patient.

Welfare dogs are cared for in foster homes around the UK so potential owners would need to be prepared to travel.

If you would like to find out more about adopting a Siberian Husky you can contact Welfare at the Siberian Husky Club of Great Britain at:

www.shcgbwelfare.org.uk

or telephone 0871 277 6783 option 3, then option 5.



Siberian Husky Club of Great Britain

The SHCGB is a club for all those interested in the Siberian Husky, whether they are owners or not. The club holds Open and Championship shows each year as well as a schedule of Competitive Working Events for KC registered Siberians throughout the race season which is October through March. And teach in sessions on working and the breed.

If you would like to find out more about Siberian Huskies, or the Siberian Husky Club of Great Britain, you can contact the Siberian Husky Club of Great Britain at www.siberianhuskyclub.com or telephone 0871 277 6783

Breed history

The Siberian Husky as a breed is around 3,000 years old. Siberian Huskies came from a small area of Siberia on the tip of the Bearing Sea, where the Chukchi people developed the breed as a winter sled dog. The dogs were used when travelling to a hunt. They were expected to travel quickly for long distances, around 80 miles a day, pulling a moderate load in low temperatures, down to minus 60°C on very little food.

They were welcome in the houses as playmates for the children and as hot water bottles at night. During the summer months the dogs ran loose, hunting and fending for themselves. This lifestyle, which continued unchanged for centuries, produced a breed of dog which retained the pack instinct and hunting attributes of the wolf, while being unaggressive and affectionate towards people.

The breed was first brought Siberia to Alaska by Leonard Seppala in the early 1900 to work during the Gold Rush and the rest as they say is history.

The Siberian remains pretty much the same today. They are still very much capable of fulfilling their original function, and retain their independence of man. The instinct to work, pull, run and hunt is so ingrained with in this breed that it CANNOT be trained out of them.

This is not a problem to those willing to adapt to and tolerate the natural instincts of the breed, but is not for those who really want a more 'civilised' type of dog. Owning a Siberian is a way of life.



Good & bad



- Huskies love people, they're not a one-man dog - any human will do - which can be seen as a lack of loyalty.
- Huskies are not guard dogs, they love people and therefore will not guard your home or property.
- Strong desire to run. If he gets free he will run so far he will be lost, if not hit by a car or train, or shot by a farmer. **Never let a husky off lead.**
- Poor recall. He will decide whether or not to return for himself, knowing you cannot catch him.
- Very independent and strong willed, generally not good for obedience training.
- Keen and efficient hunter/killer. Cannot be trusted with non-canine pets or livestock of any sort. On occasion have been known to accept, into the pack a cat (also known to kill them even after years of happy co-habiting), but should not be trusted alone and all others will be regarded as fair game.
- Requires a substantial amount of exercise to keep him fit and happy, but this must be done ON a lead.
- Very destructive, especially when young and/or if left alone for a long time.
- Huskies are pack animals and need company, human but preferably canine, and are miserable without it.
- Huskies are great escape artists, a safely enclosed garden with 6ft high fencing is USUALLY enough (can climb 7ft) and will dig their way to freedom if there is no way over. Do not leave dustbins etc near the fence or they may use them to get over the top. Keep the garden gate locked, so there's no risk that visitors, window cleaners etc may leave them open.
- If you like a nice garden huskies are not for you!! Huskies love to dig for no apparent reason and destroy plants, trees and shrubs.
- Huskies moult excessive amounts twice a year.
- Huskies are a natural breed with strong pack instincts and body language, this needs to be understood.
- A husky needs to know who is boss otherwise he will make himself the boss!!

