

# The Siberian Husky Guide

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<i>The Siberian Husky Guide</i> .....	1
Background.....	3
<b>SECTION 101: SIBERIAN HUSKY PUPPIES.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<i>Puppy or Adult?</i> .....	4
<i>Where to get your Siberian Husky puppy?</i> .....	6
<i>How many Siberian Huskies is too many Siberian Huskies?</i> .....	8
<i>What age to bring the Siberian Husky puppy home?</i> .....	9
<i>Picking your Siberian Husky puppy from the litter.</i> .....	9
<i>Toys and Chew Toys</i> .....	12
<b>SECTION 201: NUTRITION.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<i>How much to feed and how often.</i> .....	15
<i>Treats</i> .....	16
<b>SECTION 301: SECRETS TO BECOMING THE ALPHA SIBERIAN HUSKY.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>SECTION 401: HOUSEBREAKING AND TRAINING .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<i>House Breaking Your Siberian Husky.....</i>	21
<i>What size crate?</i> .....	22
<i>General Training</i> .....	24
<b>SECTION 501: CORRECTING BEHAVIORAL ISSUES.....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>SECTION 601: SOCIALIZATION .....</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>SECTION 701: HEALTH.....</b>	<b>67</b>
<i>Caring for your Siberian Husky.....</i>	67
<i>Breeding, Neutering and Spaying .....</i>	69
<i>Reducing your medical bills.....</i>	70
<i>Protecting Your Husky from Theft .....</i>	71
<b>LEGAL INFO .....</b>	<b>72</b>

## Background

It is widely thought that the Siberian Husky originated from tribes that were located in the east Siberian peninsula. Recent findings have shown that the Siberian Husky is one of the oldest breeds of dog.

Imported by Russian fur trader William Goosak, the Siberian Husky first arrived in North America in Nome, Alaska. They were brought to Alaska to be used in a 400 mile sled race with a prize of \$10,000. The breed's thick, heavy coat was the main reason that the Siberian Husky was chosen to pull the sleds. This helped to keep them warm despite sub zero temperatures as well as large amounts of snow.

Over the next few years word began to spread throughout the region of the breed's sled racing ability. The breed's fame increased even more after a sled team led by a Siberian Husky named Togo traveled over 300 miles through a blizzard and on little sleep to retrieve an antidote for a plague that was gripping the town of Nome. On the way back the team was met by a relay team led by a Siberian Husky named Balto which picked up the antidote and completed the last leg of the journey. Because of this journey to save the town there is a statue of Balto in New York City's Central Park.

The Siberian Husky breed was recognized by the American Kennel Club in 1930. Later in 1955 the first Siberian Husky, Ch. Bonzo of Anadyr, CD, took best in show in the AKC all breed show.

Although this breed is still used as sled dogs in today's day and age, this practice is not nearly as well accepted as it once was. There are many groups who are opposed to this type of work, and feel that the dogs are being put through extremely rigorous conditions.

Nowadays, Siberian Huskies are used more for pets than anything else. Many homeowners purchase this breed because of its good looks and solid size.

Despite the fact that the Siberian Husky resembles a wolf, these dogs are quite gentle for the most part. Just like all breeds, there are some Siberian Huskies that are not as gentle as they should be, but these specimens are few and far between.

The Siberian Husky is a very loving, social, loyal and people oriented dog. This breed needs plenty of attention from his owner and needs to interact with someone each day. This is not a dog to be left alone and socially neglected. Deprive this breed of the attention it needs and you could wind up with a very frustrated dog that has severe social and behavioral problems.

## Section 101: Siberian Husky Puppies

The most important thing to remember when choosing your Siberian Husky is not to rush in. Most likely the dog you get will be with you for many years to come. Doing some thorough research first can prevent problems later on. One of the first questions that might come up is whether to get a puppy or an adult dog.

### Puppy or Adult?

There can be certain advantages to getting an adult Siberian Husky over getting a puppy, depending on the upbringing of the dog. If the Siberian Husky was brought up well with the proper socialization and training then that process is already completed for you when you receive the Siberian Husky. On the other hand if you get an adult Siberian Husky without first spending time with it you could wind up with a Siberian Husky that has social and behavioral issues.

If you can't be around to take care of a puppy then an adult Siberian Husky would be a good choice. Since puppies need to go to the bathroom every couple of hours they require an owner who can either stay home during it's first few months or come home often to take the puppy out. For people that are not able to do this for whatever reason an adult Siberian Husky is a better choice.

If you want to get an adult Siberian Husky here is a tip that can help ensure you end up with a well behaved and well socialized Siberian Husky.

#### Spend time with the Siberian Husky first

If you can it's a great idea to keep the Siberian Husky for several weeks before taking ownership of him. This way you get to see how the Siberian Husky behaves around you, around strangers and around guests. If the owners tell you he's house broken then you will be able to see first hand if he really is. Keep in mind that without his true owners around and since he has not yet bonded to you his behavior may not be an exact reflection of how he behaves in his own home. For this reason it's a good idea to spend some time around him when he is with his owners. If he is said to be well trained have the owner demonstrate this to you.

By getting a puppy you can ensure that your Siberian Husky grows up to be well socialized and well behaved and there will be no question or uncertainty as to its social background. For example, if you get an adult you could later find out that he has developed a great fear of a certain type of object because he had a bad experience with such an object as a young puppy or because he was never exposed to such an object. With a puppy you can take measures to prevent this such as exposing him to as many people,

objects and situations as possible early on to help ensure he does not grow up to have selective fears of things.

Another reason to get a puppy is because it's easier to house train a puppy than it is to house train an adult Siberian Husky. It is not impossible to house train an adult Siberian Husky but an adult Siberian Husky will be more set in his ways and un breaking old habits from an adult will be more difficult than forming new habits in a puppy.

Getting a Siberian Husky as a puppy will require a big commitment from you – consider it not much different than having a newborn child in the home. In a nutshell puppies will need attention all throughout the day. This includes being taken out to the bathroom every two or three hours as their bladders don't hold much, being fed three to four times a day and getting love and affection from you several times a day. Puppies, unlike other animals, do not do well with social isolation. Leaving your puppy alone to be ignored for long periods of time can be very bad for its health. For this reason if you get a puppy you need to make sure that someone will be around throughout the day to cater to all these needs. If you cannot be around to care for your Siberian Husky will someone else be able to stop in every two to three hours? If you can't be around and you don't have anyone that can stop in then you will need to consider a dog sitter or doggy day care. If that is not an option then you should consider getting an adult Siberian Husky that can go longer periods without attention.

## **Male or Female?**

Both males and females are going to make good companions though there are some differences between them. Males will tend to be more headstrong and dominant as they reach adolescence than females. However fixing (neutering) a male will greatly reduce or eliminate these issues all together. When females reach adolescence they will begin their heat cycles but fixing the female will eliminate this issue as well. Females tend to be less headstrong and dominant than males and will therefore tend to be more passive.

You will need to be aware of a un fixed male's tendency for aggression towards other male dogs once he reaches puberty. In some cases even a fixed male could act aggressively towards other male dogs though it is less likely. Females are much less likely to have aggression problems with other dogs though it is not impossible.

Overall an owner should fix their Siberian Husky as it is healthier for both dog and owner.

## Where to get your Siberian Husky puppy?

So you've decided there will be someone around to care of your Siberian Husky puppy and the question comes up, "where should I go to get my Siberian Husky puppy?"

You may find the occasional Siberian Husky in a pet shop though it is not recommended you get your Siberian Husky from one of these places. Pet shops often get their dogs from puppy mills; dog factories that very often have inhuman conditions. A puppy coming out of one of these places could have behavioral problems due to the poor conditions. In addition there is no way of knowing the temperament of the parents since you will not be able to see them. Seeing the parents helps to ensure you are getting a puppy with the temperament you are looking for. Your best bet is to get your Siberian Husky from a reputable Siberian Husky breeder who keeps at least the mother of the puppies onsite. How do you find a good breeder?

Your Siberian Husky is going to be with you for many years to come so the more research and homework you can do in locating the right breeder the better your chances are of finding the best Siberian Husky you can.

First you want to familiarize yourself with what makes up a good breeder. The best Siberian Husky breeders are not breeding for the money. They breed because they love the breed and they want to produce great dogs so that others can enjoy them. For the most reputable breeders a desire to produce a better Siberian Husky is the top reason for breeding. This means they want to make sure only their best Siberian Huskies get bred – those with the best temperaments, health and traits. They want to breed Siberian Husky puppies that are better than the previous generation and reflect the proper standard as closely as possible. In addition the best breeders are involved in and belong to Siberian Husky clubs and organizations that support the breed.

A good breeder knows the lineage of their dogs almost by heart. What that means is that you can point to any dog they own and they should be able to tell you who the parents and grandparents are and the background on those dogs – who the owners are, where the dogs came from, if the dogs have won any awards etc.

You should also familiarize yourself with the term "backyard breeder"

To sum it up, backyard breeders are in it for the money rather than for their love of the breed. They are basically the opposite of what makes up the reputable breeder. While reputable breeders compete their dogs in shows and are actively involved in Siberian Husky events and activities, backyard breeders are not interested in attending such things. Backyard breeders will breed dogs to any other dog without regard to producing a better dog than they already have. Reputable breeders will carefully select only the best dogs for breeding – dogs that possess the very best traits and temperaments.

Here are is a chart of some of the differences between a reputable breeder and a backyard breeder.

<b>A reputable breeder</b>	<b>A backyard breeder</b>
Can tell you exactly who the parents and grandparents of the puppies are.	Does not know who the parents and grandparents are.
Is very familiar with the history of the breed.	Is not familiar with the history of the breed.
Has tested and can guarantee against hip dysplasia.	Has not tested or will not guarantee against hip dysplasia.
Does not need to advertise in the newspaper because they have established a good reputation through word of mouth.	Advertises in the newspaper.
Will not sell their Siberian Huskies to just anyone. They screen potential buyers to make sure their Siberian Huskies will be put into a good home and a good environment.	Just wants the money. They have little concern about the dog after the money has changed hands.
Checks up on his dogs after they have been sold. And will even take their Siberian Husky back if they find out they are being mistreated.	Does not call the owner to check on the dog after it has been sold.

## **Understanding Hip Dysplasia**

Hip dysplasia (HD) is a genetic disorder common in many large dog breeds including the Siberian Husky where the hip joint is not formed properly. It can lead to difficulty walking and eventually the inability to walk properly on one or more legs. You can minimize your risk of getting a Siberian Husky puppy that will eventually develop HD by buying your puppy from a reputable Siberian Husky breeder and not a back yard breeder. Reputable Siberian Husky breeders take careful steps in their breedings to

minimize the possibility that their dogs will develop this disorder. That is, they screen the stud and the bitch with x-Rays and hip scoring tests to minimize the possibility that the pups will have the disorder. It should be noted that even with the most careful planning and screening the gene that causes HD can still be passed on to a pup in a litter. In other words there is no way for a breeder to completely guarantee that his pups will be free from HD. Even still the best breeders will replace a pup found to have HD with another pup from their litter if you test and find HD in your pup before a certain amount of time, usually around 28 months from the time of purchase.

What does OFA certified mean?

OFA certified means the dog has had various tests run on it by a veterinarian and the results have been sent to the [Orthopedic Foundation for Animals](#), a non profit organization set up to reduce the number of cases of hip dysplasia and other genetic canine diseases . This organization then looks over the results and declares hips that pass to be either excellent, good or fair.

So how does one go about starting their search for a reputable breeder?

The best place to start a search is online by searching using the term Siberian Husky club and then the country you live in. So for the United States an online search term “Siberian Husky club America” would result in the web site for the Siberian Husky Club for North America. Most other countries have their own Siberian Husky clubs. The second place to look would be at the website for the American Kennel Club.

When you locate a breeder use common sense in investigating them. Ask them questions such as:

- How long they have been in business?
- Are the parents of the puppy there?
- Are there guarantees against health or behavioral defects? If so then for how long?
- Are the parents cleared of genetic defects inherent to the breed?
- What temperament do you breed for?
- Are the parents OFA certified (certified against hip dysphasia)?
- Have the puppies been socialized?

## **How many Siberian Huskies is too many Siberian Huskies?**

People often want to know if it is ok to get more than one Siberian Husky puppy. It's recommend you only get one puppy at first. When two puppies are brought up together they often find each other more interesting than the owner since they are dogs and you are not a dog. If they don't think you are interesting they might not pay attention to you when you are trying to train and house break them. If one puppy is not paying attention to

you and your training and starts picking up bad habits the other puppy may copy him and pick up his bad habits since he is watching the other puppy rather than listening to you.

If you want to have two puppies a good idea is to get one puppy and then get the second a year later. This way the first puppy has been trained by you and has accepted you as his master. When the second puppy arrives he will see the other dog paying attention to you and will follow suit. Plus the new puppy may pick up some of the good habits of the older puppy.

### How Many

How many Siberian Huskies is too many? Generally speaking no more than two. Upon reaching puberty Siberian Huskies of the same sex will often get into confrontations about food, the attention of the owner or especially another dog of the opposite sex. If you want more than one Siberian Husky for company one male and one female should get along fine because the female will submit to the male and there will be no challenges. On the other hand two males will constantly try to challenge the other to be the dominant male. And if another female in heat comes into the picture you can bet on having a serious fight on your hands, even if the two dogs have been together since puppy hood.

### **What age to bring the Siberian Husky puppy home?**

A good age to bring your little Siberian Husky home is around 8 to 12 weeks. Anything earlier and the puppy has still not been taught proper respect. Starting at around six weeks the puppy will start to develop bad puppy habits such as biting and nipping. During this time the mother will begin to lay down the law as to what is proper and what isn't. For example if the puppy is biting her the mother will gently clamp down on the puppy to let him know such behavior will not be tolerated. Why not let the mother set the foundation for respectful behavior such as not biting and nipping?

### **Picking your Siberian Husky puppy from the litter.**

When looking into the litter keep in mind that at about 7 weeks of age a hierarchy would have begun to form among the litter of puppies and the more dominant dogs can be distinguished from the more passive ones.

The top dog is going to be the one demanding attention, challenging the other dogs, and challenging play toys. This puppy is going to have a more confident personality and much perseverance will be needed later on in this Siberian Husky's training.

Next down the line is the middle of the line pup. This puppy is less concerned with showing his dominance and more concerned with exploring. He will defend himself against the top dog puppy when he has to. This type of dog is going to be a good match for the more laid back family. He still needs training, but he won't require such a strong willed owner as the top dog will.

The lower ranking pup

This puppy is the passive type. He is going to be shy around his siblings and will submit when challenged by the top and higher ranking puppies. This puppy will be best suited for the more laid back owner or family. This puppy's higher level of sensitivity will need to be taken into account by the would be owner.

To get a better idea of the puppies' personalities you can try this:

Take each puppy away from the litter, set him on the ground near you and start to gently pet him. If he lunges at your face to play, challenges you or runs off to find something more interesting to do you can bet this dog leans more toward the top of the pack, if not at the top of the pack.

If the puppy relaxes and sits quietly or walks over to you and gets in your lap then the dog is closer to the middle of the pack.

If the puppy cowers, tries to hide, tucks his tail or pins his ears then the dog is lowest in the order of the pack.

## **Things You Will Need Before Your Puppy Arrives**

There are some key supplies you will want to have before your puppy ever arrives at your home.

### **Crate**

A good crate is going to be one of your most valuable tools. It's a place that your Siberian Husky calls his own and will become very important when it comes to housebreaking. You will learn more about the crate later on.

### **Leash**

Invest in two leashes, a six foot leather leash and a fifteen foot long line leash.

## **Collar**

A regular buckle collar or an adjustable collar will do.

## **Bowl**

A metal bowl, preferably large as larger ones encourage the puppy to eat slower.

## **Dog Bed**

If you are going to keep your Siberian Husky off the furniture (you will find out why this is important later) he is going to need a place to lay down and call his own. A dog bed with a removable cover is easier to clean.

## **Chewy Things**

Puppies needs things to chew on and if you don't give them the right things to chew they will chew on everything else. Puppies have a chewing quota that must be filled every day. Good chewy things are outlined below.

### Compressed Raw Hide

Compressed raw hide is thick layers of unbleached rawhide pieces that have been compressed with high pressure into a bone. Why are they good? For one they are edible, fully digestible and taste very good to the puppy. The other benefit is that only small pieces can be chewed off at a time minimizing the chance of an obstruction.

### Regular beef marabones from the grocery store

These are sliced fema bones two inches long with real bone marrow in the middle, uncooked and raw. Why are they good? One: it's raw barrow which is very nutritious and full of raw meat enzymes . Because the bone is raw it's not brittle so the bone won't splinter in their system. Puppies go nuts for these – best to put them in their crate because these can be messy.

### Velvet Bones

This is a corn starch bone flavored with different flavors such as beef, cheese, peanut butter and even mint flavored . They massage the gums while the puppy is teething.

## **Bringing the Siberian Husky Home**

In addition to having your supplies ready, decide on a designated potty place before you ever arrive home. This designated place will be the place you take your puppy each time you take him outside to go potty. By taking him to the same place every time you help make a strong connection between that place and doing his business. In addition have a command word picked out that the puppy can associate with going to the bathroom. “Go potty” will do fine.

Upon arrival take your puppy to go to the bathroom at the designated spot.

He will more than likely need to go since he’s been in the car for awhile. Use the long leash. The six foot does not give him too much room to find a spot. The 15 footer may give him a little more breathing room and privacy. Right when he goes say your potty command word several times so the puppy can begin to make the association. When he is finished give him calm quiet verbal praise with lots of petting so that he associates going to the bathroom with something very positive.

When you first bring the new puppy inside keep things calm. If you have kids don’t let them rough house, fight over the new pup or generally do anything that will make the puppy nervous. Remember the dog has just been separated from his family and needs to be treated likewise.

At night your new pup should ideally sleep near you at night in his crate. Your puppy is used to sleeping with his mom and siblings, so being near you will help him cope.

## **Toys and Chew Toys**

Your puppy will need toys to give him something to do. They will also be used to get him chewing on the right things instead of on your furniture. Nylabone chew toys are designed to be very sturdy for plenty of chewing satisfaction. They also have a thin layer of flavor underneath to encourage your Siberian Husky to use them. Nylabones can be purchased online at Petsmart [here](#) or at your local pet store if they stock them. For the adult Siberian Husky who is a tough chewer the [Galileo by Nylabone](#) is built extra tough.

### Fetching Toys

The game of fetch will be important in exercising your Siberian Husky and stimulating his need to play. Dog frisbees made of nylon make a good toy for this game. Unlike

regular frisbees these frisbees are made of durable nylon that will not be easily destroyed by your Siberian Husky. PetSmart carries one called the Floating Gumabone Disc that can be purchased online [here](#).

### Rawhide Bones

Rawhide bones give your Siberian Husky a chewing alternative to nylon chew toys. [Knotted Basted Rawhide Bones](#) are flavored and help clean your Siberian Husky's teeth by removing plaque build up.

### Toy No No's

Basically any toy is dangerous for your dog if it is small enough to be swallowed. Usually this will mean just about anything that is not made to be a toy for your Siberian Husky. This includes string, rubber bands, children's toys, pantyhose and anything else that is small and can be swallowed.

## Section 201: Nutrition

When trying to figure out what to feed your new Siberian Husky after you bring him home it's a good idea to ask the breeder what the puppy was being fed and buy that same food. If you want to switch the puppy over to a new food you can slowly introduce small quantities of the new food to the puppy over time. Gradually add more and more of the new food until the puppy is completely weaned off the old food. This way the puppy's digestive system is not disrupted by the sudden change in diet.

Dog food brands can be loosely categorized into three types: low quality, mid quality and very high quality. The types are going to vary based on price and the ingredients in the food. If you want the healthiest Siberian Husky you can have the low quality foods should be avoided. They are made with the cheapest ingredients possible and are therefore the cheapest in price. The low priced brands often found in the grocery store such as Alpo and Friskies are a good example of a very low quality dog food.

The quality differences of the three types of dog food can be found by reading the list of ingredients on the packaging. The low quality type foods are going to list vague terms for the protein such as meat, meat meal or bone meal. Meat such as these could come from just about any source including road kill or euthanized animals. In addition it could be any combination of any meat of any kind of animal. It could have some very low quality chicken and horse, or horse and dog as well as many other combinations.

The mid quality type foods are going to list a specific type of meat such as lamb, beef or chicken as a key protein ingredient as well as by products of this ingredient. By product means it could come from any part of the animal. The highest quality and most expensive brands are going to list a specific meat as a key ingredient and are not going to list any by products of the meat in the ingredients. In other words the protein from meat in the high quality type foods is good enough to meet the standards of human consumption.

Purina Pro Plan, Science Diet and Eukanuba all make reputable dog food that fall into the mid quality category. You will find many vets that will recommend one or more of these brands.

If you don't mind spending more and want to feed your Siberian Husky food that could actually be more nutritious than what many humans eat, then the [Solid Gold](#) brand that is made in the United States is dog food with the highest quality ingredients possible. Here are the ingredients in their dry lamb adult dog food:

Lamb | Lamb Meal | Millet | Brown Rice | Cracked Pearled Barley | Oatmeal | Rice Bran | Menhaden Fish Meal | Canola Oil | Flax Meal | Amaranth | Blueberries | Dried Chicory Root | Carotene | Choline Chloride | Vitamin E Supplement | Iron Proteinate | Zinc Proteinate | Yucca Schidigera Extract | Copper Proteinate | Manganese Proteinate | Potassium Iodide | Thiamine Mononitrate | Ascorbic Acid | Vitamin A Supplement | Biotin | Calcium Panthothenate | Sodium Selenite | Pyridoxine Hydrochloride | Vitamin B12 Supplement | Riboflavin | Vitamin D Supplement | Folic Acid |

Notice that you don't see the word "by product" anywhere. Also notice there are no preservatives listed. The low grade products include preservatives.

## **How much to feed and how often.**

Until the puppy is about 4 months of age you will want to feed him three to four times a day. Puppy Kibble (dry puppy food) will do fine. Soak your puppy's food in warm water to soften the food so that it can be better digested. Some people add canned wet puppy food to the dry kibble but there is no need to as the dry kibble is formulated to have all the proper nutrients the puppy needs. As your Siberian Husky gets older you can begin to reduce the number of times a day he eats. At four to six months you can switch to three meals a day with larger portions. At six months you can reduce to 2 meals a day and at one year you can serve just one meal a day.

The amount of food you need to give your puppy is going to vary according to the individual puppy. More active puppies need more food than less active puppies and vice versa. The brands I noted above have feeding instructions on their packages with amounts to give, however this should only be a rough estimate to give you an idea or a starting point. To know how much food your individual puppy needs you will need to watch his weight closely. If he starts to get too skinny increase the amount of food and if he starts getting too fat decrease his food. A visual weight chart can be found online [here](#). An important thing to note is to let the puppy's genetics dictate how much he wants to eat. Don't try to make your puppy grow faster than is natural.

When you feed your puppy leave the food near him for 15 minutes. If he does not touch the food in that amount of time take the food away until the next meal. This will help to set the puppy's feeding routine and put him on a set schedule. Some say a good time to take your puppy out to go to the bathroom is right after he eats. If you find your puppy likes to relieve himself after eating then you can get into a routine of taking him out right after a meal. Afterwards it's a good idea to leave your puppy alone for about an hour so he can digest his food. Don't let the kids romp around with him after he's eaten as this can upset his full belly. Better to let his meal digest some first. Remember to have fresh water available to your puppy at all times.

## Table Scraps

Owners are often tempted to give their dog scraps from the kitchen table but this practice is not a healthy one. Not only will you soon have a Siberian Husky that begs at every meal but you could have a Siberian Husky with bad gas, stools that are very messy or a Siberian Husky who gets sick from eating your food. Foods that are heavy in spices are not digested well by dogs and will often require a trip to the vet. Your best bet is to stick with a medium or high quality brand dog food. These dog foods have all been specially

formulated to have all the right combinations of vitamins and nutrients your Siberian Husky needs to be healthy.

### Milk

Milk should not be given to your Siberian Husky as dogs do not have the proper enzymes to break down milk properly. Plan on your Siberian Husky having an upset stomach and diarrhea if you insist on giving him cow milk.

### Treats

The main thing to remember with treats is to use them very sparingly. Treats should not make up more than 10% of the Siberian Husky's diet. The top quality dog food manufacturers also make quality dog treats. Iams makes quality dog biscuits that can be ordered online from Amazon [here](#) or purchased at your local pet store. You can break the biscuits into small pieces to be used in training sessions.

## Section 301: Secrets To Becoming The Alpha Siberian Husky

To understand why you must act like the Alpha dog we need to take a look at every domesticated dog's closest ancestor – the wolf. Wolves travel in packs and each pack has a hierarchy, or rank order. Who's at the top of the pecking order in every wild wolf pack? You guessed it. The alpha male wolf. In the wolf pack all the wolves in the pack look to the alpha male for direction and leadership. So you see, it's completely natural for your Siberian Husky to have an alpha male to look up to.

One of the keys to eliminating different types of behavioral problems is making sure your Siberian Husky knows that he is at the lowest point in the pecking order in your family. This means that you as well as every person in your family needs to establish themselves as being higher in the pack order over the Siberian Husky. All dogs need to have a leader that they look to for guidance. If you don't act like this leader then your Siberian Husky may try to establish himself in that role and this is how many behavioral issues start.

How strictly you enforce the following rules is dependent on how bad your Siberian Husky is behaving and how well behaved you want your Siberian Husky to be. If the Siberian Husky is totally out of control with bad behavior then the rules need to be enforced to the highest degree. If you want the best behavior possible from your Siberian Husky then your Siberian Husky needs to know he is not the alpha dog and that his rank is below all his human pack members. The way to do that is by following these guidelines every day, forever.

### Feed time

Feeding your Siberian Husky at meal time rather than leaving a bunch of food out so he can feed himself will establish you as the alpha dog. In the wild the alpha dog always eats first, therefore feed your Siberian Husky after you are finished with your own meal. You can also pretend to take a nibble from his food before giving it to him. Your Siberian Husky should sit and remain seated until the bowl is placed on the floor and you tell him it's ok to eat. After 5 minutes take up whatever he has not eaten.

### Greeting Time

When you come home from work or come back home after being gone for a long time don't immediately satisfy your Siberian Husky's desire to greet you. It can be tempting to lavish your Siberian Husky with attention when you first come home but make sure the attention is given on your terms and not his. A good thing to do is when you first come home and your Siberian Husky runs up to greet you issue a command such as "Sit". Only greet him after he has successfully obeyed the command. This way you are letting your

Siberian Husky know that you are the one that is allowing the greeting to happen, rather than the other way around. Also it's a good idea to simply ignore him for a few minutes until you have situated yourself and your Siberian Husky has calmed down. Only then give him the attention he wants after obeying a sit command.

Keep in mind that if you create an environment of excessive excitement every time you arrive home, i.e. letting your Siberian Husky jump on you, letting your Siberian Husky run all over the place or generally working your Siberian Husky into a state of extreme excitement, this will most likely happen anytime anyone comes through the door.

### Walking on the leash

When on the leash, you should always be walking your Siberian Husky and not the other way around. If your Siberian Husky pulls and lunges away, dragging you with him, he will definitely see himself as being in charge in that situation. Make sure you follow the section on leash training and have him walking beside you when being led on the leash. If your Siberian Husky slowly starts to regress to pulling away and trying to lead you then you need to go back to teaching your Siberian Husky how walk nicely on the lead.

### Sleeping in the bed

Letting your Siberian Husky sleep in the bed with you helps to put each of you on equal ground. Making your Siberian Husky sleep in his own bed helps to ensure your Siberian Husky knows he is not on equal ranking with you. Some people love their Siberian Huskies so much they can't help but let them sleep in their beds with them and this is understandable. However if you are trying change bad behavior then you need to do everything you can to set yourself as the alpha dog and lower ranking dogs do not sleep in the same place as the alpha dog. Once you have worked with your Siberian Husky and gotten his behavior to your liking you can go back to letting him sleep in your bed. But if the behavior starts to lapse he needs to go right back to sleeping on the floor.

### Sitting on your furniture

This means the couch, chair or anything you or your family sits on. In the wild the alpha wolf always sits on the highest ground so you should too. Don't let your Siberian Husky on the couch, on the bed or in any chairs. Again once his training is complete you can relax this rule a little if you think it is too excessive. Just keep in mind what it signifies and if his behavior goes south it's time to re-enforce the rule.

## Petting and Grooming

Petting is perceived as grooming to dogs. Not grooming as in giving a bath or nail clipping, but rather minding for and fulfilling the needs of another pack member. Submissive dogs will groom dogs with a higher status in the pack. Grooming is always prompted for and ended by a higher ranking pack member.

So in dog language it means that whenever your Siberian Husky comes up to you with that sweet face and pushes into your space for petting, by either nudging with his nose, pawing, or even leaning on you it means that he is demanding or insisting that you give him attention He is requesting this as a higher ranking pack member even though we interpret it in human terms as being very sweet, loving or cute.

If you respond you are acknowledging him as a higher ranking pack member and even more importantly you are reinforcing the perception your Siberian Husky has that you are of a lower pack rank.

It is vitally important that every time your Siberian Husky comes up to you with that sweet face and pushes into your space for petting by either nudging, pawing or leaning that you body block & look away. You have to dismiss your Siberian Husky's efforts. This is going to be harder for you than it is going to be for your Siberian Husky.

Once your Siberian Husky has given up the effort of demanding your attention and has walked away from you can then turn the situation around. Use the opportunity to motivate your Siberian Husky to do something to earn your attention. Call your Siberian Husky back over to you and make him sit first. By doing this you are initiating "grooming" and by making your Siberian Husky sit first you are adding a value to your attention. He is not getting groomed "for free" but rather he is having to earn it through a sit. This is also teaching your Siberian Husky that by being patient and obedient he can get the attention he desires.

This exercise is very important as a measure of your Siberian Husky's progress and "attitude adjustment." You will know your Siberian Husky is beginning to accept you as an adequate, reliable and trustworthy leader when your Siberian Husky walks up to you and sits quietly in front of you instead of nudging with his nose, pawing, leaning or jumping up on you. When this happens your Siberian Husky's attitude has gone from "Hey, you, pet me! Now, now, now!" to "Excuse me alpha leader, when you have a moment, please may I have some of your attention."

- So pet ONLY for obedience.
- If you want to initiate a pet, call your Siberian Husky over to you, don't go over to him.
- If your Siberian Husky initiates petting, Body Block and use the Looking Away approach.
- Take this exercise into all aspects of affection & petting with your Siberian Husky.

### Body Block & Look Away

If your Siberian Husky approaches you and you are not willing to pet him, simply cross your arms and push into his space with your shoulders, elbows, knee or even gently with your foot. Do not use your hands as this can be perceived as an invitation to play.

With the Looking Away approach if you do not want your Siberian Husky's attention simply turn your body away and look away.

### Initiation of Play

Alpha dogs decide when to play and when to end play. If your Siberian Husky approaches you with a ball or tug toy dropping it in your lap, barking at you or pushing the toy into your space simply cross your arms and push into his space with your shoulders or elbows or use the Look Away technique. Do not use your hands as this can be perceived as an initiation to play.

A good thing to do is to keep one special tug toy or ball aside that is used only for play time with you. This toy should never be left with your Siberian Husky after playtime. Instead get the toy or ball out, initiate a great game, end the game and then put the toy up until the next play time.

Note: Establishing yourself as the alpha dog is a never ending process. Your Siberian Husky should always see you as being the one in charge to ensure a lifetime of good behavior and enjoyment for both you and your Siberian Husky.

## Section 401: Housebreaking and Training

### House Breaking Your Siberian Husky

The most common and popular method to train your Siberian Husky to go to the bathroom outside is via the crate, also known as crate training. The idea of crate training is that you provide your Siberian Husky with a crate which is similar to a dog's den in the wild. This crate becomes your Siberian Husky's sleeping quarters and his own private place. The crate training method is effective because dogs don't like to go to the bathroom in the same place they sleep. Since they don't like to relieve themselves in the same place they sleep this is a natural way to get your Siberian Husky to try to hold it until you take him outside. If not confined to a crate and left free to wander about the house, your Siberian Husky will just go to the bathroom anytime and anywhere he wants. Since your Siberian Husky is holding going to the bathroom while in the crate you can confine your Siberian Husky to the crate when it comes close to the time he normally goes to the bathroom. When it comes close to potty time you can take your Siberian Husky out of the crate and take him straight outside on a leash. Once your Siberian Husky is outside and goes to the bathroom you can reward him with a lot of praise and a small treat.

The return from going potty outside is the perfect time to play with your Siberian Husky or let him play by himself under your supervision. After a couple of hours of this you want to put him back in the crate again so that he can once again hold going to the bathroom until he goes outside. If he is an adult he can be left alone for longer than a couple of hours. All you do is repeat this pattern over and over, always giving lots of praise every time he goes to the bathroom outside. Since your Siberian Husky wants to please you (and because he wants that treat) he will eventually start to hold going to the bathroom until he is outside. Eventually you can graduate to only giving praise.

Occasionally he may have an accident indoors. If this happens clean up the mess *and do nothing else*. Your Siberian Husky will not be able to associate any punishment you might give with going to the bathroom in the wrong place. Most likely he will just be confused and afraid of you. Don't shove his face in his feces, don't yell at him, don't hit newspaper against the floor or do anything else of this nature. Doing things like this will only make him fear you rather than fearing going potty in the wrong place. If he fears you the trust could be broken and all your house training progress undone.

The length of time to crate train your Siberian Husky will vary from dog to dog. Some will learn the conditioning after just a couple of weeks while others may take longer. The key is repetition and consistency.

## What size crate?

Your Siberian Husky should not have much more room than is needed to stand up and turn around when inside the crate. A good product is a multi stage crate. This is a crate large enough to accommodate an adult but can also be made to accommodate puppies by inserting dividers to block off sections of the crate. This way you don't have to buy several different sized crates as your Siberian Husky grows.

You want to make sure the crate is a welcoming place for your Siberian Husky. You can do this by placing toys, rawhide bones and treats inside the crate before he enters it for the first time. If the Siberian Husky does not take well to the crate in the beginning you can also give your Siberian Husky his food in the crate a few times. This further helps to make the crate an appealing place since eating is a Siberian Husky's favorite thing to do (besides sleeping and playing).

One thing to note. Don't let your Siberian Husky out of his crate when he's whining. If you are going to let him out make sure he has stopped whining first. If you let him out when he's whining he will associate whining with being let out and you will in turn be teaching him to whine if he wants to be let out. Also important to note is not to put the Siberian Husky in the crate only when you are gone. Keep him in there sometimes when you are home as well. This will help to make the crate a secure and positive place. If you only put him in there when you leave then he will associate being in the crate with something negative – you being gone or you leaving.

### Which Crate?

As mentioned a good crate to get is one that comes with a divider so you can expand the size of the crate as your Siberian Husky gets older and grows. Midwest Life Stages Crates are a good choice as they have a sturdy build and come with a divider. In addition they are also foldable for easy transport. This brand crate can be purchased online [here](#) or check your local pet store.

### Housebreaking when you can't be around

If you have a Siberian Husky puppy there could be cases where you can't be around to take him outside every few hours. If this is the case then you can train him to use newspapers until he is older and he can hold going potty for longer periods of time – enough time where you or someone can get back to take him out.

Find a room in your home where the floors can be easily cleaned up like a laundry room. A dog playpen is perfect for this. You can see a picture of one [here](#). Line the entire floor inside the pen with newspaper or [dog wee pads](#). Put your puppy's bed inside the playpen.

Keep the puppy in this environment anytime you cannot be supervising him and taking him outside to go potty. After about a month of this remove the pen and cover about half of the room with lining (either newspaper or wee pads). Put the dog bed on the other side so that it is not on the lining.

Your puppy should use the lining to do his business. Start to reduce the amount of lining week by week until he will do his business on only a small portion of the lining. When your Siberian Husky is old enough to hold going to the bathroom for longer periods you can begin using the crate method.

## General Training

Before we get into how to train your Husky there are some key points to commit to memory and keep in mind for the duration of the training.

- Be Consistent

If you tell your Husky he can't beg for food one day and then give him table scraps another day you will obviously have a Husky that will not understand he should not beg at the table. Consistency is the *only* way to make your training effective. Lapsing in your training will quickly undo any progress you have attained with your Husky. Make sure all the members of your family know what the Husky is being trained in and make sure they all stick with the regiment as well. If you are trying to train your Husky not to jump on people and then your child comes home and encourages your Husky to jump up on him, all your training can quickly go out the window.

- Timing

The Holy Grail of good training is timing. Timing is *critical*. If you want to let your Husky know that what he has just done is correct, you have to let him know at the *exact instant* that it occurred.

If you wait too long your Husky won't make the correlation between the act he did correctly and the reward. So let him know right when it happens.

- Finish on a positive

After each training session make sure to give your Husky something he likes such as a treat or finish up by playing a fun game. This will ensure that your Husky associates training with something positive. He'll be more willing to take part in his training sessions and will look forward to them. If he dreads his training sessions it will be tougher to get the results you want. A good idea is to treat every training session like it's a fun game for both of you. Keep things upbeat and fun.

- Don't get frustrated

If your Husky is not responding to the training in a certain session, end the session rather than continuing training that is not working. Take some time to evaluate what may be going wrong. This goes back to keeping training fun. If you are getting frustrated your Husky will be able to sense your frustration which could hamper your training. Stay happy and upbeat. Mix in some running around with your Husky as the reward rather than a treat (Huskies love running with their owners).

## **Treats**

In the examples in this guide the reward for good behavior or doing something right is a small treat. However it should be pointed out that not all Huskies are in love with treats. Some Huskies would much rather enjoy a play session, a game, or be given a certain toy they love. If your Husky is not motivated to work for treats then find out what it is that he really loves and give him that as the reward instead of treats.

Treats should be very small, about half the size of your ring finger or smaller. Small pieces of cheese make good treats as well as any meat cut into small pieces. You can also buy ready to eat dog treats from the pet store.

## **Where to train?**

In the beginning it's important to train your Husky in a place free from distractions. As you progress with the training you can start to test your Husky's training in public places where there are distractions to see how well he pays attention to you when there are other interesting things around. If your Husky pays close attention to you when there are other dogs and people around you'll know your training has come a long way.

## **How often to train?**

Puppies have very short attention spans and can only hold their concentration for a couple of minutes. This means in the beginning there will not be a lot of training that can be done. For a puppy a one or two minute lesson just before each meal will do fine. This gives you 3 or 4 opportunities to train your puppy each day. Older Huskies can concentrate for longer periods of time but even Huskies with high levels of concentration can't focus for long periods of time. As a general rule keep sessions under 20 minutes and take a break before starting another session.

## The correction sound explained

When it comes to behavior problems familiarize yourself with the correction sound "Ehhh!". It sounds like a very short, direct and unpleasant buzzer. Think of the buzzer that signals the end of a basketball game but much shorter and higher pitched. You will be using this sound later.

## The Leash

There are many reasons you want to get your Husky used to a leash. If your Husky is an indoor dog you will want to take him out to the bathroom on a leash at least in the beginning. This way he learns to stay near you when outside and when you open the door to go outside, rather than running off to do whatever he wants to do (i.e. bird chasing, exploring). A leash will also be needed in situations such as the vet and the park where he will encounter other people or other dogs.

To have a leash your Husky will need a collar. Let him sniff and examine the collar and then put it on him. Right after give him praise or a treat so that he associates the collar with something positive then leave the collar on him either from then on or at least for a few days so he gets used to wearing it.

Once you have introduced the collar you can introduce the leash. As you did with the collar let your Husky examine and sniff the leash before you put it on him. A good idea is to introduce the leash to the Husky during a play session so he can associate the leash with something positive. Put the leash on him and lead him around a little bit. If the Husky does not take well to the leash you can coax him to follow you with a treat or a toy he likes. After he follows you around a little bit on the leash reward him by giving him the toy. Make the first encounters with the leash short and enjoyable. Continue doing this until he does not mind or realize he is on a leash.

## **Formal Training**

As mentioned before timing is everything in your training.

It is for this reason that we mark behavior.

Marking the behavior is letting your Husky know that what he has just done is right at the exact instant that it happened.

We mark the behavior because the Husky needs to know he has done the right thing right when it happens – not one second later, not thirty seconds later, but at the exact instant.

After the behavior is marked it can then be rewarded. The reward can be all sorts of things. It could be a tasty treat, it could be that he gets to play with his favorite toy or it could be a few seconds of petting and friendly praise.

By rewarding the mark we form a bridge in the Husky's mind between the mark and the reward. Furthermore the Husky begins to learn that the mark means he is going to get a reward. This will become more clear as you go through the training exercises.

To understand this system for training it helps to know where it first started. Behavior marking was first commonly used in the training of dolphins at water parks. A trainer

may have wanted to teach a dolphin two jumps, a low jump out of the water and a very high jump out of the water. It was easy enough for the trainer to teach the dolphin to jump out of the water – the trainer could feed the dolphin a fish after it jumped. But what if the trainer wanted to tell the dolphin that he wanted a much higher jump? It would take too long to swim over to the dolphin, and give him the fish for jumping very high. The trainer needed a way to tell the dolphin “*that’s* the jump I want!” at the exact instant that it happened. So the trainer would blow a whistle only when the dolphin jumped very high. The dolphin had been taught that the whistle meant he was going to be fed a fish. When he heard the whistle at the top of a very high jump, he knew he had done what the trainer wanted. The whistle was being used to mark the dolphin’s behavior.

How do we mark the behavior?

The most popular method of marking dog behavior is by the use of something called a clicker. A clicker can be purchased in almost any pet store. It’s just a simple device that makes a click sound when a button is pressed. You can see a picture of one [here](#).

You don’t have to use a clicker to mark the behavior. You can mark the behavior with any sound. The advantage to using the clicker is that the clicker makes the exact same sound every time. Since it makes the same sound every time, your Husky can easily learn what it means.

Compare this to using your own voice. Say you mark the behavior by saying “*that’s a good boy.*” The problem is “*that’s a good boy*” takes a long time to say. A click from the clicker takes less than a second. Since the click is so fast you can be much more precise with your marking.

You could use your voice to say “*Yes*” to mark the behavior but then the question becomes, will that sound be exactly the same every time you say it? The clicker makes the same sound every single time. Your Husky won’t have any problem distinguishing that sound over dozens of times hearing it.

The other advantage is that the clicker sound likely will not be heard except in training sessions. A word you say on the other hand may be overheard by your Husky during a casual conversation. While talking to someone on the phone you say “*yes*” and all of a sudden your Husky is at your feet staring at you ready for a reward.

To make things simple from now on in this guide if you see “click”, “give him a click” or “click him” that means to mark your Husky’s behavior. It does not necessarily mean that you have to click with your clicker. If you are using a certain word as your mark then in that instance say your word. If you are using a whistle then use the whistle in that instance and so on. Note: a writing pen that clicks can work as a clicker. Just make sure that once you choose your marker you stick with it for the duration of your training.

### Exercise one: Learning the mark

This exercise is very easy. It's only purpose is to teach your Husky the mark. For this exercise you will need some small treats and your clicker.

Try to keep the treats hidden from your Husky. You don't want him focusing too much on them. A treat pouch is useful for this.

All you need to do in this exercise is click and give your Husky a treat. When you do this make sure your Husky is not doing anything he is not supposed to be doing like jumping or you will be teaching him to do that. Wait until he has all four on the floor, click and give him a treat.

You don't need to say anything at this point. Just click and treat only.

Do this about five to ten times. You will know he's understanding when you click and he looks up at you looking for a reward.

### Exercise Two: Attention

In order for your Husky to follow commands well he needs to learn how to pay attention to you.

To teach this say your Husky's name. The instant that he looks at you click him and then give him a treat. If your Husky happens to already be looking at you then you don't need to say his name. Just click him and give him a treat. You are rewarding him for paying attention to you. After about five to ten times or so he should start looking at you as soon as you say his name. When this happens he has learned this exercise.

### Sit

The sit exercise has three parts.

In the first part you're going to take a treat in one hand and hold it in front of the Husky. Gradually move the treat up and above your Husky's head. This is called a lure. As your Husky tries to look further and further up his hind quarters should naturally go down to stabilize his gaze. At the exact instant that his rear hits the ground click and give a treat.

After just a couple of times doing the first part of sit your Husky will probably sit for you without even seeing the treat. At that point when you see him sitting click him just as his rear hits the ground and give him a treat.

Once your Husky is sitting for you reliably you can introduce the command word “Sit” right as he is going down into his sit.

Finally you can ask for him to sit by saying “Sit”. When he will obey the command reliably you can stop clicking him and only reward him with a treat on occasion.

If you are having problems getting your Husky to sit by luring, you can use a spare hand to push down on his rear to get him into the sit position. Just as with the other methods click as soon as his rear touches the ground and then give the reward.

### The process for learning a new behavior

Let’s go over the process for teaching your Husky any new behavior. We will use the sit exercise you just went through as an example.

#### 1. Get the behavior.

With the sit exercise we got the behavior by luring with a treat. By getting the Husky to follow the treat upwards you got him to sit down.

#### 2. Mark the behavior you want to teach.

In this example the behavior we want is a sit. You mark the behavior with a click at the exact instant that the behavior occurs. In this case the behavior occurs when his rear touches the ground.

#### 3. Reward the behavior.

In this case a treat was given to the Husky after the behavior was marked.

#### 4. Repeat the first three steps until the Husky is consistently performing the behavior correctly.

#### 5. Say the command word to the Husky as the behavior is happening.

With the sit exercise, you waited until your Husky was performing the sit correctly then you started saying the word “Sit” right when his rear was heading towards the ground.

#### 6. Say the command word to get the behavior.

At this point you no longer need to mark the behavior because he has already learned it. You only need to mark behavior when your Husky is learning it.

Also at this point start to taper off how often you give a treat as a reward. When your Husky performs the command correctly give a treat only every fourth or fifth time. Then start mixing in praise as the reward and finally graduate to only giving a reward randomly.

7. Lastly, if the training starts to regress, go back to step one and move up through the steps again.

## Commands

### Come (Recall)

The come command, also called the recall, is one of the essential basic commands for a Husky to know. A reliable recall can keep your Husky away from potentially harmful situations. The key here is that you want your Husky to come to something that is enjoyable or fun. You don't want him to leave something that is enjoyable or fun to come to something that is less enjoyable or fun. In other words don't issue the Come command so that he leaves playing with his toy, comes over to you and you yell at him for doing something wrong. Obviously this will decrease the chance that he'll come to you the next time. There are many ways you can teach this command. Here are a couple different methods.

#### Example I

Have this lesson before each of your Husky's meals plus a few times in between with a treat in the bowl. Put your Husky in his crate, put his food or a treat in his food bowl and then approach the crate with his food bowl in hand so he can see it. Open the crate door. When you open the crate door your Husky will start to make his way to you and the food. As he is making his way to the food bowl say "Come". When he arrives give him the food bowl.

Practice this several times a day for about three or four days or longer.

## Example II

When teaching with this method you are going to start out with very small distances and slowly build up to longer ones. Finally you will strengthen the recall further by introducing distractions.

Put your Husky in his crate, get his food bowl and put a very small portion of something very tasty in it.

Approach the crate with his food bowl in hand so he can see it.

You can cradle the food bowl in your right arm while holding the clicker in your right hand. Keep your my left hand free to open the crate door.

Open the crate door and start backing up quickly. When he's close enough to you to where you can grab his collar, take his collar with the left hand, click with the other and set his food bowl on the ground so he can eat the treat.

If there is another person around squat down about six feet or so from the crate and have the other person open the crate door. If your Husky does not head straight for the bowl you may need to give him a whiff of the treat in the bowl before the crate door is opened.

If he does come to you click him and set the bowl on the ground so he can have the treat.

If you don't have a crate you can practice a similar exercise with the help of a friend.

Have your friend hold your Husky by the collar while you kneel down a short distance away with the food bowl. Have your friend let go of the collar. As before when your Husky gets to you take his collar, click him and set the food bowl on the ground so he can have the treat.

If your Husky is not motivated by the food bowl that has a treat in it try to find something that does motivate him and use that in place of the food bowl. Some Huskies may be very motivated by a toy. Others may enjoy the attention of their owners so much that they only need praise.

Practice this about thirty times a day for about three or four days, gradually increasing the distance to about 12 feet.

After about a week of practicing the first part of Come you can move on to the next part where you will introduce the cue "Come".

When you have practiced the previous stage of Come enough to where your Husky is coming to you reliably and consistently, you can introduce the command word "Come".

Have the food bowl or a treat in one hand with the clicker and your other hand free. Put your Husky in his crate or have a friend hold your Husky.

Open the crate door and start backing up. When your Husky is close enough that you can grab his collar say the command word “Come”. Grab his collar, click him and put the food bowl down.

If you have trouble doing all those things consecutively you can skip the step of taking his collar. But it's better if you can grab his collar as well. By grabbing his collar you are teaching him that the “Come” command means come to you. Not come close to you but just out of reach. Practice this part for at least a week.

In the next stage you are going to gradually add distance. You will need the help of a friend for this. Put your Husky in the crate or have your friend hold your Husky by the collar. Let your Husky see the treat you have, walk a couple feet away and have your friend release the Husky. When your Husky is close enough that you can grab his collar say the command word “Come”, grab his collar, click him and put the food bowl down.

Now do the same thing as before but stand about six feet away from your Husky. Work your way up to the longest distance between you and your Husky that your home will allow. Practice this for about a week.

After a week or so of practicing the previous stage your Husky should have a good understanding of what Come means. At this point you can practice giving the command “Come” to get him to come to you.

Have a treat ready and stand a couple feet away from your Husky. If he is not looking at you say his name to get his attention. If he is looking at you say “Come” and start backing up a few feet. If you practiced the previous exercise for a full week or more your Husky should head towards you when you give him the Come command while backing up.

When he is close enough for you to touch take him by the collar, give him a treat and give him a lot of praise and petting. Continue practicing for a few days or more.

Next you are going to do exactly the same thing but with increased distance between you and your Husky.

This time stand a little further away from your Husky than you were before and do the same thing. Gradually build up the distance until he is coming to you from all the way across the room.

### Come (Recall) With Distractions

In the next phase while still practicing inside you are going to add some distractions. You'll need a friend to help you out with this.

This is going to be similar to what you've been doing except now someone helping you is going to add distractions while your Husky is coming to you.

Put your Husky in his crate then get his food bowl and put a very small portion of something very tasty in it.

Approach the crate with his food bowl in hand so he can see it.

Have your friend open the crate door while you start to back up quickly.

This time have your friend add in a small distraction as your Husky is heading for you. A small distraction could be a tap on the crate. Don't make it too distracting. In the beginning you want to make it easy for your Husky to succeed.

If your Husky ignores the distraction and continues coming to you take his collar with one hand when he is close enough, click with the other and set his food bowl on the ground so he can eat the treat.

If he does get distracted then your Husky gets nothing at all. Don't click him and don't give him a treat. Instead start again with the exercise but this time decrease the distance between you and the crate so that your Husky has no where to go coming out of the crate except straight to you. Practice that for a few days until you can get your Husky to cover a distance of around six feet while being faced with distractions from your friend.

If at anytime your Husky gets distracted while coming to you do not click and do not give the treat. Back track to the last time he did have success and start working again from there. When your Husky is coming to you reliably and consistently with distractions in the previous exercise you can begin to add the command "Come" once your Husky is close to you.

This exercise is the same as before except you are going to add your command "Come".

Have the food bowl or a treat in one hand with the clicker and your other hand free. Put your Husky in his crate or have a friend hold your Husky and kneel down about six feet away. Have your friend open the crate door or let go of your Husky's collar.

As your Husky is heading towards you have your friend offer a small distraction.

If your Husky ignores the distraction and comes to you wait until your Husky is close enough where you can grab his collar, say the command word “Come”, grab his collar, click him and put the food bowl down on the floor.

If your Husky does not come to you and instead goes over to the distraction then your Husky does not get anything. Don’t click him and don’t give him the treat. Instead do the exercise over and take a step back to the last time he was able to successfully do it.

If he has never done it successfully do the exercise while you are just a foot or two away from your Husky so that the only place he can go once he leaves the crate is straight to you. This way you make it impossible for him not to be successful.

Once your Husky is having success when you are about six feet away you can have your friend slowly start to raise the level of the distractions. When your Husky is having success with high level distractions at a distance of about six feet you can start to slowly increase the distance that your Husky travels to get to you while facing distractions.

Ultimately you are shooting for your Husky to come to you reliably and consistently at the maximum distance your home allows, all while facing high level distractions from your friend. Practice this for a couple of weeks or longer if necessary

Once your Husky is coming reliably in the previous exercise you can practice giving the command “Come”

You will again need the help of a friend. Have your friend hold your Husky by the collar. Have a treat ready and stand about six feet away from your Husky. If he is not looking at you say his name to get his attention. If he is looking at you say “Come” and start backing up a few feet. Have your friend let go of your Husky’s collar as you say the command.

If you have practiced all the recall exercises thoroughly up to this point your Husky should head towards you when you give him the Come command while backing up.

As your Husky is heading towards you have your friend add in a small distraction. If your Husky ignores the distraction and comes close enough to you to where you can touch him, take him by the collar, give him a treat and give him a lot of praise and petting.

After a couple of days practicing the previous exercise have your friend begin to raise the level of the distraction and practice that for a couple days. Then slowly start to increase the distance with distractions.

Your goal is to have your Husky come to you reliably and consistently in the face of serious distractions after you give the Come command.

When you feel your Husky is responding to the Recall command reliably indoors you can start to practice outdoors.

#### Practicing Recall Outdoors By Yourself

The same principals you learned for teaching Recall indoors will be used when you practice outdoors. If you have access to a fenced in area or enclosed area you can practice there. If not you can tie a fifty foot piece of rope to your Husky's leash and practice in a wide open area. Start out in a place that is free from distractions. When he learns the command well in a place that is free from distractions you can then move to a more distracting place.

Let your Husky walk away from you about six or ten feet. Say his name and then say "Come". If he needs encouragement you can start running backwards. If he comes all the way to you take him by the collar, give him a click, give him a treat and give him a lot of praise. Repeat this while increasing the distance until he will cover the entire distance of your line. Just as before and just as with any command you teach, if he makes a mistake go back to the last situation where he had success and work upwards from there.

#### Recall With a Friend Outside

If you have a friend who can help out go to an outdoor area with a long fifty foot rope attached to your Husky's leash. Have your friend hold your Husky by the collar while you take the rope and walk a short distance away. Practice the recall the same as you did when your friend was helping you practice indoors. Say your Husky's name and say "Come" If he comes all the way to you take his collar, click him and give him a treat. Gradually start to increase the distance until you can get your Husky to come to you over the entire distance of the line.

When he is Coming to you consistently you can stop clicking him and start to taper always using treats as rewards. Go from giving a treat reward every time to only giving a treat for the best responses, the responses where he comes straight to you in the shortest amount of time without taking any detours. Finally graduate to randomly rewarding only the best responses.

What you don't want to do is cut off all types of rewards cold turkey. To have continuous reliable responses your Husky needs something to motivate him. If you stop rewarding him completely he won't have anything to motivate him to perform the command correctly.

When he is following the Come command consistently and reliably at the maximum length of your long line you can enlist the help of a friend to start adding distractions.

As you did indoors start off with small distractions with short distances and slowly work up to higher level distractions with longer distances.

### Helpful Tips

If he is not coming to you do not repeat the command. It's easy to repeat it over and over again if your Husky is not responding but if you do you will be diminishing the value of the command since you said it and nothing of consequence occurred to your Husky.

Instead of repeating the command walk over to where he is and try again with a much shorter distance. If he is still not coming to go back to training the Recall with the clicker again.

If your Husky ignores any command that you give you are much better off if you don't repeat it. Wait until you can get your Husky in a position to have the greatest chance of success at performing the command correctly.

In other words if he ignores you when you say Come, walk over to your Husky until you are directly in front of him. This way he has no choice but to come to you. Now when you give the command "Come" there will be a consequence for him - he will either get a tasty treat, get to play a fun game or he will get a lot of praise and affection from his owner.

### Recall Method 3: The Husky Come Game

Yet another way to teach Come is with the Husky Come game. This game requires two people and can be played inside. Each person needs to have some small treats ready to give. Put a fifteen foot leash on your Husky. Each person should sit down on the floor facing each other about six feet apart. Have your partner hold the Husky by the collar while you are holding his leash and the clicker.

Call your Husky by his name and use the leash to pull him towards you. When he gets to you click him and give him a treat. Pass the clicker to your friend and have them do the same thing.

Next practice the same thing with the distance between the two of you increased. After a day or so of that start adding the command "Come" as your Husky is coming to you.

After practicing that you can let go of the leash and get him to come to you by giving the command “Come”.

Next have your partner hold the Husky by the collar while you walk into a different room. When you get to the other room say your Husky’s name and issue the Come command. Your partner should let go so your Husky can go to where you are. When your Husky gets to you take his collar, give him a treat and give him a lot of praise. Reverse the roles and have your partner do the same thing.

Once your Husky has gotten the hang of the Come game inside you can move the game outside.

Take your Husky to a place outside where he is confined and cannot run off such as a tennis court or a fenced in yard. Start again with the sit down exercise with the leash on, then move to the 12 foot exercise with the leash off and then add gradual distance increases with the leash off.

## **Stay and Release**

### Stay and Release Method One

Before you begin teaching Stay make sure your Husky is Sitting for you consistently and reliably.

With this exercise you are going to begin teaching your Husky how to “Stay” and also the release word “Ok”. The release word is the word you say to let your Husky know that he is allowed to move.

Here is how it works.

Put a small portion of food in his bowl and bring the bowl over to him. If your Husky is not particularly dying to get to his regular food put something extra tasty in his bowl. Hold the food bowl above his head and give the sit command. Count to one second in your head, click, and then give him a treat. If he gets up before you can count to one tell him to sit again. If he will sit for one second move on to two seconds.

Once he is sitting for at least two seconds bring the food bowl towards the ground slowly. The second he gets up to walk toward the bowl give the “ehhh!” correction sound and bring the bowl back up over his head.

Tell him to sit again and repeat the process. Do the exercise until you can successfully have the bowl on the ground for one full second without your Husky going for it. When you have reached the point where your Husky will wait in the sit position for one full second while the bowl is on the ground you can introduce the release word “Ok”. As before have him sit, put the food bowl on the ground and when he has waited a full

second give the release command “Ok” and move out of the way so that your Husky can get to the food.

Notice you have not used the command “Stay” at all yet. The reason is that you don’t want to associate the command with the wrong behavior – your Husky jumping the gun early. You want to only associate the command with the right behavior – your Husky staying until you release him.

Make sure your Husky will wait successfully for one second for several consecutive days before introducing the actual “Stay” command.

### Introducing Stay

After your Husky is successfully waiting one second before going for the food you can start to introduce “Stay”. Now give the Stay command right after you put the food bowl on the floor. Wait one second and give your release “Ok” and move out of the way. After a few days of this you can start to increase the amount of time your Husky waits. Increase from one to three seconds, and then three to five. Try five seconds for a few days and then move up to ten seconds. If he jumps the gun then go back to one second and work up from there.

### Stay and Release Method 2

This exercise gives you another method for practicing the stay. Practice the previous method of stay for a few days or a week before starting with this method.

You will need to find a door in your home that leads to a enclosed yard or a garage. If you don’t have that then have a friend stand on the other side of the door ready to take your Husky by the collar.

Lead your Husky over to the door like you are going to go outside and tell your Husky to Sit and Stay. Slowly reach for the door handle. If he gets up before your hand reaches the door handle say “ehh!” and tell him to sit again. If you can get your hand on the doorknob while he is still sitting give your release word “Okay”, and click and treat him.

Next tell him to Sit and Stay again and slowly bring your hand to the doorknob. Just as before if he gets up before your hand reaches the knob say “Ehh!” and start over. If he stays seated open the door just a tad. If he stays sitting while you open the door say “Okay”, click him and give him a treat.

Next tell him to Sit and Stay and try opening the door a little more. Practice opening the door little by little until he will Stay in front of a fully opened door. As with all the

exercises, if he doesn't perform the command go backwards and slowly work your way forwards again.

### Helpful Tips

Practice all the exercises in the Stay and Release Method 2 in increments over several days. Don't forget to use your release word to release him each time after he performs the stay correctly. The Stay command should always be closely tied to the Release word so that your Husky knows that Stay means "Stay there and don't move until I let you go with the release word."

If you need to teach your Husky to wait behind a door until you go through it and close it behind you teach him a different command such as "Wait There" since you won't be able to give the release word "Okay" once you close the door and leave.

### Lie Down

Get your Husky to sit by issuing the sit command and then kneel down on the floor near your Husky. With your Husky in the sit position, take a treat in your hand and cover it so your Husky cannot take it. Put the hand with the treat in front of the Husky's nose and start to bring the hand down towards the floor. As you bring the hand all the way to the floor your Husky should start to lie down

Right when he is all the way on the floor give him a click and a treat. Do this a few times until he will lie down with no problem. Once that is happening start to say "Down" as he is going down and click and reward. Practice that awhile and then start asking for the down. Finally graduate to only treating randomly.

### Walk Nicely On The Leash

Walking nicely on the leash means your Husky is not trying to drag you down the street, herd you or jump all over you while you are trying to walk. Essentially it means you always have a loose leash when you are walking your Husky.

Put the leash on your Husky, get some treats and get your clicker.

With your Husky on your left side start walking.

If your Husky takes off and tries to drag you down the street simply stop walking. Eventually your Husky will wonder what the hold up is and turn around to look at you. When he turns around to look at you show him a treat. When he sees the treat in your hand he should walk over to you to get it. Close the treat in your left hand and put the left hand in front of your Husky's face and start walking. He will probably start to walk with

you as he follows your closed left hand. Once he is walking with you on a loose leash click him and give him the treat.

Continue walking while you keep a close eye on your Husky. Continue to click and treat randomly as long as he is walking nicely on a loose leash. If he starts pulling again stop and stand still, show him a treat in your closed left hand and click him once he is again walking next to you on a loose leash.

Practice walking in a straight line like this for a couple of days.

When he starts to consistently walk on a loose leash you can start to introduce the command “Let’s Walk” while he is walking with you. Practice giving the command while you are walking for a couple of days so you can tie the command “Let’s Walk” to the act of him walking with you on a loose leash.

Now you are going to introduce the left turn.

Start walking in a straight line with your Husky on your left hand side. Hold the leash with your right hand and show your Husky a treat in your closed left hand so that he follows it. As he is following the treat make a ninety degree turn in front of him to your left.

If he stays with you when you make the turn click him exactly as you are making your turn and give him the treat. If he does not stay with you simply stop walking and stand still. As before hold the treat out to him so that he has to walk over to you to get it. When he walks over to get it start walking again with the treat just in front of his face. Use the treat to get him walking with you on your left side. Once he is walking with you on a loose leash try the left turn again.

You’ll want to practice this several times a day for several days.

Next you will introduce the right turn the same way you introduced the left turn. Continue to practice right turns for a few days.

Next introduce the about face turn. As you are walking show your Husky a treat and get him to follow it. When he is following the treat make a 180 degree turn and start walking in the opposite direction. Click and reward as in the previous exercises.

If you have a really incessant puller a [gentle leader harness](#) can work well. With this device any pulling causes his head to be pulled back towards you. As soon as he stops pulling he can straighten his head again. Your Husky quickly learns that he can remain comfortable so long as he doesn’t pull. If you use this you need to give your Husky time to get accustomed to it. Introduce it the same way you introduce the leash. Let him sniff it, click and treat. Put it on him, click and treat. Then let him wear it around for about a

day. When he is used to it start training with the clicker just as you would with the regular collar.

### Leave It

The Leave It command can be used in a case where your Husky is trying to eat something or get into something he should not be getting into.

Put one tasty treat in your left hand, close the hand and put another tasty treat and your clicker in your right hand and close that hand.

Approach your Husky and kneel down near him. Open your left hand and show him the treat. When he tries to eat the treat close the hand and say “Ehhh!” At the exact instant that he stops trying to get the treat click him and give him the treat from your right hand.

Repeat this process a few more times until he ignores the treat in your left hand when you open the hand.

Usually it only takes a couple of exercises for the Husky to start ignoring the treat in the left hand.

Once he is ignoring the treat in your left hand repeat the exercise. This time open your left hand to show him the treat. When you see that he is ignoring it say “Leave It”. Wait until he has ignored the treat for about 2 seconds, click him and give him the treat from the right hand.

Repeat this again but this time wait three seconds, then five seconds and finally ten seconds. Practice this about twenty times and then take a break. Do this exercise about two more times later in the day and call it a day for that exercise.

Anytime your Husky jumps the gun and tries to go for the treat in your left hand say “ehhh!” and close the hand at the same time. Then back track to the time where he last had success and continue from there.

In the next stage you are going to start putting the treat on the floor. This time kneel near your Husky and put the treat that used to be in your left hand on the floor near him and say “Leave It”. If he tries to get it say “Ehh!” and cover it with your hand.

If he does not try to get it and leaves it alone, click him and give him a treat from your right hand.

Do the same thing again but this time wait two seconds until you click and treat him. Then wait five seconds and finally ten seconds. Just as before if he jumps the gun start back at the last time he had success and work forwards. Try this about ten times or so.

Next put the treat on the floor near the Husky, say “Leave It” and stand up near the treat. If he tries to eat it say “Ehh!” and block it with your foot. If he does not try to eat it click him and give him the treat from the right hand. Try this about ten times.

Next you can tie a piece of string around the treat. Put the treat on the floor, say “Leave it” and back up a step or two. If he goes for the treat say “Ehh” and use the string to pull the treat away. If he ignores click him and treat him.

Continue working with the string building up to three seconds then six seconds and finally up to ten seconds. Once he can ignore for ten seconds start again but this time instead of adding seconds you are going to start slowly adding distance.

Back up one step, then another and then another until he will ignore the treat from across the room or as far as the string will allow.

Finally you can start to use more tempting treats until he will ignore even the most delicious treats like a hot dog or a steak. Note that if you are going to tempt him with such delicious items then the treat reward should be equally delicious for your Husky.

At then end when he has learned the command you can stop clicking him and graduate to giving a lot of praise as the reward and only reward with a treat randomly.

### Give Me That

This will teach your Husky to give up whatever is in his mouth.

Grab a treat and your clicker. Find a toy or bone your Husky really likes and encourage him to take it. When he has the item in his mouth show him the treat and bring it near his mouth. At the same time put your other hand on the toy in his mouth. When you put the treat near his mouth he should let go of the toy.

Right when he opens his mouth to let go of the toy click him, take the toy and give him the treat. Practice this for about one or two days.

Next do the same exact thing except add the command “Give Me That” as he is opening his mouth to let go of the item. Practice this for a couple of days.

Lastly you will use the command to get him to bring the item near your hand so you can take it.

Have a treat and the clicker ready. With the toy or bone in your Husky's mouth give the command "Give Me That" and put your hand on the toy. . If he lets go of the item click him and give him a treat reward.

Next stand close to your Husky, give the command "Give Me That" and hold out your open hand just a few inches from the toy in his mouth. If he moves enough to put the toy in your hand click him and then give him a treat. Now do the same thing but keep your hand just a little farther away. Click and treat. Keep moving farther and farther away until he will bring you the toy in his mouth by walking across the room.

If you are having trouble you can put the leash on your Husky and use it to guide him over to your open hand. Click and treat him when he reaches you and releases the toy.

Finally you can start giving the command and rewarding him without the click. As with all exercises graduate to giving only praise and only giving a treat reward randomly.

### Fetch

You will want to teach your Husky "Give Me That" before you start with Fetch. Grab some treats and a toy your Husky really likes. Put the long line leash on your Husky if you have one or tie some rope to your Husky's regular leash. You can begin practicing this exercise inside since you are going to start out with short distances.

While holding the leash throw your Husky's toy a few feet away and encourage him to go get it. Once he grabs the toy encourage him to come to you by backing up. If he needs a little encouragement to head in your direction you can use the rope or leash to draw him to you.

When he gets to you hold out an empty hand and say "Give Me That". If he knows the Give Me That Command well he will bring the toy to your empty hand and let you take it.

Once he has given you the toy he will get a life reward. That means he doesn't have to be given a treat. Instead his reward is more of the fetch game. Most Huskies love fetch so much that there is no need to click and give a treat when he does it correctly. The continuation of the game should be reward enough. Throw the toy and continue practicing.

If the continuation of the game is not reward enough you can click him when he gives up the toy to you, give him a treat, and then throw the toy for him again.

As you progress you can stop giving the "Give Me That" command as he will start to understand how the game works and he should start giving you the toy without the command.

Gradually increase the distance that he fetches. Eventually you can move the game outside using his leash and the long fifty foot rope. Practice the same way you did inside, gradually adding distance until he will fetch across the entire distance of the rope. A tennis ball works well as the toy when you really start to add distance.

### Catch a Treat

With this trick your Husky balances a piece of food on the top of his nose until you give the “Catch” command at which point he throws the food slightly in the air and then catches it in his mouth.

Get a small treat and kneel down beside your Husky. Let your Husky see the treat and bring it near the top of his nose. If he tries to grab the treat say “ehh!” and bring the treat back towards yourself. Start again and try to bring the treat close to his nose. When the treat is close take your Husky’s mouth in your left hand and slowly place the treat on top of his nose with your right hand.

When you have the treat on his nose leave it there with your other hand still on his mouth. Say “Hold It”, “Hold It”, “Hold It” for about two or three seconds then say “Catch It!” in a very excited voice, let go of his mouth and get up. The excitement should be enough to get your Husky to try and catch the treat. He will probably miss the first few times and the treat may go flying. That’s ok. If he misses don’t click him and try again. If he does catch it click him and give him another treat and tell him what a great boy he is. Move up to removing your hand from his mouth and extending the time he has to keep the treat on his nose.

### Shake

Shake is pretty easy. Grab one of your Husky’s front legs, lift it up off the ground, click him and give him a treat. Do this about five or ten times.

It should not take long before your Husky is lifting his paw on his own. When you see this shake his hand while saying “Shake” and give him a click and a treat. Do this about ten times.

Next start asking for the shake by saying “Shake”. If he offers the paw shake his hand, click him and give him a treat. Just as always graduate to not using the clicker and only rewarding with a treat randomly.

### Crawl

The “Crawl” command is when your Husky “Lies Down” and then crawls towards you.

Give your Husky the lie down command. When he is lying down hold a treat in front of his nose and slowly start to move the treat forward. Your Husky should start to crawl forward. As soon as he is crawling forward give him a click and give him the treat.

If he is jumping up to follow the treat you can use your spare hand to help him stay down.

Start out slowly, clicking and treating him for just a few steps then start to increase the distance he crawls before you click him. Practice this for about a day.

When he starts to get the hang of it introduce the command “Crawl” as he is crawling and practice that for a few days.

Finally see if you can get him to crawl without using the treat as a lure. Say your command “Crawl”. If he does it click and treat him for crawling just a little bit and then work on building up the distance. Finally you can stop clicking him and give him a treat only randomly.

## Jump

This is another great way to get your Husky some good exercise. Find a broom or a rake or something similar and some books or boxes and lay your broom across them. Put the leash on your Husky and lead him over the broom so that he has to jump over it. Right when he jumps click and give him a treat.

Try this about ten times.

Next do the same thing but this time point at the broom as he is jumping over it and say “Jump” right as he is jumping over the broom then click and treat him.

Gradually start to raise the broom higher by adding more boxes or books. To make it even higher put the broom on chairs. Practice this for a few days. Continue giving the command as he jumps and clicking and treating.

Finally you can remove the leash, point at the broom and say the command “Jump.” Click and treat him for jumping over it and graduate to removing the clicker and treating randomly.

For a really great workout set up a course with four, five or even more tall jumps then run him back and forth. He’ll love it.

## Roll Over

Tell your Husky to lie down.

Put a treat in your hand and use the treat to lure him onto his side. To do that hold the treat in front of his nose. Bring your hand back towards your Husky's tail. This will cause your Husky to start turning his head to the side. Continue moving the treat so that your Husky is looking back towards his tail, then start to move the treat up and over his body. If your Husky continues to follow the treat he should naturally lay down on his side. When this happens click him and give him the treat.

Next you will work on getting him to roll onto his back. Do the same thing as before but this time continue to lure until you can get him on his back, then click and reward. Do that a few times and finally use the treat to lure him all the way over. Click and reward.

Next lure him onto his back and all the way around like you've been doing. This time as you see him go from his back to the other side, say "Roll Over", then click and treat. Try that for about ten to twenty times or more.

Finally ask for the roll over. If he rolls over click and treat. If he does not then you will need to back track and work in small baby steps. It could be a few days before he gets it.

When he will roll over on his own graduate to removing the click and giving a treat only randomly.

Note: If you are having trouble luring your Husky to roll over you can use a treat to lure him onto his side, then pick up his legs and physically roll him over. As you roll him over say "Roll Over" and click and treat him.

## Watch

This is similar to the attention command but lasts longer. As you will see in a later section this is a useful command if you have a Husky that is aggressive towards other dogs. Make sure your Husky already knows "Attention" before starting "Watch".

Just as you did with "Attention" say your Husky's name so he looks at you. This time you want him to keep his eyes on your face for three full seconds. You can encourage this by holding a treat right by your face, turning your face to the side or smiling and winking at him.

When he has kept his gaze on your face for three seconds give the release word "Okay", click him and give him the treat. Practice this for about a day. Next you want to move up to five seconds. Once he will keep his eyes on you for five seconds you can start to introduce the "Watch" command.

Say your Husky's name so that he looks at you. If he keeps his eyes on you for three seconds say "Watch". Count in your head for two more seconds, say "Okay" and then click and treat him. Practice giving the command like this for a few days.

Next you can start to give the command first. Say your Husky's name and say "Watch", count to five seconds, say "Okay" and then click and treat him. Try working your way up to ten full seconds. It could be a few weeks before you can get a reliable watch for that amount of time. When you can get a reliable Watch for that long you can stop clicking and only reward with treats randomly. Remember to tell him the release work "Okay" at the end to let him know he can stop looking at you.

In the last stages of Watch you want to practice with distractions.

You will need the assistance of a friend. As always start out making it very easy for your Husky to succeed. Say your Husky's name and say "Watch". After you say the "Watch" command have your friend offer a very small distraction such as walking a few steps in front of him at a distance. Just as with the Come command with distractions, if your Husky does not take the distraction bait after two seconds of watching say "Okay" and click and treat him.

Just as with the Come command with distractions slowly increase the level of distractions as well as the amount of seconds that your Husky watches you. Instead of your friend walking near your Husky you might have your friend walk close by in his line of site. Next your friend could wave his arms and later clap his hands.

If your Husky messes up just say "Oops" and don't click and treat him. Back track to the last time he had success and work your way forwards again.

If you have a Husky that is aggressive towards other dogs you will want to work on this command a long time to where he will Watch you for ten seconds or more even when presented with very high level distractions. The reason is that this command will be one of the tools you will use to stop your Husky from acting aggressive towards other dogs. You will learn about dog on dog aggression in a later section.

A very reliable Watch in the face of high level distractions could take a few months of practice and possibly even longer, depending on your Husky. The key is to start out slow and very slowly raise the level of difficulty for your Husky. Problems usually occur when owners try to move too fast too soon.

## Section 501: Correcting Behavioral Issues

Up until now discussion has been about training. But what if you have an adult Husky with behavioral issues? This is what we will discuss now.

### **Jumping Up**

It seems many owners like it when their Huskies jump up to greet them or jump up to give them love but keep in mind that if you let your Husky do this to you, he will do it to everyone. Keep in mind that while you may think it's cute when your Husky jumps up on you to greet you or give you some love other guests may not like it as much, especially if your Husky has muddy paws.

How to correct this behavior

This exercise takes two people and timing will be very important. One of the two people should be a person your Husky would normally try to jump on. The person who will be jumped on needs the clicker and some treats. The other person holds the Husky by the leash.

Have the person who will be jumped on walk up to your Husky. The instant that your Husky's front feet leave the floor the person should make the "Ehh!" sound and immediately turn around and walk away before your Husky can jump on them.

Do this as many times as necessary until your Husky will leave all four on the floor for at least a second. When he will stay on the floor for one second click and treat. Now the person should walk away and walk back over to your Husky. If your Husky jumps before one second is up have them make the "Ehh!" sound again and immediately walk away again. Keep making the noise and walking away until he will once again stay on the floor for one second.

Continue doing this until he will stay on the floor for about 4 or 5 seconds. Once he can do this you can start to say the command "Don't Jump" while he keeps himself planted. Click and reward again. Continue practicing this for a couple days.

Once he will stay on the floor consistently you can remove the click and the treat and switch to mostly petting and praise and the occasional random treat. If he starts to jump again make the "Ehh!" sound and immediately walk away from him. He'll learn that jumping on people will cause the thing he wants – attention and petting – to go away, and that he can get what he wants by keeping all four on the floor.

### **Incessant Barking**

Most owners want their dogs to bark so they will be alerted to people approaching the home. A Husky that barks incessantly for hours on end is a different story. If you have a Husky that barks like this you first need to find out if there is a reason he barks like this.

Husky's who are bored, isolated or not able to expend enough energy everyday will often resort to barking. Make sure you are spending quality time with your Husky each day and that he is getting the exercise he needs.

If your Husky barks for hours on end when he is left outside he is most likely barking out of boredom, loneliness or both. The easiest solution is to bring him inside so he can be where the people are. Dogs are social creatures and are not meant to spend their lives alone with no social interaction.

If he's behind a fence and barks at people and dogs that walk by the easiest solution is either remove the stimulus, remove the Husky from the stimulus or make it so that he cannot see the stimulus (the stimulus being the thing which is he barking at). That means if he is outside chained up or behind a fence or gate bring him inside.

Before talking about a solution here are some things that will make the problem worse.

- Yelling at him or throwing things at him

If your Husky is barking because he is neglected of the attention he needs or has too much isolation, he is barking out of frustration and stress and not barking just to be annoying. Yelling at him or throwing things at him will only make that stress worse and the barking will not go away. In this case it is not the barking that needs to be fixed; rather it is the underlying problem of the Husky's frustration or stress that needs to be fixed.

Find out if it is possible you are inadvertently teaching him to bark this way. If he is inside and constantly barks and each time he barks you respond with a nonchalant "Fido, stop that", your Husky is probably playing a game with you that he enjoys. The game to him is "I bark and my owner responds". It's the same if you get up from what you are doing, ask him why he is barking and then go back to sit down again. By doing this you are actually reinforcing his idea that if he barks he will get some type of attention from you. You are much better off if you ignore him instead.

Of course there is the possibility that your Husky barks incessantly inside for no good reason, or maybe he barks when guests arrive and won't stop barking at them even after everyone has settled in.

If your Husky is barking non stop inside begin by teaching him "Look At This!"

### Look At This

You will teach this in much the same way you taught your Husky Attention. Find an opportunity when your Husky is looking at you and say “Look At This”. Click him and give him a treat. Practice this for about a day.

Next tell your Husky “Look At This” when he is not looking at you. He should swing around to look at you now that he knows that he will get a reward for looking at you. Click him and give him a treat when he does. Continue practicing this for another day.

Now for the barking. You will either need to re-create the environment that causes him to bark incessantly or wait until he is barking incessantly. Most dogs tend to do most of their barking when guests arrive. To re-create this you will need the help of a friend. Have your friend come over and ring the doorbell. Most Huskies start barking at this point. Let your friend inside. If your Husky has not quit barking say “Look At This!” If your Husky stops barking to give you his attention click him the instant he stops barking and give him a treat. Practice this for a few days. Try to extend the time that he stays quiet after you say “Look At This” to about five seconds before you click and treat him. Make sure you are only clicking him for being quiet and not clicking him when he is still barking.

Next start saying “Quiet” after you have said “Look At This” and during the five seconds that your Husky is remaining quiet. Practice that for a few days or a week. Make sure you only issue the Quiet command when your Husky is not barking.

Finally when he starts barking incessantly you can say “Quiet” to get him to stop barking. As always graduate to using praise and treating only randomly.

### **Chewing**

Huskies can sometimes get into the habit of chewing on things they should not chew on such as furniture, shoes, hats plus a number of other things. As with barking this behavior can be the result of a Husky who feels he is not getting enough attention due to neglect or isolation. And as with barking this can be the result of a Husky that is not expending enough energy everyday. The energy that is not being expended through healthy methods such as running and playing gets expended in destructive ways like chewing up furniture, socks, hats or just about anything the Husky can get his chomps on.

If you can get your Husky tired from exercise everyday there is a very good chance he will not engage in such destructive behavior.

There will be times when you are doing all you can to give your Husky enough attention and exercise and he still chooses to chew up things and act destructive.

If your Husky is chewing things up when you are gone either the things that he is chewing will have to be put where he cannot get to them or he will have to be confined to his crate before you leave. Put a rawhide bone or some other chew toy in his crate so he can satisfy his craving to chew while you are gone. Soak the bones in different soups and rotate them around to encourage him to chew them. Reward your Husky often when you see him chewing on his bones and toys. This will encourage him to chew on the correct things.

Punishing your Husky after he has chewed something up such as your carpet or the couch will actually cause more harm than good. Many think that dogs can learn in a similar manner to the way humans learn. If a person is told not to do something long after it has been done that person can still learn not to do it even if several days, weeks, months or even years have passed. This is not the case with dogs. Dogs can't make associations after the fact the way humans can. With dogs punishment only works if the punishment is carried out *while the act is happening*.

This is the reason why people don't have any success when they come home to find their carpet has been chewed to bits and start yelling at their dog about how bad they are.

Your Husky will only be able to tie punishment to his bad behavior if the punishment happens while the bad behavior is happening. If five seconds has passed since he committed the act you are better off doing nothing at all.

This is difficult for many dog owners to comprehend. To many dog owners it seems logical that dogs can learn things the same way humans can, especially if we have been trying to teach them that way for many years. Wherever this was learned, these dog owners have to *un learn* how they think dogs learn.

This is also why getting rid of bad behavior through punishment is so difficult. Most of the time the ideal method for punishing bad behavior is very difficult to carry out. For example, in a perfect world, the way to get your Husky to stop chewing on the furniture when you are not home would be to set up a hidden remote camera system as well as a hidden air horn tied to a remote control that the owner can operate from somewhere outside of the house. The air horn would be placed very near where the chewing would occur and would be totally hidden from the Husky's view. The owner would keep an eye on the Husky via the hidden camera with a finger on the button which sounds the air horn. When the Husky approaches the furniture and leans down to chew on it the air horn sounds taking the Husky completely by surprise and giving him a big startle. More than likely the Husky would never try to chew on that piece of furniture ever again.

The above punishment method is effective for two reasons. One, something he doesn't like occurred at the precise instant he tried to chew on the furniture. And two, since the

Husky did not know where the sound came from, he can't pin the punishment on anything in particular. If you had been there to sound the air horn, in the future the Husky may just avoid chewing on the furniture when you are around but still chew on it when you are not around since he knows you have to be there for the sound to happen.

As mentioned such a punishment is very difficult to carry out and few owners will go to such trouble. For this reason it is better to reward your Husky for chewing on the right things and prevent him from chewing on the wrong things by denying him access to the wrong things.

If you do happen to catch your Husky in the act of chewing on something he should not be chewing on you can give him a "Ehh!" As soon as he stops chewing on the wrong thing put a flavored bone or a chew toy in his mouth. When he starts chewing on the right thing give him a lot of petting and praise.

Often times destructive chewing happens just before the owner returns home. The Husky will get excited or anxious that you are going to be coming home soon and will often chew on the wrong things to help relieve that anxiety. To stop your Husky from chewing on the wrong things you can teach him to greet you with a toy or a bone when you return home. To do this teach your Husky to find his toys. Scatter a bunch of toys throughout your home and lead him around the house encouraging him to pick up a toy when he sees one. When he does pick up a toy give him a click a treat and then continue on with the game. Practice this a few days and then start to introduce the "Find It" command. Do the same thing but this time when he picks up a toy in his mouth say "Find It". Try that a few days.

After your Husky learns the "find it" command issue the command every time you come home. Don't give your Husky a warm lavish greeting until he brings you a toy, then once he does give your usual warm greeting. After a while your Husky will learn to find a toy around the time you usually come home. If he has a toy in his mouth he will be more likely to chew his toy rather than something he is not supposed to like the rug or furniture.

One final option is the use of [bitter apple spray](#) on places where your Husky is chewing. Once he gets a dose of the unpleasant substance he may not chew that item in the future.

## **Humping**

If you have a Husky who is humping the best strategy is to train him to always keep all four on the floor when approaching people.

You can use the same strategy used to stop him from jumping on people to stop this behavior since he has to jump up to do this. If you see your Husky trying to jump up on someone give him the "Don't Jump" command. Also if your male Husky is not neutered then neutering will help in reducing the chances of this behavior.

## **Flying out the Door**

If your Husky flies out the door when you open it you will need to issue the “Sit” and “Stay” command before you open the door and then release him with your release word once you are ready to let him go. If you are leaving through the door and not coming back in for awhile then say your other command that means “stay until I close the door”.

If he does not obey then you will need to go back and re-teach him the sit and stay commands and make sure he has them down before he can be near an open door leading to the outside without a leash on.

## **Husky eats his own poo**

This one can be rather unpleasant and no one really knows exactly why some Huskies do this. If your Husky is chronically eating his own feces putting meat tenderizer in his food may solve the problem. This causes his feces to have a smell he doesn’t like and he may stop eating it. Another cause of this can be poor quality dog food. If you are not feeding your Husky one of the premium brand dog foods mentioned above then you might try switching to one of these. These brands are processed better by the Husky and the feces that comes from this could be less appealing to him.

If those methods don’t work you can work on associating this action with something negative for the Husky. Have a can with marbles or something else that makes a lot of noise in your hand and stand near your Husky just as he is about to commit the act. Just before he goes to eat the feces throw the object near him so that he gets startled by the noise. Alternatively you can give him the “Ehh!” correction sound if he tries to eat poo. Remember the sound has to be made at the exact instant he is trying to eat it.

Lastly if you have trained your Husky well in the “Leave It” command you can issue the command to get your Husky to leave the poo alone.

## **Licking**

Allowing or not allowing this behavior will start with you. As with jumping up on people, if you allow your Husky to lick your feet he will think it’s ok to lick anyone’s feet.

If this behavior is already happening the quickest way to eliminate it is to give a loud “Ehh!” the instant he tries to lick.

A different approach is to spray yourself with [bitter apple spray](#) on places that he licks such as your feet. After a while he will probably stop licking you as he will associate the licking with getting a very unpleasant smell and taste in his mouth.

## **Digging**

Just as with barking and chewing, digging is often the result of a Husky who is not expending his energy in a productive way and instead resorts to unproductive means to get rid of the excess energy. Solution? Tire him out. Exercise your Husky vigorously every day and he will be too tired to dig holes in the yard. If you have to leave your Husky in the yard while you are at work, take him for a long run before you leave and then give him some rawhide bones to chew on. If you have a bike a great idea is to put your Husky on a leash and then ride your bike while your Husky runs alongside. This way you can get him thoroughly tired out without wearing yourself out. A long game of fetch in the morning is another good way to exercise him.

If a Husky is left out in the yard all day, all night or both it is very likely he is digging out of frustration, boredom, stress caused by loneliness due to being separated from his family or a combination of all three. The easiest solution is to bring him inside where can interact with his family.

## **Cat Chasing**

If you get your Husky as a puppy you can prevent this problem by heavily socializing your Husky with the family cat early on. If you have an adult cat chasing Husky training him to accept the family cat will probably be a slow process and will require some patience from the owner. This is not something that can be changed overnight.

Most Huskies don't like isolation and would rather be close to their family rather than be isolated from them. What you are going to do is teach your Husky that great things will happen for him if he acts civilized towards the cat while things that he loves will go away if he acts uncivilized toward the cat.

You will need the assistance of a friend for this exercise, some treats and the clicker. You will also need a place where your Husky can be left alone for a few minutes where he won't be in contact with anyone.

Use a leash to secure him so that he cannot go anywhere. If a leash won't hold him you may want to use something called a [tether](#) which is much stronger than a leash and can't be chewed through.

Start to slowly give your Husky treats, all the while petting him and telling him what a good boy he is. While this is going on have your friend bring in the cat. If the cat can't be restrained when near your Husky you may want to have the cat in a carrying crate. At first keep the cat a good distance away but close enough where your Husky can see it.

Keep an eye on your Husky and click and treat your Husky for any calm behavior that cannot be described as trying to get at the cat. If he remains calm for one or two seconds

while he can see the cat click and reward him for it then have your friend take the cat away from your Husky's view. On the other hand if your Husky sees the cat and immediately tries to make a move towards it say "Oops". Right when you say "Oops" everyone is to leave the area – the owner, the person carrying the cat, and anyone else who may be around. Vacate the premises immediately leaving your Husky all alone attached to the tether or the leash.

Make sure when you leave that your Husky is left totally alone. He should not be able to see or hear anyone. Most Huskies do not like this one bit. Leave him alone for about two or three minutes. If he starts to whine or bark make sure everyone ignores him completely. After a couple minutes start the exercise again. Bring out the cat and click and treat your Husky for any calm behavior and say "Oops" and leave at any behavior in which he tries to chase the cat. Practice a few times a day every day for several weeks keeping the cat a long distance away. After a few weeks start to work your way up from a couple seconds of calmness to ten seconds of calmness. While you are working your way up in seconds slowly start to bring the cat in closer. Remember to progress very slowly, always trying to set up your Husky to succeed.

Always click and treat for calmness and always say "Oops" and desert him for any aggression towards the cat.

### Excited Peeing

If your Husky starts peeing when a visitor greets him he is not doing it to be a nuisance. Rather he is so excited by the greeting that he is unable to control himself. Visitors can prevent this by not touching your Husky when they first arrive in the house. Tell your visitor not to touch your Husky for about fifteen minutes and then to touch him only after he has calmed down. Have them bend at the knees to get down to your Husky's level and to not pet on top of the head. Towering over and petting on the head is a very dominating position to your Husky. Better to have the visitor bend down at the knees and pet under the chin or on the sides.

In addition you can work on desensitizing your Husky to the excitement he has when a visitor arrives. You will need a friend to pose as the visitor. Have the visitor come over and let them in the door. Let your Husky see the visitor but ask the visitor not to pet or touch your Husky. Have the visitor stay a minute or two, leave and then come back again a few minutes later. Do this ten or twenty times a day for week or so. If possible do this with a few different people. Eventually your Husky's emotional level should start to reduce after so many uneventful repetitions of guests arriving and leaving.

## Separation Anxiety

Separation anxiety is a physiological condition that affects your Husky when he is left alone.

Separation Anxiety should not be confused with bad manners. If you leave your Husky alone in the house and he chews up your rug he may just be trying to relieve his boredom. Separation Anxiety is much more severe. Many dogs that suffer from Separation Anxiety gets so stressed out and anxious when they are left alone they lose control of themselves – literally. They may defecate in many places around the house, not because they want to go there, but because they are so stressed they are physically unable to hold it. If they are confined to their crate they may shred their bedding, soak themselves in their own saliva or both. If not confined to their crate they will wreak destruction and havoc, usually at places associated with exits such as doors and windows. True Separation Anxiety is not at all pleasant for dog or owner.

If owners do not understand what is going on they may make the problem even worse when they try to fix it. For example they may come home, find the inside of their home is in shambles and yell at or strike their dogs because they think the dog did it out of malice. Now the dog is not only stressed about being left alone, but they have to deal with the additional stress caused by the fear of what is going to happen when their owner returns. Owners need to understand their dog is not acting like this to be spiteful and punishment will only escalate the behavior.

If you have a Husky puppy you can help prevent Separation Anxiety by getting your puppy used to being alone. A few weeks after you have brought your pup home start getting him used to occasionally being left alone for brief periods. If he has a room that has been puppy proofed give him some chew toys or bones and leave him there alone a few times a day.

At first make periods alone very brief – about ten minutes. If he starts to whine and cry make sure you don't respond to him in any way. If you do you will be teaching him that whining and crying brings you back. As weeks pass start to extend the time that he stays alone. Always give him fun things to do when he is practicing being by himself so the experience can be as positive for him as possible. You might throw a [puppy kong toy](#) stuffed with some treats in his crate or in his room just before you leave. Toys like these are great for making his initial encounters with alone time positive and enjoyable.

If you think your Husky is suffering from separation anxiety when he is left alone there are steps you can take to try to reduce the stress he is experiencing while you are gone. When dogs suffer from separation anxiety a lot of it happens soon after the owner has left. If you can reduce the anxiety that occurs when you leave and shortly thereafter you have a better chance of your Husky remaining calm the rest of the time that you are gone.

Here are some things you can do to reduce that stress:

- Make the routine before you leave meaningless to your Husky

If you do the same things everyday just before you leave the house your Husky will come to know that those actions mean he will soon be alone and his stress will start to escalate. If every day before you leave you shower, eat breakfast and put on your shoes, occasionally do these things and walk out the door but come right back inside.

If your usual routine is to grab your car keys just before you leave then start occasionally grabbing your car keys in front of your Husky and then putting them right back down a minute later. If your usual routine is to put on your shoes only when you are about to leave then start occasionally putting on your shoes and wearing them around the house.

The idea is to make the actions that tell your Husky you are leaving meaningless to your Husky. When you do this he won't get stressed out about them because they won't mean anything to him.

In addition you can try these things:

- Give him a Kong toy or a similar toy to keep him occupied for the first hour after you leave. These types of toys can have treats inserted into them. The challenge of getting the treats out will help keep his mind off the fact that no one is around.
- Leave something of yours with him that has a lot of your scent such as a blanket or one of your shirts. The scent of you while you are gone may ease his anxiousness.
- Turn on the TV or radio at a low volume so that he is not left in complete silence while you are gone. By that same line of thinking you could record yourself talking for thirty minutes or an hour, burn the recording to a CD, put the CD on repeat and let that play for your Husky instead of the radio or television. Try this combined with some of your scented clothing.
- Don't make a big deal when you leave or when you arrive. When you leave say "bye" and walk out the door. When you arrive wait five minutes for your Husky to calm down then give him a low key greeting. This will help keep his emotional level low during your departures and arrivals.
- If your Husky shows a high degree of stress while alone getting another dog could be an option. However make sure you test this solution first by borrowing another dog if possible. You could get another dog only to find out it does not help at all because your Husky is stressed about his owner being gone, not about being alone.
- Dog day care could be a very viable option. If not day care then maybe a friend or neighbor could dog sit.
- In extreme situations your Veterinarian can prescribe something to help relax your Husky while you are gone.

## **Aggression**

If your Husky is a young pup then you can take steps to prevent him from growing up to be an aggressive Husky.

### Starting out on the right paw

If your Husky is a puppy and you don't want him to grow up to be an overly aggressive Husky then you need to start training him that way from the very beginning. To start make sure you have read the section on socialization and are following those practices. Proper socialization of your puppy during the first 12 weeks is key in making sure the puppy grows up to be an adult Husky who is not overly aggressive. There are other steps you can take when your Husky is a puppy to ensure he does not grow up to be overly aggressive.

### Teach your Husky puppy bite inhibition.

There's nothing wrong with a Husky puppy who bites hands and fingers. In fact some biting should be encouraged so that the puppy can learn bite inhibition. Teaching bite inhibition shows the puppy play biting is ok but only to an extent. If the skin is punctured from an adult Husky bite an owner should not assume that puncturing the skin was the goal of the Husky. Rather it is likely that a hard skin puncturing bite is the only type of bite the Husky learned, since in his puppy youth he was never allowed to bite people at all.

Compare this with an adult Husky who did learn bite inhibition as a puppy. He may bite another person or another dog, but the difference is that his bite was just a "warning" bite that looked unpleasant but did not send anyone to the hospital or the vet since it didn't puncture the skin.

This is not to say that puppies should be chewing hands and nothing else. You still want to encourage him to satisfy his chewing craving by mostly chewing on appropriate things like his chew toys, bones and chew toys that are stuffed with some treats.

### **How To Teach Bite Inhibition**

If you are playing with your Husky puppy and the pressure of his bite becomes strong enough to cause pain say "Ouch!" loudly, immediately put him on the ground and totally ignore him for about two minutes. Puppies don't like to be ignored and this combined with the "Ouch" will quickly let him know that the pressure of his bite was too much.

## Husky is aggressive towards people

Most Siberian Huskies are mild, sweet, gentle dogs that do not have aggression problems. However there could be a situation where you inherit or rescue a Husky that came from a very unhealthy environment where aggressiveness was encouraged or he was severely mistreated. As a result you may find you have a Husky who is overly aggressive towards you and other people.

If this is the case then the first thing you must do is establish yourself as the alpha dog to your Husky. Also fixing (neutering) your male Husky if he has not already been fixed can greatly reduce his aggressive behavior.

Aggression in a Husky can stem from different factors, one of which is dominance. For example, your Husky is sitting on the sofa and you try to get him to move and he growls at you. Or you get between the Husky and another animal in the house the Husky feels possessive of and he growls at you. Know that if you back off from this aggression every time it happens you will reinforce the Husky's thinking that he is the dominant one and the problem will steadily get worse.

### The solution

First make sure to avoid any situation that might induce further aggression from the Husky. This is to prevent any further reinforcement of the Husky's dominance. Next the Husky will need to be starved of any kind of attention whatsoever (except the essentials like feeding and going out to the bathroom) by everyone in the family for a period of about 48 hours. Even eye contact should not be given to the Husky during this time. After the 48 hours your Husky should be so deprived of attention that he will do anything to get some. At this point the person in the family who has been the focus of the Husky's aggression should issue a command such as "Sit". If the Husky follows the command correctly he should be given praise and some attention. The Husky should not get any attention from anyone else except this person, and attention should only be given by this person after the Husky has obeyed a command.

In addition this person should take on all the care duties of the Husky if they don't already. These duties include feeding, taking out, playing etc.

For the next 5 weeks stick to this regiment. The Husky should only be given attention after he has successfully obeyed a command. For the first week use the "Sit" command and for the next four weeks use the combination of the "Sit", "Lie Down" and "Stay" commands.

During this time follow these points:

- Don't give him any chew toys or bones

- Don't play tug of war or any other rough housing games that can encourage aggression.
- Don't give him any attention if he is asking for it. If he is asking for attention ignore him. Only give him attention when he is not asking for any.
- When he goes out keep him on a leash and make sure he is always walking directly by the person's side. If he is in a fenced in area only take him outside the fence on a leash. Don't let him wander around by himself.

After 5 weeks you can give him back his chew toys and bones. Continue to make him sit and stay before giving him any attention. Make sure he knows the "Release" command described earlier and issue some "Fetch" commands. When he brings the item to you issue the "release" command so that he drops it. If he drops it as he should give him a lot of praise. If he refuses to give up his toy take it from him along with all his chew toys and ignore him for the rest of the day. Try again the next day. After two months or so you should start to see a change.

If there is more than one person in the household that has aggression directed at them by the Husky then this process needs to be repeated for each person until no aggression is directed at anyone in the household.

### Aggression towards other dogs

Aggression in Huskies towards other dogs can stem from many different sources. Some of these are fear, dominance and resource guarding.

If your Husky was attacked by another dog as a puppy he may have developed a fear of being approached by other dogs which leads him to show aggression towards approaching dogs. Your Husky may show aggression towards another dog if he feels his ownership of you is being threatened. This would be classified as resource guarding with you being the guarded resource. Overall it is difficult to know exactly why a Husky is acting aggressive towards another dog. Curing a Husky of his aggressive tendencies can be done, but it requires a patient owner willing to work with their Husky over many months and possibly over several years, depending on the level of aggression.

### Solution: Calm Around Other Dogs

Punishment is not a good choice for dealing with aggression towards dogs mainly because it is difficult to know exactly why a Husky is acting aggressive towards another dog. If the aggression is happening as a result of fear, punishing the behavior could very well escalate the fear even more. Where the Husky had only one thing to fear previously, another dog, he now has two things to fear; the dog and punishment from his owner.

It's harder to make the problem worse if you use only positive methods. When you use positive methods (clicking and feeding tasty treats) to treat the aggression, you replace

the fear, stress and anxiety the Husky is feeling when he sees another dog with more amiable feelings like calmness. Hardly any Huskies get stressed out from eating things they find delicious. For most Huskies, eating something delicious brings a positive, enjoyable feeling. In addition with positive methods you reward your Husky for acting calm in the presence of other dogs. By rewarding you increase the likelihood that your Husky will act calm in front of other dogs in the future.

Think of it this way. How would you describe the emotions you have when you are stuck in a three hour traffic jam in the middle of a sizzling summer? These are probably similar feelings a dog aggressive Husky has when he sees another dog he doesn't like. Now how would you describe the feelings you have when you are eating your favorite meal at your favorite restaurant? Your Husky experiences similar feelings when you feed him a treat he thinks is delicious. When you use positive methods to cure your Husky's dog aggression you are essentially trying to expose your Husky to the bad feelings in very small increments. Then you try to replace the bad feelings with good feelings. By clicking and feeding him treats when he is in the presence of dogs he doesn't like, you are trying to change the way he feels about the other dogs.

Over time when your Husky sees another dog, instead of getting those bad feelings (caught in a traffic jam) he will experience good feelings (a wonderful delicious meal) and instead of attacking the dog he will act happy and calm around it.

### How It Works

You will need the assistance of a friend who has a non dog aggressive dog. If this is not possible you could take your Husky to a place where other dogs will be such as a dog park or a pet store.

Attach the leash to your Husky, get your clicker and get a lot of tasty treats. Begin to walk your Husky towards the other dog. At first only bring your Husky close enough to where he can see the other dog but not any closer. Keep a very close eye on your Husky and be ready with your clicker. Once your Husky sees the other dog click and treat him any time he displays any calm behavior. If he tries to attack hold him with the leash and don't do anything. Wait until there is any reduction in his aggressiveness. If you see a reduction of his aggressive behavior click him for it and feed him a treat. If he will not stop acting aggressive towards the dog then click and treat for only the lowest levels of aggression or bring him a little further away from the dog.

Continuously click and treat for any calm behavior you see. Just make sure you don't mistakenly click for the more aggressive behavior.

With this exercise there is no need to be stingy with the treats. Keep them flowing. If he has a significant aggression problem then these sessions would be a great time to break out the tastiest treats you can find; small pieces of sausage, steak – the really scrumptious stuff. If need be make his treats for these sessions count as part of his dinner.

As with all the training you've done so far, start out with baby steps. Keep your Husky at a far distance from the other dog in the beginning and keep sessions very short – only about ten or twenty minutes. Keep it like this for a few weeks until you notice your Husky acting more calm when you are practicing this exercise with him. After a few weeks when he is acting more calm you can slowly begin to bring him closer to the other dog. In addition you can begin to increase the amount of time he is exposed to the dog. Make sure you don't push him to fast too soon. Slow and steady wins this race.

### Next Stage

When your Husky is showing more calm behavior with another dog at a distance you can slowly start to bring the other dog in closer. You want to work towards being able to bring the other dog within just a couple of feet. It would be a good idea to put a [basket muzzle](#) on your Husky if you feel there is a chance he will bite severely. If you do use a muzzle you want to introduce it the same way you introduce the collar and leash to a puppy. Make it a positive experience by clicking and treating when he sniffs it and when he first puts it on.

Once you can get the other dog within a few feet of your Husky without your Husky trying to act aggressive, click and treat your Husky for any calm behavior he shows when the other dog is near. If your Husky sniffs or touches his nose to the other dog in a non aggressive manner give him some verbal praise like "Good" to encourage it. Don't click and treat. It's better not to introduce food at this point as it could become the source of a resource guarding incident. Practice this for a couple of weeks.

Finally when your Husky can greet another dog calmly you can begin to teach him to greet other dogs on cue in order to make him even calmer around other dogs.

Walk with your Husky on the lead towards your friend's non aggressive dog. Don't approach the dog straight on, rather walk towards the dog in a curve (this looks less threatening to dogs). Stop a short distance away from the other dog. At this point you want to click your Husky and treat him for any action that brings him closer to the other dog. For example if your Husky takes a step in the direction of the other dog click and treat him. In addition click and treat him just for looking at the other dog. By clicking and treating in this way your Husky should get the message that he can get yummy treats if he moves closer to the other dog. Continue on trying to get your Husky within sniffing distance of the other dog.

If you see your Husky sniff the other dog click and jackpot your Husky. Jackpotting means you give your Husky a huge reward. In this case feed your Husky about ten treats in a row one after the other. You want your Husky to really get the message that it was a great thing that he just sniffed the other dog in a non aggressive manner. Continue to click and treat any time your Husky sniffs the other dog. Practice this for a week or more.

When you can get your Husky consistently sniffing the other dog in a non aggressive way you can introduce the command “Friend” or something similar. Now every time he sniffs the other dog near the face say “Friend”, click and treat your Husky.

When your Husky is consistently sniffing another dog near the face while you say “Friend” you can begin to ask for the behavior. Bring your Husky near the other dog and say “Friend”. Click and treat him for sniffing the other dog’s face in a non aggressive manner.

The object is to get your Husky to approach another dog in a friendly manner by using the “Friend” cue. When your Husky approaches a dog after being told this command it is more likely he will approach the other dog with pleasant thoughts in his head (I’m going to get a great treat) rather than unpleasant, stressful and anxious thoughts in his head.

After many months of practicing these exercises your Husky should start to feel much calmer when he sees and approaches other dogs.

### Teach An Incompatible Behavior

An alternative method for dealing with a Husky who is aggressive towards other dogs is to teach him an incompatible behavior. An incompatible behavior is any behavior you can put on a command cue that is not compatible with another behavior. In this case if you think your Husky is going to act aggressive towards another dog you give your Husky the “Watch” command. When you give the command your Husky should look at you instead of going after the dog. The reason this is effective is because your Husky can’t perform both behaviors at the same time. If he is focused on looking at you he’ll ignore the dog and therefore won’t go after it.

### How It Works

Make sure your Husky knows a reliable “Watch” even when faced with very high level distractions before starting this exercise. You will need the help of a friend who has a friendly non aggressive dog. Have your friend walk the other dog in the vicinity of your Husky only close enough so your Husky can see the other dog. When the other dog is in the line of site of your Husky, tell your Husky “Watch” and wait a couple of seconds. If he keeps his eyes on you during the two seconds say “Okay”, click and treat him. If he looks at the other dog before the two seconds is up say “Oops” and try it again.

If your Husky is trying to chase after the other dog even when it is a long distance away try to increase the distance even more and begin again. If you don’t have success even with the distance increased even more it would be a good idea to go back to working more on the Calm Around Other Dogs exercises.

If your Husky has success Watching you for two seconds with the other dog a long distance away have your friend bring the other dog in just a little closer and practice again. How long you have to practice with the other dog a long distance away will depend on how bad your Husky's dog aggression is.

You can also practice this exercise at dog parks, pet stores or vet clinics with the other dogs a long distance away and then slowly bringing your Husky in closer.

Try to mix in some play sessions as the reward. When your Husky performs the "Watch" successfully, say "Okay" click him and then say "Let's Run" and run around a little bit with your Husky, then get back to the practice.

Over the following weeks and months have your friend bring the other dog closer and closer in. While this is happening work on increasing the number of seconds your Husky will keep his focus on you.

Over time if you keep the rewards fun and the treats coming when he performs "Watch" correctly your Husky will eventually start to automatically turn and look at you expecting something fun when he sees another dog. When this starts to happen you can stop clicking him and begin treating only randomly.

## Section 601: Socialization

Proper socializing is the secret to having an adult Husky with the best possible personality. Socialization early on will greatly reduce the chances of having an adult Husky that is:

- Fearful of all or certain types of people
- Scared of other animals, or nervous around other animals
- Aggressive towards certain types of pets or all other pets
- Scared of certain objects, noises, or situations

Socializing is something that should be started by the breeder before you ever arrive on the scene. A good breeder will have the puppies handled by several different people on a regular basis to begin to get them used to people. This includes petting, being talked to and being picked up. A lot of breeders will also begin to get the puppy used to the leash right away so that the puppy is not afraid of it when it comes time to go home with his new owner.

After you get your Husky home you need to continue the socializing process that started with the breeder. The first 12 weeks is the most important time in the process. This is the period when you need to make the greatest effort to introduce your Husky to as many other people, animals, places, objects and noises as you possibly can. How can you do this? Invite your friends over and have them hold and play with your Husky. If your friends have animals have them bring their animals over to meet your Husky. Take your Husky puppy out to the park. If people think he's cute and want to pet and hold him, let them. If other animals on leashes want to meet your puppy let them as well – under your close eye of course. Also you can take your Husky on car trips to go meet your friends and your friends' animals. If your puppy is afraid of a person then give that person a treat and let them slowly coax the puppy into taking the treat so the puppy associates the meeting of the stranger with something positive.

The more people that can handle your puppy, the more your puppy will grow up to be an adult Husky that understands people are good and that there is no reason to fear them. Don't just introduce the puppy to adults. Make sure the puppy gets introduced to young children as well so that he becomes accustomed to them at an early age. Just make sure you supervise closely as children can sometimes forget that puppies are living breathing animals.

### Socialization Practice Exercise

“Pass the Siberian Husky puppy”

With this exercise you want to either invite some people over or take your puppy over to someone else's house where there are some new people the puppy has never met. Try to

have the people using a wide variety of accessories such as hats, necklaces, canes, glasses etc.

However many people are there, have them sitting down as this is less intimidating. Each person should have a couple of small treats ready to give. Pick up your puppy and walk over to the first person and sit down right next to the person. Then pass the puppy over to the person. This new person should now put the puppy in their lap, give the puppy a treat, pet the puppy and talk to the puppy in a nice gentle calming voice. When petting this person should not pat the puppy on the head as this is rather intimidating to the puppy. Rather have the person pet anywhere else – the chest, back or sides.

If the puppy starts to nip or mouth the stranger try to get the puppy to chew on something appropriate instead such as a chew toy or bone. Don't give any correction to the puppy at this time. The experience should be nothing but positive for the puppy.

Continue to do this for all the people you have in the room. The purpose of the exercise is to introduce the puppy to as many new people and accessories as possible at an early age so that a fear of certain people or accessories is not developed later on.

### Food Bowl Socialization

Early on you want to take steps to prevent your Husky puppy from growing up to have food bowl aggression. That is, acting aggressive towards anyone that tries to come between him and his food bowl. The best way to do this is by having positive interruptions of his meal time. One way to do this is by giving him some meals in small incremental feedings by hand. In other words use your hand to put a small amount of his food directly in his bowl, letting him eat that, then putting another small portion directly in with your hand until his meal is finished. He learns that the hand approaching and going into the bowl is a good thing. You can also take away his food bowl while he is eating, put something extra tasty in the food bowl and put the bowl back in front of him. Now he is learning that it's also good when his bowl is taken away while he is eating. Lastly you can pick the puppy up in mid meal, give him a small treat, hold and pet him a little bit and put him back down in front of the bowl. You can do this a couple of times during the meal. With this last one you are teaching your puppy that interactions with you during the meal are a good thing.

## Section 701: Health

The first and most important decision you will make concerning your Husky's health is which Vet to use. How does one go about looking for a vet? There are many ways you can go about finding a good vet for your Husky. Ask other animal owners around your neighborhood who they take their animal to. Ask them why they like that particular vet. Another good idea is to call some reputable Husky breeders in your area and ask for a recommendation from them. When selecting a vet price is not the sole factor you want to base your decision on. For the sake and well being of your Husky, quality of care should come before price.

Once you have found a vet you think you might like go visit the facility and asked to be taken on a tour. As you walk around observe things carefully. The facility should be kept clean and look professional. Find out what their hours are and if they have emergency services. Some vets stay open 24 hours with emergency services. If they do not provide emergency services get a recommendation from them on a facility near by that does.

### When to take your Husky puppy to the Vet?

You will want to take your Husky puppy to the vet as soon as you can and preferably right after you get him. On your first visit the vet will want to know if the puppy has been properly vaccinated. If the puppy was vaccinated at the breeder the vet will want to look at the vaccination papers and if he thinks they are authentic the vet will recommend when the Husky needs to return for his next set of shots. If the puppy has not had his shots the vet will probably recommend the puppy have his shots right away. The main shot given is a multivalent vaccine called DHLPPCv vaccine for dogs. This is really six different vaccines in one since it's better to give one shot rather than six.

## Caring for your Siberian Husky

To ensure a happy and long life for your Husky regular observations will be needed.

- Weight

Weight changes are an important indicator of possible health problems in your Husky. Observe your Husky closely on a day to day basis. Sudden weight loss or a loss in his appetite calls for a trip to the vet. If it is convenient take your Husky to the vet every few months to have your Husky weighed on their scale. This way you will know for sure if his weight is being maintained.

- Examining the head

Check your Husky's eyes regularly. Look for any redness, discharge or cloudiness. Look in your Husky's ears for discharge, excess wax or any physical damage. The nostrils

should be clear and free of discharge and the nose should be wet. Open his mouth. The gums should be pink.

- Examine the body

Run your hands over the Husky's body feeling for any lumps. Move the hair away to look at his skin. His skin should be clear without any rash or suspicious marks.

## **Vaccinations**

The best thing you can do to ensure your Husky's health is to have regular scheduled vaccinations. When a vaccine is injected viruses or bacteria are injected into the dog. These are not your typical viruses and bacteria however. These viruses and bacteria have been modified so that they don't make the Husky sick; rather they trigger the immune response system. The Husky's immune response system "learns" these viruses and bacteria so that if real ones come into the body they can be fought off.

## **Common Infections and Diseases**

What follows are common infections and diseases and their symptoms.

Parvovirus – Vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, listlessness, dehydration. Fatal if left untreated.

Distemper - Same as parvovirus with addition of coughing, inflammation and discharge from the eyes. If prolonged can lead to seizures. Fatal if left untreated.

Hepatitis – same symptoms as parvovirus with addition of yellowing of the skin and eyes. Fatal if left untreated.

Leptospirosis – lethargy, loss of appetite, kidney and liver problems. Leptospirosis is transmitted through rat urine and can be contracted by swimming in water that is contaminated.

Bordetella – Dry hacking cough often producing phlegm.

Para influenza – coughing, retching fever.

Rabies – Increased salivating, aggression, unusual tameness or shyness and timidness

## **Breeding, Neutering and Spaying**

Breeding is best left to the experts. Problems can happen during delivery that if not handled properly could kill the mother, the puppies or both.

The advantages to neutering a male Husky include less aggressiveness towards other dogs, less chance of roaming (i.e. running off) and easier housebreaking because they don't mark their territory. In addition neutered males can be more responsive to training.

Neutered females lose the mood swings associated with hormone production and are not prone to unwanted pregnancies.

## **Keeping your Husky cool in hot weather**

Siberian Huskies can suffer from heatstroke just as humans can. They are especially susceptible to heat because of their thick winter coats. Here are some things you can do to insure your Husky stays cool enough.

- If your Husky is exerting himself a lot on a hot day keep a water hose available and hose him down with cold water often. This will help to keep his body temperature down.
- Provide an unlimited supply of cold water and make sure he always has access to it.
- If he is an outdoor Husky let him stay inside in the air conditioning during the very hot months.
- Never EVER leave your Husky in a car during warm days. It doesn't matter if you leave all the windows open. Cars act just like a greenhouse and trap heat.
- Limit exercise outside on very hot days. Make sure he is properly cooled down after each exercise session.

## **Stomach gas problems (Flatulence)**

The cause of your Husky passing gas is usually diet related. Here are some things you can do to prevent this problem

- Don't introduce a new diet straight out. Rather you should introduce a small quantity of the new food each day, gradually increasing the percentage of the new food day by day until the new food makes up the total portion of his diet.
- Feed your Husky one of the high quality premium dog foods mentioned earlier. A medium or low quality brand will be much more likely to give him excessive gas.
- Do not feed your Husky any dairy products

- Don't overfeed your Husky. Make sure he is eating the correct amount for his weight. The premium brands mentioned earlier all have a feeding chart for different dog weights on the side of the bag.

## **Worms**

The most common types of worms are tapeworms and roundworms. Roundworms are given to puppies from mothers that are carrying them. Newborn puppies are usually automatically given treatment for roundworms whether they have it or not. Tapeworms are contracted by eating fleas that have tapeworm eggs, therefore to prevent tapeworm make sure your Husky's home is flea free (see bonus book on fleas). Your vet will usually test for worms during your Husky's regular check ups.

## **Reducing your medical bills**

### Online Prescription Drugs for Pets

Vet bills for your Husky can get very expensive. You can reduce your medical costs by ordering your pets prescription drugs online. To get your Husky's prescription filled online you will need some info such as your Husky's weight, age, your contact info as well as a copy of the prescription. The advantage to ordering your Husky's medicines online are that you do not have to pay the vet office's mark up on the prescription drugs. <http://www.1800petmeds.com> and <http://www.petcarerx.com> are both reputable online pet prescription stores.

### Pet Insurance

Another way to reduce vet bills is by signing up for pet insurance. Pet insurance works just like health insurance for people. There are different deductibles and coverage plans depending on how much money you pay every month. Often plans will cap the total amount they will pay to around \$3000 for an illness or accident and will limit the number of claims per year. Pet insurance can be purchased over the Internet. One reputable company is <http://www.petinsurance.com> and another is [www.quickcarepetinsurance.com](http://www.quickcarepetinsurance.com).

## **Protecting Your Husky from Theft**

Siberian Huskies are usually stolen so they can be resold. Sometimes a reward is posted at which time the thief tries to turn up with the Husky to claim the reward.

### **What you can do to protect your Husky**

- The best thing you can do is keep your Husky inside when you are not around. If he's an outside dog keep your yard secured by having a full fence with a locking gate.
- Don't leave your Husky in the car unattended.
- Consider having a microchip imbedded in your Husky.

If your Husky is taken and then recovered this can help authorities, shelters and vets identify him so he can be given back to you.

- If a microchip is too expensive consider having your Husky tattooed somewhere on his body where a tattoo can easily be seen. Once he is tattooed you will need to register the tattoo. It can be registered at <http://tattoo-a-pet.com>
- Keep current photographs of your Husky

Having photographs will help in trying to recover your Husky if he is taken.

- If you take your Husky out on walks don't leave him unattended, i.e. tied to something while you walk in a store to get something.
- Don't let your Husky wander. Keep him fenced in or in your home.
- Keep your proof of ownership papers. You may need them to prove you are the owner if your Husky goes missing.

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