



HOWLING TAILS

THE TAIL OF ALYESKA HOPE

In 1993, I first heard from a friend who lives in Anchorage that someone in Alaska was developing a breed of miniature Husky. My immediate reaction was that I wanted one. Although I put the thought of the dog in the back of my mind, I never forgot about it. I was living in Colorado then. It wasn't until spring 1996 that I saw an ad in the Pueblo paper for miniature Husky puppies. When I called there were two puppies left.

The litter had puppy names, Faith, Hope and Charity. I chose Hope and called her Alyeska Hope. Besides being a darling little thing, she was born on my father's birthday, February 26 which has always made her extra special. Her socialization with people began that evening and she has loved people ever since.

Her breeders were a local Pueblo couple whose AKK were from Eileen's kennel. Hope's daddy is Inuk owned by Eileen and Greg. It was Eileen who suggested that I not have Hope spayed due to her good breeding.

At home we had three dogs and a couple of cats. Lady Hope

walked into the house with a real attitude, that is, she announced to the critter group that she was now in charge. At about 10 weeks and the smallest, she simply took over and has been known ever since as Deputy Dog. She's been criticized for not liking other dogs, but with humans she's most unusual for an AKK. She's very good at her deputy job and still helps with keeping her housemates in line, as well as all new puppies.

In 1997 we moved to PA. It wasn't until 1999 that I decided to breed her. I called Jim Butler, who had no idea who I was, and said I had a Klee Kai I wanted to breed. After a few phone calls, he agreed and Hope and I took a quick trip to Schroon Lake. We bred to their Bakka producing a litter of four girls. The next breeding was with Buddybuoy. I kept a female from that litter, my wonderful black/white toy, Mikiyok. We later bred Hope to Hopie which produced one female puppy. Mikiyok has been bred twice to Jim and Marilyn's Shadowdancer.

Although my girls aren't trained to show and I haven't the patience for it, they have always been bred to Champions or Grand Champions. Those

breedings have given us some of both at UKC and ARBA shows, and potential Grand Champions. The younger ones are working on it. Some of our puppies have gone to pet homes.

Our dogs/puppies have always been healthy with no medical problems. They love their squeaky toys, except Hope who seemed to be born an adult. Forever the Deputy Dog !! Hope and Miki fight to ride in the car, their favorite thing to do. Since I had the time in CO, Hope went everywhere with me as a puppy meeting and greeting everyone with a smile which helped her to become extremely well socialized. And perhaps she was born disposed to liking humans.



Hope has had her final breeding and will be spayed this winter 2004 at age eight. It's hard to understand where the time has gone. Hope and I have been through a lot together.

Although she hasn't had puppies since Lonesome Wolf was born, she loves to play with, baby-sit and discipline Miki's puppies. Still the disciplinarian, she's an excellent grandma.

So, from that day in Vermont when I was first told about the breed until I found Hope, I waited. From the day I picked up my puppy until today, we've grown older together. And although she's frustrated me when she's gotten away or taken her deputy duties too seriously, she will always be my first baby. I thank Hope and Buddy for giving me Mikiyok who is my second baby and loved every bit as much.

And I thank Linda who helped change my life with the little dogs I love so much, and in meeting so many wonderful people through those little dogs called Alaskan Klee Kai.

Ruth Elliott
Alyeska Kennel

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