

## Siberian Husky Reality Checklist!

Here are some important facts that you should know about Siberian Huskies!

**Escape Artist** – Siberians are the Houdini's of the dog world. Even the best cared for Sibe may get loose and NEVER be seen again. They can crawl through microscopic holes, scale 8 foot fences, break tie-outs and slip collars more skillfully than any magician. They always want to be on the other side of the fence! Keep these dogs on leash unless you are in a secure area! A 6 foot fence is a good start to contain a Siberian – any lower and they will take themselves for a walk!

**Desire to Dig** – The instinct to dig is ancient. While it can be curbed – it cannot be eliminated. Digging can happen outside or inside. A bored Siberian can turn a home into a housekeeper's nightmare...and a yard into a scene from walking on the moon!

**Not Quite Obedient** – Given proper training, a Siberian should be able to take certain commands and act quite respectable – most of the time. "Stay" and "come" seem to be magically deleted from their vocabulary whenever you need it most! ***These dogs must be kept on leash!!*** They are a danger to themselves when they get running – miles & miles without stopping – across roads, to other counties. They keep on going with no care for the cars that might take them down. Always keep identification on a Siberian! They like to talk (Woo Woo), but they won't tell where they live!

**Curiosity** – Curiosity can actually kill a cat. Siberians have killed many. Curiosity will also lead them over the fence and down the road. The scenic route is their favorite and they will take it every chance they get! **Prey Drive** – It is in their nature to chase and catch small animals... there are exceptions – a few Sibes out there will live with cats – most just want them for dinner.

**Athletic** – Siberians were built to run, and run, and run, and run. They do not fetch – so a backyard will not do for exercise. They need at least one long walk per day – most will do better with 2 or 3. Hiking, running, walking, cross-country skiing – an active lifestyle – is a great combination for Siberians. You will drop before they do! Siberians are **very** strong! A child or an unsuspecting adult can be pulled over and dragged with ease – pulling is what they were bred to do!

**Double coat** – Siberians have a double coat. An inner coat helps regulate their temperature – it keeps them warm in the winter and cool in the summer. The outer coat (guard hairs) helps with keeping the coat clean and moisture away from their skin. **Never** shave a Siberian in summer!!! Make sure they have shade & plenty of water in hot weather. Siberians do not have a lot of dander; they are normally a possible choice for people with allergies! **Shedding** happens throughout the year, but they blow their undercoat twice (end of summer and end of winter). You will see by the amount of hair why they like to sleep in the snow!!! Be prepared for HAIR!!

**Not a Guard Dog** – Siberians are normally extremely friendly. They will show someone the key to your place in the hopes that they will feed them or let them loose! They will welcome the stranger with Wooo Wooos and kisses! They are great with supervised children and make a wonderful pet for a family or companion for an individual.

**Medical** – Siberians are, for the most part, a very healthy breed. Juvenile cataracts and hip displasia seem to be the only hereditary ills that sometimes affect Sibes. Keeping them on a high quality diet with natural vitamin C will help keep them from suffering major illness. They live & perform best with a balanced diet high in protein and fat, especially during the winter. Siberians live a long life on average – 15 years is not uncommon. Siberians are a **LONGterm** commitment!

*With all the above said, Siberian Huskies are wonderful dogs for the person or family with the right lifestyle. They are charming, beautiful animals with enormous amounts of love to give. They want to be part of a pack – not left outside looking in. Most do very well in **multi-dog** households. If you give them love, attention and exercise – they will provide you with much more in return!*

For more information and education, feel free to contact your local rescue –  
Polaris Siberian Husky Rescue  
303-444-3625 970-484-5880  
[www.polaris-rescue.org](http://www.polaris-rescue.org)