

Award-winning Siberian huskies raised in village

To most people the word "husky" conjures a vision of Eskimos, snow, and dog sleds, but when the Allerellies moved to Rockwood they brought with them an entire new slant on the adaptability of the Siberian husky to domesticity and sportsmanship.

It was the fall of '69 when Gunner, his wife Ebba, and their four small children took up residence in the village and, included in their move, were four gorgeous husky dogs; frolicsome, friendly animals, already acclaimed as champions in their own right.

Best puppy

Since that time Kola and Flicka have brought further fame to their owners and to the village of Rockwood; they produced and reared in the dog pen confines, an outstanding offspring named Hercules who was recently judged the best Canadian bred puppy in show at a Toronto Sportsmen's show when the seven month old Siberian husky topped 600 other dogs from many parts of North America.

Gunner, the young mechanic father who is employed in the Ontario Steel Company in Milton is tremendously enthusiastic about the family hobby. He believes in breeding for quality not quantity and when his dogs are ready for sale, must be first confident that they are going to good homes.

In parade

The Allerellies originally became interested in huskies when, considering a dog for their children some 8 1/2 years ago, they saw a husky team in a Milton Santa Claus parade and bought one as a family Christmas present.

They had been looking for a Samoyed northern type dog but the behaviour and gentleness of the Milton animals impressed them both. Since that time Gunner and Ebba have learned a great deal about their favorite pastime and are happily willing



ALLERELLIE CHILDREN enjoy a dip in the tub with a man's—and child's—best friend. Huskies are gentle with children.

to pass on knowledge about the animal which to them is a most unique breed.

Protector, friend

As a pet the husky has proven to be marvellous with children both as a protector and as a friend. "Very bright animals and quick to learn" say the Allerellies and two beautiful large dogs pad across the living room floor to sit near the chesterfield, content to be with people.

"Beg" says Gunner, and both dogs sit up and tilt their head waiting for a morsel of food.

"Domestic animals? They're the best" say the Rockwood breeders, who feel that the huskies are an all man dog who will not attack even on command—only by instinct if there is good reason.

"They are extremely independent but can be trained beautifully by experts" said Mr. Allerellie and he referred to the latest introduction of the husky into the U.S. scene as seeing eye dogs. "They have proved to be outstanding in this field over the past ten years" said Gunner.

"They were originally bred for pulling sleds but now we're seeing them as amazing hunters, great at retrieving, and also as exceptional watch dogs who will bark to alert at the slightest sign of danger."

Raise pups

Panni and Flicka were the original foundation stock of the Rockwood family and, since their first purchase in 1962, the Allerellies have raised several dozen pups. Hercules is one of Flicka's offspring but is not too impressed at his own most recent

conquest; just sits and makes like a cat, licking his face and cleaning himself. The dogs' coats are all beautifully full and shiny and Gunner puts this down to his special feeding habits. Never anything but Purina, he says proudly. Vitamins aren't necessary because it's all there in the food. The husky breeder used to test the company's products and feels that he knows his value.

Since the time the Allerellies first became doggybound with their Siberian favorites, the family have appeared on television on numerous occasions both with the news media and on the Uncle Bobby Show. Whole programs have been devoted to the study of the husky dog and questions about their pulling ability have been one of the most common points of interest.

One dog from Sisters, Oregon,

pulled 1,895 pounds and, although such ability has been contested by many husky owners, the record still stands and, pound by pound the pulling record is fantastic. The dog from Sisters only weighed 60 pounds.

Mistaken for wolves

Gunner and Ebba have seen many things happen to their dogs. Two prize ones were killed in Temagami, Ontario, some time ago, when they were mistaken for wolves; Lobo, one other, owned by Mrs. Pearl French of Milton, Ontario, has gained a prized place in the family life of the Siberian husky dog racers, participating in events in both Canada and United States.

The lead dog of the Milton team, Champion Allerellie Bilkoff is another one of the local breeders' offshoots and often it's their huskies which add color and zest to local winter-time carnivals, pulling chariots and sleds in typical dog-sled fashion. Oakville, Oshawa, Northern Ontario. Allerellie dogs from Newfoundland to Nome, Alaska, have all been publicized in newspapers; the local breeder's canine specialties are a photographer's delight. In 1968, the first Siberian husky to live in Denmark, won the International Championship; she was Candy, beautiful, pure white; also Allerellie bred.

At the March Sportsmen's Show Hercules "Herk" was chosen out of 600 entries in an event in which he was judged the

best Canadian bred entry. He had also chalked up seven first prizes in his own class, eight ribbons for best Canadian bred in his own breed and six ribbons for best Canadian bred puppy. He was further judged as the best Canadian bred puppy among 30 breeds of working dogs.

Where do the Allerellies go from here? Most of their dogs they are raising for show and usually about ten dogs on hand at one time is the maximum for sale purposes. "Panni and Flicka will always stay with us" said Ebba, and the two dogs, one eight and

the other eight and a half years old, quietly move about the house enjoying their domestic domain.

Highest laurels

All the offspring from the Rockwood family's kennels since the dates of '67 to '71 inclusive have been championship material and twenty of them won awards including the C.D. laurels which means the highest Obedience Degree for the canine class and recently one of the Allerellies' dogs won the C.D.X. as the most excellent companion dog since 1967. "No other kennel can claim that distinction in Canada" said Gunner proudly

and, at last Sunday's show in Barrie, Hercules again won the award for "Best Canadian bred title."

Usually the Siberian huskies are silver grey and white or black and white not unlike a wolf; their maximum height is approximately 23 inches high and a large male weighs about 60 lbs. The wolf however, stands about 30" high and weighs 150 lbs. Ebba's ambition is to raise pure white huskies with blue eyes and it is her intention to introduce them into the show ring. This could mean another first for the Allerellies.



PIERRE BERTON, noted Canadian broadcaster and author purchased one of the Allerellie dogs.



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Award trophies, prizes at banquet

One hundred and thirteen good humored and happy people attended the tenth annual bowling banquet of the Rockwood League last Friday evening, May 14, and sitting at the head table were president Dick and wife, Marlene Dupuis, Harv and Lois Jestin, Ivy and Bill Ritchie, Fred and Vivian Nightingale and, as special guests, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Carney.

It was a great night. Everyone shined and enjoying the festivities. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ward had come down from Chapleau to attend the affair and the United Church ladies had gone all out to prepare a marvellous dinner of roast beef with all the trimmings topped off with a tremendous selection of home-made pies.

Trophy winners

President Dick was in great form as he thanked everyone for their co-operation and also the ladies of the church for presenting such a delicious repast. Dick then called out the names of the trophy winners who received their laurels from members of the trophy committee including Viv Nightingale, Ivy Ritchie, and Irene Lavoie.

Trophies, trophies, and more trophies, were handed out with pleasure. Captain Bob Van Wyck received the Frank Carney Trophy from Frank Carney in person for his Pacer's team and members of that group Doug Cross, Ann McCormack, Doug Hilton, Mike Martin, and Brian Slipp, all stepped up to receive a light post oil lamp for their individual award as top team members.

Coveted award Dunc McPhedran took over for the absentee Dave Gray trophy

donor who was unable to attend. He presented the Stratton team Captain, Sam Nyholt, with the coveted award and each individual member received, for their team's accomplishment, as league champs, a T. V. lamp, which could be turned on and off more easily than the bowlers themselves.

The Runners' Up Champs were then presented with the Sportsman Bowl Trophy and Captain Dunc McPhedran received same from president Dick Dupuis and an umbrella with a lighter in the top went to each member of The Neighbours. Receiving the prizes for their team's efforts were Dunc McPhedran, Ellen Garner, Harvey Bayne, Muriel Bottenham, Bill Garner, and Sandy McPhedran.

More lights

Lamps became a highlight as the various top ranking scores received lighting devices in varieties of shapes, sizes, and colours. Nellie Stokman was high average lady with 197, Fred Nightingale, high average man with 239; the high triple lady was Irene Lavoie with 802 and Harvey Jestin won out for the High Triple Man with 867. Gwen McDougall was the high triple lady with handicap showing an 809 score and Art Nightingale had a 914 score to win the high triple with handicap man's prize. Marina Mulder won the high single ladies prize with 305 and

Sam Nyholt won for the men with a 376. High single with handicap award for the ladies was won by Ivy Ritchie with a 339 score and Mike Martin for the high single with handicap, for men, had a 369 score.

Most improved

A day and month calendar was presented to the two most improved bowlers Jo-Ann Gooyers for the ladies and Harold Theaker won that award for the men.

Draws for \$5 each were awarded to several bowlers including Orma Ferguson, Muriel Bottenham, Ruth Kingsbury, Art Nightingale, Doug Carney, Gloria Alton, Doug Cross, Dunc McPhedran, Harvey Bayne, Ross McDougall, Tony Stockman, Sylvia Jamieson, Ward Bruce, and Bob VanWyck. T. D. McCutcheon, the local's oldest bowler, also won a draw award but was unable to attend.

Dancing follows

After the presentations the town hall was cleared for dancing and McDermott's four piece orchestra of 2 guitars, a violin and guitar, took over the festivities as pant suits, pretty dresses, and happy bowling leaguers congregated on the dance floor. Len Smeltzer won the door prize and the next year's bowling executive with Harv Jestin the newly-crowned president, Sam Nyholt in the chair as vice president, Ivy

Ritchie as treasurer, and secretary Vivian Nightingale in her old stomping grounds, hopes to see even more members in next year's play-offs with executive contacts for membership to be placed before September 1 of 1971.

"It's a sport for all ages" say the bowlers.

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