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# Primitive and Aboriginal Dog Society

## **Dear members of the Russian Branch of Primitive Aboriginal Dogs Society!**

We are happy to present you with our third issue of our Newsletter or R-PADS, 2004.

It includes an article about the origins of the Samoyed authored by Sarah de Monchy and Pieter Keijzer from Netherlands, who researched this subject for many years. They are members of R-PADS.

Irina Shlykova has written an article about the complex method of rating of dogs used in Russia.

As we promised, we have started publication of a series of articles about aboriginal dogs, which do not belong to the list of aboriginal dogs of Russia.

Today, this is an article describing unique aboriginal dog race called Africanis written by Johann Gallant.

Yours sincerely,  
secretary of the Russian Branch of PADS  
Marina Kuzina

## LET US PRESERVE CULTURE OF HUNTING WITH LAIKA

By Grigory Nasyrov

(Translation by Vladimir Beregovoy)

This article was written for Russian readers and is a direct translation from Russian text.

After discussion of prices on Laikas during the pre-WWII period, when Laika had pure working dog significance and were valued depending on what kind of game it hunted the most, I will discuss the post-WWII period.

By this time, big cities became the centers of breeding Laikas and the people of the northern provinces, professional hunters of gospromkhoz (Government controlled collective hunting communities) became major users of purebred Laikas. There was a demand for tough Laikas capable of working under harsh conditions. Surely, Laikas should be handled well during hunting and they should be capable of hunting sable and other members of the weasel family. Fur prices and demand were constant in the country and furs were sold abroad.

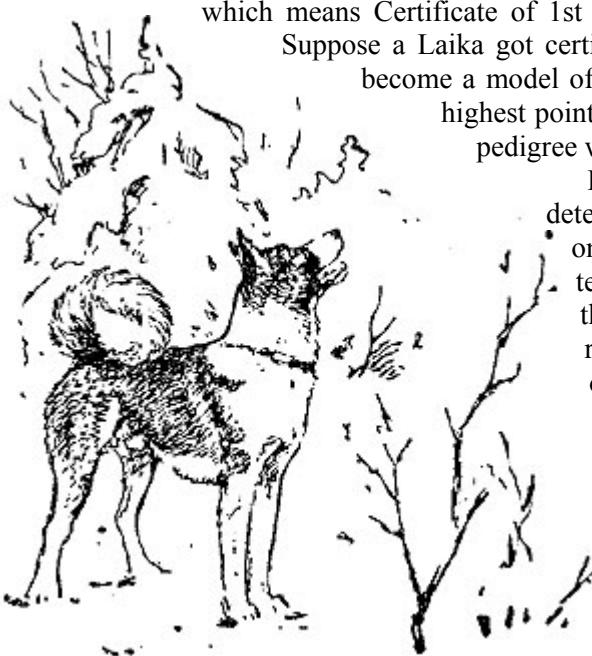
During the same time, the number of Laikas with certificates for performance grew. For many breeders in cities, selling puppies became more lucrative than hunting in the woods. In the history of hunting Laika breeds, this was an indicator of the worsening of their working conditions. There were some positive changes in cities, such as the increase of the total number of dogs and expansion of geographic range where Laikas were bred, but the negative effects predominated.

The number of Laikas with awarded certificates grew for certain hunted animals, which were formerly unfamiliar to them. I should point that Laika work the best for some of this kind of hunting. For example, in wild boar hunting, the qualities of the Laika such as strong hunting drive, sound instinct of self-preservation, courage, excellent sense of direction and high endurance are exactly what is needed the most.

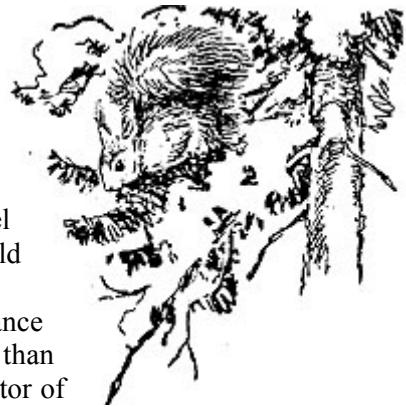
Along with practical hunting, Laikas were tried on captured boar, duck, deer, pheasant and black grouse. All these game species became separate kinds of game. In the process it was forgotten that, despite the fact the Laika is a versatile hunting breed (a Laika can be raised and specialized on sable, squirrel, moose and duck), but every individual dog can become an outstanding hunting dog on all the above listed kind of game. Generalizing a dog diminishes it to average hunting characteristics. Only a highly specialized dog can achieve state of art performance, which means Certificate of 1st degree. The culture of hunting with Laika is going to be lost.

Suppose a Laika got certificates on deer and pheasant in Stavropol Province and he can become a model of the breed at All-Russian dog show, because he will receive the highest point rating. Gaining a maximum point rating became a major goal of pedigree work of the city Laika breeders.

It is undisputable that bonitation allows the most precise determination of breeding value of individual animal, but this works only under equal conditions of keeping and objective evaluation technique. This is fine in animal science, but behind every dog there is a breeder and a high rating of an individual dog often reflects the «hard work» and vanity of his owner, who tries to obtain high point ratings, a high ranking Certificate for his dog by any means possible.



In view of the serious hunter, especially one who hunts in the taiga with Laika, in the heartland of the Laika breed, it would be a terrible mistake to consider a certificate for squirrel hunting equal to a certificate for sable hunting. It is as well dubious about equating the ability to hunt moose to the ability to hunt woodland birds. No one hunter living in a commercial hunting region would take his Laika to hunt squirrels or grouses, if he had discovered a moose hunting talent in his dog. Black grouse, as soon as young birds mature, does not stay in a tree in the presence of Laika and he may chase a flock of grouse in a Siberian pine forest all day long. This is an unprofitable waste of time for a serious hunter and he would try to suppress the desire of his dog to bark at grouse. Once the hunter discovered that his dog can help him to hunt moose, depending on his experience and local



conditions, he will encourage his dog to develop in this direction. If, by some reason, he does not need a moose baying dog, there will always be another hunter, who would like to have such a dog. A common opinion that any Laika can become a good moose baying dog is absolutely wrong. Good moose baying Laikas are rare and this quality is inherited.

Old timer hunters used to say, «squirrel is hunted by anyone who wants it, but moose is hunted only by those who can». Perhaps some cases, when the nature of a dog's life had changed as drastically as it happened with the Laika, are very rare in history. Laika used to be a semi-wild dog and a constant companion of taiga hunter-frontiersman. In a short stretch of time, Laika became a captive of balconies, garages and woodsheds. In their former life with the natives of the taiga, Laika followed their masters everywhere off leash. Living close to the hunter, the dog was well attuned to the hunter, intelligent and ready to cooperate with him at any time. Laika is made to work not «when he wants» but rather «when he is needed» and not to work «as much as I can», but «as much as it is needed».



Now, living in city the Laika suffer a constant lack of communication with its master and members of the family. Perestroika and other political change make Laika's situation even worse. Absence of demand for furs and high prices of transportation forced many Laika owners to give up trips to the northern provinces of Russia. Feeding dogs became an expensive problem to many.

At the same time, we see that our streets became full of Mastiffs, Staffords, Huskies and Spitzes. It appeared that there are good imported foods for these dogs, foreign brand cars for their transportation and the best pavilions and complexes are reserved for showing them. Our own most valuable breeds of hunting Laikas and cultural heritage of many native people have become a pitiful existence. If the breeds are contaminated, their restoration would take dozens and even hundreds of years. An eastern philosopher A. Samarkandy said: «A tree can be dug out within one hour, no matter how strong and powerful its roots are, but it would take many years to raise it until it would start fruiting». What I can add to this?

Government's agencies and «Rosokhotrybolowsoyuz» (Russian Union of Hunters and Fishermen) estranged themselves from the problems of breeding hunting dogs. What happens to the Laika as a breed now? The Laika rapidly became converted into a sportsman's dog. Show contests on captured animals become increasingly important with each coming year. We are forgetting the culture of hunting with Laika and the Laika's original purpose. New generations of Laika owners, which are going to decide the fate of the breed, are committed to contests on captive animals. Those Laika owners, who have the money and wish to hunt with their dogs, but are not familiar with the culture of hunting with Laika hunt by roundup method or, worse, they shoot powerful rifles out of their cars, without raising their butt from the seat. Entire meaning of their hunting is determined by the importance of the trophy, its weight, how easy it was obtained and shooting expensive weapons.

Should we blame the new generation of Laika owners for not learning the culture of hunting with Laikas and for their lack of knowledge regarding romance of wandering with one Laika in the taiga forests?

Who is to blame because a game animal does not have a chance of survival due to rapid firing rifles, shooting out of the car, snowmobile, tractor, etc.? Who is in charge to insure old traditions of the hunt are passed on accurately and to respect the Russian forest moose and to learn that an unsuccessful hunt should not be a reason for frustration? Hunting with new kind of hunter using Laika is very short in duration. They shoot fast by any means; take a picture with the trophy, such as moose, boar or bear and always with the Laika. Actually, role of the Laika in the hunt was absolute null.

I think that loss of traditional hunting culture is concern of all our hunting breeds, but hunting culture with Laika is being lost the quickest. What are causes of this? The first reason is probably the fact that the Laika is a very versatile and adaptable breed, which can easily learn to hunt a new and formerly unfamiliar game. The second reason is in the difficulty of describing hunting with Laika in literature. We read, since childhood, about beauty of hunting with bird pointing dogs or about hare hunting with scent hounds along with poetry of beauty of our nature. This kind of fiction remains in our memory for a lifetime. One, who grew up on this literature, will want to try this hunting some day. There are very few published works about the beauty of hunting with Laika. What is available is scattered in old magazines about hunting, mainly in pre-WWII period. Nevertheless, hunting with Laika is very thrilling and emotional. It takes strength and ability to find their way outdoors and master the skill of camping. One who spent months hunting with Laika in the taiga and went through hard times, cherish their memory of the years of life in wilderness. Hunting with Laika has its own romanticism. The beauty of hunting with Laika is not just measured in the quantity of meat, but rather in the experience of watching the beautiful work of the dog and how the dog's work made the hunting productive.

Of course, the Perestroika period alienated many people from hunting with the Laika and alienated Laika owners were the best ones, because those people knew the traditional hunting and running of the breed.

Now, that we have celebrated 50 years of «standards» of our hunting Laikas, it seems reasonable to draw some conclusions and ask questions:

Did we resolve problems as it was intended by acceptance of the Laika breed standards in 1947?

What kind of problems emerged during the half century of breeding Laikas pure?

How selective should Laika breeding be directed now?

In 1947, WNIOZ (All Union Institute of Hunting Industry) established the Laika breed standards and this was accomplished. Now, we have four breeds of our Laika in Russia. Now, their working qualities satisfy both the taiga professional hunter and city amateur hunter. However, it would be an unforgivable mistake, to allow our Laikas to degenerate in their hunting ability. I see the danger of it due to the separation from regions of commercial hunting and professional hunters.

As I already mentioned, the trend of Laika is becoming another show and sportsmen's dog. The standard of requirements of working quality dogs has been lowered. Experts of breeds and some official agencies are responsible for our breeds.

The research in modern publications about Laika does not leave any doubt that this is true. Unlike in the Soviet era, now there is no shortage of publications about Laikas.

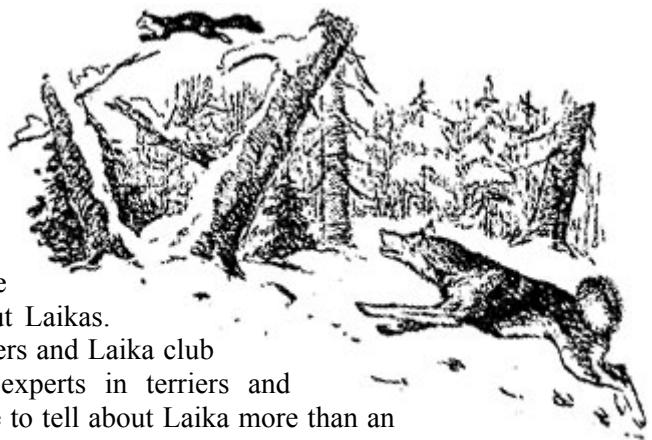
Everyone writes about Laikas, if he is not lazy. Laika owners and Laika club officials, owners of German Wirehaired Birddog and experts in terriers and dachshunds, perhaps all writers truly believe that they have to tell about Laika more than an ordinary Laika owner. Before going through some publications, I would like to quote what N. V. Gogol wrote: «Nothing damages the faith more than what is done by inept and zealous defenders of God».

Let us take a look at the book «Laikas and Hunting with Them» by E. I. Shereshevsky, Sverdlovsk, 1965. It is an undisputable good book, written by a man deserving laudatory words for his contribution in the formation of the Laika breeds. However, «the devil is hiding in details». There are places in the book, which are impossible to agree with.

Referring to works of the Ural area wildlife biologist G. Demidov, Shereshevsky writes: «Average amount of game harvested by a hunter varies sharply, depending on hunting quality of his Laika. If we take productivity of hunting with top quality Laika as 100%, then squirrel hunting with a good Laika the amount of game drops to 42-55%, and with an average dog, to 20-30%. At the same time, hunting without dog makes about 2% of hunting with an excellent dog.» This comparison of ratio of harvested squirrels depending on quality of Laika and daily harvest of squirrels without dog made by a well-respected wildlife biologist seems very dubious. Everyone, who is familiar with squirrel hunting with Laika, knows that there are many missed squirrels left undetected by the dog. There is a hunting method «by listening» and such hunting without a dog may be quite productive. It would be possible to skip this kind of mistake and it goes unnoticed, if Shereshevsky would add a remark made by G. Demidov «about some exceptionally artful professional hunters (promyshlenniks), mainly among natives. Almost in every native village there is one or two, old experienced hunters, which can hunt without a dog squirrel, sable, kidus and moose almost in the same quantities like others do it with a dog». I hope you agree that this remark makes a significant change in the comparisons. Different writers about Laikas often cite works of G. Demidov, but citations are taken out of the context and without further explanations.

There is more in the works of G. Demidov, which are often omitted: «trapping is not used for comparisons». In the book «Laikas and Hunting with Them» Shereshevsky makes a reference to materials published by A. B. Geits:

«In 1961, percentage of harvested with assistance of Laika fur by districts was as follows: Khatanga, 98%; Bratsk, 96%; Kirensk, 80%; and Taishet, 72%. The same author showed that in 1961-1963, in Buryat Autonomous Province, with help of Laika, amount of fur harvested was: Bauntovsky Aimak, squirrel 92% and sable 71%; Severo-Baikalsky Aimak, squirrel 90% and sable 50%. If to believe these numbers, we should believe tales. Listed above regions of East Siberia are commercial hunting regions, where hunting is done by using all kinds of trapping devices and hunting with Laika done during a very short season and undoubtedly amount of fur harvested with Laika is much smaller than amount of fur obtained by trapping.



(to be continued)

## COMPLEX METHOD FOR RATING OF DOGS, OR BONITATION

**Irina Shlykova, Sanct-Petersburg, Russia;  
breeder of hunting dogs, «Russian Breeze» Kennel, Expert Cynologist of III Category  
(translation by Vladimir Beregovoy)**

In the process of breeding dogs, cynologists must decide what valuable qualities any particular dog should have to contribute into the breed. There are sufficient differences between methods of evaluation of hunting dogs by FCI and RCF. One major difference is in the fact that Russian cynologists base their judgment results of complex rating of dogs called *bonitation* (*bonitirovka* in Russian). The purpose of this article is to familiarize foreign dog breeders with rules of bonitation used in Russia for purebred dog breeding.

First, I will describe conformation marks given to dogs at dog shows in Russia, «Excellent», «Very Good», «Good» and «Satisfactory».

«Excellent» and «Very Good» are given to dogs with conformation, which adheres to requirements of the breed standard, with well defined differences between sexes, bone and muscle structure, anatomically correct head and locomotion. Dogs with the designation «Excellent» can have only have insignificant deviations which are unimportant for breeding purposes. Dogs with the designation «Very Good» can have some insignificant deviations from the standard. Dogs with the designation «Good» are typical of the breed, but with no more than two «not disqualifying» faults, such as poor dimorphism between sexes or body structure that is undesirable for the breed. Dogs with the designation «Satisfactory» have several deficiencies and more than two faults rendering them unsuitable for breeding. However, conformation rating is only a part of bonitation.

Rules for complex rating of dogs or bonitation were developed in Russia (former USSR) by animal breeding experts and cynologists and introduced into practice in 1951. The word, *bonitation*, originated from the Latin word *bonitas*, which means high quality. Therefore, bonitation is a tool for rating dogs by their breeding value and selection of the best breeding stock dogs. High class breeding quality dogs include dogs which have passed field trials conducted under supervision of three certified experts and awarded certificates for the best performance. Besides, these dogs should have ratings at the dog show with scores not less than «Good». When the dog had passed bonitation testing, it is placed in a certain class, according to the number of earned points.

Bonitation is done at the dog show right after evaluation of dog's conformation. Expertise of the conformation is conducted at specially organized show rings. Dogs are grouped by breed, sex and age. The junior group includes dogs of 10-16 months of age, medium age group includes dogs 1.5 to 3 years old and the older group includes 3-10 years old dogs. Testing is conducted by one expert with three appointed assistants. They use visual comparative analysis. Conformation is judged by watching the dog standing and moving. Dogs of superior conformation are moved ahead of dogs with inferior conformation. For better evaluation of conformation, measurements of the dog are taken, height at shoulder, oblique length of body, etc. At the same time, temperament and behavior of the dog are also evaluated.

During evaluation of dog's conformation, its condition is important. At the show, the dog must be in a so-called «show condition». If the dog is in working condition, this would likely diminish its rating points at the show, but if the dog is emaciated or fat, either one would be a fault. Depending on the conformation mark, dogs are given quality ranks in number of points: «Excellent» (40 points), «Very Good» (30 points), and «Good» (20 points). For a score of «Excellent» or «Very Good» the dog must be a high quality representative of his breed. Scores «Good» and «Satisfactory» are given to average typical of the breed dogs. Dogs rated as «Satisfactory» do not receive any points. I should emphasize that dogs with rating score «Good» are restricted for use in breeding programs and dogs with rating mark «Satisfactory» are excluded from breeding.

When the dog passed expertise at the conformation ring, it is ready for the next step, which is bonitation.

Dogs eligible for bonitation MUST have certificates awarded for results recorded at field trials with wild or captured animals. I should mention that a certificate awarded at field trials with wild game result in a higher number of points than a certificate awarded for trials with captured game. Dogs without field trials certificates receive rating for conformation at the show only, but not allowed to pass bonitation and, thus, cannot be included in any breeding class. They are only utility dogs.

Bonitation requires evaluating dogs by the following qualitative elements:

- Quality by offspring
- Working qualities
- Conformation
- Origin (pedigree)

Data on each quality element are taken out of «Certificate for the Hunting Dog» or out of «Certificate of Origin of Puppy», which are issued with complete information by a cynologist of the club and confirmed by club seal.

**Quality by Offspring** is quality of parents estimated by quality of their direct offspring (puppies of the first generation). This means if their puppies earned field certificates for hunting ability and conformation mark of not less than «good». The dog receives a certain number of points for each puppy depending on his show rating and field trials certificate. Thus, «Excellent» earns 3 points, «Very Good» earns 2 points and «Good» earns 1 point; Certificate I degree earns 3 points, Certificate II degree earns 2 points and Certificate III degree earns 1 point. Only six of the best puppies are taken into account for bonitation.

**Working Qualities** are determined the first (basic) and additional (secondary) certificate.

Values of certificates in number of points are as follows:

- Certificate III degree – 30 points
- Certificate II degree- 35 points
- Certificate I degree – 40 points

Additional (secondary) certificates:

- Certificate III degree – 5 points
- Certificate II degree – 8 points
- Certificate I degree – 10 points

To encourage hunters to maintain versatility of dogs capable of hunting different kinds of game, special certificates for versatility are established:

- Certificate I degree – 3 points
- Certificate II degree – 2 points
- Certificate III degree – 1 point.

#### **Conformation:**

- Good – 20 points
- Very Good – 30 points
- Excellent – 40 points

Points for conformation are calculated based on results of the current show. For example, if the dog was given the score «Very Good» at one dog show, he receives 30 points for conformation. If the same dog receives «Excellent» at another show a month later, at the next bonitation testing, it is given 40 points.

#### **Origin of dog (Pedigree)**

- If the dog has four complete recorded generations of ancestors, he receives 16 points.
- If one of the parents has a field trial certificate, the dog receives 18 points.
- If both parents have field certificates, the dog receives 20 points. This is the highest rating for the origin.

Dogs imported from other countries are allowed in class «Elite», if they have 16 points for the origin.

Bonitation designates four breeding classes. The decision regarding which of the four classes the dog should be placed, is determined by a set of minimal requirements specific to the breed. Minimal requirements are described below:

#### **The Russian Psovaya Borzaya (Borzoi)**

##### **Class Elite and Great Gold Medal.**

- Two certificates, among which one certificate of II degree and one additional certificate;
- or one certificate of II degree and any certificate for «aggressiveness» in single dog hunting test (40 points);
- conformation score «Very Good» (30 points);
- four complete rows of known ancestors (18 points);
- offspring of sire line should include 2 puppies (8 points) and total number of points 96;
- offspring of dam line should include one puppy (4 points) and total number of points 92.

##### **First Pedigree Class and Minor Gold Medal.**

- Two certificates of III degree (one of them for single dog hunting test);
- or one certificate of III degree and any individual certificate for «aggressiveness» (35 points);
- conformation score «Very Good» (30 points);
- and four complete rows of ancestors (16 points);
- total number of points 81.

Note: «Aggressiveness» is a fearless attitude towards a captured wolf.

**Second Pedigree Class and Great Silver Medal.**

- One certificate of III degree or any degree certificate for «aggressiveness» in single dog hunting test;
- or two certificates of III degree for hunting in a pair for «aggressiveness» (30 points);
- conformation «Good» (20 points);
- and four complete rows of ancestors (16 points);
- Total number of points required is 66.

**Third Pedigree Class and Minor Silver Medal.**

- One certificate if III degree for «aggressiveness» hunted in pair (15 points); conformation «Good» (20 points);
- and three complete rows of ancestors (14 points);
- Total number of points is 49.

**The Tazy, the Taigan and the Afghan Sighthound.**

**Class Elite and Great Gold Medal.**

- One certificate of II degree and any secondary certificate of II degree;
- and any certificate for «aggressiveness» in single dog hunting test (40 points);
- conformation «Very Good» (30 points);
- origin regardless of number of recorded ancestors, but data about the parents are needed (10 points);
- 2 puppies of offspring of sire line (8 points);
- and offspring of dam line (4 points);
- Total number of points required for a male is 88, and for a female this number is 84.

**First Pedigree Class and Minor Gold Medal.**

- Two certificates of III degree (among them, one for single dog hunting test);
- or one certificate of III degree and any single hunting certificate for «aggressiveness» (35 points);
- conformation «Very Good» (30 points);
- origin regardless of number of registered ancestors, but data about the parents are necessary (8 points);
- Total number of points required is 73.

**Second Pedigree Class and Great Silver Medal.**

- Any certificate of III degree or certificate of any degree in single dog hunting test for «aggressiveness»;
- or two certificates of III degree in single dog hunting test for «aggressiveness» (30 points);
- conformation «good» (20 points);
- origin regardless of number recorded ancestors, but data about the parents is a must (6 points);
- Total number of points required is 56.

**Third Pedigree Class and Great Silver Medal.**

- One certificate of III degree for «aggressiveness» in two dog hunting test (15 points);
- conformation «good» (20 points);
- origin regardless of number of ancestors on record, but known parents ( 6 points);
- Total number of points required is 41.

**Laikas**

**Class Elite and Great Gold Medal.**

- Two certificates for single dog hunting test;
- one certificate of II degree for furbearing game, hoofed game and grouses birds;
- one certificate for trials with captured bear, duck retrieving and blood tracking (40 points);
- conformation «Very Good» (30 points);
- four complete rows of ancestors (18 points);
- offspring of sire line includes 2 puppies (8 points);
- Total number of points required for male is 96.
- Offspring of dam includes one puppy (4 points) and total number of points required for female is 92.

**First Pedigree Class and Minor Gold Medal.**

- One certificate of II degree for furbearing game in single dog hunting test and for hoofed game, grouses and captured bear;
- or two certificates of III degree, one of which is for the same game in single dog hunting test;

- certificate of III degree for captive bear hunter in pair (35 points);
- conformation «Very Good» (30 points);
- four complete rows of recorded ancestors (16 points);
- Total number of points is 81.

#### **Second Pedigree Class and Great Silver Medal.**

- One certificate of any degree in single dog hunting test or two certificates of III degree hunted in pair for wild boar, hunted in pair for bear and blood tracking (20 points);
- conformation «Good» (20 points);
- and three complete rows of ancestors (16 points);
- Total number of points is 56.

#### **Third Pedigree Class and Minor Silver Medal.**

- One certificate of III degree for wild boar hunted in pair, bear hunted in pair;
- or any certificate for blood tracking (15 points);
- conformation «Good» (20 points);
- any number of recorded ancestors (8 points);
- Total number of points required is 43.

**East Siberian Laikas** are allowed to be placed in any class, if a complete two generations pedigree is on record. For Class Elite, 10 points are required, for First Class, 8 points and for Second Class, 6 points are required.

### **Gun dogs**

#### **Class Elite and Great Gold Medal.**

- Two certificates, one of which is not less than II degree for upland game, waterfowl and grouses are needed;
- For continental pointing dogs additional certificate for waterfowl is allowed (40 points);
- conformation «Very Good» (30 points);
- four complete rows of ancestors (18 points);
- two puppies of sire line (8 points);
- and total number of points for male is 96;
- one puppy of dam line (4 points);
- and total number of required points for a female is 92.

#### **First Class and Minor Gold Medal**

- One certificate of II degree for hunting upland game and grouses;
- or two certificates of III degree for the same kinds of game;
- and an additional certificate for waterfowl;
- For continental gun dogs any certificate for wild boar or blood tracking (35 points);
- conformation «Very Good» (30 points);
- four complete rows of ancestors (16 points);
- Total number of required points is 81.

#### **Second Class Certificate and Great Silver Medal.**

- One certificate of III degree for upland game and grouses (30 points);
- conformation «Good» (20 points);
- and four complete rows of ancestors (16 points);
- Total number of points required is 66.

#### **Third Class and Minor Silver Medal.**

- One certificate of any degree for waterfowl, blood tracking and for wild boar baying (15 points);
- conformation «Good» (20 points);
- and four complete rows of ancestors;
- Total number of points required of 51.

### **Spaniels.**

#### **Class Elite and Great Gold Medal.**

- Two field trial certificates, one of which is at least II degree for upland game, grouses, swamp birds and waterfowl (40 points);
- conformation «Very Good» (30 points);
- and four complete rows of ancestors (18 points);
- Offspring of sire line should include 2 puppies (8 points);

- total number of points for male is 96;
- on dam line one puppy (4 points) is needed;
- Total number of points required is 92.

**First Class and Minor Gold Medal.**

- One certificate of II degree or two certificates of III degree for the same kinds of game as listed above for Class Elite (35 points);
- conformation «Very Good» (20 points);
- four complete rows of ancestors (16 points);
- Total number of points required is 81.

**Second Class and Gread Silver Medal.**

- One certificate of III degree for all kinds of game listed above (30 points);
- conformation «Good» (30 points);
- four complete rows of ancestors (16 points);
- Total number of points required is 76.

**Third Class and Minor Silver Medal.**

- One certificate of any degree for waterfowl, blood tracking and wild boar hunting (15 points);
- conformation «Good» (20 points);
- and four complete rows of ancestors (16 points);
- Total number of points being 51.

**Terriers and Dachshunds.**

**Class Elite and Great Gold Medal.**

- Two certificates, one of which is at least II degree for hunting ground hole animals in single dog hunting test;
- Additional (complementary) certificate of any degree (certificates for waterfowl do not count) (40 points);
- conformation «Very Good» (30 points);
- four complete rows of ancestors (18 points); offspring of sire includes 2 puppies (8 points);
- Total number of points for male is 96;
- offspring of dam includes one puppy (4 points);
- Total number of points for female is 92.

**First Class and Minor Gold Medal.**

- One certificate of II degree for ground hole hunting or two certificates of III degree, one of which must be for ground hole hunting (35 points);
- Certificates for waterfowl do not count; Conformation «Very Good» (30 points);
- and four complete rows of ancestors (16 points);
- Total number of points is 81.

**Second Class and Great Silver Medal.**

- One certificate of III degree for ground hole game (30 points);
- conformation «Good» (20 points);
- and four complete generations of ancestors (16 points);
- Total number of points is 66.

**Third Class and Minor Silver Medal.**

- One certificate of any degree for wild boar and moose in single dog hunting test, blood tracking, waterfowl or certificate for hunting wild boar in pair (15 points);
- conformation «Good» (20 points);
- and four complete generations of ancestors (16 points);
- Total number of points is 51.

**Scent Hounds**

**Class Elite and Great Gold Medal.**

- Two certificates of at least II degree for hare in single dog hunting test (40 points);
- conformation «Very Good» (30 points);
- and four complete rows of ancestors (18 points);
- offspring of sire should include 2 puppies (8 points) and total number of points is 96;
- one puppy of dam (4 points) and total number of points is 92;

- Offspring are evaluated by the ability to hunt hare and fox only.

**First Class and Minor Gold Medal.**

- One certificate of III degree for hunting hare singly or two certificates of III degree for hunting hare in pairs (35 points);
- conformation «Very Good» (30 points);
- and four complete rows of ancestors (16 points);
- Total number of points required is 81.

**Second Class and Minor Silver Medal.**

- One III degree certificate for hunting hare or fox singly or two certificates of III degree for hunting in pairs (20 points);
- conformation «Very Good» (20 points);
- and three complete rows of ancestors (14 points);
- Total number of points required is 54.

**Third Class and Minor Silver Medal.**

- One certificate of any degree for wild boar hunting, blood tracking or waterfowl (15 points);
- conformation «Good» (20 points);
- and three complete rows of ancestors (14 points);
- Total number of points required is 54.

Junior group dogs of any breed, without a certificate for hunting, are evaluated by their conformation only. They are given metal pendants: a large silver pendant for conformation «Very Good», a smaller silver pendant for «Good» and no pendant allowed for «Satisfactory» dogs.

Dogs of junior group, which had earned certificates for hunting, in addition to metal pendants, are given medals according to their rating results by conformation and class rating.

As a result of the complex rating (bonitation), dogs taken first places in Class Elite (one male and one female) are selected as «Champions of Show» and awarded «Great Gold Medal».

High class rating results are recorded in «Certificate of the Hunting Dog» with marks for conformation, total number of earned points, class rating and awards. Owners of dogs, which had been included in Elite Class, receive certificates with records earned by their dogs, place at the bonitation show rink and conformation mark. Dog show with open competition is organized at least at an administrative Province level. Shows conducted by local kennel clubs, city, districts or several districts shows can not designate show champions.

As you can see, «Russian Complex Evaluation» of hunting dogs is well balanced, including conformation, temperament and hunting qualities. It helps to select best dogs for further breeding.



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**«THE AFRICANIS»**

**Johan Gallant**

To reveal the «Africanis» in this long standing and renowned «breed» column is not less than a challenge. It has to be stressed from the onset that the Africanis is NOT a breed as it is currently understood by eurocentric canine fanciers. The phenomenon «Africanis» must be apprehended as a «land race». It is a product of natural selection and spontaneous adaptation to typical but various African environments and to the utilitarian demands of the historical custodians of such dogs.

It is relevant to consider for a moment that, prior to the foundation of modern dogdom with the establishment of The Kennel Club (London) in 1873, many land races prevailed all over the world. There were dogs which pulled sledges in the high North, terriers which attended miners in Yorkshire, sheep dogs in the region of Brie in France, livestock guarding dogs in the Estrella mountains in Portugal and many tens of similar examples. Hence the names Siberian Husky, Yorkshire Terrier, Briard and Estrella Mountain Dog all referring to the geographical region of origin. When consulting the FCI list of

nearly 350 recognised breeds world-wide you will have to conclude that in 70% of all cases, the breed name honours a land race origin. The biggest effort of modern dogdom - and it is modern as it is only 130 years old whereas the dog was domesticated ca. 13,000 years ago - was to streamline this variety of land races into well defined breeds and to create new breeds through extrapolation from and mixing of existing land races. In all these cases a strictly reduced and idealised «foundation stock» was chosen and breeding took place in respect of a *prescriptive* breed standard aiming at cosmetic homogeneity. In this process we obtained many «thoroughly» bred dog breeds and lost the majority of our ancient land races.

The Africanis Society of Southern Africa has made it its task to «conserve» the southern African canine land race as a whole. Southern Africa is a huge geographical area with a variety of ecological niches. Consequently the African dogs over the ages had to adapt to various environmental demands. Therefore the dogs guarding livestock in the Lesotho highlands are different to the multipurpose dogs which accompany the herd boys in the lowlands of Kwazulu Natal. The eurocentric approach would be to consider them as different breeds, to select «appropriate» foundation stocks and to reduce this healthy and well adapted heterogeneous gene pool into a variety of homogeneous but debilitating breeds all responding to a set prescriptive breed standard. Henceforth their intrinsic value would no longer be evaluated based on their natural adaptability to strenuous African conditions but to their conformity to a rigid «breed standard» evaluated in breed shows.

After such a statement it is time to ask where these aboriginal African dogs hailed from and if it is really worth to try to conserve them. More and more scientists agree that the domestic dog is an evolutionary product of southern wolves and that the final step towards domestication took place in the Orient with the «house dog» becoming a reality when humankind from its purely hunter-gathering existence tended to shift to a more sedentary lifestyle. This finally happened towards the end of the Last Ice Age which ended 12,300 BP (before present). From its cradle of domestication the dog soon spread into Eurasia, crossed the Bering Strait into the Americas, travelled with Jomo people to Japan, sailed with Asian seafarers to populate the isles in the Pacific and also accompanied nomadic herdsmen who drove their flocks across the Isthmus of Suez into Africa.

As such the domestic dog is not endemic to Africa. Like in most parts of the world it came as an immigrant. Archaeologists have discovered the earliest remains of domestic dogs on the African continent in Nabta Playa, Merimde-beni-salame and Maadi, all places near the Nile estuary in Egypt. The radiocarbon dating indicates that the domestic made its entrance in Africa nearly 7,000 years ago. For two years I researched and collected all records of archaeological findings and early dates for domestic dog remains on the African continent. I carefully put them on the map, enabling me to follow the distribution in time of the dog in Africa.



able to date these drawings back to 5,700 BP. Further archaeological proof shows that the dog continued its expansion further into western Africa and also along the river Nile into the northern parts of Uganda and Kenya. It has to be noted that this dispersal in the northern part of Africa happened well before the first pharaoh came to rule in Egypt in 5,310 BP.



In summary I can say that during the first millennium after its arrival, the dog first spread along the river Nile into the northern parts of what is now Sudan. Drawings on pottery unearthed near the ancient settlement of Hierakonpolis show dogs on leashes or fitted with collars. It clearly proves that dogs were part of the Neolithic lifestyle in the region. This distinctly definable Neolithic art goes back to 5,700 BP. We have also proof that during that preceding millennium the domestic dog accompanied nomadic herdsmen who drove their flocks into the then not so dry Sahara. Rock paintings discovered in the Hoggar and Tibesti mountains depict hunting scenes with dogs. Here also the archaeologists were

Scientist believe that it was the belt formed by the Equatorial forest that acted as a natural barrier and for a long period in time hindered a further southward expansion of humans and dogs into central and southern Africa. The event of the Early Iron Age in association with the cultural changes that it brought would finally tackle this barrier. We don't know with certainty which were the natural or political pressures which roughly two thousand years ago caused the migration of Early Iron Age Bantu speaking people. Historians place the epicentre of this wandering of nations in the grasslands of present day northern Cameroon. Based on the expansion of language and art styles different migration routes have been identified. For us in Southern Africa one of the eastern expansions is of particular importance. To bypass the Congo basin these agricultural Bantu speakers first moved east and travelled through the southern parts of present day Sudan and northern parts of Uganda and Kenya where they came across an already long-standing cattle farming tradition. As combined agriculturists and stock keepers, they finally traced tsetse-free corridors along the Great Rift valley. Along this route they drove their cattle in the direction of the southern African grasslands. They occupied present day Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana.

It seems that their «voortrekkers» crossed the Limpopo as from the fifth century of our era. The earliest remains of domestic dogs on South African soil have been discovered, identified and dated by Dr. Ina Plug, archaeozoologist and deputy director of the former Transvaal Museum. She told me that the fossils were found in an Early Iron Age site on the farm «Diamant» near Ellisras. The bones have been dated at 570 AD and their structure indicates that some of the dogs were slender, rather long-legged while another type was more stocky. Interestingly, as recent as 1994, Dr. Len Van Schalkwyk explored Early Iron Age sites on the Lower Thukela river in Kwazulu-Natal. He found proof that here also these early immigrants next to their livestock owned dogs and settled in this area by the year 650 AD. The expansion continued and the presence of the dog is established by C.A. Chappel in a Khoisan settlement in Cape St. Francis by 800 AD. This suggests that contact and barter had taken place between Bantu speakers and Khoisan residents. From there the dog spread over the entire country.



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It is interesting to consider for a moment that all the above happened in parallel with the great migrations in Europe. There, the Western Roman Empire was crumbling under the pressure of invading Goths, Franks, Bourgonds, Alans, Germans, Saxons, Huns and others. All these so-called barbarian tribes hailed from the Central Asian hinterland. Some were reputed for the dogs that they brought. Eventually these dogs were mixed with the genes that the Romans had brought with and in their turn had been mixed with the blood of the ancient Celtic dogs. Compare this European canine situation in the year 800 AD with the condition of the dogs in southern Africa which as direct descendants of early domesticated dogs in the East had reached a dog free part of the world. There they adapted and evolved into well-adjusted land races. They became resistant to regional sicknesses and tolerant of prevailing internal and external parasites. They remained free of exotic genes until European colonists brought their dogs. Even then, due to cultural barriers, exotic input in tribal areas remained minimal. The Africanis as an aboriginal land race has - in its various forms - been preserved and can still be found deep in our traditional tribal lands. Don't go and look for them in our modern townships or squatter camps. They have survived with the African culture in former «homelands». However, their natural state is increasingly coming

under threat because of their changing environment and the eurocentric approach which still considers them as rejects and bequeath this unfounded opinion to the public at large.

You might be surprised that I do not formulate a «prescriptive» breed standard for these dogs. As I mentioned before, the fancy of breed standards is only 130 years old. It serves the purpose of prescribing and

guiding the continuation of artificially selected breeds. In the case of the Africanis we are dealing with a «natural» breed because it was nature and the stringent conditions of African environments which over all these centuries were responsible for the state of affairs. The Africanis Society therefore believes that their first and foremost effort should be to conserve this broad and ancient gene pool. Efforts are being made to compile a DNA profile. Only after this scientific guide becomes available will planning for the future be put in place.

After having observed and studied Africanis in their natural habitats and in my home for the past ten years, I must admit that they are genuine dogs. Their behavioural patterns are intense and unspoiled. They are very attached to their people, unobtrusive, non-demanding, extremely intelligent and hardy. They are eager to learn and to work, especially in situations where they can use their natural intelligence. For example, teach them to track or to search and you will be stupefied by the results. They will even accept our classic «obedience» drill but they will only enjoy it when positively reinforced. Without doubt, they are dogs for the open spaces. Anybody living in the countryside and leading an active life will thoroughly enjoy them. Even though they might adapt to city life it must be a nightmare for them.

To conclude I must stress that not all dogs of indefinite origin which roam great metropolitan streets or end up at the SPCA should henceforth be coined «Africanis». The native African dog is most likely to be found in traditional rural African homesteads.

**Johan Gallant** - chairman of the Africanis Society of Southern Africa, author of: *The Story of the African Dog* published by the University of Natal Press, 2002, ISBN 1-86914-024-9

## ON THE PRESERVATION OF A CULTURAL HERITAGE

**By Sarah de Monchy and Pieter Keijzer**

### **About the authors**

*It was in 1987 that my good friend Pieter Keijzer and I, Sarah de Monchy, decided together to take a dog, ending up with both having a Samoyed puppy, two males of the same litter. Neither of us had experienced a Samoyed before. We selected this breed, as we wanted a dog that was friendly to strangers and fit to accompany us when camping and hiking in the mountains. So it had to be a good walker, protected by an all-weather coat. These little white bears developed into beautiful wolfish dogs, easy to take everywhere, great company on winter and summer holidays and a feast for the eye when playing with each other or running and hunting through fields and woods, now and then checking in with me, their eyes shining of sheer joy in live.*

*Today, I share my live with two sons of the last litter sired by one of these two dogs. Now, as the second generation I owe has turned seven years old, and if reaching the same age as their father, I will be enjoying their company for seven more years to come. But the looks of these dogs, that have become so familiar to me, appear to be getting pretty rare. And I have become more and more aware of the fact that the chances for obtaining such dogs ever again, are diminishing every day.*

*Through the years the interest in the breed grew with both of us. In Pieter's case, it became a hobby to find out more about the background of the breed, triggered by the dive he took in the library of the University of Amsterdam, in search for Samoyedic names for the pups. The fruit of several years reading and collecting books, articles and pictures of early Samoyeds is now gradually to be found on the website on the history of the Samoyed dog that he is building. This website, [www.oldams.info](http://www.oldams.info), is still under construction and in Dutch only, but a translation in English is on its way and many pictures are yet to be viewed.*

### **Part I: A short history of the Samoyed dog in its home country**

#### ***Introduction***

To write a history of the Samoyed dog one has to consider that the live and tasks of the aboriginal Samoyed dogs, the dogs living with the Samoyed peoples, differ considerably with that of the Samoyed dogs now living in the Western civilized world. The modern Samoyed dogs have, thanks to the ever increasing demand to score on dog shows, even undergone a considerable change in exterior compared to the aboriginal Samoyed dogs.

The Samoyed dog is originally an all white dog with long standing fur and a vivid and athletic appearance. The name of this breed is derived from the Samoyedic speaking peoples living on the tundra's and in the taiga's of Northern European Russia and North-west Siberia, globally stretching from the White Sea in the West to the Taymir Peninsula in Siberia. As the history of aboriginal dogs is linked with that of the peoples - as Vladimir

Beregovoy already pointed out in his article in the first issue of R-PADS newsletter - we must, in order to be able to sketch a background picture, turn our attention a little towards the Samoyed peoples first.

### ***Language and culture***

The Samoyeds are not one people but a group of peoples speaking Samoyed languages, languages that are distantly related to the Finno-Ugrian languages, such as Finnish, Hungarian, Komi, Permian Khanty, Mansi and other languages.

Both the Samoyed and Finno-Ugrian languages belong to the Uralic language group, the Uralians being the far forefathers of the peoples speaking these languages. These Uralians are thought to have lived in what is now called European Russia, near the Ural Mountains.

The Samoyed language group now encompasses the languages of the Nenets, Enets, Sel'kup and Nganasan, the latter being the northernmost living peoples of the world. All of these names refer to our word for «Man».

The Nenets are the most numeral of the Samoyed peoples, numbering about 30.000 people. The smallest group of Samoyeds are the Enets, numbering 209 Enets speaking people counted in 1989 and listed as endangered peoples beyond the point of no return. More Samoyed peoples, like the Kamason, Motor etc., have existed but are now extinct. One of them as recently as 1919, when the last Kamason died.

Although already in the 17<sup>th</sup> century the Englishman Peter Mundy and the Dutchman Nicolaes Witsen had published several Nenets words, a real study of the languages was only published in the 1820<sup>ss</sup> by the Finnish linguist Mattias Alexander Castrén.

At the time of the first imports of Samoyed dogs (the last decennium of the 19<sup>th</sup> century) the Nenets were living in the broad area from the White Sea in the West to the mouth of the Yenissei river in the East. The Enets were then living on the Eastern shores of the Yenissei river from about Golchika in the North down toward the town of Turuchansk. The Nganasans lived (and still live) on the Taimyr Peninsula. Another part of the Samoyeds remained living in Southern Siberia and the Sayan mountains. Their languages, most of them extinct nowadays, are called the Southern Samoyed languages. Of these, one group - the Sel'kup (Söl'kup or Shöl'kup as they call themselves) - also went northward to finally end up living near the mouth of the river Taz. Because of their cultural resemblance with the Ostyaks (Khanty) they were called «Ostyak-Samoyeds» by the Russians.

### ***Live-style and economy***

By origin all the Samoyeds were hunters, but changes in their live-style made most of them turn into reindeer herding peoples. Only the Nganasan, living extreme North and isolated, kept up their reindeer hunting live-style even in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Other means of economy still had a neolithic hunting-gathering character: they were fishing, they were hunting squirrels and sables in the forests, seals, walruses, ice-bears in the Polar Sea and they gathered different eatable plants and berries on tundra and in taiga. Their main food supply though has always been the meat of reindeer.

At the time of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the time of the first imports of Samoyed dogs, the Nenets and Enets still could be divided in Tundra-Nenets and Tundra-Enets on the one side, and Forest-Nenets and Forest-Enets on the other, having developed dialectical forms of their languages. Nowadays this division remains only within the group of Nenets-speaking peoples.

The Samoyeds had to pay taxes in the form of skins (mostly sable skins, later also squirrel skins) to the Russian Tsar. For paying their tribute to the local tax collector, they had to travel to the nearest town during the annual fairs being held there. Besides the fact that the skins were used as means for paying taxes, they were also used as commercial trade commodities enabling these people to buy common house-keeping things and tools. The demand for skins was so big that the rich population of sables and squirrels nearly reached the point of extinction in the whole of Siberia.

### ***Marriage and family live***

Finding a husband or wife was a complex matter in Samoyed live: bound by rules of exogamy, Samoyed men and women were not allowed to just marry the one they loved. They probably understood inbreeding earlier than anyone in the West or at least they must have known the consequences by experience. For example, the Enets tribe of Baggo were not allowed to marry with members of the Masodaj, Lodoseda, Bunala, Dekutan, Sado and Sonuko tribes.

They lived in family tribes in tents made of birch-rind, many times covered with reindeer skin in the winter. Differences in possession of numbers of reindeer could be big: ranging from just a few reindeer for poor families to several hundreds or even thousands for rich families.

All the Samoyed peoples had a nomadic life-style, except from those who had lost their reindeer by epidemics of anthrax and therefore were forced to live a more sedentary life near Russian towns and villages. The

reindeer being driven northward by raising temperatures in spring, the families had to follow their herd, reaching in summertime the shores of the Arctic Ocean, where they lived hunting seals and walruses. In autumn they returned south, living during the wintertime along the fringe of the taiga. Dependent of the width of the tundra, they sometimes had to travel for several hundreds of kilometres before reaching the shores of the ocean.

### ***War and peace***

The Samoyeds were not so peaceful as is generally thought. It is true that alcoholism kept them down, but reports from Nicolaes Witsen in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century show us that they were involved in wars towards their Russian neighbours and even attacked the town of Pustozersk, located in the delta of the Petchora river.

A poem of a Dutch 18<sup>th</sup> century Navy officer describes the attack on his vessel which was anchored in the frozen White Sea. These attacks may have been caused by famine in order to get food. Remarkable in the mentioned poet is the description of «whistling» arrows. 20<sup>th</sup> century anthropological research showed that indeed they were using these types of arrows among other types.

Wars between Samoyedic tribes and other peoples, like the Ostyaks, seem also to have been quite common. Many times the goal here was to obtain the other tribe's wives. Another reason for tribal warfare was the illegal use of the tundra pastures. The tundra was not common ground, but tribes «owned» their pastures and the boundaries were marked by marking stones.

Disputes among clan members were solved by the head of the clan, sometimes also referred to as the «king».

Much, much more can be said about these peoples, but that would be outside the scope of the article. From here on then we shall turn our attention towards the aboriginal Samoyed dogs.

### ***The Samoyed dogs***

Aboriginal Samoyed dogs do resemble the white Arctic wolf strongly. Of course, depression caused by domestication has altered the morphology from that of the original in the wild living animal, just like it happened to many other domesticated animals like sheep, goats, cows and also the cat.

As Vladimir Beregovoy in his article «Primitive Aboriginal Dogs» has already mentioned in R-PADS Newsletter #1, domestication of the dog took place in Asia about 15.000 years ago. But that of course does not mean that all aboriginal dogs were domesticated at that time.

The determination of the time of the first domestication of the dog is based on findings of animal remains and the results of zooarcheological research.

But to find an answer on the question since when the Samoyed peoples used dogs,

leaving out the question whether they have domesticated the wolf themselves, one cannot base himself on zooarcheological findings, as those findings never could be connected to a certain people. Instead, one has to turn towards linguistics.



**Nenets with mongrel dog at the outskirts of Archangelsk, early 20th century**

From etymology there is no indication that the Uralics knew the dog. Neither is there any indication that the Proto-Finno-Ugrians knew the dog. An etymology for dog appears only in the Proto-Samoyed language, the language that all Samoyed peoples once spoke before they split up in the peoples known today.

As the division of the Uralians into Proto-Finno-Ugrians and Proto-Samoyeds is thought to have taken place about 3000 BC, that must then be seen as being the earliest possible date for the use of dogs by the Proto-Samoyeds.

Where exactly the Proto-Samoyeds started to use dogs is of course not known, but at that time they most probably lived near the sources of the rivers Ob and Yenissei in the neighbourhood of the Sayan Mountains in Southern Siberia. The Proto-Samoyeds being neolithic hunters-gatherers, it is most likely that these dogs served them in helping to catch prey, a task which the dogs in one way or another have kept until recent times.

Due to circumstances not known to us, a part of the Proto-Samoyeds moved northwards leaving the regions in and around the mountains of Central-Asia to finally settle down in the Polar Regions. Probably they were then already speaking different dialects, which would later develop into separate languages. They were the early Nenets, Enets and Nganasan. Their languages are now called the Northern Samoyed languages.

The language of the Sel'kup belongs to the group of Southern Samoyed languages. The Sel'kup people followed the above mentioned three later in moving northward.

Of course, we do not know how the dogs of the Proto-Samoyeds looked like. We do not even know whether they domesticated the wolves themselves, but as all Northern-Samoyeds were using the same type of dog, it may be considered that indeed they domesticated the white wolf during the time they still formed one people.

Such domestication can not have taken place in Northern parts of Siberia as, on arriving there, they were already split up. It may even be considered that an eventual domestication might have taken place from a population of Arctic wolves driven South by the last Ice Age. But these are, of course, all speculations.



Musti, imported November 1893 from Golchika, Siberia

European Russia. On these stretches, dogs that accompanied the Nenets were not all of them pure white, but could have any colour and be of any type!

Descriptions of pure white dogs reaches us from travellers visiting the Bolshezemel'skaya tundra, the biggest tundra in European Russia which stretches from the Petchora river in the west to the Ural mountains in the East, called Arka-ya by the Nenets.

One of these men was the British ornithologist Henry Seebohm from Sheffield. He saw in 1875 the dogs being used for herding:

#### *Early Western descriptions of exterior and use of dogs*

The early travellers were probably not so much interested in the Samoyed dogs they must have seen together with the Samoyed people. Men like the Dutchman Jan Huygen van Linschooten (companion of Willem Barentz during his journey to find a Northern route to India) in the 1590th, the British Peter Mundy, the Dutchman Nicolaes Witsen and the German-Dutch Evert Ysbrandt Ides in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and later travellers from 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century all described the Samoyed people in their journals without mentioning dogs.

It is first in the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century that Western travellers turned their attention towards the looks and use of the Samoyed dog. By that time hundreds of years of contacts with Russians and non-Samoyed

peoples had caused a diversion of dog types, at least on the westernmost tundra's and taiga's of

The Samoyedes proved themselves expert in throwing the lasso. In the left hand they held a small coil of rope, in the right hand the larger half. The lasso was thrown with an underhand fling, and generally successfully over the horns of the animal at the first attempt. The left hand was then pressed close to the side so as to bring the shock of the sudden pulling up of the reindeer at full speed against the thigh. When a reindeer found itself caught, it generally made desperate efforts to escape, but was usually on its haunches gasping for breath in a few seconds. The Samoyede then hauled in the rope, or, if it was nearly out at full length, another Samoyede came up and began to haul it in nearer to the animal. When he was close to it he took hold of the horns, and with a side twist, brought the reindeer down on to the snow. The Russian to whom the fifty reindeer belonged then approached, and taking a thong of three-plait matting from a bunch at his belt, tied one of the animal's forelegs to the hind leg on the same side; crossing the feet, but keeping the legs parallel at the point of ligature.



**Antarctic Buck, offspring from dogs taken to Antarctica by the Borchgrevink expedition and obtained in Australia by**

**Mr. and Mrs. Kilburn Scott**

within reach of the animals they wanted. The deer kept together; if one ran out of bounds a dog was sent after it and soon brought it back again. In one respect the reindeer resemble sheep; wherever one goes, the rest try to follow.

In this herd the greater number were females (vahshinka), with good horns; these they do not cast till they drop their young. A few were males (horre), their new horns just appearing. Those chiefly used in the sledges were cut reindeer (buck), also without horns. Some of the hornless animals leaped right through the lasso and others were caught by the leg.

The lasso is a cord about one hundred feet long, made of two thongs of reindeer skin plaited together, so as to make a round rope three-eighths of an inch in diameter. The noose is formed by passing the cord through a small piece of bone

with two holes in it. The lasso passes freely through the hole, while the end is fastened to a little bone peg with a bone-washer to prevent it

As soon as the reindeer was left, he made wild efforts to rise and walk; and sometimes succeeded in hobbling a few paces. Finding his strength give way with his frantic efforts to escape, he generally rested with his foreknees on the snow for a time; and finally lay down quietly. A dozen reindeer were soon on the ground. The scene became quite exciting; the reindeer were wheeling round and round in circles. The dogs tied to the sledges barked furiously, and evidently wished to have a share in the sport. The dogs selected by the Samoyedes to help them to get within lasso range of the deer, rushed frantically about at the command of their masters, whose loud cries added to the excitement of the scene. Sometimes a herd of reindeer ran over a place where the snow was unable to bear their weight; and it was interesting to watch them snorting and plunging. As the number caught increased, the difficulty also increased of identifying and catching the remaining few of the fifty that belonged to the Russian, and the Samoyedes with the lassos were driven about in sledges at a rapid pace to get



**Houdin, from the Italian North Polar Expedition and brought to England**

slipping through the other hole.

The dogs were all white except one, which was quite black. They were stiff-built little animals, somewhat like Pomeranian dogs, with fox-like heads and thick bushy hair; their tails turned up over the back and curled to one side. This similarity between the Pomeranian and Samoyede dogs is a rather curious fact, for Erman mentions a race of people who, he says, resemble the Finns, both in language and features, in a district of Pomerania called Samogitia, inhabited by the Samaites. (Henry Seebohm, Siberia in Europe. London, 1880, p. 65-67)



Samoved man with dogs and sledge, carrying a seal at Novaya Zemlya. Early 20<sup>th</sup> century

the Siberian tundra»s differed from the European tundra»s: from the Yamal Peninsula in the West to the Taimyr Peninsula east of the mouth of the Yenissei river, white dogs could be found. Here it must be mentioned that the white aboriginal Samoyed dogs were not only used by the Samoyeds but also by the Reindeer-Khanty, whose summer pastures reached as far north as the Southern part of the Yamal Peninsula. In the East, some Dolgan tribes – neighbour to the Nganasan-Samoyeds - used to have white dogs as well.

The Russian anthropologist A. A. Popov researched the Nganasan-Samoyeds in the 1930»s. On their dogs he writes:

«Reindeer herd dogs are a great help in gathering the herd and in catching individual domesticated reindeer. They are a breed of short-legged, Arctic, white dogs [known elsewhere as «Samoyed» dogs] which somewhat resemble polar foxes. All a herdsman has to do is give a shout, and the dogs will drive all the scattered reindeer to one spot at once. The Nganasan supply their neighbours, the Dolgan and the northern Yakut, with herd dogs, and they fetch high prices. These dogs are usually kept tied inside the tent or to a sledge with adjustable blocks» (A. Popov, The Nganasan, The Hague, 1966. p.76)

The dogs are tied on each sides of the entrance and behind the hearth. In cold weather

Though not completely misplaced, we shall leave the last remark of Seebohm for what it is, as an historical explanation of it would bring us far outside the scope of this article. With regard to the Samoyed dogs on the European tundra»s, the existence of white dogs only on the

Bolshezemel»skaya tundra, is confirmed by L.S. Berg, President of the All-Union Geographical Society of the U.S.S.R. somewhere in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The situation on

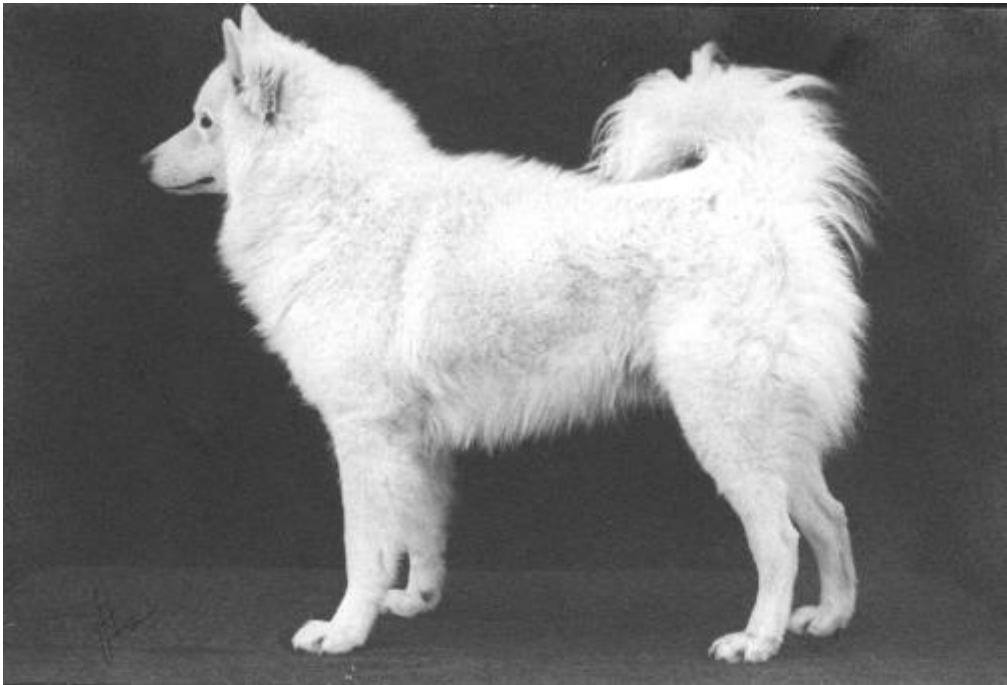


Ayesha, imported 1912 from Novaya Zemlya

they are not let out of the tent at all. They put the puppies, which are allowed to walk on the beds during the day, into a bag at night, so that they will not disturb people's sleep. In the morning, they shake the bag and let the puppies out. (ibid. p. 96)

The Nganasan had an economy based on both the herding of domesticated reindeer and the hunting of wild ones. He describes the use of dogs in helping to catch wild reindeer:

«Certain types of collective hunting which had in the not too distant past great economic significance, and have been preserved until our times among the Nganasan, are of great interest. These are the slaughter and penning of wild reindeer in nets.



Lobi, probably one of the last imports

reindeer into the lane. The signalers then would spring up, crying out and waving garments about, thus driving the reindeer further. At the narrow end of the lane the reindeer would be met by the arrows of two or three hunters armed with bows. The flags served as a sort of hedge keeping the reindeer from running aside. This method of hunting was called «ngatangiru». If the reindeer were near a lake, then the flags were planted in a single row. Opposite from this line, at some distance of it, people would station themselves in place of the second row of flags. Then the reindeer would be driven into the water by dogs along the lane thus formed. Then the hunters on the other side of the lake would at once go out in their canoes to kill the wild reindeer with long shafted spears. This method of hunting was called «suodisiti bantanu».

The two methods of hunting described were used most often in the summer, at the time of the molting of the geese, by several hunters working together. For example, the slaughter might be accomplished by three or even two hunters. As one of them patrolled the lake, the other, aided by dogs, which are greatly feared by wild reindeer, would drive the wild reindeer into the water. When the reindeer reached the lake, the second hunter would quickly go out in his canoe and kill them with a spear» (ibid. p. 35)

We can clearly see that for hunting wild reindeer in fact no specific hunting qualities were required. On the contrary, in the hunt on wild reindeer, people made use of the herding and driving qualities of the dogs!

Such driving qualities were also needed for the hunt for geese:

«When there are only a few geese on hand, they are driven and hunted down by dogs along a lake or river bank. Using this method, several men with dogs lie around a lake on which there are geese. One or two hunters go about the lake in canoes and drive the geese to the bank. (.....). When the geese come out onto the bank, the hunters which are lying in wait for them hunt them down with dogs. Usually such hunting does not produce great results, since some of the geese almost always get away.» (ibid. p. 47)

Dogs were also used during the summer migrations:

«During the summer migrations, a man well acquainted with the region will walk, with his staff in his hand, at the head of the caravan. He is followed by several men on foot with dogs who drive the herds of freely roaming reindeer. ....»(ibid. p. 102)

«Flags»(labaka) used to be indispensable appurtenances of summer stalking of wild reindeer. They were long stripes of skin, decorated with black, or else white fans of partridge wings, hung on the ends of long sticks.

Hunters following a herd of wild reindeer would plant the flags in the form of two diverging rows, leaving between them a space of 4 to 6 metres. «Signalers» (seriti) would hide near one row of flags, at the wide end of the lane.

The cleverest hunter, driving a sledge drawn by two domesticated reindeer, would drive a herd of wild

### ***The first imports***

It is probably thanks to the English captain Joseph Wiggins that the first all-white dogs came to Europe. Joseph Wiggins was a ships captain who, after a career on the commercial ocean-going trade, decided to return to the old dream of his youth: the exploration of the northern sea-route. His goal was to find a route for commercial trade with Siberia, which was rich with minerals. Altogether he made in the period 1875-1895 six expeditions, which led him to the Yenissei river and even as far upstream as the town of Yenisseisk in Southern Siberia. He seems to have taken several dogs with him on his returns to England. Unfortunately there is no documentation on these imports.

A British timber merchant, E. Kilburn Scott, being on business trip to Archangelsk, bought a puppy as a present for his wife from Samoyeds living not far from that town. This dog, named Sabarka, was not at all white but brown with white at feet and tail. Another recorded import, Whitey Petchora, was also not pure white. The first known pure white dog was taken home late 1893 by Francis Leybourne Popham. Travelling with his own ship to Siberia in a convoy of other ships under the command of captain Joseph Wiggins, he bought a pure white dog from Tundra-Enets living at Golchika. A picture of this dog is abusively named «imported 1894 .....

Thanks to personal connections of captain Joseph Wiggins - friendships made during his travels - it was possible for both the Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen and the British explorer Frederick George Jackson in the 1890<sup>th</sup> to obtain dogs from Siberia for their expeditions. Dogs could be obtained from a dog merchant who bought them at the village of Beresowa during the annual fair. Of the dogs bought, most of them were pure white, but as Nansen complained, some of them were castrated. As the Khanty had the habit of leading the pulling rope of their sledges underneath the belly of the dogs and as this caused damage and infections on the testicles of the male dogs, and as these males were for that reason castrated, it might be presumed that the castrated dogs which the explorers had bought were of Khanty origin.

Some of the dogs G.F. Jackson used on his expedition have been brought home to England and formed, among other imported dogs, the start of the worldwide population of Samoyed dogs.

Three other famous imports were the dogs Antarctic Buck, Houdin and Ayesha. Houdin was presented to or bought by E. Kilburn Scott from the Duke of Abruzzi, commander of the Italian North Polar Expedition.

Ayesha was taken to Archangelsk from Novaya Zemlya by Nenets. She was pure white, though there must be doubts as to whether she was of a pure aboriginal Samoyed bloodline, as in the late 90<sup>th</sup>s of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the governor of the province of Archangelsk, Alexander Platonovich Engelhardt, had ordered to send each year mongrel dogs from Archangelsk to Novaya Zemlya to keep up the number of dogs living there. Dogs at Novaya Zemlya lived a short live due to fights, diseases and harsh circumstances, but they were of economic importance for the Samoyeds living there because dogs were used to haul their sledges in the absence of reindeer on these islands.

Of Ayesha exist only a few vague pictures. One of them is presented here.

The world population of Samoyed dogs can therefore be seen as having been derived from only a handful of imported aboriginal Samoyed dogs. What that meant and what it led to, can be read in Part II of this article.

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- ✓ Article, more 12-14 thousands of characters plus 4-5 photographs formatted JPG or TIFF, resolution 300 dpi.
- ✓ Review, 8-12 thousands of characters plus 2-3 black and white photographs, IPG or TIFF, resolution 300 dpi.
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