

Primitive and Aboriginal Dog Society

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

Dear members of the Russian Branch of the Preservation of Primitive and Aboriginal Dogs Society,

We open this issue of the Newsletter of R-PADS with some information, which we expect will be of great interest to all interested in aboriginal dogs. This information is about the first International Conference Aboriginal dog breeds as part of the biodiversity and cultural heritage of humankind". The Conference will take place in September 2007, in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

An article by a noted cynologist of the XXth century, N. Chelishchev opens the Newsletter. It describes the types of Borzoi (the Russian Psovaya Borzaya), which existed before the Revolution. This should be of interest to all interested in the preservation of this genetic diversity in this unique breed.

A polemical article by Ilgam Gasymzade and Namik Azizov raises an important problem about dog fights, their traditions, forms and importance for the selection of Asian sheep guarding dogs and the place of dog fights in modern society.

A fresh approach to the problem of aboriginal hunting Laikas is discussed in an article by B. L. Korneichuk. He is our new author. His point of view was ignored until recent times, but during the last decade new materials describing the history of the creation of purebred hunting Laika breeds have been published.

The last article in the Newsletter is a sketch about the traditional northern dog races called "Beringia". We hope it will let you have a closer look at the world, which created one of the most unique group of sled dogs united by the name of Sled Laikas.

Respectfully,
Editorial Board of the Russian Branch of PADS

PROGRAM
of the first international conference:
«Aboriginal dog breeds as a part of biodiversity and of the cultural heritage of
humankind»
(Almaty, Kazakhstan, September 10-15, 2007)

The dog was the first animal domesticated by humans; other species were domesticated at a considerably later time. Two species, the dog and the horse, were especially crucial for the development of civilization. In modern times, the role of these species, our first satellites and allies, has become less important. There are, however, still many facets of our life in which it is hard to do without a dog. Dogs are our protectors and our assistants in hunting and herding, guard cattle and property, guide and assist the disabled, and are used for search and rescue in places hit by disasters. They help us to uphold the law and are our friends and companions.

During most of the history of our civilization, there have been breeds different from those which we know today, the ones which have been developed during the last couple of centuries using modern methods of selection. The older breeds were relatively purebred dogs specialized to perform a particular service, or 'breedless' dogs suitable for a variety of purposes. Dogs hunted with humans and protected them and their homes from predators and robbers, guarded caravans and herds, took part in wars, worked with teams rescuing the wounded from battlefields, and were used as entertainers and companions. In the past, working ability was valued more than appearance. Nowadays such dogs are labeled as 'primitive.' They are not recognized by cynological organizations, and the majority of breeders are not interested in them. Their populations in their original areas of distribution are shrinking to such an extent that they can be considered endangered.

They well deserve to be a part of the biodiversity of the planet. Our task is to preserve them as we got them from our ancestors, and so to make it possible for future generations to enjoy their remarkable qualities. This is particularly important because dogs, unlike wild animals, cannot survive in parks and nature reserves; they need the participation of their human owners. In Central Asia alone, during the last hundred years, the Javzy, Karateginka, Gurdji, the Kalmyk Spitz and the Kazakh Spitz have disappeared. Several breeds of local herding or hunting dogs, such as the Kazakh Tobet, Kyrgyz Dobot, and the Tajik Dakhdarma, the Tazy of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and the Taigan of Kyrgyzstan have nearly become extinct. The Institute of Ecological Monitoring, the Club of Purebred Dogs of Kazakhstan, and the International Primitive and Aboriginal Dog Society are planning the first International Conference on Aboriginal Breeds of Dogs as Part of Biodiversity and of the Cultural Heritage of Humankind. The event will take place in September, 2007, in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

The Goal of the Conference: to awaken the public to the possibility of the extinction of aboriginal dog breeds, breeds which have played an important role in the development of civilization, and which at present find themselves on the verge of extinction in most parts of the world

Major topics of the Conference:

1. Breeds and groups of breeds of different countries, their history, distribution and contemporary state.
 2. Selective breeding of aboriginal breeds.
 3. Peculiarities of breeding, keeping, feeding and veterinary assistance concerning aboriginal dogs.
 4. Importance of aboriginal dogs as a part of biodiversity and cultural heritage.
 5. Information about activities of International Society of Primitive Aboriginal Dogs (PADS).
 6. Within framework of the Conference, there will be a round table "Aboriginal Dogs of Kazakhstan, their history, preservation and future". We are open for suggestions of other topics of round tables about aboriginal dogs and other related topics.
 7. Presentations. "Primitive Breeds – Perfect Dogs", 2000: Don Hoflin Publ., by Vladimir Beregovoy.
- We call for other claims for presentations of other publications about aboriginal dogs.

Organizational Committee accepts applications from interested participants until February 1, 2007; please, include:

- **Full name**
- **Employment position, title, rank or honor, if any**
- **Mailing address, including postal index**
- **E-mail address**
- **Telephone, including city code**

- **Title of the presentation (report to the general audience, or visual presentation)**
- **Need for assistance with obtaining Visa**
- **Need for reservation in a hotel.**

The next information letter about the first international conference “Aboriginal Breeds of Dogs as Parts of Biodiversity and Cultural Heritage of Humankind” will be sent only on request and to e-mail as indicated by the participant.

We ask interested participants to submit applications to one of the following addresses:

- aliska@ntelos.net – Vladimir Beregovoy (USA)
- elchor@nursat.kz - Konstantin Plakhov (Kazakhstan)
- logoveg@mail.ru - Marina Kuzina (Russia).

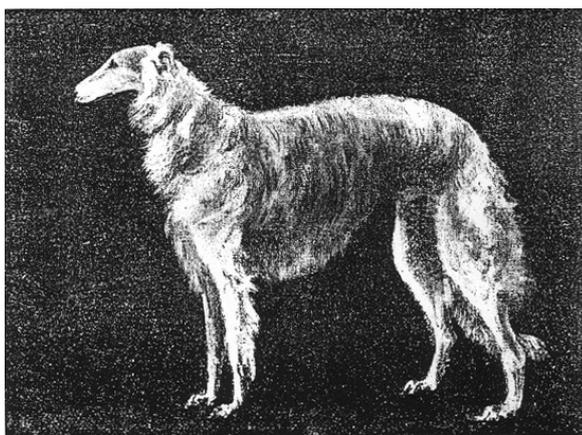
Organizational Committee reserves the right to accept or reject submitted materials.

BASIC TYPES OF BORZOI BEFORE THE REVOLUTION

N. Chelishchev

In December, 1925, at the Convention of Cynologists, among other standards of dog breeds existing in the USSR, there was established a breed standard of Borzoi (Russian Psovaya Borzaya).

This standard is not just a result of the work of the Convention mentioned above. It was developed long ago at meetings of borzoi hunters, by publications and dog shows and it was only approved at the Convention of Cynologists in 1925. Thus, the standard or established appearance of the Borzoi with all its characteristic traits is not debated by anyone and it cannot be debated. Henceforth, any Borzoi must satisfy all the requirements of this standard, in other words, it must possess all the basic traits stated in the standard.



ZIGAN I. (Gold medal.)

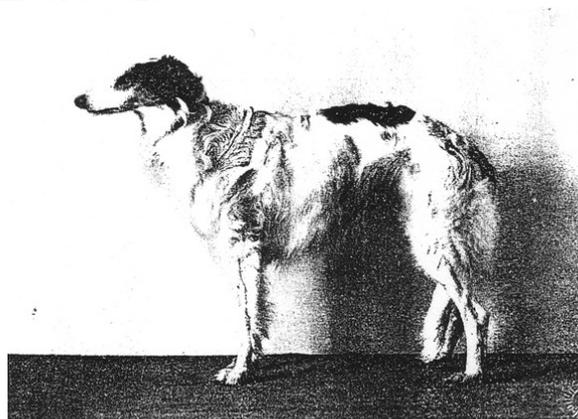
powerful muscles on the shoulders, the back and particularly the hind legs and generally projected an impression of a robust and powerful dog. Accordingly, its head was broad with a broad, solid, straight and long muzzle (part of the head between eye and nose). The color of the eyes was always agate black and they were large and protruding, the ears were small, triangular and always upstanding, when the dog was alert, but when relaxed, the ears were folded back like scissors. Vysheslavtsev perfectly conveyed this type of dog in the drawing of his own well known Russian male named Udaloy published in the magazine of Sabaneev.

The second breed, the Psovaya Borzaya, had less thick and long hair; it had a smaller and lighter skeleton and its legs and muscles were therefore less developed. The head of the Psovaya was narrow and long with a trend to a rather thin pointed muzzle, with black or hazel brown eyes and small ears set high on the occiput, which rarely became upright, when the dog was excited, but they merely slightly elevated. The ends of the ears were hanging with the tips directed forward or to the sides. I should also add that the two breeds were different in the position of the neck. The neck of the Gustopsovaya was short and its head was positioned perfectly horizontally; in the Psovaya the neck was arched and the head was tilted with muzzle directed slightly down. Finally, besides the differences listed above, there was a difference in coat color. Gustopsovaya was always light colored, starting from pure white, whereas the Psovaya was predominately dark colored, starting from black.

These are all external traits differentiating the two breeds of Borzoi.

I can tell that there was no serious difference in inner qualities, except one pertinent to the use of strength. The Gustopsovaya was fast over short distances, whereas the Psovaya could maintain a prolonged chase. The character of the terrain, where each of the two breeds was used, determined this.

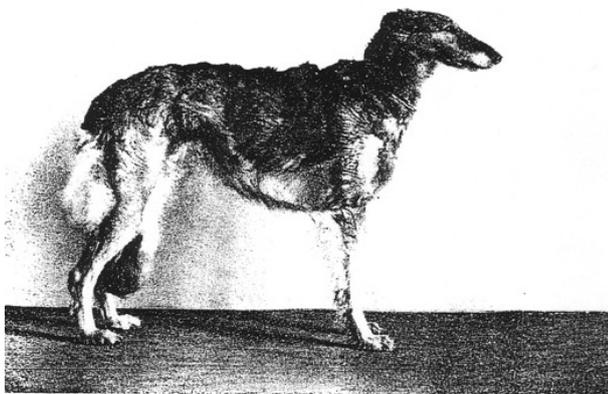
As I wrote above, the Gustopsovaya Borzaya was distributed in the most northern regions and in most forested regions. Therefore, it caught game in small fields and even in small spaces between forests and clearings,



IRAN.

where lighting speed and “brosok” (the last dash for catching) was required, because game would rapidly vanish out of sight, crossing a small open space. The Psovaya Borzaya was distributed in the more southern regions, where a chase over a longer distance was needed while the game remained in sight for a longer time.

Being adapted to the hunting habitat, the Gustopsovaya Borzaya used up all its strength; the Psovaya used its energy sparingly.



F E I A.

press and at conventions, there were debates among hunters about the conformation of the Gustopsovaya and the Psovaya Borzaya and all this ended with developing a general unifying standard of the “Psovaya Borzaya”, and the name “Gustopsovaya” became obsolete.

Since that time, when the above-mentioned Society was founded, these dogs were named only as “Psovaya Borzaya” and hunters, using the remaining dogs, started to breed them, creating their own types of similar appearance, but different in minor details.

Those details were determined by the taste of each individual breeder, but in general they were approaching the older types of either the Gustopsovaya or the Psovaya Borzaya.

It should be to the credit of many hunters with the Psovaya for their passionate effort and great energy in this direction that their work was rewarded with complete success in creating a Russian Psovaya Borzaya, combining extraordinary beauty with excellent hunting qualities.

In the central belt of Russia, by the time of the Communist revolution, there were seven types of the Psovaya Borzaya: 1) Pershino, 2) Ozerov, 3) Boldarev, 4) Chelishchev, 5) Sumarokov, 6) Geierov and 7) Bibikov.

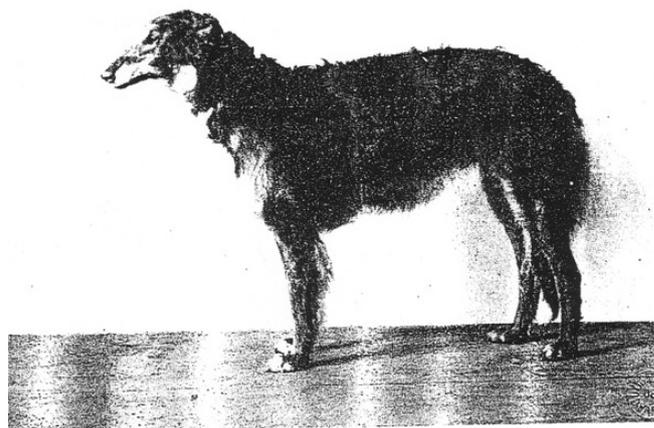
Their differentiating traits were as follows:

1) Pershino Borzois united the best lines of ancient Borzois and were divided into two groups, dogs with dark coat color and dogs with light coat color. Dogs with dark coat color had narrow lean head, slightly Roman by the end of muzzle, dark protruding eyes, and ears set high and correctly folded on the back of head. Height was from 29 3/4 to 30 3/4 inches. Their hair was rather thick, soft and wavy, but not curling. The tail was slender and correctly sickle shaped. They were light built dogs and not heavy boned. Generally, they were approaching the ancient type of Psovaya Borzaya. They were fast in the field, but not too aggressive. Dogs of the light coat color differed mainly in the head, which was also narrow, lean and long, but the muzzle was straight. Their height was the same. The hair was mainly curled. They were more massive and better boned and were closer to the Gustopsovaya Borzaya, but at a later time, the Pershino Hunt made these dogs considerably lighter for the purpose of increasing their speed. I should say that Pershino dogs by the end of their history developed a very light structure on the verge of extreme slimness. The hunting qualities of pale colored dogs were the same as those of dark coated dogs.

Thus, both breeds were not much different in strength, but they spent it with higher or lower intensity and, therefore, it was enough for chasing over a shorter or longer distance.

I cannot say that the Gustopsovaya could not catch in open fields and the Psovaya could not catch in a small field or a clearing. Therefore, both breeds had their own fans among hunters in the north and in the south.

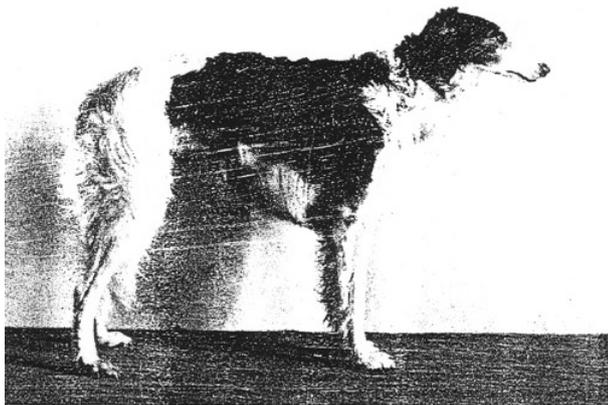
This is how it was until the 1860s, when most hunts with Borzois ceased to exist. Borzois still lived almost as single individuals and nobody could even dream of running these breeds pure. Since this time, mixing of both breeds started. In 1873, when the “Society of Breeding of Hunting and Game Animals and Organized Hunts” conducted its first show, hunters with Psovayas, which attended it, could witness a complete mixing of both breeds, let alone the admixture of southern and English dogs to them. In the



S T R E L I A I.

To get a more precise knowledge of Pershino dogs, I recommend reading their description by D. P. Valtsov in his book about the Pershino Hunt. Now I will continue describing other types.

2) Ozerov Borzois are rather big, although males rarely reached 31 inches and females 30 inches. Their coat color is mainly white or pure white with cream or gray spots. The hair is rather thick, but not particularly long, forming curls, but not wavy. One particular trait of this breed was the Roman nose and a backward sloping forehead so that the head seemed bent in both directions from the eyes, in other words, towards the occiput and towards the nose. The eyes of these dogs were striking, black and protruding, very open and intelligent, with pink white. The ears were thin, small and lower set, but movable and close to head. The tail was most often sickle shaped, thin and with long wavy hair. These dogs were very well boned and for this reason they had broad backs and rear. In the field they were fast and strong, but they did not have “brosok”.



V I S T R E L .

Adding the blood of Ozerov dogs to other strains added a noble look to the offspring.

3) Boldarev Borzois were medium sized; males were 29-30 inches and females were 26-29 inches. The coat color was predominately white with cream or red spots. The hair was medium thick, long with large curls. The eyes were like in the Ozerov dogs, but the head was straight and only sometimes was the muzzle Roman in the area closer to the nose. The ears were thin, small, rather movable, but not always rising up, most often only unbending the ends from the sides. The tail is correct, sickle shaped and with good furnishing. These dogs had thinner bone than the Ozerov dogs had and, therefore, they looked light. They were fast in the field and had “brosok”, but never showed particular aggressiveness.

4) Chelishchev dogs were the biggest among all the types of Borzoi. Males were up to 32 inches and females were 30.5 inches. The coat color was cream, with silver gray, red with cream and white with cream and silver gray and red spots, rarely with gray or white spots and gray. Silver shade on cream or on red was caused by the fact that tips of guard hairs turned white. In thickness and length of hair these dogs were superior to any other. On the back, sides and neck their hair formed large curls and on the thighs and rear it was wavy, thin and soft like silk, reaching up to ½ an arshin (arshin= 28 inches). The head was long, straight, with tight broad muzzle, sometime Roman closer to nose.

Eyes were like in Ozerov dogs. The ears were a particular trait of these dogs; they were small, thin, absolutely pointed and set much higher than the eye line. When the dog was excited, the ears rose becoming prick and then, both ears were close to each other forming a triangle, crossing with each other like scissors. The neck was short and heavily coated. The tail was correctly sickle shaped with long hair on its lower side and with curls on the upper side, starting from its base to the middle of the tail, after which the hairs were wavy. The bone and loins were powerful causing the dog to look robust and massive. However, in the field these dogs were fast, with huge “brosok”, tireless and aggressive. This was the most ancient type of dogs, taking into account their breeding lineage.

5) Sumarokov borzois were also very big; they came from very old strains of Kareev dogs and they retained their type until most recent times and they are their last representatives. Males were up to 30.5 inches and females up to 30 inches. The coat color was white with cream and red with cream spots.

The hair was not as thick as in the Chelishchev dogs, but it was still thick and with large curls. The head was long and



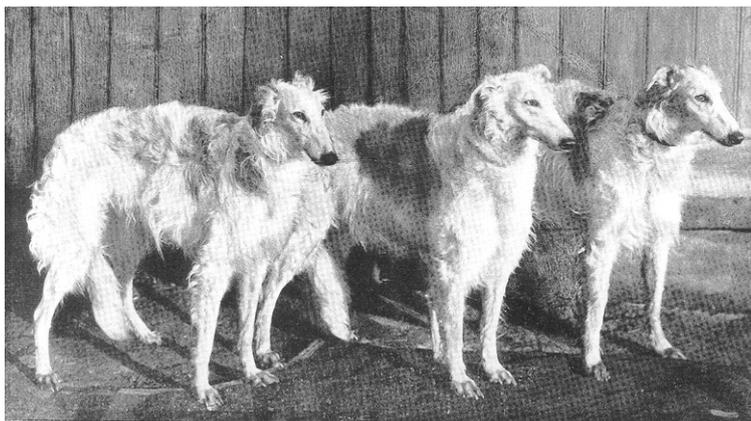
Boldarev Borzois

straight, with a tight and broad muzzle, Roman towards the nose. Light colored eyes were a distinguishing trait of these dogs with some looseness of the eye lids, pinkish lips and partly pink nose. The ears were thin, small, close to head, but they never pricked them up, but only lifted the tips of the ears hanging to the sides.

They had a correct tail, but it was not sickle shaped, but rather saber shaped, in other words, it was a bent slope. Their bone and loins can be called strong, but their front part was stronger than rear.

I have never seen these dogs in the field, but from many hunters I heard that they were fast and aggressive.

6) Geierov dogs had their origins in dogs of the old and well known hunter Bereznikov. They were not particularly big. Males were up to 29 inches and females up to 28 inches. The coat color was black with red spots and dark red, sometimes with grizzle. Dark red dogs often had a black muzzle, starting from the eyes. These dogs did not have particularly thick hair and the hair was coarse to the touch. The head was straight, but not particularly long, with a depression on the muzzle with some trend to snippiness.



NAGRADKA SAWLADAI NAGRASCHDAI

Lévières russes appartenant à M. G. G. Kashezkov. © Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique, Bruxelles (Chasse et Pêche, n° 276 - 20^e année 1907-1908, p. 332 fig)

Boldarev Borzois

One distinguishing trait of these dogs was the yellow eyes, which create an unpleasant impression against the coat background. The ears were set low, but close to the head. When excited, these dogs raised all the skin on the back along with the ears forming a sort of hood.

These dogs did not have correct tails, which were sometimes bent to one side.

They had weak bone and loins in recent times, because the breed was inbred for a long time and no blood of other borzois was added. In the field they were not particularly fast, but they were crazily aggressive. When they caught wolf (I should say that they all took hold at the

throat), they froze hanging on it, closed their eyes and folded front legs. It was very difficult

to disconnect them from the wolf. There were no other Borzois equal to them in aggressiveness.

7) The Bibikov type of Borzoi was particularly common in Tula Province. They were not big dogs, but rather smaller ones. Males were 29 inches and females were 28 inches and some were smaller than this. They were all colors, except black. There were black dogs out of them.

The hair quality was also variable, stiff off the body, like hedgehogs, and generally it was stiff to the touch, coarse and not thick. The head did not have a certain type and it was small and crude. The eyes were small, of different shades, although I have never seen light color eyes among them. Ears also were very variable in the setting and habit of carriage. They had strong bone and loins. Generally I can say that these dogs were not attractive in appearance, but they were very much valued by hunters of Tula Province for their field qualities, and they have never been taken anywhere beyond Tula Province. Their lineage came out of old Nazimov's dogs, which had coarse heads and inelegant appearance, but they were very aggressive towards wolves, which was inherited by Bibikov's dogs.

This is a brief description of the types of Psovaya Borzaya, which existed at one time prior to their annihilation by the Revolution.

I can say that the material was rich, the achievements of individual hunters were immense and the Russian Psovaya Borzaya at that time was at such a high level of perfection that it could not be surpassed by any foreign hunters who also bred them.

At present, there are still some remains of these types, and under certain conditions it is still possible to restore the Russian Psovaya Borzaya. However, with every year of procrastination this opportunity becomes less and less likely and, if hunting organizations do not take decisive measures, the business of its restoration is at risk of never returning and Russian Borzoi hunters will lose their wonderful Borzoi dog forever.

DO WE NEED DOGFIGHTS?

Ilgam Gasymzade and Namik Azizov

Azerbaijan

Are dogfights a form of entertainment for spoiled people or is it a necessity? In this article, we express our strictly personal opinion based on observations during several dozens of years. Dogfights are necessary as a test for those animals, which carry guarding duty and must possess necessary fighting skills. This is very much of concern when breeding Caucasian Mountain Dogs and Cenral Asian Ovcharkas, major purpose of which is fighting wolves.



According to evidence from many historical documents, all researchers agree upon one point, Caucasian Mountain Dogs and Central Asian Ovcharkas, in addition to their basic job as herders, were also used in ancient armies and this was continued until XX Century. Medieval rulers used them in battle fields; dogs guarded forts and castles, attacked enemy soldiers and scouts and killed them. In the first half of XIX Century, a commander of Russian troops in Transcaucasia Tsitsianov created special guarding detachments, which used only

Caucasian Mountain Dogs in conquered cities, castles; the dogs were successfully fought against soldiers on foot or on horseback. At a later time, when Transcaucasia became a part of Russia, these dogs continued to serve along borders with Iran and Turkey. In time of peace, these dogs guarded sheep herds and homes and fought not only human thieves, but also wolves and other big predators, such as lynx, bear, leopard and tiger. Cases, in which several dogs attacked tiger in Azerbaijan, occurred before 1953, when Turan tiger became extinct.

In one issue of “Droog” magazine (in Russian) in early (year?) there was an article about wolf fighting dogs of Caucasus and Central Asia (reference ?). Apparaently, authors are not well informed in history of wolf fighting dogs, which is excusable, because it is impossible to grasp all the breeds. They put in doubt the ability of the Caucasian Mountan Dog to overpower a wolf. In the magazine “Aboriginal dogs of Caucasus and Central Asia” there was an article describing how a pack of wolves attacked a sheep herd and all dogs run away, except one, which had been tested in dog fights.

We can agree with this. There are known some champions, which proven themselves in both show ring and in dog fight. A noted cynologist A. Ryabinin described a story of one Caucasian Mountain Dog, which lived in 1930th, its name was “Topush”. “Topush” is in the stood book among elite dogs of the former Soveit Union. He alone fought three wolves and during his entire life killed 100 wolves. Many modern cynologists this story may cause a smile of disbelief at best. However, the described story has a simple explanation. Bites of the Caucasian Mountain Dog and of the Cenral Asian Ovcharka have cutting and strangulating effects. When fighting with several foes, the wolf fighting dog is using his cutting bite ability. At present, number of true wolf fighting dogs has declined.



In Azerbaijan and in Caucasus in general, since late 60th to middle 90th of past Century, state of the aboriginal dogs became threatened. Even in Caucasus, puppies were imported from different parts of Russia, Ukraine and other republics of the former USSR.

Most surprising was fact the fact that puppies out of parents up to 90 cm and taller at the shoulder, after they had been raised in Azerbaijan, became closer to the aboriginal standard.

During recent years, situation of the aboriginal dogs improved. Young chobans (herdsmen) keep and select dogs by using old-fashioned ways. Their dogs protect sheep herds and their masters against wolves very well.



Being eyewitnesses, we can tell that in 1977, one wolf fighting dog killed two wolves.

Returning to our topic, if we need dogfights, we answer yes! People of any ethnicity have traditions, which have a common wisdom and practical purpose. This is true about dogfights of Caucasian Mountain Dogs.

During dogfights we can find which dogs is the best, especially if they would be used as sheep guarding dogs. During this kind of fighting contests, we can find most fit and high spirited competitive dogs. This makes selection for best quality easier. In our country, in Transcaucasia, rules of conducting of dogfights were developed for centuries. Dogfights are conducted during holydays, emphasizing the tradition. Only Caucasian Mountain Dogs are used in dogfights.

There was a peculiar system of determination, which dog is the best. In order to become a champion among other Caucasian Mountain Dogs, the dog must win during entire season. Absolute champion is determined one time per year upon closing dogfights during holyday. Legends about past champions were passed for generations. Outstanding dogs became spiritual values and there were no money, which could buy them.

According to rules of dogfights, which are still conducted in Azerbaijan, the dog, which was inactive or cried during the fight, or just snarling, is considered a loser. There are numerous facts, when experienced fighters, certain favorites stopped the battle and never fought again. Owners of such dogs (not particularly literate ones from the stand point of professional cynologists) insisted that their enemy snarled. Now, thanks to video cameras, and the dogfight judge could repeatedly view the movie to make certain that one of the dogs really snarled. This is an indication of intelligence and noble nature of the Caucasian Mountain Dog, which understands the snarl and would not kill the opponent. Under natural conditions, when the dog fights the predator, there would be no mercy.

What we can tell about so-called professional fighting dogs, such as Pitbulls, American Bulldogs, etc.? They are certainly interesting animals, although opinions among cynologists about them are strikingly controversial. Good qualities developed in these dogs by selective breeding, such as endurance, persistence and ability to fight to the end, as well as blind hatred to entire dog Dom, served them not very well. In minds of many ordinary people fighting dogs are associated with bloodthirsty, hateful gladiators and some countries introduce legislative prohibition on breeding of this kind of dogs.



Nevertheless, comparison of Pitbull with gladiator is incorrect. Gladiators died at the circus arena, whereas these unfortunate dogs die in a pit and many of them die aftermath, because of injuries and because of exhaustion.

Fighting for several hours are tiresome and cause thrill only in dog's owners, who are driven not as much by interest of the dog fighting as sport as much by financial interest. Besides, the very system of organization of dogfights and determination of the champion seems strange at best. We saw that dogfights of Cuacasian Mountain Dogs and Cetral Asian Ovcharkas allow finding out the best dog of the region. However, it is hard to tell what in particular valuable can be found as a result of Pitbull fights. Therefore, in our view, too cruel rules of Pitbull fights should be softened and regulated.

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In one of video tapes showing fight of outstanding Caucasian Mountain Dog named Gabo (we thank I. Semenov for such a dog) with a Pitbull, it was hard not to be stunned by cruelty of the owner of the Pitbull (we do not remember his name). He did not stop the fight, although his dog was actually dead. What kind of sporting interest is it? What kind of a love to his dog, which gave his life for his whim?

Generally, this is a very subjective matter comparing Pitbulls with Caucasian Mountain Dogs or with Central Asian Ovcharkas and this would be incorrect to do. Nature of fighting qualities of Caucasian Mountain Dogs and Central Asian Ovcharkas and modern fighting dog breeds are absolutely different. Caucasians and Asians are natural warriors. Their fighting qualities were developed for millennia and for strictly defined purposes. Therefore, the Caucasian Mountain Dog has innate ability to analyse situation, calculate further actions and inhibit its aggression for a satisfactory result, which is unlike blind fury of Pitbull and alike breeds.

During the fight of Pitbull with Caucasian Mountain Dog, the Pitbull many times snarls and squeals and the Caucasian naturally inhibits his aggression and lets him go. However, everything starts again and again. The Caucasians becomes bored and leaves the ring; he does not loose, he simply leaves. Watching video records with mixed fights such "leaves" are observed several times.

Yes, the Caucasian Mountain Dog should be trained, although this is very difficult. It is possible to teach dog of any other breed, but wolf fighting dog can be taught many cultured things. He has wonderfully developed guarding qualities and training to increase the aggression he accepts quickly. If the dog is pushed towards increase this quality, he can become unruly. One Caucasian Mountain Dog, which I know and which lives in suburbia of Baku, attacked tow thieves got into the yard. The dog killed one of them and crippled the other one.

Dogfights are necessary and they must be conducted, but only under conditions of ancient traditions and rules for conducting of dogfights. In such a case, they would be like tournaments with inhibited aggression, which allow finding out champions and forging dog's psychological preparedness to fight under real fighting conditions.

Dogfights, which become bloody battles often with fatal end of two dogs brought by their masters to state of frenzy is a disgusting form of entertainment.

ABORIGINAL LAIKAS OF KRASNOYARSK TERRITORY AND EVENKIA

B. L. Korneichuk

Photos are given by the author

The first steps in cynological work with Russian breeds of industrial hunting Laika dogs were made in the last third of the XIXth century. In 1896, A. A. Shirisky-Shikhmatov was the first, when he made an attempt to inventory and classify numerous aboriginal and local strains of Laikas.

At that time, among many varieties, the following types of Laika were better known: Karelian, Votyak, Vogul, Bashkir, Tungus, Ostyak, Lamut and a few other Laika types.

Thus, the first attempts to classify them were done on an ethnographic basis. This means that the dog formed by a certain ethnos was named by this ethnos.

Improvements in the classification of Laikas based on ethnographic principles continued to the end of the 1930s. In the 1940s, when Laikas were bred in specialized kennels, there were not enough qualified cynologists capable of selective breeding based on ethnographic breed standards. Then, the decision was made to develop breed standards based on geographic principles, assuming pulling together several local varieties in one breed of a certain geographic territory.

This decision clearly simplified work with existing dogs, but it also jeopardized breed types, which had been created during thousands years of people's selection of local dogs. Despite the resistance of considerable number of dog breeders, who maintained the best traditions of Russian dog breeding, in 1947, the all-Russian Cynological Convention took the decision to establish only four types of Laika breeds: Russo-European Laika, Karelo-Finnish Laika, West Siberian Laika and East Siberian Laika.

Krasnoyarsk Territory and Evenkia fell in the region of distribution of the East Siberian Laika. Its contemporary standard was based on a description of the Amur Laika by K. G. Abramov. In 1981, this standard was changed and became the permanent standard of the East Siberian Laika.

Now, according to cynological rules, in the vast country from the western borders of the Krasnoyarsk Territory to the Pacific coast only one "synthesized" type of Laika became recognized as purebred. All local breeds of Laikas, whose working qualities had been formed by generations of Evenk hunters and Kets, for whom hunting was the only way of making a living, became unprotected by law.

Nevertheless, Laikas of the lower and middle parts of the Yenisei River attracted the special attention of cynologists even a hundred of years ago. Thus, Ostyak Laikas were in the kennel of A. A. Shirinsky-Shikhmatov and Tungus Laikas were well enough for that time described in publications of L. P. Sabaneev.

Knowledge accumulated in 1920s and 1930s permitted the acceptance of a temporary standard of the Hanty (Ostyak) Laika in 1939, which had been scrapped by events described above. The range of the Hanty Laika, besides the basin of the Ob River, covered part of the basin of the Yenisei River, including its tributaries the Yelogui, the Kas, the Angara and some other rivers.

During WWII, in Krasnodar Territory, along with other provinces, local Laikas were surveyed for investigating the possibilities of obtaining dogs for sled work in the army. In 1942, in the Angara River region, Boguchan and Kezhem Districts, A. V. Platonov worked. At a later time, he became a coauthor of the book "Hunting Dog Breeding" (1966). He did not overlook Laikas of Turukhansk region and Evenkia. The oldtimer of Russian and Soviet cynology A. P. Mazover published the results of his personal investigation into these dogs. Despite the fact that Mazover was a staunch opponent of the classification of Laikas by ethnographic principles, in 1947, he published a strikingly precise description of one of the most ancient breed group of Laikas of Central Siberia, the Hanty Laikas of the middle parts of the Yenisei River.



Evenkian Laika, Surinda type

dog is a predominant type. It is big, with broad skull and high ears. This type is close to the dogs of Evenkia widely distributed in Baikit and Ilimpey. Further to the north, dogs with narrower muzzles and high set pointed ears occur. Here, the leptosomic body structure of Hanty dogs and the soft long hair, bent contour and short ears of Nenets dogs are dispersed here from Yrak reindeer herders."

And yet, despite individual attempts, none of the researchers classified Laikas of the Yenisei River basin. Thus, in 1939, the Krasnoyarsk book press produced "Evenkian Laika and Hunting with it" by V. V. Ryabov. The author, as he stated himself, "made the first attempt to determine the type of the Evenkian Laika, which is still not investigated in any publication about Laikas and is not described as a breed". Out of the 82 pages of the book, the author described the Evenkian Laika on only seven pages. He distinguished two types of the Evenkian Laika: one with a rangy body and sloped shoulder, a poorly developed ruff and a head similar to a wolf's and the other more sturdy with a more compact body, short neck and shoulder and with a rich ruff with furnishing around the neck. Both types had the same height and coat color, but differences in ranges of distribution were not indicated. Actually, it was impossible to use this classification.

A wildlife biologist of the Krasnoyarsk organization "Zagotzhivsyrye", I. K. Shumeiko put together a very interesting description of the Angara Laika based on his survey of dogs of the Boguchan District in 1940. According to his materials, the local Laika is a light hunting dog, lean and slender, high on the legs, with an almost square body format in males and a slightly rangy one in females. The height of males was 55 cm and females 50.5 cm. A too high front of body or a too high rear part of body was not typical. The head is lean and light and the skull is relatively narrow. The muzzle is short, narrow, and shorter than the skull. The ears are short, pointed or with slightly rounded tip, triangular, not set up high. The hair is profuse, high, with harsh guard hair and thick undercoat. The eyes are dark brown, brown, or almond shaped: slanted eyes are not typical.

Several of the Laikas, which he examined, brought from Evenkia, differed from local Laikas in being more powerfully built, with a larger head with a broad skull, narrow slanted eyes and a stronger similarity to the wolf. Despite these differences, the author thought that the local Laika originated from the Evenkian Laika, but that it changed, because of a prolonged period in the hands of Russian hunters.

The characteristics of Laikas of the Yenisei River basin described by Mazover also deserve attention. Although Mazover studied dogs of the Yenisei River area, primarily of sled dogs for the Army, as it was a major part of his job, the importance of his description for hunters and wildlife biologists remains high. He wrote:

"Sled dogs of the Yenisei River basin comprise a very heterogeneous group of strong, big dogs, but still not as big and strong as their eastern counterparts. This group has been formed by several breeds and it includes several types of dogs. In the Podkamennay Tunguska River region, a sturdy powerful

Describing the use of the Angara Laika of the 1940s, Shumeiko mentioned its high hunting qualities. This Laika was a universal, undemanding dog, with a strong sense of scent and hearing and was capable of a wide search range and persistency and hardy. Being mainly squirrel dogs, they started work at an early age and without special training. They searched very wide, found squirrels by using their nose and hearing, barked a lot and stayed under the tree up to 2-3 hours without losing the animal.

Despite deep snow, squirrels were hunted with dogs during the entire winter; and the dog was taught to walk behind the hunter on ski tracks. The dog could detect squirrel as far as 200 m and even further while walking on ski track. When squirrel was detected, the dog turned off ski track and seemed to swim in the snow towards the squirrel leading the hunter to the animal. This method of hunting was considerably more productive than regular hunting without a dog or using traps.

Speaking of moose hunting, it is enough to say that a hunter with one dog sometimes killed five moose. There were dogs which ran after moose as far as 30-40 km.

The working qualities of the Angara Laika were maintained at a high level by strict selection. All old Laikas or those weakened by work and young Laikas, which did not show good hunting qualities, were used by local people for making mittens. Thus, in Boguchan District, up to 1000 dogs were killed per year.

Materials obtained by I. K. Shumeiko are saved as an account, but they have never been published. Other researchers who contributed to the cynology of Krasnoyarsk Territory were wildlife biologist N. Zubtrilov, who worked in the '50s; expert cynologist A. Sosunov ('50s-'70s), expert cynologist of the Republican Category A. V. Vinogradov (1965-1984), expert cynologist of the Republican Category G. V. Osadchy ('60s-'80s), and expert cynologist L. Ya. Maryasov.

There were many never unpublished researchers who remained unknown. However, the entire period from the '30s to the '70s was a period of accumulation of facts, debates and even imitations without a solid base. In 1973, A. Sosunov, characterized the state of the Laika population in the Krasnoyarsk Territory during the '60s "": ..here, dog shows and surveys are conducted every year, but they involve only central regions, close to the capital. Several years ago, there were a few Laikas at shows. So-called "Turukhansk", "Baikit", "Kezhem", "West Siberian" and even "Yakutian Laika" were shown. There was a lot of diversity at shows so that it was difficult to sort out dog types. The majority of the dogs were "laikoids" (Laikas mixed with other breeds).

In 1966, an important event took place, which made an impact on Russian cynology. It was the dissertation of A. V. Geits "The East Siberian Laika and Its Practical Use". This dissertation was prepared at the Department of Wildlife Biology of the Irkutsk Agricultural Institute under the leadership of Doctor of Biological Sciences V. N. Skalon. Investigations done by Geits are only one example of the large scale scientific research in classification of Laika breeds of East Siberia. It is not surprising that the permanent standard of the East Siberian Laika (1981) was based on many statements from his dissertation.

From 1960 to 1965, Geits personally examined 1729 hunting dogs. Simultaneously, he treated materials collected by other cynologists of Irkutsk Province on 1725 dogs; Krasnoyarsk Territory, 1570 dogs; Buryat Autonomous Province, 688 dogs; Yakutain Autonomous Province, 1066 dogs; Tuva Autonomous Province, 1586 dogs; and Chita Province, 130 dogs.

Total number of dogs used in this study was 8534. Geits, in the conclusions of his dissertation, disproved the circulated views that the quality of local hunting dogs was declining. In the taiga regions, where he surveyed the dogs, 82% of Laikas worked well during hunting, more than 60% of them met the requirements for awards of field diplomas; from 30 to 40% of the dogs were purebred and up to 100% were suitable for field work. Data obtained by Geits during his survey allowed him to distinguish regions, where Laikas were best preserved. In Evenkia, he listed Tunguska-Chuna District, Baikit District and Ilimpian District; in Krasnoyarsk Territory, he mentioned Kezhem District and Boguchan District. Finally, Geits concluded that in East Siberia the local East Siberian Laika had been formed long ago and it possessed the characteristics of the breed. He offered its description as follows: "East Siberian Laikas should differ from other hunting Laika breeds in a bigger size, sturdy skeleton, rangy body, broad skull, slightly bulky muzzle and slower trot during the search. It should also be characterized by one estrus per year, with a relatively small number of puppies per litter, especially in purebred bitches, alert character with quick



highly alert reaction to changes in the surroundings, the ability to regain weight quickly, early maturity for work (7-8 months), excellent ability to find direction and non-aggressive attitude towards humans.”

It turned out that actually, the breed standard of the East Siberian Laika was based on the type of dogs distributed in Irkutsk Province, supposedly of Buryat origins. As a result of this, it turned out that the majority of aboriginal Laikas of Krasnoyarsk Territory and Evenkia do not match up to it very well. Realizing this fact, dog breeders in Krasnoyarsk Territory faced a dilemma, either to “break” their own local dogs to match the Irkutsk type, or breed their own type of Laika of lines well proven genetically and ignore the officially approved East Siberian Laika standard, thereby forfeiting chances of winning diplomas, honor papers, prizes and official recognition.

Here, it is appropriate to remember that in the ‘60s-‘70s, the Evenkian National District of Krasnoyarsk Territory was considered the only region, where local Laikas were preserved pure. This was possible to achieve, because the administration of Evenkia prohibited the importation of dogs. Even importations of Laikas in this region were allowed only by permission of the local government authorities. During the lastt 30-40 years, purebred West Siberian Laikas were imported here in considerable numbers. Below, I cite the opinion of the well know cynologist A. T. Voilochnikov about this kind of influx: “Unfortunately, many wildlife biologists do not pay proper attention to local Laikas and often cause their disappearance by importing purebred West Siberian Laikas in those few regions, where pockets of local Laikas still remain pure. The appearance of the new (although similar) breed in regions with primitive methods of dog breeding inevitably leads to interbreeding and the disappearance of both the local and the imported types. During recent years crossbred Laikas mixed with West Siberian Laika occur in many regions of Central and Eastern Siberia. It is unlikely to benefit breeding hunting dogs”.

I should add that the West Siberian Laika was developed on the basis of Laikas of West Siberia and Eastern Transuralia, where snow cover is less deep and climatic conditions are not as harsh as in the extreme northern part of the country. Besides, under conditions of prolonged and controlled pure breeding, according to many hunters, the Laika is losing its hunting qualities. At the present time, increasing number of cynologists realise the problems of preserving the gene pool of aboriginal Laikas. For example, in 1990, expert cynologist of the all-Russian category (Cheboksary) had already suggested starting an investigation of the unique Laikas of the Evenkian Autonomous District, which do not fit the existing breed standard, and initiate their pure breeding. A group of dog breeders of Saint-Petersburg suggested the even more radical solution of going beyond the limits of the breed standard and consider distinguishing six types of East Siberian Laika.

At present, it is hard to know, how many types of Laikas it would be possible to distinguish across the entire Eastern Siberia, but in Krasnoyarsk Territory and Evenkia we can speak with sufficient confidence of four types: the Hanty (Ostyak) Laika of the middle parts of the Yenisei River, the Evenkian Laika of the Podkamennaya Tunguska River and Nizhnyaya Tunguska River (Surinda), the Evenkian Laika of the extreme southeast of Evenkia, which is close to the Irkutsk type of Laika and the Angara River region Laika (Kezhem and Boguchan Districts).

NARTY ARE HEADING NORTH

(Photo by Vadim K. Gromov)

From editors:

Dog sledding has become a popular sport in Europe, North America and Australia. Mushers and their dog teams compete in speed, endurance and mushing skills in dog races over long distances. A whole industry providing all kind of supplies for dog sledding enthusiasts, including sleds, equipment and specifically formulated dog foods, has grown up. Even the dogs themselves have changed, becoming sled dogs for high-speed races, such as “Norwegian mixed origin dogs”, “Alaskan Huskies” and “American Huskies”. There was a time, when this kind of sport was in its incipient stage during the Gold Rush era in Alaska. A similar development of mushing sport took place among the indigenous peoples of the Russian North. Dog races are conducted in Chukotka and Kamchatka Peninsula. One of the longest races that got in the Guinness Book of Records is the “Beringia”. A story “Dog Sleds are heading north” was written about such an event, the Beringia-91 Dog Races. It was published for the first time in the Kamchatka newspaper “Belyi Klyk” (White Fang” in Russian). The name of the author is unknown.



Koryak kayurs have an ancient custom: the dog, which finished first should be given away and, if nobody takes it, to kill. If he cannot kill, it means he is weak and nothing would achieve in this life. Volodya Lazarev gave away Makechery after the finish in Chukotak. Makechery pulled in blizzard and found right direction in snow storm. Now, he lives in the remote settlement Markovo, with his new owner Andrey. This is a romantic story for those for whom Koryak customs is only pretty exotics, incompatible with stiff laws of good business.

... There was March, the time for "Beringia". "Beringia" started from Esso. This is a quiet in the valley cup, but it was stirred up by a squall of Beringians, guests and just curious onlookers and it was buzzing like disturbed bee hive. People were singing and dancing on the square, played lottery, riding in dog sleds, took interviews and autographs and bought commemorative pendants and pins.

Curious looked at kayurs. Start signal of a rocket gun still did not hit the skies, but people guessed, who would be the first?

Sasha Petrov, when he was getting ready for "Alpirod", alone made with his dogs 2,000 km. He did not could not get in "Alpirod", like Volodya Lazarev did, because at the last moment all went wrong and he did not get funds.

Sasha was working with dogs for about twenty years' he raised puppies and he made his own sleds.

Volodya Lazarev is a painter from Ossora. He became involved in kayur sport since last fall and became obsessed, abandoned painting and started "dog life...".

Pavel Lazarev and Sergey Chechulin were busy with dogs since childhood. Fyodor Chechulin, Sergey's

father, won at "Beringia-90", but prize winner was also Sergey Popov.

The oldest kayur was Mikhail Kolegov and Georgy Uvarov was the youngest one. Nikolai Agaev was the least experienced; he got his dogs a month before the start.

Two other kayurs, Vladimir Radivilov and Nikolai Kolyango flew from Chukotka. Their dogs were cream of the crop.

In Esso, kayurs were stormed by photographers, asked questions and got good wishes. All this festive hustle, high spirit, colorful crowd suddenly became replaced with white silence, the first blizzard and the first worry of losing the way – this is how tundra greeted them.

And it was going on and on, one day after another, one kilometer after another, chasing rapidly escaping winter northward, where beyond Kamchatka, in tundra was lost remote Chukotka settlement Markovo.

There was blizzard and wind loudly blown about finish cloth. In a lonely house on the hill, there was flickering light, there were some people waiting in there. A little aside, was crackling bone fire with people crowded around, it was about 2 AM.

Pavel Lazarev arrived first in Sedanka. There was a strong wind and tracks of caterpillar vehicle "Buran" running ahead were rapidly covered with drifting snow. Batteries of flashlights lost power soon at low temperature. It was possible to find direction by poles, but pole line was above ravine, and sleds always slid downhill. When sleds moved slightly away from poles, they disappeared out of sight and there were no other way to find the direction.

Pavel was in the kitchen of specially designated for kayurs house; he was excited and red in face. He did not ate: "I will wait until ours would come"

Dog teams run all night long, everyone was awake in the village, waiting and keeping bonfires alive. Kayurs arrived one after another. They were entirely wrapped in snow, they were noisy shaking the snow off at the entrance, ate the supper, laid their kukuls and fallen asleep.

Old man Kolegov stayed overnight in tundra. Search parties on snowmobiles were sent in tundra, but at night, in blizzard, it was impossible to see anything. The old man layd to sleep right on the snow, among his dogs;

he was experienced and knew well how to stay safe, when weather is cold; he came in the morning, when village was clearly visible.

In the evening, there was a concert in local club, a true national holyday with old women in elaborate colorful dress, with songs, tambourines and merry dancing....

It happened many times – night, bonfire, waiting, festive evening and truly northern hospitality. In Kovran celebration lasted all night long. In Vayampolka, Palan, Lesnaya and Tilichikha... “Elvel”, “Lauten” and “Yayar” all noted dancers and singers of “Mengo” performed for Kayurs. And then, tundra gain, bad weather, fatigue, desperation, anger and thrill... There for first misfortunes. Gosha Uvarov got lost in blizzard before arriving to Kekuk; he was removed form the track and continued without credit. Radivilov lost more then a day on the same track and now tried to catch up every minute. Most of the time, he was running after the dogs trying to catch up and suddenly became first in Voyampolka.

Kolyango quit the race at Voyampolka.

Sasha Petrov won, arriving I his hometown Palana; he won the first leg of the race. Possibly this was the most difficult part, the longest runs under continuous blizzard and first days of adaptation for both people and dogs. After the finish line, dogs laid and ate snow; they were dragged off to free the road. In the morning care of dogs included treatment of injured feet; the dogs were squealing and pulled their paws out of hands. Then, everything started again. Dogs were raised still when it was dark from their snow beds, harnessed and sleds headed north.



There was only the first third of the trace completed.

Nobody knows what kind of faith “Beringia” would have, if not Vladimir Samarsky. In any case, without him, the race would be less successful and there would be more troubles for sure. He could land helicopter at such a weather conditions and at such a place, about which air traffic controllers say: “In this weather only God and Samrasky can fly”. They were lucky with this team.

Samarsky boarded helicopter the last, saying: “Would you take me?”. Helicopter was shaking each time trying to take off the ground. It was filled to the limit with dog food, backpacks, boxes and people, all mixed up. At the top, under very roof, there were light covered with green cloth shields, a collection of nearly lost traditional musical instruments of northern people; it was collected by ethnographer Vladimir Milukovich.. This collection



would make an honor to any museum. This display was carried everywhere with hope that our glorious concert groups would recall and use again their string eigengis, mollusk shells and “singing feathers” and abandon accordion, which have never existed I history of northern peoples.

Upon arriving in the village, people carefully removed the fragile collection of Milukovich and heavy cases of Cultural Fund. Somewhere in the local barn-club for show and sale of ceramic, paintings, souvenirs; buying a lottery ticket, one could win a rubber balloon or a picture painted by Vadim Sanakoev, depending on the luck. Everybody knew that “Beringia” has arrived.

Rescue squad members unloaded helicopter, put marking poles and spread cloth tapes for start and finish. Doctor of the races Oleg Dalmatov, a child surgeon, examined village children. Cynologists with expertise examined local dogs. Veterinarian Sasha Zinatullin was busy with dogs arriving into village. Head Judge of races Sergey Saliev spent whole nights at the finish line with his chronometer in hands. Vika Petrasheva was always

surrounded by friends, which she had in every village, with smiling face like Itelmen country sun. She met racing teams at each finish line. Photographer Sasha Dyakonov on cross-country caterpillar vehicle "Buran", in dog sleds or in all terrain vehicles cruised in tundra always with his camera.

In Hailino, "Beringia" was met by Kirill Kilpalin, a good story teller, poet and artist. His recent works were displayed in 'Kosmos'; he told then that by the end of the trip, he solves enigma of being and he sincerely believed that he alone in the world discovered secret of universe; he was, of course, right, because truth arrives only to chosen ones, and he was an artist. ...

Old man Vasily Khutegin was among the first whomet us at Talovka.



We unloaded dogs out of helicopter; these dogs were temporarily removed from races, pretty many of them. Vasily walked around the dogs and asked questions.

The first team arrived in Talovka after midnight; lonely figure of Khutegin was seen at the finish line still since 7 PM.

In the evening, near bonfire at the finish line, a tambourine sounded, Talovka residents in their national costumes began singing, greeting kayurs.

Sasha Petrov and Nikolai Ageev arrived in the village in the morning. A crowd gathered around them. Vasily stayed longer then others, examined swollen feet of dogs and he was compassionate.

In the club, where movie about "Beringia" was to be shown, Vasily was sitting in the half empty hall almost an hour before the movie started, holding his on his knees.

When we departed, he came to the airfield and left the last looking back over shoulder.

Now, when some say that "Beringia" was worthless idea, I recall Khutegin, old Rokka, reindeer breeders from Karaginsky Pass, children running after dog sleds and many, many others, who met and came to say goodbye to "Beringia" and who are waiting to see it again.

The last third of the race was most difficult for all. It was a breaking point, people tired physically and mentally; may be this was because they were further and further from home and tundra was increasingly empty. There were no roads any more, only cross-country caterpillar vehicle "Buran" of "Kamchatka" corporation, laying track on the snow. Kayurs, who earlier were coursing weather, road and director of the race, they were swearing that "never any more!", now were silent and determined to keep going north.

And they finished. On April 5, at the square in Markovo, on blinding sunshine on the platform, there were six kayurs who reached the finish line, and Pavel Lazarev was the first among them.

Volodya Radivilov, who lost after the first part of race 27 hours and after the last part of the race 18 kg of his body weight, run on foot most of the time, saving time. Still in Tilichiny, Saliev said: "May be he would get into the first three...". Volodya became the second. IN Markovo, Nastya Radiviloval, a slender thirteen years old girl, was crying, when her father crossed the finish line.

In the end, Volodya Lazarev, became the third, Sasha Petrov was the fourth, Nikolai Ageev, a novice in the mushing sport, reached the finish and became the fifth. Nikolai Kalyanto reached the finish, but without a credit.

After an empty white silence, the sunny day was blinding, music was deafening and crowd was colorful like in kaleidoscope. There were almost 2,000 kilometers behind, 18 national villages and dozens of meetings. A day, until which they traveled hard during 27 days, ended suddenly, like a shot of rocket gun. And then, everyone understood that not this day was important, the whole long way was.

Next day everyone was returning home. We flew in buzzing airplane "AN-2" to Ossora; Pavel and Volodya Lazarevs, Sergey Chechulin and I were sitting on bags, among dogs covering kilometers of distance, which was crossed with such hardships in dog sleds.

We disembarked in Ossora, the snow was blinding white, nobody met us, pilots left, saying: "just shut the doors", and we were sitting on dog sleds, dogs were walking idly around, limping on injured feet. It was sunny, no people, everything was behind.

It was incomprehensible, what to do next?

There was only a strange feeling of unreal: after a month of wandering life, we should walk with tickets in hands in airplane, take a seat and buckle up.

It seemed unthinkable to return in a city hustle, with congestion of buses and busy halls of offices.

City and tundra are incompatible dimensions...

We pay your attention that since 2007 the Bulletin will leave two times a year - in March and in October.

All questions, suggestions and comments will be accepted with gratitude. E-mail them or send them as snail mail to: Marina G. Kuzina mail box 12, Moscow, 115407 RUSSIA

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