Hike!

March '00

Vol 2 No 5

The Alaskan Husky, A Purebred? YES!

Penny Nicol

This article is drawn originated from a thread on the dogsleddingtalk email list in response to a question about just what is an Alaskan Husky. Penny's responses were both informative and entertaining - so much so, that I asked her if she would write an article for Hike! And as you can see she said yes.

To me a shepherd x husky cross, or any mixed breed that will pull in harness, is not an Alaskan. I think of Alaskans as 'purebred' dogs; dogs that have been bred several generations from racing stock, with their roots coming from the 'greats' of the racing scene of years gone by. If you looked up Webster's Dictionary Definitions for the following, it would clarify some common misconceptions between a dog that is 'purebred', and a dog that is 'registered'.....

Pure: Having a homogeneous composition.
Homogeneous: Uniformity of type or characteristics
Breed: A genetic strain of domestic animal developed and maintained by humans
Purebred: Having many generations of ancestors of the same breed or kind.
Register: An official record of names, items or statistics. To enter or enrol formally. To place ones name on an official list of eligibility. To cause to be handled with special care by payment of a fee.
Club: A group of persons organised together for a common purpose.

Devon in Song Photo S Komidar

To me, an Alaskan is, in general, anything that derives from racing bloodlines, PROVEN stock or not. However, any Alaskan that ISN'T from PROVEN stock is a bastardised form of the real thing. Alaskans were born and bred to race, and were developed for just that pastime. Any two Alaskans that aren't put together (with considerable thought) to further that end, is a waste of time. I don't believe in Alaskans being bred for pets, because although they CAN be good pets, they belong in harness, much the same as an eagle is meant to fly.

They don't have to be from Alaska, or even bred there, but generally, I think most people consider an Alaskan to be of good stock if it (all of the below items are part of the package):

- goes back to something from a good line/kennel in Alaska;
- is from good racing lines that have proven themselves in races;
- is from a kennel/team/line that has done well in current events; and
- conforms to the requirements of the type of racing it was bred to do (ie is it a long lanky sprinter, a strong, dependable distance dog, or a middle of the road, middle distance dog?)

That doesn't mean there aren't rotten Alaskans! I've had some well bred Alaskans that couldn't pull themselves out of a paper bag. Which is why it is even MORE important that the dog be from proven parents/ lineage. Working ability can be lost in one generation, so a person touting a dog as being a "grandson of so-and-so", means nothing unless the dogs in between were proven animals. To further the breed past the point to which it has now evolved, only meticulous breeding methods will succeed.

The frequently asked question, "If a person mixes a greyhound with a husky in the hopes of getting a good sledding breed, is this dog an Alaskan Husky?" is a good one! I believe no matter HOW well the offspring pulled, they would be a 'cross bred'. However, if one of these dogs was bred to a 'purebred' Alaskan, then it's offspring could be considered Alaskans.

However, there is always a distinction made when discussing this type of introduction to the gene pool, probably for several generations. People are very careful when adding outside blood to the breed. Experiments like this are only done if the breeder thinks he can improve what he has by bringing in the traits of say, a pointer....but the results are not usually consistent, and one has to weigh the advantages of what you can pick up. This is the glory of the Alaskan, though, because there is always the freedom to improve through outside blood, because there has never been a limitation to the gene pool, as in registered breeds. Which is part of the reason it is such a vigorous breed. "Hybrid vigor", as Jamie Nelson likes to call it.....

So, how is it that Alaskans are purebred? To me, it's something that, as in the above definition, breeds true to type, (ie with Alaskans, normally present attributes of raceability) and recreates itself consistently, after several generations. Now, all Alaskans don't LOOK alike (not by a long shot) but 'breed true', in that, if well bred, they will usually have a pretty good shot at being decent racing dogs. If I was buying another dog for my team, it wouldn't be a cross bred I picked up at the pound, but would be from someone like Martin Buser's kennel.(proven bloodlines from proven stock)

People often confuse'purebred' with "registered". There is a very big difference! Even a purebred Siberian (from purebred parents) may not be registered, but it is still a purebred. Just as I believe that Alaskans

are purebred in the most concrete form of the word. They fill the definition above, by being of many generations of the same kind. The racing kind, that is!

A typical conversation discussing breed lines amongst 'Alaskan' drivers will include a recount of parents, grandparents and overall background lineage, whether it be from sprint lines, distance lines etc. Generally, most informed breeders have good knowledge of the racing record of the parents and background, back as far as six or more generations, and in many cases, have firsthand knowledge of individuals.

When you get an Alaskan, if you are smart, you will insist on a copy of the dog's pedigree. It will not be formal document, but a hand-written record made by the seller. It will usually have the call name of each dog, laid out in tree form, with the kennel it originated from in brackets below each name. This helps to distinguish the difference between Gareth Wright's famous Rusti, from the six million other Rusti's since his time. Often, the "leader" status is marked with an asterisk. If it isn't, I usually ask for this from the seller.

No national registry is needed, because remarkably, the breeders seem to keep each other honest. You might argue that people can lie about the parentage quite easily, because there are no papers. This is in NO way something you can regulate, whether a dog is registered in a national registry or not. This brings to my mind the story about a famous New England racer, who (as a proof in point) registered his Limosin bull with the AKC as a purebred Siberian. Although this may be just a rumour, I am sure it is something easily enough done, and probably has been done, many many times.

Let me recount a story for you, to show how the 'musher integrity' method works. A few years back, I got a dog from Jamie Nelson, that was out of a bitch she brought back from Mike Holtz in Alaska. Requiring more information I called Mike Holtz. In our discussion, it came out that a top sprinter in our area had purchased a dog from his area, for a hefty price. Mike Holtz was aghast that the sprinter had purchased the dog, because apparently, the seller had tried to pass the dog off as being from each of several top dogs in the area, only succeeding when he found someone far enough away to buy his story. Three thousand miles away, the lie was discovered, and the perpetrator exposed.

I can't tell you that the buyer got his money back, but he did find out the actual lineage. I can also tell you that everyone now knows the story on the dog, and the seller will never sell any more stock to this area. His reputation, it seems, was already mud in Alaska, so he has cut off his own nose to spite his face, as they say. I can think of many cases where the reputation of a breeder has preceded him, thanks to the small community of mushers, and good communication between them.

To me, the perpetuation of the Alaskan Husky (as a breed) is an interesting phenomena which will continue to exclude any governing body that attempts to dictate a physical standard for the breed. The only standard for this breed is the standard of a fast finishing time, in the race each 'type' was designed to run. It is a self-imposed standard, developed and dictated over time by the needs of the people who race them.

Sweetie and Doc Holiday proving 2 heads are better than one. Photo Steve Carrick

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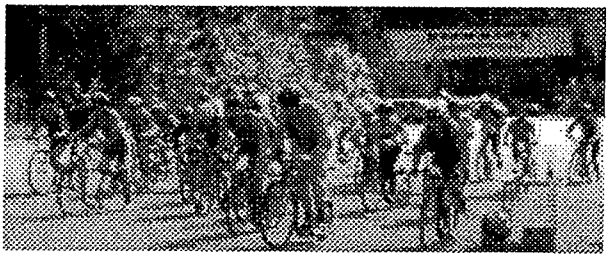
Scooters, Kickbikes, Autoped ... Different Terms - One Sport

Peter Komidar

The scooter has been around for about as long as the bicycle and really had its heyday in the 1940s and 1950s when almost every kid had his or her toy scooter. But the modern sport of scooter racing (without dogs that is) really began in the Netherlands in the late 1970s.



Start of Day II of the Helsinki City Marathon
Photo: C/o Esa Mononen

The Selles Kamperzeedijk autoped team was founded in 1977 at the Kamperzeedijk in the North-East of the Netherlands. The Selles-Kamperzeedijk autoped team is still in existence today and in fact is on of the leading autoped organisations in the country, participating in almost every autoped event in the Netherlands.

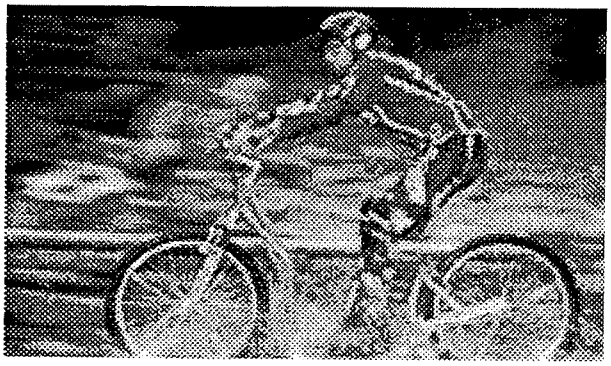
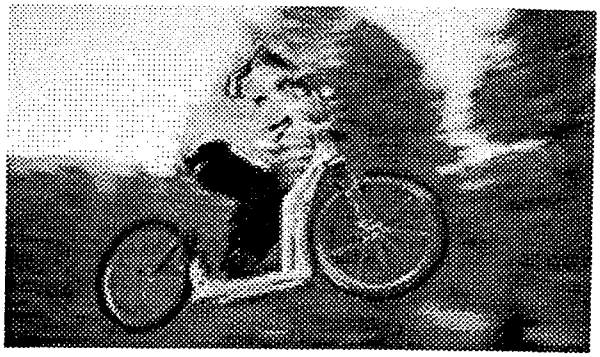


Photo C/o: Andreas Wein

In the 'seventies' the founders of the team started with long distance autopedding, just for fun. Soon the local sports club organised a 'real' autoped race for adults! After 2 years 'autopedfreaks' from other parts of the Netherlands heard of the race and travelled to Kamperzeedijk to compete.

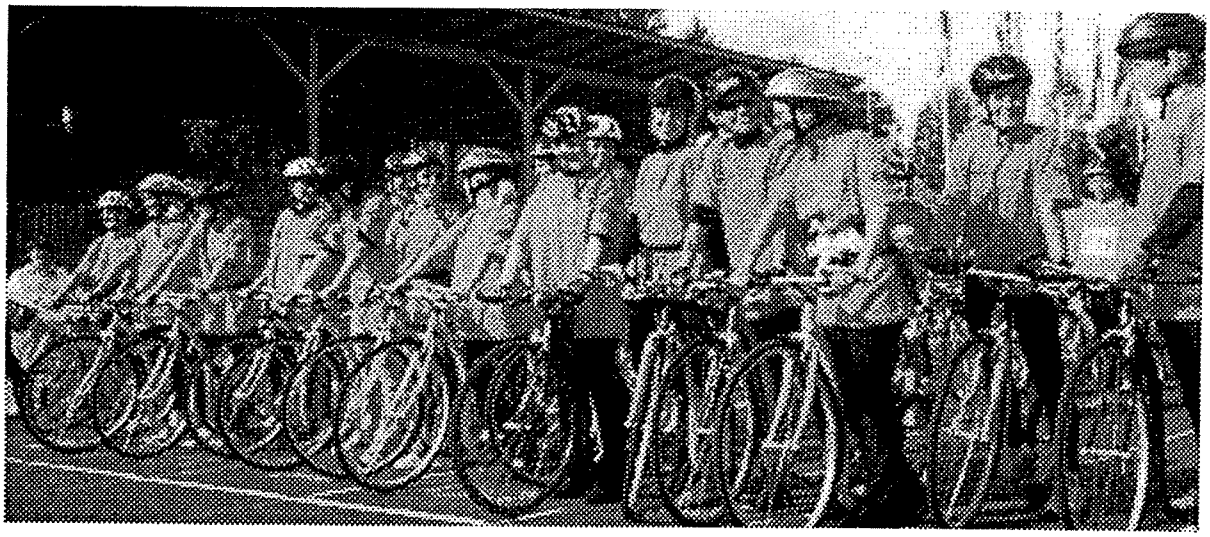


Airborne! Photo C/o: Andreas Wein

Before long scooter races were being held all over the Netherlands and quickly spread across northern and central Europe.

Today scooter races are held in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, the Czech Republic, Norway, Finland Sweden, Canada and the USA.

The sport has a small but dedicated following and is growing exponentially each year. There is a vibrant international circuit and scooters are being professionally designed and manufactured by large and small firms such as Blauwerks in Austria and Kickbick (which operates in Germany, Finland, the Netherlands, the USA and Australia). In fact some very famous European cyclists and skiers actually cross-train using scooters.



The start of a woman's marathon in Helsinki called the 'girlie-wheelie' race
Photo C/o: Esa Mononen

And now the sport has finally reached Australia with a small band of kickbikers having established them selves in Brisbane.

Photo C/o: Esa Mononen

The races themselves vary quite considerably ranging from short sprints to half marathons, marathons and long distance as well as downhill races of the extreme variety! Similarly, race venues can vary from inner city streets to dirt tracks to cross country trails.

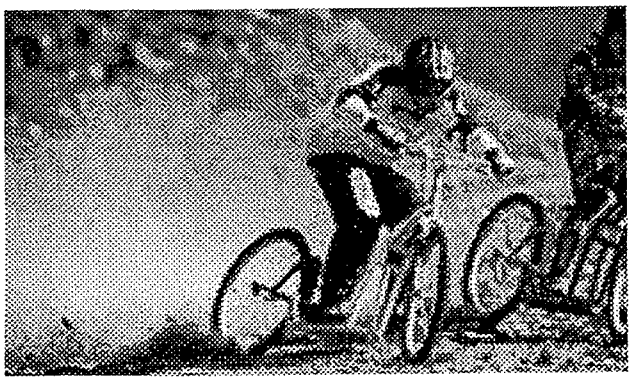


Photo C/o: Andreas Wein

As you can see in many ways the sport is similar to that of mushing in Australia – it is still a 'fringe sport', it is powered by a core of dedicated fanatics, (they call themselves autopedfreaks), it has its own email list, the races are as variable as imagination allows, and you can bet that the kickbike/autoped/scooter sport is here to stay!

I just hope it gets bigger and bigger in Australia – what a fantastic off-season sport to keep you fit over the summer in preparation for the next winters mushing (especially for us twodogscooterfreaks!).

❑❑❑

Iron Will

the real story

The following is a New York State Grade 4 Language Arts Listening Comprehension Passage posted on the email list Sleddog-L. Its not as dramatic as the Disney movie - but somehow to me its makes Iron Will even more heroic. See what you think.

A recent movie told the story of "Iron Will" Stoneman, who ran in a dogsled race in 1917. The story you are about to hear tells about Fred Hartman, the real person on whom the movie was based.

In northern United States and in Canada it can be very hard to travel in the Winter. The snow gets very deep, the temperature goes way below zero, and winds blow fiercely. Today we have modern highways and cars and snowmobiles, but in the 1800s, the best way to get around was by "mushing"- riding a sled pulled by special sled dogs.

In 1917, the then longest dogsled race in the world was held. It started in Winnipeg, Canada, and ended in St. Paul, Minnesota, 522 miles away. Eleven teams entered the race, each made up of one man and five sled dogs. There were three Native Americans from Canada, six white Canadians, a trapper from Wisconsin, and one young man from faraway Troy, New York, named Fred Hartman. At the start of the race, no one expected Fred Hartman, the outsider, to get very far.

The ten day race started on January 24. Some of the racers did not last long. One could not control his dogs and had to drop out after two hours. Two more were so tired they could not go more than 100 miles. Another hurt his knee, and another got the flu. Finally, only the three Native American Canadians and the two Americans were left.

Fred Hartman faced troubles right from the start. Only 25 miles from Winipeg, his lead dog was killed in a dog fight. Instead of quitting, Fred became the leader and ran the next 500 miles on foot in front of his team. He was in the lead four times, but other mushers kept passing him. One time he lost the trail at night, and another time he lost it in a blizzard. Another time he was nearly run over by the train full of newspaper reporters that was following the racers.

Toward the end, Fred and all of his dogs were sick. Only three of the dogs were able to pull, and one had to ride in the sled. Completely exhausted, Fred was passed and beaten by the other four mushers. Still, he didn't give up. He kept on mushing and finally staggered across the finish line only four hours behind the winner. He was in last place, but nonetheless, finishing the race was a great victory.

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Both Snuffy and Loo were tog dogs in Leigh Gilchrist kennel, running on this main team for many years. Both have been SEPP evaluated.

Lokiboden's Mr Snuffalupagus (8/85) 25-26 Oct 1986 - rated GOOD-EXCELLENT
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Lokiboden's Waterloo (5/86) 5-6 Nov 1988 - rated GOOD

Both Cliff and Lexi were imported as young dogs from one the USA's top Racing Siberian Husky Kennels. Brothers and sisters of these two run on the main teams at Northome. Cliff's sisters run lead on their 10 dog team.

Gucci has just completed her second season of racing here in Australia, this year running lead on my 4 and 6 dog teams. Gucci also won Challenge Bitch and Runner Up Best of Breed at the 1988 Siberian Husky Club of NSW Championship show under Ali Koops (UK). Ozzy, even though he has had limited race experience, running in a few 2 dog races last season, I fully expect him to run on the 4 and 6 dog teams this year. And most likely in lead. He has the heart and desire to run and Run and Run.

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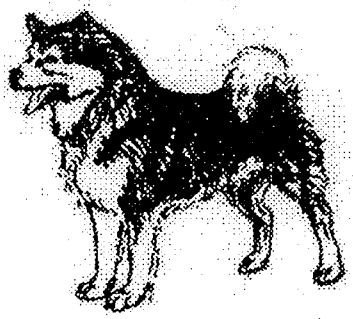

Kontroversy Korner

The Pros and Cons of a National Body

Peter Komidar

Tim White, who occasionally contributes articles for Hike, and is also president of the International Federation of Sleddog Sports, recently asked me to invite Aussie mushers to participate on the IFSS Scottyallen email list. This got me thinking about the possibility of an Australian national body – and naturally led to the development of yet another Kontroversy Korner article. I flashed a draft of my article past the people who had responded to my IFSS email list invitation for their thoughts. Some of the replies I received were so interesting I thought that they deserved to be presented in full rather than just incorporated within my article and so I have included them along with my offering.

By the way, if you are interested in joining the Scottyallen email list and didn't get the invitation on the Ozworkingdog list. Let me know and I'll help get you connected.

I am an individualist by nature and suspicious of people and organisations that seek to impose rules and regulations upon my behaviour. So I am probably the worst person to write this article, but I believe at this stage in the evolution of the sport of sled dog racing in Australia, it is certainly an issue that needs to be aired.

The way I see it, an Australian sled dog racing governing body would bring with it many advantages. But also many dangers. I don't think anyone would disagree with that – but it's whether the sum of the advantages outweighs the potential dangers that is the nub of the issue. Here's my summary of those pros and cons.

A rational organisation of races

Narelle Mace's article in the February edition threw into stark relief the ad hoc nature of the current national circuit. And really, this should not be surprising – each race sprung up on its own and each race competes with others to attract a large and competitive field. Narelle's article shows how when you "look at the races and their formats you will see how the jump in distance can detract from the sport and very effectively demoralise the dogs". Ideally, the distance and degree of difficulty of races should increase over the season – in accordance with the increased fitness of the teams. This is especially important in Australia where summer temperatures effectively prohibit fitness training over much of the off-season.

A national body could act in a facilitating role to assist clubs to amend their race distances/dates to better achieve this aim. It could also assist in the establishment of new races – including through acting as a circuit breaker between clubs intending to stage races on the same weekend (something which is more and more likely in the future as the sport continues to grow).

Race Rules

A national body could also set a minimum standard for races – with uniform race rules (or at least core elements of the rules) as well as national policies such as aggressive dog policies, animal care and handler guidelines. In order to be accredited by the national body, races would need to abide by these rules and principles. Thisin turn would provide the competitors with certainty regarding to the rules and how they are applied. For instance a rule based on VSDRA's aggressive dog policy could be extended beyond Victoria to all nationally accredited races so that a particularly aggressive dog banned at one accredited race could be prevented from entering all accredited races – thereby giving the security that competitors and their dogs will not be at risk from that dog.

Publicity

An important role of a national body would be to promote and advance the sport of sled dog racing in Australia. Office bearers of the club could be tasked with writing articles in the press, and conducting radio and television interviews with the aim of educating the general public on the sport. The organisation could also work in partnership with individual race organising committees to promote the sport at the local level.

This role would be enhanced as the body obtained sponsorship and government grants.

Sponsorship

Let's face it, a national body is not going to happen unless it can be of assistance to individual mushers and race organising committees. And that will only ever happen if the body is adequately resourced. But this is by no means an unobtainable pipe dream. Every successful sport has a national governing body and most (if not all) nowadays have sponsors.

The advantage for sponsors is that they can really get some value for money out of the sport – just look at the 'Uncle Tobys Iron Man' or the 'Pura Milk Shield' (cricket) or in the hey day of rugby league 'the Winfield Cup'. And while sled dog racing might not attract the big beer companies – a national body could extract some considerable financing out of a dog food company!

Government Grants

When it comes to resourcing, this must be the real untapped vein! The Commonwealth Government

provides grant funding to national sporting bodies – especially amateur sports and those up and coming new professional sports which have yet to establish themselves. And the funding potentially available is not inconsiderable! But the catch is that it is only available to national bodies – no national sporting body, no money!

Overseas Competition

OK this may sound like cloud cuckoo land – with our quarantine restrictions who would bring their dogs to Australia to race, and who would take their dogs outside of Australia?! Well firstly, Australia has no quarantine requirements with New Zealand. This means the only thing stopping a trans-Tasman competition is cost. So on that one see above under sponsorship and government grants! And secondly, quarantine restrictions are flexible in direct proportion to the popularity and profitability of the sport – for instance there are NO restrictions on race horses and its getting easier to race foreign greyhounds each year. So on this one, I'd like to quote the old hair shampoo ad featuring Rod Stewart's girlfriend "It won't happen overnight, but it will happen" – provided that is, that its pushed hard – hence the need for a national body.

International Affiliation

A national body could become affiliated with one of the international sled dog racing organisations - the International Federation of Sleddog Sports (IFSS), or the International Sled Dog Racing Association (ISDRA). This would enable Australian mushers to be ranked internationally against their peers across the globe – which would certainly leave the *Hike!* Pointscore in the shade!

It would also give Australia a seat at the international table. If New Zealand, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Scotland, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, the US and Wales can be IFSS national members for instance. Why can't Australia?

And now the Fears

OK, some convincing arguments there – but now for the black hat.

In a country like Australia where each state has different sized railway tracks and where the States only ever unite when it comes to bashing the federal government – the establishment of a national body is bound to be difficult. Any group trying to establish such a body would need to be very committed indeed ... and very patient.

The body would need to walk a tightrope trying to balance the interests of individual race organising committees against the need for a rational and uniform national approach to rules, policies, race dates and distances.

Even sponsorship would be difficult – especially for races with sponsors which differed from the sponsor of the national body – imagine if you will a Brand X sponsored race being part of a Brand Y national circuit – now that is NEVER going to happen! But Government Grants – now that's another story! Also a non-dog food sponsor for the national body would likely overcome potential sponsorship wars.

Even publicity can be a can of worms. If all the publicity occurs in one or two states to the exclusion of others – or if it was seen to favour a particular group of people/breed of dog etc etc.

All these things are difficult but not insurmountable – provided there was a committed group of individuals intent on getting a national body off the ground. Particularly if these people were spread across the existing sled dog racing clubs and factions. But my biggest fear would be the dark side of human nature. What if the people in charge of a successful national body suddenly became little Hitlers – dictating what can and can't be allowed at their whim? Sure they could be voted out at the next AGM – but they could do a heap of damage to the national body and the sport itself in the meantime.

Conclusion

I guess, in the end, I would estimate that the potential pros far outweigh the potential cons and that the establishment of a national body is worth a shot. But at the same time I think it would be crucially important that the body be underpinned by a fair and open constitution and organisational set up and by a committed and non-partisan committee.

And while some degree of uniformity is necessary to advance the sport and to provide competitors with a degree of certainty about the quality of the races which are bidding for their business, I think it is equally important that there be a number of independent races – that are able to offer variety and innovation unhampered by the requirements of a national body.

What is your view about a national body? Could it get up? Are there some pros or cons I've ignored?

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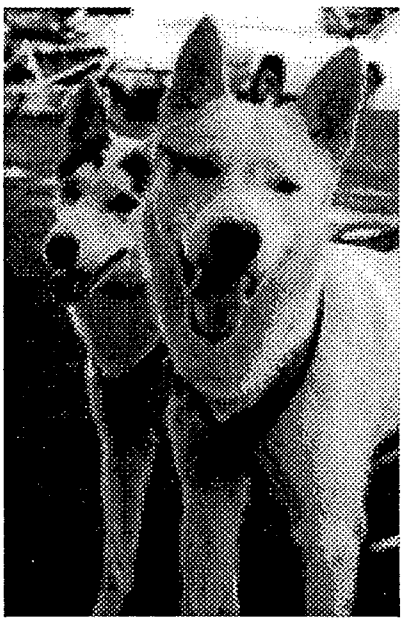


Andrew and Natalie Colvin's Happy Dogs
Photo: Sharon Komidar

Karen McCarthy's Views on a National Body

Boy - what an article. This may open a can of worms. I do not oppose the concept (or some of it at least) and I guess the idea is to start people thinking rather than to start a national organisation in the next 12 months.

Remember that while the concept of a National Body for mushers and sled dog events may be relatively new to a number of you out there, particularly those outside Victoria and those who are relatively new to the sport, there are a number of us that can say "*been there, done that*". I am refering to the formation of the Victorian Sled Dog Racing Association, VSDRA.

There are a number of points in the above article, as well as later in this article, which were pointed out as being positives for the formation of VSDRA. I really need to question where some of these positives are at today? I realise that a lot of people have put in a lot of hard work which has taken hours and hours of their time, not to mention their money. But, I must ask, where are the benefits of being a member of VSDRA today?

Having seen the formation and even given some of my time to the organisation, I would **not** like to see another group of starry-eyed ambitious people set up an National Body, only to have people question where is it at, several years down the track, wondering what has become of all those positives or at worst have it fail.

Don't get me wrong, I am not anti-VSDRA nor anti a National Body. But if a National Body was to be set up, I would hope that VSDRA would be able to assist in some way and that those who are involved realise that a lot of hard work will be required and that they approach it with clear and well defined goals and objectives.

Well anyway I have a couple of additional points that you may wish to consider.

1. Another plus could be insurance – especially if a group discount can be arranged for clubs under the umbrella of a national body. I do not believe that there is much difference between the insurance for an individual club as opposed to a VSDRA member club. I do not believe that in reality that there is much to be gained here, at the present time in Victoria. It may be different in other states. This could be due to the lack of insurance companies that are willing to cover the sport. Maybe a national body would be able to work with other insurance companies to get a better deal for the sport.

2. One big positive that has been overlooked is Junior Musher Program. This is something that I know Tim White is very involved in. This maybe something that needs to be in place in order to be eligble for Government Grants. I believe in Junior Mushers, as these are the future and perhaps not enough is being done in this area.

3. Another positive would be educational days/events. It would be truly wonderful if a national organisation could assist or even put on some means of education for mushers, vets, officials, etc. This could include assistance in bringing out people/experts from overseas. If the Boot Camp that Beth and I are trying to put on was able to and receive assistance from a national body, this would have helped keep the costs down to participants. VSDRA has made some attempt at education with their workshops they have held a couple of 'rules explanation days'. Southern also attempted something in this area when they brought out Robert Rooks, the vet, and the seminars that were held for vets and another for the mushers.

4. A national organisation could also lobby the government or the alpine resorts for greater access into the snow areas for mushers to race and train.

5. I believe that it would not be advisable to have a national organisation/governing body sponsored by a dog food company as it may impose untenable conditions on affiliated clubs and sponsored mushers. It was only a few years ago where mushers were prohibited from wearing any logos of dog food companies that were in conflict with the dog food company that was sponsouring the particular race. Any national sponsor which would impose such a dictatorship attitude on mushers or a race giving organisation is certainly to be frowned upon in my book. Also the dollars that we would be taking about, would pretty much cut out the majority of the dog food companies, they just would not have the dollars to put up for this sort of sponsourship.

6. In light of Narelle Mace's article in the February issue of *Hike* it would be appropriate for a National Body to lobby the relevant government departments to change the laws on Mushing. I am sure that we do not all want to end up in gaol for doing an activity that both the dogs and ourselves clearly enjoy.

7. A National organisation would need to offer something to the musher and race giving organisations and then it MUST deliver. Establishing an organisation is difficult. Maintaining one which delivers on its original promisesis far more difficult.

Di Baker's Views on a National Body

I feel the Australian sleddog sport needs a national body.

1. To streamline & standardise rules, enforce the abusivemusher/aggressive dog rules.
2. To make is easier for other clubs and races to form by having the same rules, equipment to lease and advice and assistance. Many clubs are only made up of a few peoplewith limited resources &know how.
3. To run a national point score system.
4. To produce non biased magazine like Hike.
5. To have a national view point on things.
6. As a group to co-ordinate publicity.
7. To set goals for the sport mission statements etc.
8. To establish a dog registry

There are always going to be differences of opinion in any club and not everyone will agree but every club or organisation has a constitution where all decisions are changed or set via a majority vote. If you don't like the issue presented say your peace and if nobody elseagrees then you should accept the vote. I believe Australia has to have a national group to take the sport to the next level. We have to look at the big picture not our own involvement.

I would like to be involved in the establishment of a national group.

GENERATION X
Sled Dog Racing Team

Is proud to present the first litter from **SADE** and **REPCO**

- -Sade and Repco have been outstanding performers in their 3 years on the Sled Dog Racing scene consistently placing and winning at major races around Australia

Relatives of Note:

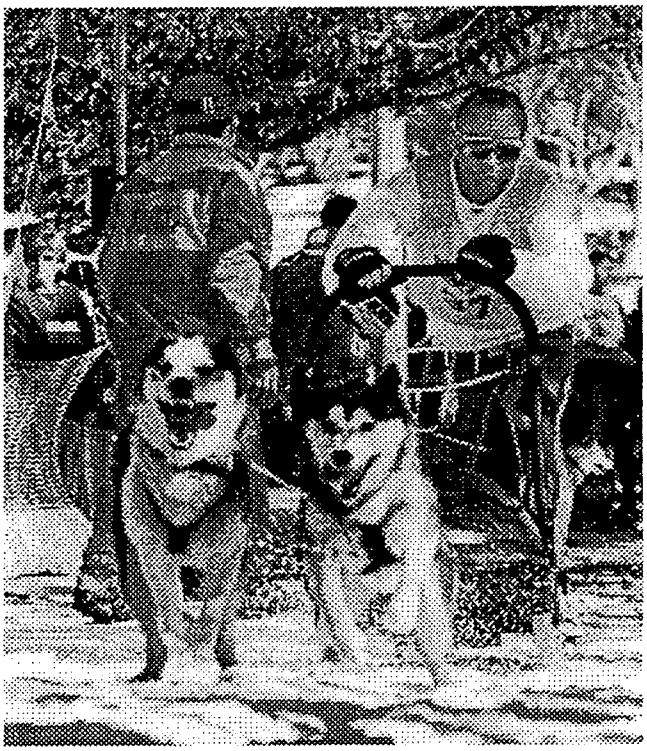
Dad:
Northomes Cliff – multiple winner including 3 Southern Cross Classics

Mums
Norstarr Utikuma – multiple winner including many 2 dogs wins in 1997

Chucki Sharra - multiple winner and a member of Finn Jo[illegible]n's dominant 1998 team

Daughter:
Chuvashkaya Chilli - Winner 1999 Sydney Sled Dog Shield & multiple place getter

Sister:
Gecko (Sade's twin) – The sometimes forgotten member of Laurie Coutts champion 1997/8/9 2 & now 4 dog teams



Pedigree:

REPCO
Northomes Jasper (USA)
Northomes Cliff (imp USA)
Northomes Keki (USA)
Chuvashkaya Jagged Edge
Nazareth's Evangelist Mark (CAN)
Chuckchi Sharra (imp N.Z.)
Chuckchi Taska Too (N.Z)

SADE
Northomes Jasper (USA)
Northomes Cliff (imp USA)
Northomes Keki (USA)
Cyberhusky Whirlwind
Ch.Sledog Polar King
Norstarr Utikuma
Ch. Norstarr Raising Arizona

Race record of Sade and Repco			
Race	1997	1998	1999
Undera Sled Dog Race	8th 2 Dog	3rd 2 Dog	2nd 3 Dog
Siberian Express	3rd 2 Dog	2nd 2 Dog	1st 4 dog
Wild Dog Derby	3rd 2 dog	2nd 2 dog	-
Bannockburn	3rd 2 dog	2nd 2 dog	2nd 4 dog
Canberra Sled Dog Classic	2nd 2 Dog	2nd 2 Dog	4th 4 Dog
Due South	-	-	2nd 6 dog
Diner Plain Derby	4th 2 dog	2nd 2 dog	6th 3 dog
Sydney Sled Dog Shield	-	1st 2 dog	3rd 2 dog
Mikulov / Charters Cup	-	2nd 2 Dog	1st 4 Dog

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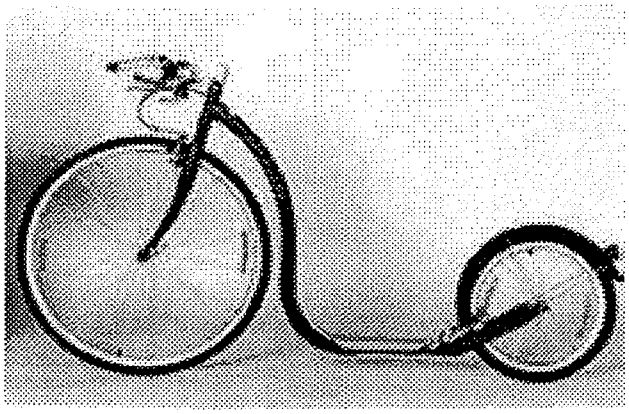
KICKBIKE TRIAL

Di Baker

Wayne and I recently trialed a KICK BIKE which is a new alternative to our racing scooters. We both had a go on a dirt track and cross-country bush. We trialed it with one dog and two dogs. We are quite impressed with it. It handled very well and moved freely. There are two models as shown and we used the Sport Classic.



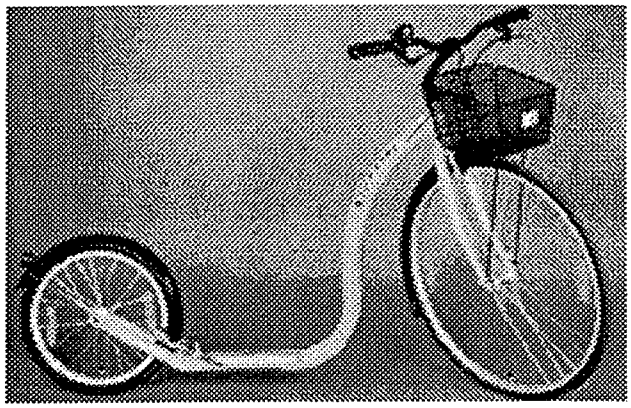
The Kickbike Sport Classic *model offers a slip resistant footboard, TransX alloy stem, handlebars and bar ends, sealed bearing hubs, puncture resistant Kevlar tyre liners, dual unbreakable plastic mudguards (only rear shown in this photo), Tektro V-type alloy brakes with contoured levers and stainless power modulators. As standard the Sport Classic has double wall, light-weight alloy rims and weighs just 9 kg.*

It has good ground clearance without being too high Quick release wheels for ease of transportation and changing flat tyres.

The V brakes were extremely effective to slow down & stop fast. It is s well balanced even though it looks like it doesn't.

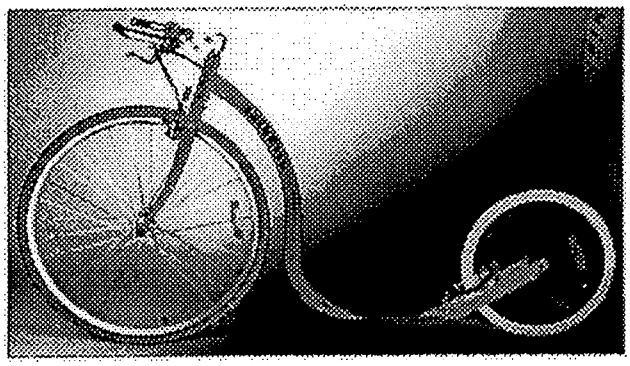
Other features of the Kickbike are:

- Brakes front & back.
- WEIGHS ONLY 9 KGS
- Has chrome molly frame for strength & lightness
- Corners well
- Comes with Mountain bike tyres and street slicks
- Has a water bottle and pump holder fixture
- The brake cable runs through the frame to eliminate cable hanging down.
- Has an adjustable handlebar
- Wheel rims are Lightweight alloy and did not buckle over uneven paddock track.



The Kickbike City Cruiser *features a useful plastic coated wire carry basket, cruising tyres, dual unbreakable plastic mudguards, an alloy slip resistant footboard and alloy side pull brakes. It has single wall alloy rims and comes in bright yellow.*

Our daughter will be racing the Kickbike this season if anyone wants to see it or try it. Please ask.



The price of the Sports Classic is $499 and the City Cruiser can be purchased for $399.

For more information on the Kickbike contact PushPower at 39 Cambridge Stree, West End QLD 4101. Phone on 07 32172742 or email at **info@pushpower.com.au**.

You can also check out the Pushpower homepage at http://www.pushpower.com.au

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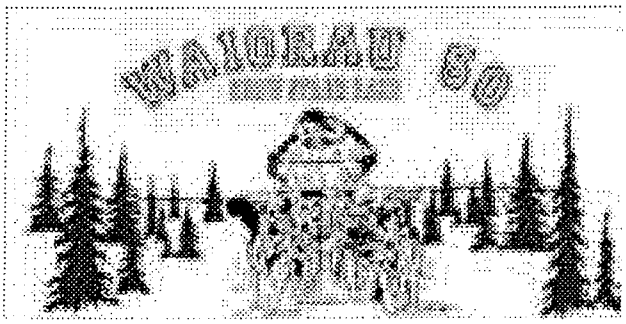


The Waiorau 50 is a 50km 3 heat snow stage race held in New Zealand. The great thing about the race is that it is held after the end of the racing season in Australia. This year's race is scheduled for 2 September. So if you've got any cash left in the bank account by then why not fly over as a spectator, or help out, or why not bring the dogs and compete! If you want to know more, email Grant Cousens at grant.c@ihug.co.nz, or if you don't have email access call us here at Hike! and we'll help you out.

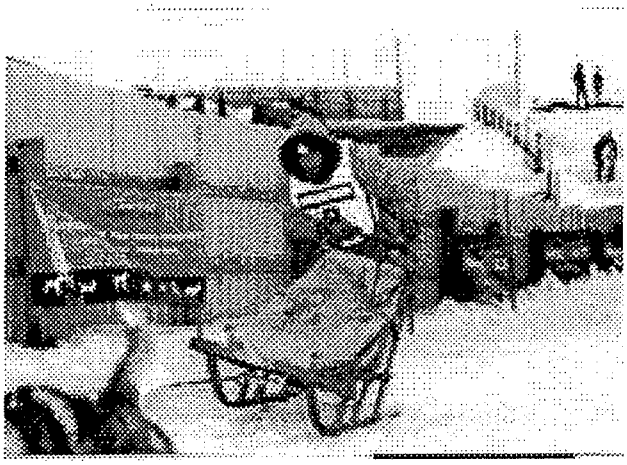
The race started on time at 6:00pm with each team leaving at 2 minute intervals. First away was Peter Dobbs with his mixed 4 dog team of German Wire-haired Pointers and Labrador X. Next away was Ray Holliday with his 6 Siberian Huskies, followed by Andrew McPhee and his 4 Alaskan Malamutes, Craig Jones and his 3 Siberian Huskies, Neil Harwood with 6 Siberian Huskies, Bruce Brogden with his 6 Siberian Huskies, Tony Turner with 4 Alaskan Malamutes and Darren Watson with his mixed 5 dog team of 4 Siberians and 1 Huntaway X.

In complete contrast to last year, the evening was clear and cold with a crisp Northwest wind. And that's pretty much as it stayed throughout the night!

Darren Watson & Team. Photo C/o Grant Cousens

We had things arranged slightly differently from last year in that there was some shelter for the handlers and officials at the checkpoints. Well, checkpoint one was OK but things got a little confused at checkpoint two. First we had accommodation, then we didn't, then we did and then we didn't. So good use was made of the trail groomer laid on by Mary and John Lee.

John & Mary had one of their ski field groomers groom a course for us of over 40km, & supplied us with 4 snowmobiles. Life's tough eh?



Ray Holliday *Photo C/o Grant Cousens*

The race went pretty much to plan with only one or two minor hiccups, at checkpoint one. Mainly due to inexperienced handlers and the like, but hey, that's what racing's all about. If everything went perfectly every time, things would get a bit boring wouldn't they?

The only gripe was the wind. Last year it was the snow storm that came through. It wasn't overly cold but everyone got a mite damp. This year it was the wind. Everyone stayed dry but froze their butts off.

The things we non mushers do so that the "other lot" can have a race. I don't know who's the most stupid. The mushers who paid for the privilege of running around a mountain at night behind a team of dogs or us lot for standing around and waiting for them!

Peter Dobbs with his German Wire-haired pointers took out the race again this year with Neal Harwood and Ray Holliday comining in second and third respectively 20 minutes later with only a minute separating them!

The hat's a dead give-away - Yep its Henry Cordani helping out! *Photo C/o Grant Cousens*

For more information, check out the W50 home page at: **www.waiorau-50.org.nz**

YOUR FUTURE SLED DOGS

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Lewiston,S.A. 5501
Ph:85243352
Mbl:0418818816.
arcticstarr@chariot.net.au

Well the race season is definitely over and done with for another year. The header on these articles will be changed for the Hike as I was writing for the Adelaide Mush as S.A.'s Drivers Delegate in 99 and just sending the same article over to Peter for the Hike. We have had some great response to some of the past articles so I will try and write more in 2000 as things come to mind or if I see things around the race track that I think need a mention. As I stated back in the first article that I wrote many of the comments that I make are my own and that is the way I feel about an issue or topic at the time. I am not saying that it is correct but it is mine and I wish to put my point across. I'm sure Hike would like to hear people's views on topics, just don't attack anyone personally and put your name to it. This is one of the reasons I think Hike will grow and it is needed because they give people the chance to speak up on controversial issues.
If there is any issue or topic you would like me to write on let me know and I will try and seek some information on it and try to cover the topic. I do use other articles, vets and mushers besides my own personal experiences to write these articles. (2000 will be my 10th year of mushing "Woh!".) I have made plenty of mistakes over the years and hopefully you can benefit from them.
I do encourage others to write for Hike because I have read some great articles on topics directly related to situations on the race circuit this year and it helps to open some eyes. Come on Hayley and Owen, you guys made some strong points in 99 with your articles, keep it going! Your points were shared by many others. Remember Hike is the only real Mushing magazine for Australian mushers that we can voice our opinions in, so lets have Australian mushing related articles. Well onto my next article on an issue I do feel strongly about and I know others do to.

Be cautious when training puppies to be racing sled dogs

Most pups at the age of 8-9 months may seem to be ready to run in your team and most will try hard to keep up at first, but I have seen too many young dogs eventually slow down and end up pulling back as the pace just freaks them out and it all becomes too hard for them. Dogs Less than 12 – 18 months old are immature. Their joints are still forming and their musculature is still filling out. Their cardiovascular system has not fully developed so they get winded easily. They are not coordinated. I watch my 9 month old pup playing in the back yard and see him tripping over his own feet and running into things in his yard, while the older dogs just seem to have a sixth sense and glide over objects.

Rough trails and sharp turns can cause balance problems, leading to injury. They do not have a sense of security so they can become frightened easily and loose any confidence they may have had. This could lead to problems with other new experiences they will face in their first year of being a racing sled dog.

A good dog will not realize it's own limitations. You can hook them up and hold on, because they want to run and run fast. They will seem to easily fit into your team and pick up the pace of your seasoned dogs. It is then easy to ask just a little more from them. You will go a little fast and farther, and may even enter a race that you did not plan on doing until you saw how fast the new pup can run. They may even do well then come next time they are
suddenly not pulling, they keep looking back, they are trying to leave the trail or they are just trying to pull to a halt.

You're asking "What has happened?", you have basically asked too much of them too soon and they were just not ready. Now they are asking "Is this sled dog racing game really fun or not?". Some pups will snap out of it after a few short positive runs, but others may never be the same. Obviously it is up to the musher to exercise care and prevent the problem from arising. The following are some common pitfalls to watch out for:

Speed:- a pup maybe fast but it does not have the coordination required to change loads at an instants notice on slippery and sharp corners. This may cause a moment of insecurity or even pain, a memory that will remain with the pup for a long time and cause them to back off to eliminate the situation from happening again.

Distance:- Pups tire much faster than your fitter adults. Pups tend to burst out fast and burn up their energy quickly leaving nothing to get home on. They do not know how to pace themselves. Stopping regularly can help to reduce this stress. Once they get tired it is very easy for them to get discouraged.

Different Trail Conditions:-
Uneven footing, steep hills mainly down hill, sharp corners or dead falls can cause problems. Your pup will get used to these things with time. It is better to introduce these things slowly and let the pup build its confidence. It is always a good idea to pick a nice easy safe track to start your pups training.

Loads:- We do not tend to have heavy loads for our dogs to pull except maybe ourselves.

Continued next page... ... .

Do not expect a pup to pull you around the trail, of course we want our dogs to pull us, but that will come as they gain their confidence and want to run faster.

Try and make it easy for them and basically scoot your butt off and try and keep the weight off them without jerking them about. If the load is too heavy it is easy for them to just give up. They need to be able to move loads easily before learning to haul something challenging. If they have to haul something heavy they can injure young joints and then have two injuries to deal with, the physical one and the psychological one of remembering that pulling hard caused pain.

Obviously the most important rule is prevention. Try not to run your pups too far or too fast until you are sure they are ready for it. Most races in Australia have a minimum entry age of 9 months for a dog to race, even at this very tender age these precautions should be taken. Most dogs are not really ready for serious training or racing until 12 – 18 months and then you maybe able to start serious racing. Weight pull has an older age for dogs to compete and pull loads because they recognize that young dogs are still developing joints and muscles. Just try and be careful in their first year and have lots of fun. They will enjoy a longer racing career after that first year if you do this.

My first runs are only between 1/2 to 1 kilometre, intended to show the pup what to do and not to condition them physically. If I run 1 kilometre I will normally stop at approximately 1/2 kilometre and have a rest and play until the pups breathing has stabilized and then finish the last 1/2 kilometre to home. One of the biggest dangers is that the pups may act fine until it is too late. Careful observation can spot the danger signs before it is too late. Watch for the signs of stress whether physical or psychological.

When a lope becomes uneven, legs loose and floppy instead of strong and smooth, or if the withers start bobbing up and down, or if the pup seems to be gasping, stop and let it breathe, even if that means stopping every few hundred meters. Do not let the pup think you will push it on and on or it will learn to rest itself by not pulling or by trying to quit.

If you start to notice some of the signs of stress or lack of enthusiasm, this is the time to cut your runs back to 1/2 to 1 kilometre runs and make them fun until the pup regains it's enthusiasm. This can also work with adult dogs that start to think that sled dog racing is just too hard. Do this for a week or two before increasing the distance. If a pup does poorly from the start it may just need to grow up more. Another month or two in the yard just having fun maybe all it needs.

Keep your pup's training positive. They do not need much discipline, almost all problems such as chewing, playing, trying to turn around will be outgrown as long as you control them and stop them from becoming habits. Be careful about personal goals, do not end up hurting your aspiring sled dogs just to stay on a predetermined schedule, and do not be scared to pull out of a race now if it may interrupt or damage them for the future. Today's pups will be the future of your team but only if they are handled properly. I believe many dogs are less valuable as competitive sled dogs because of improper training as pups. And yes I think that I ran my first two boys too hard as young dogs, but back then there was not anyone explaining things to us and no material to read. We had to find out for ourselves. This year in the very last race in Canberra, I ran my 22-month-old pup who was conditioned well and I thought was mentally ready to go hard. In the first 100 meters I noticed that she started to limp so I stopped and took no further part in the weekend. ("A long way to drive from Adelaide to Canberra to watch a sled dog race!") She was in her first year of competition and would remember the pain of injury if I would have kept on running. There will be many more races for her, and positive ones at that.

Four years ago I probably would have kept on scooting with the dog along side me, but it is not worth it. A dog alongside your scooter is not sled dog racing; it's you, the driver racing against the other dogs. If you are going to do this you may as well leave the dog back at the car and take them for a walk later on after all the racing has finished. At least you will not be pushing them beyond their means.

Basically take time to bring your new pups through and keep that first year light and positive for them and yourself. Remember it is never the dog's fault; your dog will only do what it had been taught to do, because they are creatures of habit. If they do something wrong you must have not prepared them properly or they are just not mature enough yet. Give things time and be consistent and positive. Always have a reward for your dogs as soon as they have finished running, food is great for this as most dogs will relate a good run with a food treat at the end and will run home hard to get it.

Have fun with your new pups and enjoy a long racing career with them starting on the right foot in the year 2000 and beyond.

KEWL RUNNING!

MICHAEL HERBST.

CYBERHUSKY

A SMALL LITTER OF 3 CRITTERS LOOKING FOR HOMES

BY "SPYDER"
TELKWA HAMAHAKKI (IID)
Polarspeed Pekko (Fin) X Polarspeed Pinja (Imp Fin)

OUT OF "GECKO"
CYBERHUSKY CYCLONE
Northomes Cliff (Imp USA) X Norstarr Utikuma

Spyder & Gecko have proven to be an outstanding team on the trail. They both have the attributes you would wish for in a racing dog. They are crazy to run & have their mind on the job.

Along with her sensational running ability Gecko has proven herself in the obedience ring and is now on her way to achieving her Novice title. She is a rare gem in our kennel as she brings to us not only speed and agility but also brains to the team.

Spyder has had a sensational racing career and never ceases to amaze us with his ability to lead small and large teams. He is a credit to his breeding. Recently he was awarded Best Dog 3-7 year old in the Siberian Husky Club of N.S.W Sled Dog Match. This was awarded under Mrs Susan Gilchrist (Lokiboden Racing Kennels Canada).

Spyder and Gecko have had a win in every race in Victoria, South Australia, & New South Wales.

3 little girls available to very special homes.
Born on January 17th.

For enquiries please call Lawrie Coutts on 03 5942 9073

And the answer is
No Dew Claws Please !

Narelle Mace

All breeds of dogs have front dew claws, some hounds and herding breeds pass on/display rear dew claws. There are dome breeds which specifically state in their "standard" about the presence of front and rear dew claws, or the removal of dew claws.

If you see a Siberian with rear dew claws then they must be removed. These dew claws are more of a deformed toe nail that grows awkwardly and appear to be without large jointed knuckles. Removal should be relatively easy.

The clinical approach to the removal of dew claws is as follows:

- The puppies need to be between 0 and 4 days of age. This has to do with the under developed nerve endings.
- Swab the area with alcohol swab.
- Removal of the claw is done with a pair of very sharp curved nail scissors or side cutters (smaller variety).
- Press the dew claw between your thumb and forefinger so that the whole nail, knicles and skin are forward of the foot and in no contact with the rest of the toes and foot.
- The idea is to cut high above the knuckle and twist the scissors pulling the knuckle out of the joint. If you leave the knuckle joint in place then the nail will grow again.
- Using a sterilized heated soldering iron cauterise the wound to seal.
- Keep an eye on the puppies for bleeding and if necessary recauterise the wound.

Do not use the old favourite, potassium permangenate or iodine on the open wounds, there has been some connection with these causing brain disorders.

Whilst this all sounds a long drawn out and painful process in deft hands it really only takes seconds to do. Yes the puppies squeal a little, however their distress has more to do with the handling than the removal of the dew claw. Never have we had puppies cry for any more than a couple of seconds. We have never had a dew claw grow back. I would urge anyone who thinks – "I will give it a go", to think again. Really for the small amount of money it costs to use a vet, please do so. Some years ago it became illegal for a lay person to remove tails and dew claws on puppies **unless** they had been doing the procedure for several years.

We have had dew claws removed from a 2 year old cattle dog that we owned after one got caught in fencing. Whilst more of a major operation at that stage of his life, he was immediately at the vet for the operation and came out of the experience just fine.

I have always had the dew claws removed from our puppies for some 18 years. I wouldn't have it any other way. Aesthetically I like the clean outline of a dog, I hate to see dogs with long nails and for the most part owners just tend to forget the dew claw or cant be bothered. These dew claws are also the blighters that hurt when a dog jumps up on you and can cut into the skin of young children. In our particular sport of sled dog racing those nails are more vulnerable when you have dogs jumping lines, getting them caught and ripping them off whilst running.

As the owners of dock tailed breeds it is an emotive argument that surrounds the whole deal. I have owned docked tail breeds for 35 years (Fox Terriers, Corgis, and Weimaraners). I can see that some tails are now docked for none other than aesthetics, but many had/have a practical application as well. Tail removal today is the same method as for dew claws with the same discomfort. Years ago people used a rubber band, which would be excruciatingly painful over the time it took for the tail to "drop off". Many of the herding dogs with docked tails are so they do not develop fly bite. The guarding dogs have docked tails so that would be "bad people" could not use the dogs tail (and in the case of cropped ears, the ears) to inflict pain or use those parts to disarm the dogs from his job of guarding.

But my passion for hunting dogs has always been for the Weimaraners, (short coats) dogs with no dew claws and tail docked. Because of the type of hunting they carry out, the tail is used as a signal to the hunter of the presence of a "find". The tail comes up and wags incredibly fast. Many hunting dogs do the same and with long tails would suffer multiple tail brakes in a day on the field, from being hit on branches and caught in thicket. Brakes of the tail turn gangrenous very quickly then you end up with an older dog undergoing major surgery, incredible pain and out of action for a considerable amount of time. If no one is still convinced of the merits of tail docking go to a non slip retrieving trial or field trial, you will gain a new insight into the breeds, the why and where for, and being left in total awe of these dogs and the sport. In keeping with the gundog group we have now welcomed a lovely Viszla to our clan and I am told these dogs are fast but she will ***NOT*** be used for racing. I only hope Terry is listening!!

❋❋❋

Thought of the Month

The other day I was walking my dog around the building ... on the ledge. Some people are afraid of heights. Not me. I'm afraid of widths. - Steve Wright

LIHUK SIBERIANS

PRESENT

LIHUK BACK IN BLACK
"M.J."

TELKWA TAIKA (IID) X TUMLADEN HUNTERS DAWN
POLARSPEED PEKKO CHARKINSKI CHAR
X X
POLARSPEED PINJA CH TUMLADEN HUNTERS DAWN

LIHUK BLACK AND BLUE
"BLUEY"

TELKWA TAIKA (IID) X NEYSASIBES CAT BALLOU (IMP CAN)
POLARSPEED PEKKO LACADIE'S FLIGHT O'EAGLE
X X
POLARSPEED PINJA NEKANSKU'S SHEEBA

M.J. runs lead and BLUEY runs at wheel on TEAM LIHUK'S 4 dog team. They are both very competent sleddogs and are extremely hard workers acheiving along with their team mates many wonderful results throughout the 1999 sledding season.

Puppies from this wonderful pair will be available to suitable homes.

For more information please contact either John or Lisa Hodgson of LIHUK SIBERIANS on 03 - 5281 5283 phone or fax or email lihuk_sibrerians@dogs.net.au and we would be more than happy to assist your enquiries.

PUPPIES ARE BORN!!!!!!!!!
LITTER WHELPED 12 JANUARY 2000
2 Males and 3 Females
2 Females left to suitable homes

TEAM LIHUK
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This Month on the Hike! Homepage

Peter Komidar

Many of us have access to the internet either at home or at work, but for those who don't, you can always check out the Hike! homepage at your local internet cafe or at the local library.

Its actually quite easy. At the library you'll find the computer already connected to the internet. At the top of the screen you'll see a row with some writing (an address) which begins with the following 'http://' and then some words. All you have to do is click on that row and then type in the following:

http://members.dynamite.com.au/komidar/Index.html

But make sure you don't make any mistakes in typing it out or you won't get to the Hike homepage.

In a short while you should see the the front cover of the magazine (in colour!) come on the screen. To the left of this are the navigation fields. Click on these and they'll take you to the page described. You'll find the same navigation fields on the bottom of each page. And that's it!

So what can you expect to see - besides the colour front cover?

This month you'll find the Autoped article and the Alaskan Husky article - which appear in the March edition - on the 'net' complete with colour photos.

You'll also find the regular articles on mushing in Australia (for our overseas visitors), the race calendar with email links to each race organising committee, and the 1999 *Hike!* pointscore champions (as the 2000 season gets underway there will be monthly pointscore updates on the web of the top three mushers in each class).

The homepage also has a growing links page with links to web pages which were used in compiling this month's edition, links to other Australian mushing-related web pages, links to international sled dog racing organisations and our favourite overseas mushing sites.

The biggest part of the links page is devoted to scooter web pages from around the world - covering dog-scooter sites, scooter manufacturers and scooter racing teams and federations. To my knowledge the Hike! scooter links section is the most comprehensive scooter links page in the world! And we want to keep it that way, so if you find any others please let us know.

To use this page, just click on any link that sounds interesting and before you know it, you'll be visiting that site. To get back to the Hike homepage just click on the 'Back' button at the top of the screen.

Finally the homepage contains a 'contact Hike!' page. This month featuring a picture of Lawrie Coutts at the1997 Canberra Sled Dog Classic which appeared on the front page of the Canberra Times on the Sunday of the race!

If you've managed to get on the site and navigate around it - why not also send us an email. We'd love to get your feedback.

Happy surfing!

A Reader Writes

Race Information

Rob Clive

I would like to offer my support for more detailed information on race results, as mentioned in last month's magazine.

For mushers wishing to venture interstate in the future and travel the racing circuit, information on entry numbers, track lengths, terrain and weather conditions are a vital part of the planning process, enabling them to select those races most suited to them and their team, and the conditions they have been training in.

Clubs should also be using this information to 'sell' and promote their event, to mushers, sponsors and spectators! I for one would be more inclined to enter an event if it mentioned "narrow winding tracks through heavily timbered country", "forested sandhills and swampy crossings" or "smooth gravel trails through rainforest gullies". Anyway, you get the idea!

Could I also make a request for clubs to provide a contact phone number for the race calendar. I'm not computer illiterate, its just that I don't have ready access to the internet and email.

Hike will of course include any of the information referred to above which is provided by race organising committees (Ed).

Paul Snibson and his English Pointer

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Please order custom equipment as early as possible.

Below: John Hodgson and team at the inaugural 1996 Sydney Sled Dog Sprint Photo: Beth Bobroff

SOUTHERN CROSS PRO - AM 2000

ENTRY FORM

MAY 20/21

TEAM DRIVER :- .....

DRIVER ADDRESS :- .....

..... POST-CODE:-.....

PHONE:- (HOME) ..... (WORK).....

DRIVER SIGNATURE:-.....

PEEWEE DRIVER NAME:-.....

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE:-.....

LIMITED CLASS	SPORTSMAN	PRO	TOTAL
1 DOG CLASS ☐	($15)	($30)	$.....
2 DOG CLASS ☐	($15)	($30)	$.....
4 DOG CLASS ☐	($15)	($30)	$.....
PEEWEE CLASS ☐		($5)	$.....
MINI PEEWEEE ☐		($2)	$.....

SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER SPIT ROAST
$14 PER PERSON ($14)..... $.....
$7 PER CHILD UNDER 12 YEARS ($7)..... $.....

GUMBUYA PARK ENTRY WEEKEND PER PERSON ($6 EACH) ..... $.....
CHILDREN UP TO 12 YEARS ($3 EACH) ..... $.....

THE ENTRY FEE INTO GUMBUYA IS $6 FOR WEEKEND ENTRY PER PERSON
THE ENTRY FEE IS $3 FOR CHILDREN UP TO 12 YEARS FOR THE WEEKEND
CHILDREN UPTO 4 YEARS ARE ADMITTED FREE

TOTAL ENCLOSED: $.....

PLEASE SEND ENTRY, FEES PLUS A STAMPED SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR RETURN INFORMATION AND UPDATES TO SAM PODGER 199 - 201, CAMMS ROAD, CRANBOURNE, VICTORIA, 3977

*PEE WEE DRIVERS MUST BE OLDER THEN 7 YEARS AND YOUNGER THEN 15 YEARS OF AGE
*PEE WEE AND MINI PEE WEE ENTRANTS WILL ALSO BE ACCEPTED ON THE DAY

By signing this entry I agree to run under the rules governing the race and shall abide by any official decision made at the races. I shall not hold the sponsoring/ organizing bodies / individuals liable for injury or accident which may occur during the race. I agree to be responsible for my conduct and that of my helpers and my dogs.

Eagle Pack
Super Premium Pet Food

PROUD SPONSORS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS PRO -AM

7TH SOUTHERN CROSS PRO-AM 2000

ONCE AGAIN THE RACE IS TO BE HELD AT GUMBUYA PARK, TYNONG NORTH, VICTORIA (17KM FROM PAKENHAM ON THE PRINCESS HWY)
ONCE AGAIN WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE
IDITAROD MUSHER
STEVE CARRICK
AS OUR RACE MARSHALL

- CAMPING AVAILABLE AT THE RACE SITE PLEASE KEEP CARS OFF THE GRASS AT THE CAMPING SITE.
- BIB DRAW TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY AT 7.30PM AT THE CLUB ROOM.
- LATE ENTRIES WILL CLOSE AT 7.00PM SHARP ON FRIDAY NIGHT. NO PHONE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.
- DRIVERS MEETING WILL BE AT 7.00AM. TIME PENALTIES MAY BE IMPOSED FOR THOSE ARRIVING LATE.
- RACING WILL COMMENCE AS CLOSE TO 7.00AM AS POSSIBLE.
- LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ALL MUSHERS BOTH DAYS.
- DINNER WILL BE A BEEF AND PORK SPIT ROAST.
- ENTRIES CLOSE ON THE 1ST OF MAY 2000.
- LATE ENTRIES WILL BE CHARGED AN ADDITIONAL $10.00
- ANY QUERIES CAN BE DIRECTED TO SAM PODGER ON 03 59966289 OR KAREN JOHNSON ON 03 98530193 OR EMAIL kazjohn@netspace.net.au

THE SOUTHERN CROSS SLED DOG CLUB INC.

MAY 20/21

2000 SOUTHERN CROSS PRO - AM

ITS TIME TO RAISE THE CURTAIN ON THIS MILLENNIUM RACE SEASON

THIS YEAR THE SOUTHERN CROSS PRO - AM WILL AGAIN BE OFFERING SPORTS AND PRO CLASS FOR THE 3 CLASSES.

AS ALWAYS PRO - CLASS WILL BE COMPETING FOR A LARGE CASH PRIZE POOL AND PRIZES. WHILE SPORTSMAN CLASS WILL BE COMPETING FOR TROPHIES AND SASHES ONLY.

PRO - CLASS WILL GO OUT BEFORE THE SPORTSMAN CLASS IN EACH HEAT AS A FORM OF SELF SEEDING.

ITS UP TO YOU WHICH CLASS YOU YOU SELECT BUT YOU MUST HAVE RACED IN A ALL BREEDS RACE PRIOR TO THE WEEKEND FOR PRO - CLASS.

SPORTS CLASS IS FOR THE PEOPLE WHO WISH FOR A SOCIAL SPRINT ROUND THE TRACK.

COME TO GUMBUYA PARK TO SEE OUT THE START OF THE RACE SEASON FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM IN WHAT SHOULD BE A CARNIVAL EVENT.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE RACE AND GOOD LUCK

A5K Y2K RACE UPDATE

Rob Stevens

This years Altitude 5000 Sleddog Group's race weekend is confirmed for August 12th and 13th.

Race Classes 2, 3, 4 & 6 dogs
Distance TBA pending snow coverage
Race Heats possibly "2" Saturday "1" Sunday (pending snow depth)
VSDRA Membership Required – yes
Entry Forms available on request from June 1
Entries Close approx last Friday July 2000
Late Entry Fees yes
Float and Trailer Parking Restrictions yes
Mid Race Banquet TBA
Mid Race Entertainment no answer from Pink Floyd however TBA
Accommodation via Accommodation Services Dinner Plain ph 03-5159-6696 email info@accommdinnerplain.com.au
Race Flyers available @ A5000SDG race expo, Dinner Plain Polo Match Easter long weekend and thereafter.

Further email enquiries can also be made to sleddogs@ssc.net.au In the mean time keep your fingers crossed for meters of packed white stuff!

Sydney Sled Dog Sprint Race Format Update

Last month *Hike!* broke the news that the Sydney Sled Dog Sprint has been to be reduced to two heats. Craig Turner confirmed that this year's Sydney Sled Dog Sprint would not include a night heat.

Craig stated that the reasoning behind the change was to reduce the pressures on competitors. With the removal of the night heat, race organisers will concentrate instead on fostering a relaxed and informal social atmosphere to the Saturday night.

Craig stressed that no decisions had been taken about making the change permanent. Instead, a questionnaire will be placed in Race Pack and it will be left to the competitors themselves to decide whether they want a night heat in 2001.

Race marshal for 2000 will be Lisa Hodgson.

CANBERRA RACE DATES REVISED

Kate Ord of the Canberra Sled Dog Club advised of a change of dates for the Canberra race moving the date of the race forward a week to the weekend of the 19-20 August (the week immediately following the snow race). However, some mushers have expressed concern at the change and as a consequence, the Club will reconsider its race date at its next monthly meeting.

The Great Grey Bound Race Distances and Distance Race

Race distances have been confirmed at the following:

⇒ 1 Dog Class 2 heats of 2.4 km
⇒ 2 Dog Class 2 heats of 6.5 km
⇒ 4 Dog Class 2 heats of 9.0 km
⇒ 6 Dog Class 2 heats of 12.7 km

This year CHA will also be holding a distance run on the Saturday night. The distance run is a one heat race of 25 km. The distance run is a 6 dog class race with a minimum of 4 dogs permitted.

THE KOOYOORA CHALLENGE IS GO!

Narelle Mace was also able to confirm that the K50 distance race is on again this year. With the addition of the K50 and the CHA distance run, the distance circuit is looking very healthy for 2000.

Held on the 5th and 6th of August, the Kooyora Challenge consists of 2 heats of 25 km. There will be 3 classes: a 6-dog, 8-dog and open class with a minimum of 4 dogs required.

Ridge Runners Race Cancelled

Wayne Baker has advised that there will be no Ridge Runners Race in 2000. After much deliberation the members of Ridge Runners decided to cancel the race for this year due to limited time & people. Club members have decided instead to increase their presence at interstate races this year.

Southern Highlands Freight Run Race Distances

Geoff Styche confirmed that the SHFR will be run on the same trails as last year. The distances are:

⇒ 1 Dog Class 2 heats of 7.8 km
⇒ 2 Dog Class 2 heats of 14.9 km
⇒ 4 Dog Class 2 heats of 20.8 km
⇒ 6 Dog Class 2 heats of 20.8 km

Dash Distances Divulged

Helen Pettifer confirmed the following distances for this year's Undera Sled Dog Dash

⇒ 1 Dog Class 3 heats of 2 km
⇒ 2 Dog Class 3 heats of 4.5 km
⇒ 3&4 Dog Class 2 heats of 7 km + night heat of 4.5 km
⇒ Novice 2 heats of 2 km - no night heat

2000 Sled Dog Events Calendar

Sprint Races

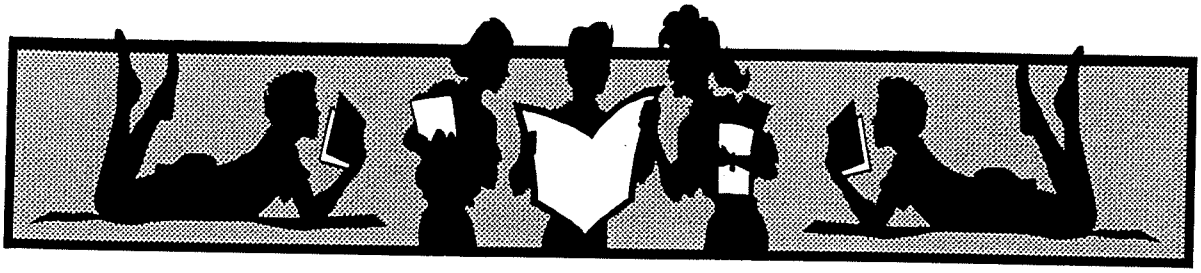
Race & Distances	State	Date	Contact
Southern Cross Pro Am	Vic	20-21 May	Johnson, Karen kazjohn@netspace.net.au
Undera Sled Dog Dash 1 Dog Class 3 heats of 2km 2 Dog Class, 3 heats 4.5kms 3&4 Dog Class 2 heats 7kms + night heat 4.5kms, Novice 2 heats of 2 km -no night heat	Vic	10-12 June	H & D Pettifer pettifer@bigpond.com
Sydney Sled Dog Sprint	NSW	24-25 June	Craig Turner ionamal@shoal.net.au
Northern Exposure Classic	Qld	30/6 - 2/7	Donald Maillet (07) 3822 6427 d.maillet@mailbox.uq.edu.au
Great Grey Bound 1 Dog Class 2 heats of 2.4 km 2 Dog Class 2 heats of 6.5 km 4 Dog Class 2 heats of 9.0 km 6 Dog Class 2 heats of 12.7 km	Vic	8-9 July	Terry & Narelle Mace weish@primus.com.au
Wild Dog Derby	SA	15-16 July	***To Be Confirmed***
Sydney Sled Dog Shield	NSW	29-30 July	Ivan Douglas skylaska@zip.com.au
The Burn 1&2 Dog Class 2 heats of 7.5km 3, 4 & 6 Dog Class 2 heats of 15km Junior Class 2 heats of 3.8km	Vic	5-6 August	Lisa Hodgson lihuk@netspace.net.au
A5000 Pedigree Pal SD Derby	Vic	12-13 August	Robert Stevens sleddogs@ssc.net.au
Canberra Sled Dog Classic	ACT	19-20 August	Kate Ord kate.ord@ea.gov.au

Distance Races

Race & Distances	State	Date	Contact
CHA Distance Run 6 dog class (min 4 dogs) 1 heat of 25K	Vic	8 July	Terry & Narelle Mace weish@primus.com.au
Southern Highlands Freight Run 1 Dog Class 2 heats of 7.8 km 2 Dog Class 2 heats of 14.9 km 4 Dog Class 2 heats of 20.8 km 6 Dog Class 2 heats of 20.8 km	NSW	8-9 July	Geoff Styche styche@pnc.com.au
B50	NSW	22-23 July	Stephen Carrick crack@ozemail.com.au
Kooyoora Challenge 2 heats of 25 km 6, 8, Open class (min 4 dogs)	Vic	5-6 August	Terry & Narelle Mace weish@primus.com.au or John Hynd

Weight Pull

Race & Distances	State	Date	Contact
AMCNSW Weight Pull	NSW	21 May	Geoff Styche - styche@pnc.com.au
AMCNSW Weight Pull	NSW	11 June	Geoff Styche - styche@pnc.com.au
AMCNSW Weight Pull	NSW	13 August	Geoff Styche - styche@pnc.com.au
AMCNSW Weight Pull	NSW	9 September	Geoff Styche - styche@pnc.com.au



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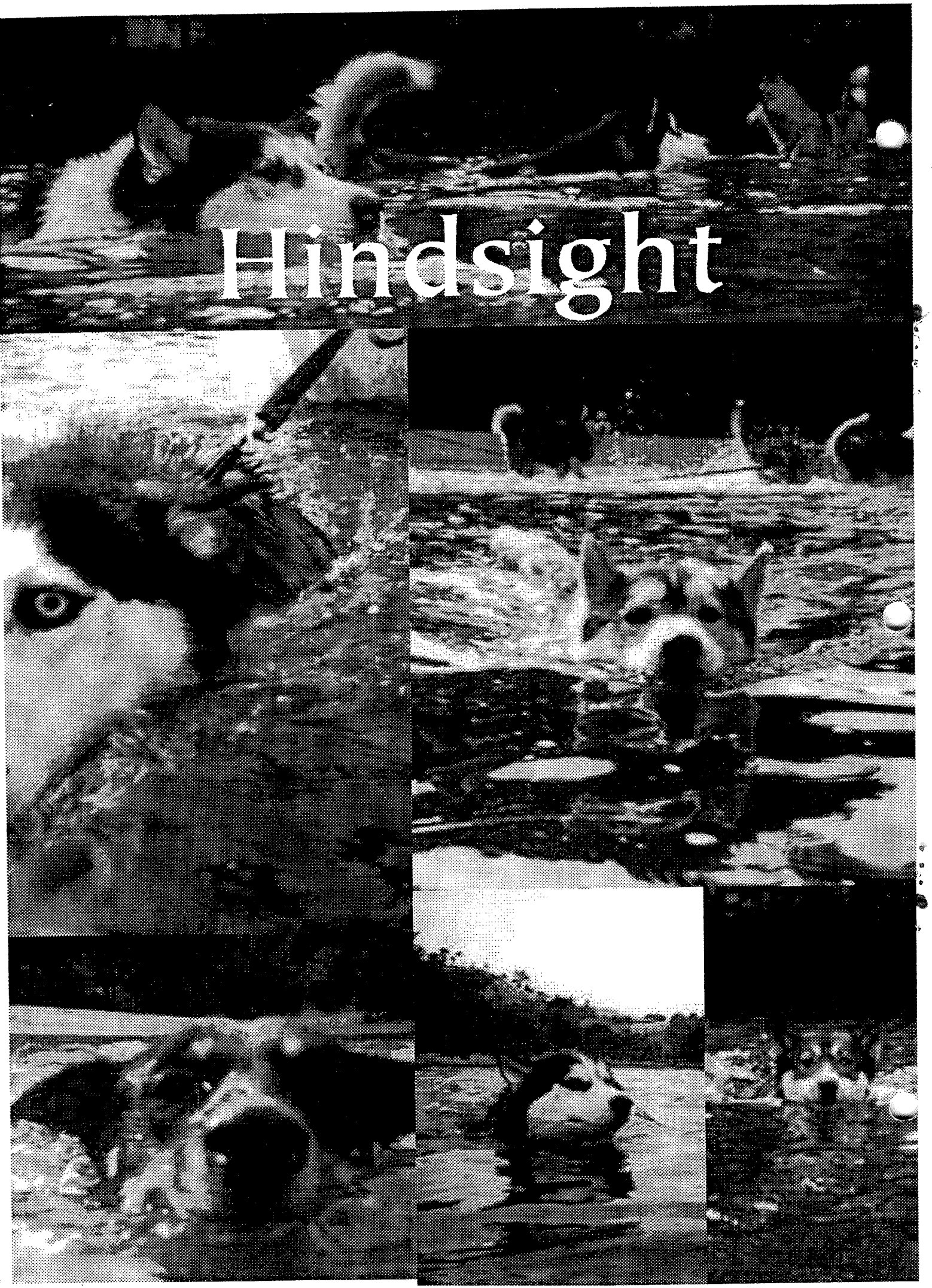
Hindsight