

Let's Talk Basics

Know the Breed:

We cannot stress enough how important it is to educate yourself on the characteristics of the breed you are adopting. A great environment is ESSENTIAL. Raising a dog with appropriate interaction, **socialization** and training is very important. However, people frequently forget the role genetics play in forming a dogs' personality and characteristics. Knowing the traits of a Husky, will prepare you to control behavior and to appropriately meet the needs of the dog. Huskies have a thick double coat, which is a thick undercoat and a soft outer coat. HUSKIES SHED. Be prepared for a lot of vacuuming, sweeping and BRUSHING YOUR DOG.



Huskies have a strong pack instinct and thus normally get along well with other dogs. The harsh conditions in Siberia (origin land) equipped the Husky breed with a **strong prey drive** because food was scarce and hard to come by. Now, even a modern Husky may view small animals—including squirrels, rabbits, and even cats—as potential prey. Most Huskies will not do well in a home where cats also reside!

Part of the prey drive in Huskies contributes to them being adventurous. It is not uncommon for them to be labeled as “escape artists” for digging holes and jumping over fences.

Being a good owner is not a matter of changing the dogs' inbred characteristics, but EDUCATING yourself, ACCEPTING them, and MANAGING them responsibly.

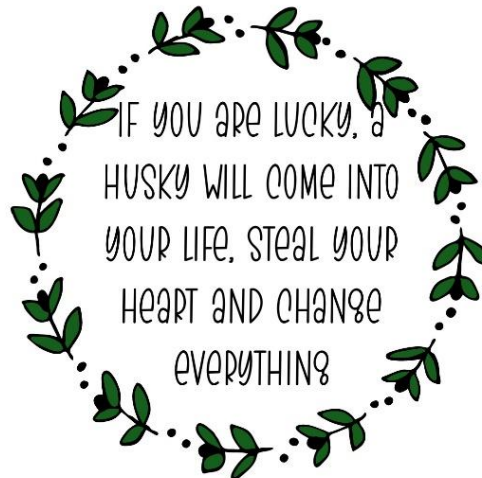
Spay/Neuter and Vaccinate: Spay/neuter controls population and helps with behavior. Even with good owners, accidental litters happen. Microchips reunite and vaccinations keep your pet healthy. **REMEMBER: HEALTHY DOGS CONTRIBUTE TO A SAFER COMMUNITY**



308-385-5305 | www.centralnebraskahumanesociety.com



Lifetime Commitment: A good owner will not easily give up or attempt to rehome a dog with life changes, moves etc. **DO NOT** take on the responsibility of ownership if you are not serious. Huskies account for the highest returned breeds at the shelter at nearly 13 percent, based on 2018 statistics. **Almost all homeless/stray dogs had an owner at some time.**



Huskies are intelligent and energetic dogs. They require a lot of exercise, attention, **and** stimulus. If you are able to provide enough exercise and stimulus for your dog, then a husky may be a good fit for your life and your home.

Responsible Husky Ownership



Huskies have some instincts that can make them difficult to have as pets, unless you know what they are and how to work with them. Do as much research as possible before bringing a husky into your life. You can't bring home a husky just for looks. You need to research the breed and see if your lifestyle can meet their needs. If your current lifestyle does not meet their needs, are you willing to make any adjustments? You should ask yourself, “Where do I see myself in the next decade or so?” Raising a dog is just like having children, if not more work, in some aspects. If you love staying at home watching Netflix, travel a lot, or have a crazy work schedule, then maybe a husky isn't for you.

CAN YOUR TIME AND LIFESTYLE ACCOMMODATE A HUSKY?

SPAY & NEUTER

Husky abandonment has become an epidemic. Do not BUY a Husky, but rather ADOPT a one from a local shelter or rescue. The number of Huskies in shelters and rescues are continually increasing. The more dogs flood a shelter, the more risk they run to being euthanized. Together, we can prevent our beloved Husky breed from having to spend a day at a shelter feeling scared, unwanted, abandoned, and unloved ever again!

Best Reasons to Spay/Neuter

1. You love your dog and want them to live a long healthy life. Spaying/neutering reduces risk of types of cancers and infections.
2. You are concerned about pet overpopulation and don't want to contribute to the tragedy of so many dogs dying homeless
3. You don't want to put a female through the unnecessary risks associated with pregnancy
4. You want your dog to live a happy life free from stress and frustration. Intact males can smell a female in heat, from MILES away. They are in CONSTANT state of frustration when triggered by their sexual hormones but not able to do anything about it.
5. Neutered males are easier to control and less aggressive. The majority of dog bites are made by in-tact males.
6. Having your dog spayed/neutered will greatly reduce the risk of them constantly trying to escape and run the community.
7. Spayed females are more stable and even tempered. The female reproduction cycle lasts 6 months. During that cycle the dog goes through frequent hormonal changes that directly influence her behavior. Think of it this way: The premenstrual cycle of a female dog can last SEVERAL months

Worst Excuses Not to Spay/Neuter

1. "Just one litter and then we will have her spayed." Studies show that virtually the entire pet overpopulation issues stem from the "just one litter" mentality.
2. "My dog never runs loose so he doesn't need to be fixed". Murphy's law says otherwise. Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong. 'Never' is non-existent.
3. "We always find homes for the puppies". And that means an equal number of puppies in "kill" shelters will be euthanized.
4. "I want my kids to witness the miracle of birth". Rent a video.
5. "My dog is so cute and unique, there should be more of her". The shelters and pounds are FULL of cute and unique dogs, most with only days to live.
6. It's NOT natural. There has not been anything "natural" about dogs since we began to develop breeds thousands of years ago.
7. "A female should have at least one litter for health reasons". Medically, factually and ethically, that is indefensible.
8. "Spaying/neutering my dog will make them fat and lazy". No, too much food and not enough exercise will make your dog fat and lazy.



TRAIN & KEEP YOUR HUSKY STIMULATED

The key lesson to remember is that a Husky can be incredibly stubborn and destructive if not trained properly. A well behaved and obedient dog is important, not only for you and your family, but for the success and mental stimulation of your Husky. If you properly train your Husky using effective methods, you'll never



experience intense stubborn behaviors. **A Husky escaping, digging up holes in your yard, ripping up furniture, or destroying carpet/curtains etc. is not normal behavior for Huskies...it's normal behavior for under-exercised Huskies.**

A WELL EXERCISED HUSKY IS A HAPPY HUSKY.

One of the primary causes of relinquishment, abandonment, and potential euthanasia is behavior problems, and an owner who does not know how, or is not willing to manage behavior and give Huskies the training/exercise they need.

Socialization is also a key component of training your dog. It's crucial in maintaining a dog with sound temperament. The purpose of socializing your husky puppy is **to introduce your dog, in a controlled way, to a wide variety of new situations, new people, sights, sounds, and smells.** Ideally, this socialization should occur very early in the life of a puppy. This keeps him from becoming overwhelmed, ill-mannered, and fearful later on in life.