

# The Cook Inlet Kennel Club GAZETTE



## SPOTLIGHT ON THE BREED

### *The ICELANDIC SHEEPDOG*

[Editor's Note: Every other month I will be picking a different breed, starting with the Miscellaneous Class, to introduce to our members. If there is a specific breed you would like to see spotlighted, please let me know.]

**History:** The Icelandic Sheepdog is a spitz that originated in Scandinavia. Dogs found in graves in Denmark and Sweden from about 8000 B.C. bear much resemblance with the Icelandic Sheepdog. As Norwegian Vikings set out to sea and colonized Iceland in 874, they brought their dogs with them. Throughout the years other breeds were only imported in small numbers, and since 1901 it has been forbidden to bring animals into Iceland, so the breed has to some extent remained pretty much the same since the Vikings settled down.

Epidemics, hunger periods and natural disasters have made life very harsh at times in Iceland, resulting in a breed that is tough and enduring.

The number of dogs has varied a lot over time. From the days of Olaf Tryggvarsson (10th century) we have a written account telling about a famine that had quite serious consequences for the dogs on the island: to remedy the situation a decision is made to kill all old folks and cripples, as they eat, but do not work.

The chief, Arnor Karlingeneff from Miklebo in Oslandshil has been among those in favor of this, but he is persuaded by his mother to rethink his decision. And after some discussion the decision is altered in favor of reducing the number of dogs and horses, which he announces in this speech:

"And no less shall this malpractice be done with, which has become common in these parts, that you feed dogs in such great

numbers that many men could live on the food that they eat. Now we must kill these dogs, so that few or none shall live, and use the food previously given to the dogs to feed the people." Throughout the years the dogs have been looked upon in different ways. Sometimes hated, sometimes loved. A Danish scientist, Peder Hansen Resen, gives this account in his description of Iceland in the 17th century: "Dogs are so much the joy of the natives, that hardly any are seen without being accompanied by a dog."

A couple of hundred years later, another Dane, Dr. Krabbe, visiting Iceland in 1880, gives this interesting account:

"Dogs may be indispensable for the Ice-lander, but they also do much harm. They act as hosts for several species of intestinal worms, whose offspring can be transferred to humans and other animals, causing diseases among sheep and "liver-disease" in humans. This disease is so widespread that every 40th individual suffers from it. It spreads mainly because of poor sanitary conditions, and because the number of dogs is so great.

The dog population varies in size, in 1855-56 an epidemic reduced the number of dogs greatly, and it has been said that as much as a cow or a couple of sheep was the price of a dog.

Now they are found in such great numbers that 2-5 dogs are found on each farm, sometimes even more. A priest told me that he had at least 12 dogs in his household that had come in the company of churchgoers and had been left behind. According to the Icelanders it is not uncommon to have the service disturbed by dogs that run about and fight at the cemetery."

Cont. on Page 3

#### 2009 Board Members

President— Carolyn Tolson  
(745-2322)

V-President—Casey Hessinger

Treasurer—Kristine Asay

Corresponding Secretary—  
Rene Clayton

Recording Secretary -  
Cheri Hagen

Directors -  
Phyllis Justice  
Gretchen Keim  
Judi Rideout  
Jon Zylstra

#### 2009 Committee Chairs

Judges Committee -  
Casey Hessinger

Training Committee -  
Show Committee—  
Carolyn Tolson

**COME AND JOIN US AT  
OUR NEXT GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING!**

**MAY 5th AT 7:00 P.M.**

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Minutes  
General Meeting  
April 7, 2009

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. Jon Zylstra made a motion to accept the minutes as published. Kathy Kochendorfer seconded. Motion passes.  
**Corresponding Secretary Report:** Advertisement from PFD Charitable Contributions Program  
April Enstar Bill  
Premium List for OTCC May Trials  
Premium List for TVKC May shows  
AKKC March Newsletter  
Wells Fargo Account statement Business Market Rate Account  
Wells Fargo Account statement Business Checking Account  
**President's Report:** The President reported that the club will now be using Parliamentary Procedure. No discussion on any item will be allowed until there is a motion on the floor. The only exception is committee reports. Once people get used to the procedure it will make the meeting and discussion easier.

**Show Committee Report:** The next meeting of the Show Committee will be May 5 @ 6:00 p.m.

**Training Committee Report:** Meeting April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the building. Puppy class is going smoothly.

**Legislative Committee:** No report.

**Judge's Committee:** No report.

**New Members:**

First Reading – Mabel Wimmer, she owns Mastiffs

Second Reading – Paige Banghof and Samantha Marlin, both approved. Welcome Paige and Samantha.

**Unfinished Business:**

Copy Machine – Sam's Club had a closeout on copy machines and Carolyn Tolson picked one up. Rene'e Clayton made a motion to approve the purchase of an HP Copy Machine for \$40.00. Seconded by Chris Asay. Motion passed.

**New Business:**

The club received a request to do an A match from the Midnight Sun Boxer Club. Rene'e Clayton made a motion to allow the Midnight Sun Boxer Club hold an A Match on August 8 at 6:00 p.m. Jeanne Hale seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Cheri Hagen



Kathy Kochendorfer w/Buck

Minutes  
Board Meeting  
April 21, 2009

Attending: Carolyn Tolson, Christine Asay, Casey Hessinger, Rene'e Clayton, Judi Rideout, Jon Zylstra and Gretchen Keim.  
The meeting was called to order 7:05 p.m.  
**Corresponding Secretary Report:** Contract from Terry Stacy for August 2010  
Contract from Dr. Roger Pritchard for August 2010  
Contract from Joe Bishop, Photographer for August and November 2009  
MEA Bill  
MTA Bill  
MEA Ballot  
Insurance information from Equisure, Inc.  
**President's Report:** Carolyn will be out of town for the May meeting.  
**Show Committee:**  
August Show: Next Show Commit-

tee meeting May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 before the general meeting.  
Carolyn had a copy of menu and information from the Elks for the banquet to be held Sunday night after the show is over. Gretchen was to check on the Legion Club and Casey will check with Mat –Su Resort and bring more information to the Show Committee Meeting. We are in need of a Health Fair Chairman. Gretchen was going to check with the Lab Club to see if they would be interesting in working it.  
**Training Committee:**  
There will be a Training Committee meeting May 14 at 7PM. If the location WILL NOT be at the building it will be announced at the General meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup>. We are in need of instructors. If you would be interested please contact Jon Zylstra or leave a message at the building or on the phone. We will have a sign up table at the August show and new classes will start the week of Sept 20<sup>th</sup>. OTCC has invited CIKC to have a booth at their Dog Fair Sept 19<sup>th</sup> and we will

have class sign up there also.  
**Judges Committee:**  
There will be a meeting at Casey's house on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m.  
**Old Business:**  
Carolyn will pick up 300 books of stamps at Costco.  
**New Business:**  
The Rottweiler club is requesting to have an all-breed obedience/rally trial on Friday afternoon after set up at the November show. It was discussed that the fairgrounds have not been charging us for Friday since we are just setting up. If they were to do the event Friday we would be charged. It was decided to not allow the Rottweiler club to hold the event on Friday evening.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Judi Rideout

Dr. Krabbe ends his account by recommending cut downs in the vast number of dogs in Iceland.

The "original" Icelandic Sheepdog survived only in very remote and isolated places, as other herding dogs were imported during the years in order to improve the herding instincts, and as the dog population as a whole was not looked kindly upon by the authorities, when the hygiene was taken more seriously.

As it is often the case it took another foreigner, the Englishman Mark Watson, to open the Icelanders eyes to the qualities of the original dog. Mr. Watson visited Iceland on many occasions between 1930 and 1970. In the 50's he collected some of the best specimens to take abroad and breed in California. This aroused some concerned Icelanders, and partly in collaboration with Watson, they started breeding on a small handful of carefully selected dogs.

With the foundation of the Icelandic Kennel Club in 1969 the main purpose was to watch over the Icelandic Sheepdog. The dog was seen as part of Iceland's cultural heritage, and work is now being done to encourage sound breeding, and to seek out "new" dogs in remote locations.

**General Appearance:**

The Icelandic Sheepdog is a Nordic herding spitz, slightly under medium size with the pointed muzzle, erect triangular ears, dense coat and curled tail typical of the Northern breeds.

This is essentially a herding dog that evolved over many centuries in the harsh Icelandic climate. The coat should be very weather-resistant and of good quality. It is thicker and longer around the neck, forepart of the shoulders and chest, forming a ruff that is more profuse in the male than the female. The rump and hind legs down to the hocks are also covered with thicker, longer hair forming the characteristic breeches or trousers. The double coat consists of a short dense undercoat, with longer guard hairs growing through it forming the outer coat, which may be of either medium or long

length. It may be straight or moderately wavy.

Seen from the side, the dog is rectangular; the length is in proportion to height and in harmony with general appearance. Lips should be slightly curved up at the corners of the mouth, giving the characteristic smile. There should be a strong neck and back, straight front legs and especially strong loins. The normally angled shoulder and upper-arm should match the rear angulation. The chest is deep with well-sprung ribs. Hindquarters should be particularly well-developed, stifles well-bent. The plumed tail may be tightly or loosely curled and may be carried upright over the back or rest flat on it. A loving companion dog, the expression is gentle, intelligent and happy. A confident and lively bearing is typical for this dog whose alert carriage presents a picture of strength, agility, dignity, beauty and grace, which are all evident in the eyes, ears and tail.

There is a marked difference in appearance between the sexes. Males are larger and masculine without coarseness or aggressiveness. Females are feminine without over-refinement or softness of temperament. Both are compactly built, balanced with good substance and have a smooth gait.

**Size:** The fully matured ideal male at 18 inches is considerably larger-looking than the mature ideal female at 16.5 inches; both are measured from the top of the withers to the ground.

While correct size is important, it should not outweigh correct type. Weight is in proportion to height.

**Proportion:** The length of the body from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttocks is slightly longer than the height from the

**Upcoming Events**

OTCC Obedience & Rally Trials- May 9 & 10, CBA Fields, Chugiak

TVKC Shows/Trials May 23, 24, 25 Tanana Valley Fairgrounds, Fairbanks

AHGC Group Show and Group Obedience/Rally Trials, May 30 & 31, CBA Fields, Chugiak

Rottweiler Club of Alaska All-Breed Obedience/Rally Trials May 30 & 31, CBA Fields, Chugiak



**Icelandic Sheepdog "Galdur"**

**COOK INLET KENNEL CLUB, INC.**

PO Box 873432  
Wasilla AK 99687



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**Size:** The fully matured ideal male at 18 inches is considerably larger-looking than the mature ideal female at 16.5 inches; both are measured from the top of the withers to the ground. While correct size is important, it should not outweigh correct type. Weight is in proportion to height. **Proportion:** The length of the body from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttocks is slightly longer than the height from the top of the withers to the ground. **Substance:** Icelandic Sheepdogs are strong and compactly built with proportionate bone and muscle structure.

**Head**

Triangular when seen from above or the side, strongly built with close-fitting skin and clean cut; longer from occiput to tip of nose than it is broad at widest part of the skull. Expression is lively, keen, intelligent, friendly and alert. Skull is slightly longer than muzzle. Cheeks are flat. **Eyes:** Medium-size, alert, expressive and almond-shaped. Irises are brown. The eye rims are black or brown.

**Ears:** Strongly erect, triangular, with slightly rounded tips and of medium size. They are very mobile, reacting sensitively to sound and showing the dog's mood. When alert, they are upward-standing, parallel, and open toward the front. When relaxed or showing affection, the ears may lay back.

**Skull:** Slightly rounded on the top with a natural furrow extending well up the forehead. **Stop:** Well defined but not too abrupt. **Nose:** Black or Brown.

**Muzzle:** Well-developed with a nasal bridge extending straight from the stop and gradually tapering toward the tip of the nose to form a blunt triangle when seen from both above and from the side. The length should not exceed the length of the skull. **Lips:** Black or brown, close-fitting. **Bite:** Complete dentition with a scissors bite.

**Neck, Topline, Body**

**Neck:** Well-set, moderately long and muscular with no loose skin below muzzle or on throat. Slightly arched and carried high, may appear shorter in males with a heavier ruff. **Body:** Rectangular and strong. The length of the body from the point of shoulder to point of buttock is greater than the height at withers. **Back:** Muscular, strong and level.

**Loins:** Broad and muscular, narrower than the rib area, females allowed to be slightly longer than males. **Belly:** Only

a slight tuck up just behind the ribs.

**Croup:** Moderately short and wide, slightly sloping and well-muscled.

**Tail:** High set, curled over and touching the back; the amount of the curl may vary from an arch to a double curl; may be vertically or horizontally oriented.

**Chest:** Long, deep and well-sprung. Brisket well-developed, extending to the elbow. **Neck, Topline, Body**

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**Forequarters**

When seen from the front, the forelegs are straight and parallel. Normal angulation: Length from the elbow to ground is slightly more than the distance from the elbow to the top of the withers. Shoulders are muscular. The legs are moderately spaced and strong with elbows close to the body and turned neither out nor in. The pasterns are strong and flexible with a slight slant. Bone is strong without being heavy, always in proportion to the overall size of the dog.

**Feet:** Slightly oval toes well-arched and tight, with well-developed pads, toes may point outward slightly. Single dewclaws are present, may be double.

**Hindquarters**

When seen from behind, the hindlegs are straight, parallel and strong with normal angulation. Thighs are broad and well-muscled.

**Feet:** Slightly oval toes well-arched and tight, with well-developed pads, toes may point outward slightly. Well-developed double dewclaws are desirable; single dewclaws are acceptable. Dewclaws touching the

ground are acceptable.

**Coat**

Double coat, thick and extremely weatherproof.

The undercoat is thick, soft, dense and shorter than the outer, longer coat of guard hairs growing through.

The outer coat may be straight or slightly wavy and comes in two variants described below. The hair is shorter on the face, top of head and back of ears; longer on the neck, chest and back of thighs. There may be longer tufts growing in front of the ear openings. There is a pronounced ruff around the neck, especially in the longer-coated dogs, which is more noticeable on dogs than bitches. The hair on the legs should be smooth and short in front with feathering behind on the front legs and "pantaloons" on the hind legs. The tail is bushy, and the hair length is in proportion to the coat. Males carry more coat than females. In the show ring, presentation in a natural, unaltered condition is essential. Specimens where the coat or whiskers have been altered by trimming or clipping shall be so severely faulted as to be effectively eliminated from the competition.

**Hair Length:** There are two variants.

**Medium-haired:** Outer coat is of medium length; it may be fairly coarse or smooth, with a thick, soft undercoat.

**Long-haired:** Outer coat is longer than the above, also with a thick, soft undercoat.

Open Class may be divided by coat length.

**Color**

Several colors are permitted, with a single predominant color. The predominant colors are: shades of tan (ranging from cream to reddish brown), chocolate brown, gray, black. White markings should always accompany the predominant color. The most common white markings, which are often irregular, are a partly or completely white face, a blaze, a collar or part collar, irregular chest markings, socks of varying lengths, tail tip. On tan and gray dogs, a black mask, black tips to the outer guard hairs, some black or sable hairs scattered on the back or body often occur. Black tricolor or chocolate tricolor dogs have white markings as mentioned above and may exhibit traditional tan colors over the eyes (eyebrows), on the cheeks, and/ or on the legs. Pied dogs are white with patches of any of the above colors.

<b>Cont. on Page 5</b>
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**Cont. from Page 4**

**Fault:** A solid black mantle or saddle on any of the various tan-colored dogs.

**Gait**

Clean, agile, bold, brisk and well-balanced, with good reach and drive. The tail should remain curled over the back.

**Temperament**

Temperament is of primary importance in Icelandic Sheepdogs. It is a hardy and agile herding dog that barks, making it extremely useful for herding or driving livestock in the pastures and in the mountains or finding lost sheep. Hunting instincts are not strong. The Icelandic Sheepdog is outgoing, cheerful, intelligent, inquisitive, playful, yet gentle and unafraid. Although it is not a watchdog, it will bark an enthusiastic welcome to announce the arrival of any visitor. It learns new tasks quickly and is eager to please. It is an affectionate companion and outgoing with both people and other dogs.

**Faults**

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault, and the seriousness of the fault should determine the penalty. Solid colors should be penalized.

A solid black mantle or saddle on any of the various tan-colored dogs.

**Severe fault:** The coat or whiskers have been altered by trimming, clipping.

**Disqualification**

*Dewclaws missing on all four legs.*

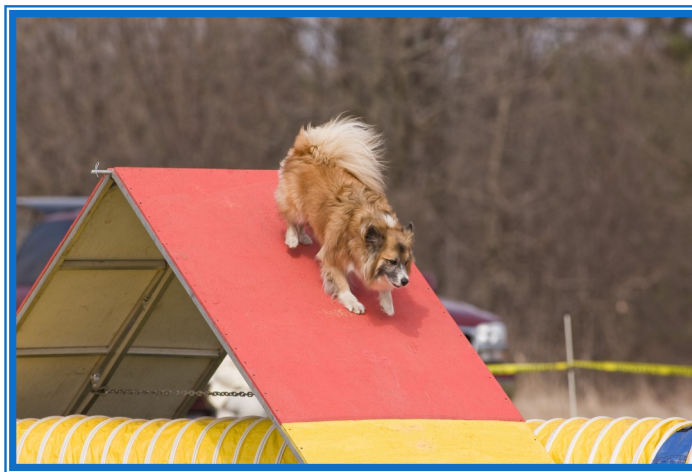
**Effective July 1, 2008**

### TRAINING COMMITTEE REPORT April 12th, 2009

Attending the Meeting: Jon Zylstra, Judi Rideout, Carolyn Tolson and Gretchen Keim.

A review of the current classes and their progress was presented. All instructors reported that their class participants were enthusiastic and making excellent progress.

There was discussion on whether to have classes during the summer. It was decided that if there was sufficient demand we would offer at least a puppy class over the summer months. Early registration will begin August 1st. with classes starting the week of September 20th. Any individual who completes early registration to include the application, providing a copy of the dog's shot record and paying all fees would be guaranteed a place in that class. Anyone interested in a puppy class or any other class please let the Training Committee know by sending an e-mail through the web page. The e-mail will be forwarded to a



**Icelandic Sheepdog "Viva" Picture  
taken by Great Dane Photos**

member of the committee.

Currently we have only a few instructors and assistant instructors. If anyone is interested in becoming an assistant or an instructor please contact a member of the Training Committee. Becoming an assistant instructor and eventually an instructor is an excellent way to learn more about how to prepare yourself and your dog for whatever activities you may wish to pursue.

September 19th there will be a Dog Fair at the Chugiak Benefit Association grounds in Chugiak. Last year the Kennel Club had a booth there and it was decided that we would have a booth again at this event. We will offer early registration for our classes and offer information about the Kennel Club and its activities. Anyone interested in helping please contact the Training Committee. Last year over a thousand people attended making this an excellent outreach opportunity. There is no expense to the club. Any suggestions for the booth can be forwarded to the Training Committee.

There was also discussion on how we can better inform the public of the services we provide to our members as well as to the community at large. In addition to the dog fair booth it was decided to advertise in our trial catalogs and pass out informational flyer about our club and what we offer to people who park at the shows in August. We will also have a table at our events where people can do early registration for classes or inquire further about the club.

The next Training Committee meeting will be on Thursday, May the 14th at 7 P.M. at the training facility. EVERYONE is encouraged to attend and participate. THIS IS YOUR CLUB AND YOUR PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Parker—  
Submitted  
By: Sean  
Stevenson

