

## **WOLFDOGS: Responsible or Irresponsible Breeding: Myths and Facts Explored**

by Sierra Milton, 2002

All the websites I visited made it very clear that wolfdogs were not dogs and had different training, containment, socialization, and expectation needs. While I will agree that a dog in the wrong hands can be dangerous, I have to believe the experts when they unanimously seem to be saying that wolfdogs must be treated differently than dogs. A logical conclusion would be that if the wolfdog must be treated differently than dogs, few people would have the experience or necessary training to deal with the differences. Reading about a subject is very much different than being experienced in that same subject. If I were to have my appendix removed, I would definitely opt for the trained physician instead of the medical enthusiast who had read lots of books on surgery and appendixes.

No one could argue the fact that wolves are non-domesticated, wild animals. Nor could it be argued that the vast majority of breeds recognized have been domesticated for the past fifty years or, indeed, more. Wolfdogs have not been domesticated for decades, as evinced by the fact that they have a percentage of wolf in them. This is contrary to the Husky, Malamute and other Inuit breeds that have been domesticated, even though these breeds may, very well, remain more primitive than some other breeds. These northern domesticated breeds were also domesticated for very different needs and responsibilities than some of the other breeds. They were developed by people with a need for a companion/working animal that was able to withstand the deprivations of the northern areas and could survive.

The World of Northern Breed Dogs lists a wide range of northern breeds, including the Inuit Dog, but does not list a Northern Inuit Dog. Sled Dog Central lists an Inuit Sled Dog when a search is done for "Northern Inuit Dogs". I also found Canadian Inuit Dogs and Greenland Inuit Dogs, but no Northern Inuit Dogs.

The only website that I found that had Northern Inuit Dogs on them was one from the UK and some other dog websites that referred back to them. I did find a very obtuse 'standard' on that particular UK website, but no registry, group of members, organization, projected goal, history, etc.

Postscript: I did receive an email from an individual who stated that they had a standard which had been Kennel Club approved, a registry, a stated goal, etc. However, when I contacted the Kennel Club and spoke to one of their representatives I was told that while they had heard of the dogs, there was no approved standard and they were not recognized. I have since emailed the individual who emailed me and asked for further information, but have not received it.

NOTE: An invitation to the Wolf UK group to participate in these series of articles by submitting their views was extended and to-date has gone unanswered.