

NORTHERN INUIT A Breed In The Making Or Designer-Dog Ripoff?

by Silver Dragon, 2002

Recent discussions on another forum-board regarding the validity of the term Northern Inuit' and the advisability of cross-breeding dogs in general has resulted in much consternation...

...the stated "President" of Northern Inuits (sic) UK. ...has sold animals in the past tagged as wolf hybrids, incurring legal proceedings in the process. Quoting the Newark Archives from 22 May 1998: "The council contacted Mrs. Kelham in July over an advertisement offering wolf hybrid puppies for sale. The court was told that the puppies were not Mrs Kelham's and that a neighbour had used her phone number. But Mrs Kelham keeps dogs including Alsatian cross-breeds with timber wolf and husky."

The above clipping makes more interesting reading when it is realised that the owner of the Northern Inuits (sic) UK website continually insists that her animals are 'NOT wolf hybrids', and yet the club's 'President' freely admits to keeping timber wolf crosses!

It has been several weeks now since the Northern Inuits (sic) UK web-site came to my attention, and in its original form, its information left many questions unanswered, and some even unasked. It is to this end that an associate and I requested details from Northern Inuits (sic) UK regarding these queries, the main 'bone of contention' being that of the 'breed standard' and the changes made to it during the last couple of weeks.

The owner of the Northern Inuits (sic) UK website informed me weeks ago that a copy of the Northern Inuit breed standard had been given to the Kennel Club as part of the Inuits (sic) Societies attempt to gain recognition for this animal. I had asked questions regarding this original "standard", noting that there were NO faults listed for this 'breed'.

Every informed breeder is well aware that, whatever the breed, there are ALWAYS faults to be wary of, even if they are not detrimental. Now, after being questioned on this matter, a handful of faults have suddenly appeared listed on the breed standard on the Northern Inuits (sic) UK website. The owner of the site states that the changes have been made because the pages were originally of a personal nature. However, changing a website because it was not originally intended as a public locale does NOT allow the owner to amend the breed standard! Every breed that is registered, or in the process of gaining recognition has a standard raised which cannot be altered once it has been registered with the Kennel Club. Since it was stated weeks previous that a standard has been sent to the KC for adjudication, how can the owner of Northern Inuits (sic) UK web-site justify the amendments that have since been made? To date, the owner of the Northern Inuits (sic) UK web-site has not or will not answer the question of who ratified these changes and how they came into existence. One simply contends that those changes were instituted as a direct result of questions asked, and shortcomings shown.

The Northern Inuits (sic) UK's website makes interesting reading to the uninformed. It states that "In the early 70's a few Inuit type dogs were imported to Britain." Sadly, documentation freely available on the internet from Government resources clearly states that the imports took place in 1987:

"We understand that the original animals from which breeders began breeding were imported in around 1987 from San Francisco. Although imported as 25% wolfdogs, we have been informed that these animals were, in fact, rescued animals of unknown ancestry, and therefore their wolf content could never be stated with accuracy. "

Therefore, Northern Inuits (sic) UK's claims that 'In the early 70's a few Inuit type dogs were imported to Britain,' are proven to be false in that the only animals to be imported were not bona-fide Inuit dogs at all and were, in fact quite obviously of dubious origins!

This author has read on the history of the Inuit, and it is markedly different to that which is being touted by Northern Inuits (sic) UK.

Contrary to what is stated on the Northern Inuits (sic) UK website, the Inuit people have never found the need to 'stake out bitches to be mated by wolves'. Yes, mating has/does occur between the two species but it is rarely intentional, and it is certainly not to improve their existing stock! Whilst the author is aware that there is a purported desire to have the dogs being featured on Northern Inuit UK recognised as a registered breed; claiming that the Inuit Sled Dog has been bred deliberately with wolves is not the way to achieve this!

The owner of the Northern Inuits (sic) UK website has stated quite categorically on numerous occasions (and on different forums) that the Northern Inuits (sic) UK are 'wolf dogs' NOT wolf hybrids. Northern Inuits (sic) UK's wolf dogs are advertised as being 'FRIENDLY AND PLACID. NEVER AGGRESSIVE OR SHOWING ANY GUARDING TENDENCIES. WILL SUBMIT WHEN CHALLENGED.' ... Consider that Northern Inuits (sic) should have been bred and socialised for around 200 years ('as early as 1800'), and you quickly realise that they have nothing in common with the claimed heritage from true Inuit.

Regardless of statements published on the Northern Inuits (sic) UK web-site, 'pet' qualities have NEVER been a consideration for the Eskimo (sic) people, who bred their animals for load bearing purposes not as something to cuddle up to! The breed's more primitive behaviour, vocalisation (they howl rather than bark) and highly developed need for pack hierarchy means it is better suited to a working environment. These animals are not suitable as pets!

Furthermore, the author fails to see how breeding them with wolves would create an animal more suitable to domestication. The Inuit Sled Dog International (ISDI) is well aware of the situation regarding 'wolf dogs' in the United Kingdom; As a matter of fact, the ISDI club is very upset about the 'Northern Inuit' angle. The club's position is that the name "Northern Inuits (sic)" has been created to deliberately mislead in an effort to adopt legitimacy and attempt disguise the genetic identity of hybrid canids: wolf dogs. This name attempts to stave the backlash of public concern over these animals, and integrate a potentially dangerous breed into society without the consideration for legal and humanitarian ethics. Those people who insist upon producing these 'wolf dogs' must be prepared to respond to any and all fears that are raised by their continued breeding of these 'dogs'.