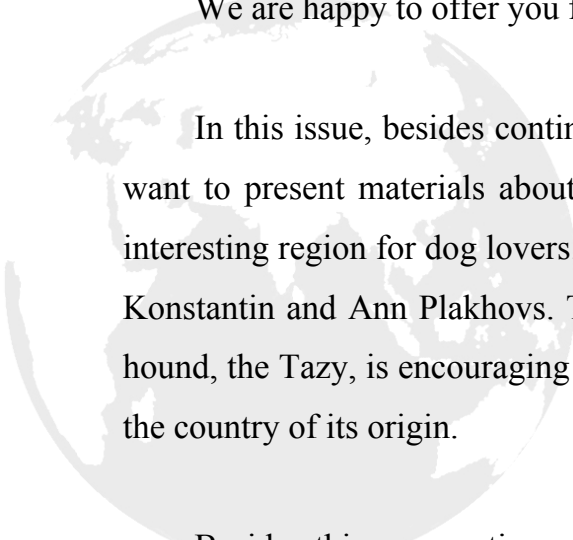


# Primitive and Aboriginal Dog Society

## Dear members of the Russian Branch of Primitive Aboriginal Dogs Society!

We are happy to offer you first Newsletter Issue of R-PADS, 2005.



In this issue, besides continuations of articles published in previous issues, we want to present materials about cynological history of SW Asia, which is a very interesting region for dog lovers. This material is presented by members of R-PADS Konstantin and Ann Plakhovs. Their large scale work done on the aboriginal sight hound, the Tazy, is encouraging and we hope that this unique breed will be saved in the country of its origin.

Besides this, we continue publication of series of articles about judicial basis of breeding of hunting dogs in Russian Federation. In this issue we offer information about dog show experts written by Alexander Lyutin, who is a guest of R-PADS. Alexander Lyutin is an Expert of III Category on the Borzoi and other sight hound breeds.

Sincerely yours,  
secretary of the Russian Branch of PADS  
Marina G. Kuzina

## HISTORY OF DOG BREEDING IN SOUTHWESTERN ASIA

**K. N. Plakhov and A. S. Plakhova**

**Almaty, Kozakhstan Republic**

(Translation by Vladimir Beregovoy)

### **Part 1**

Investigation and preservation of genetic biodiversity of animals should certainly include both wild animals and breeds of domesticated animals. The latter ones are particularly endangered. For saving wild animals, it is often enough just to leave them alone, while preservation of breeds is impossible without direct intervention of qualified specialists. As we actually see, at certain stages of societal development, in governmental programs, preservation of breeds of domesticated animals is not among first priorities. This makes extinction of domesticated animal breeds very likely. For preservation of wild animals, we set aside lands protected by law and put together lists of endangered species, but we leave absolutely without a protection breeds of domesticated animals, which are entirely depended on humans. Breeds considered valuable, because of their importance for human consumption, are in somewhat better position, but survival of so-called "non productive" breeds is jeopardized the most. Among all breeds, aboriginal ones are most interesting, because, unlike purebreds, they have been developed by force of artificial and natural selection for centuries. Historically, they could remain in possession of people, who created them, or become transferred from one ethnic group to another being "inherited". They may occur in a very small geographic region or be wide distributed; they can remain unchanged for a long time, or be changed by specific selection by humans or by natural selection specific to local physiographic conditions (Plakhov and Shelestova, 1999).



**Golden necklace. Kurgan "Tolstaya Mogila"; IV Century, BC. From: I. I. Artemenko, : Investigations of archeologists of Ukraine. In book "Through Centuries". Towards sources of culture of peoples of USSR, [In Russian] Vol. 1, Znanie, Moscow, 1986: 107-124.**

In this article, we attempt to trace formation of dog breeds and development of the dog breeding in the relatively poorly, cynologically investigated regions of contemporary Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and the Sinczyan-Uigur Autonomous region of China. Still recently, it was called Middle Asia and Eastern Turkestan. Now, not quite correctly, it is called Central Asia. This region has produced relatively few dog breeds surviving until present. However, a considerably greater number of them became extinct, on some occasions without leaving a trace. In cynological world, by some reasons, this part of Asia is considered less interesting. Some exception is made only for Turkmenistan. In part, this is associated with poorly known history of this region, particularly of Kazakhstan, as a part of the world inhabited by nomads, who did not produce culturally much for the rest of the world. Some other cynologists believe that it was only Islam, which brought some signs of civilization here. This is not true. Even a short reference to historical data shows that history of breeds of domesticated animals is inseparable from history of humankind. Depending on changes in the process formation of ethnic groups of this region, breed composition and their use also changed. We distinguish five large periods of ethnic history of Cenral Asia (Polyakov, 1980):

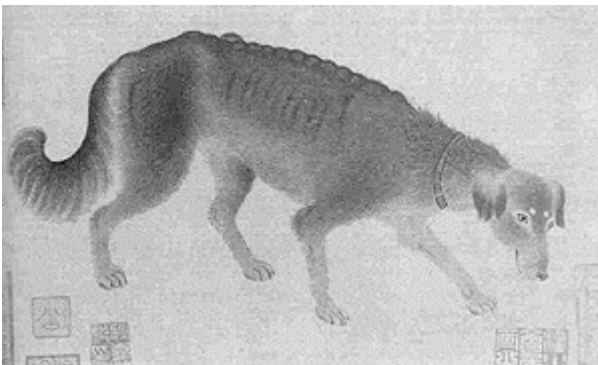
- I. Paleolithic, Neolithic, Bronze and early Iron age. It ends in the first 1/3 of first millennia B. C.
- II. VII Century –VI Century B. C. It is subdivided into three parts:
  1. VII-IV Centuries B.C. (Akhemenides);
  2. III –IV Centuries B. C. (Kushan);
  3. IV-VI Centuries A. D. (Euthalic).
- III. VI-XII Centuries A.D. This period is subdivided into three parts:
  1. VI-VII Centuries (Turkish);
  2. VII-IX Centuries (Post Arabic);
  3. X-XII (Pre Mongolian).
- IV. XIII-XV Centuries (Mongolian);
- V. XVI-XIX Centuries (Uzbek).

Thorough archeological studies conducted during recent 30 years produced amazing results for the science. Here is one example: L. L. Galkin, a Chief of Volga-Uralian Archeological Expedition, 1990, wrote about results of their investigations in this region covering area equal to a half of Europe: "...In historical and archaeological literature of recent 50 years, Northeastern Caspian Sea region is seen as a country of nomads void of ancient communities and cities with culture. On all maps of Kazakhstan published, until now, the country looks like a huge white spot with sparsely scattered dots marking accidentally discovered ancient sites of hunters and herdsman". In Usturt and Mangyshlak Peninsula, Volga-Uralian Expedition discovered and investigated ruins of 19 ancient cities. One of them, Sher-Kala castle, had the shape of a rectangle with walls 200 by 400 meters long. The same expedition discovered complexes of monuments of Scythian culture:..."Numbers of sculptures were astounding... They were approximately as many as total number of Scythian stone stellas found in steppes near Black Sea during over a 100 years period..." (Galkin, 1988). In the process of archaeological investigations in Karakalpakian part of Usturt, they discovered over 50 sites belonging to Neolithic time, many of which were seven – eight thousands years old (Bizhanov, 1978).

**Petroglyph from Tamgaly place, Almaty Province, Kazakhstan; VIII-IV Centuries BC. From A. G. Maximov, Yermolova, A. C. and Maryashev, A. N. Rock paintings from Tamgaly. [In Russian] Oner, Alma-Ata, 1985, 144 pp.**



A few years ago, another ancient city was discovered near contemporary Shymkent; in interim investigation, its age was determined as over 2,000 years old. Shortly, history of this region is a history of continuous migrations of different tribes and peoples, which arrived and departed completely, from settled people to those who were migrating over long distances. There are many special studies and publications dedicated to this poorly known region. L. Gumilev described this process in greatest detail. In conclusion, I would like to offer another citation describing this very important historical period: "... Inclusion of agricultural oases in Arabian Khalifat of VII-IX Century did not result in their conversion into Arabian culture, like occurred, for example, in North Africa. Cultural traditions of peoples of Central Asia appeared to be stronger than Islam, but borders of the Khalifat split Central Asia into two separate cultural worlds for several centuries, the nomadic and the settled oases... We should not over exaggerate the influence of Arabian rule on development of social order among the peoples of Central Asia. Destruction of the economy of countries of Central Asia ...caused a delay of their social development... Arabian conquerors, by the time of their arrival in Central Asia, were less advanced culturally, than Central Asian peoples... Arabian rule caused a heavy blow to local cultural life. Imposing of Muslim religion by fire and sword led to destruction of pre-Islamic cultural values" (Polyakov, 1980). Discoveries of ancient cities and irrigation systems, rock paintings of chariots, clay sculpture, pottery and goldsmith artifacts several thousands years old confirm the statement above.



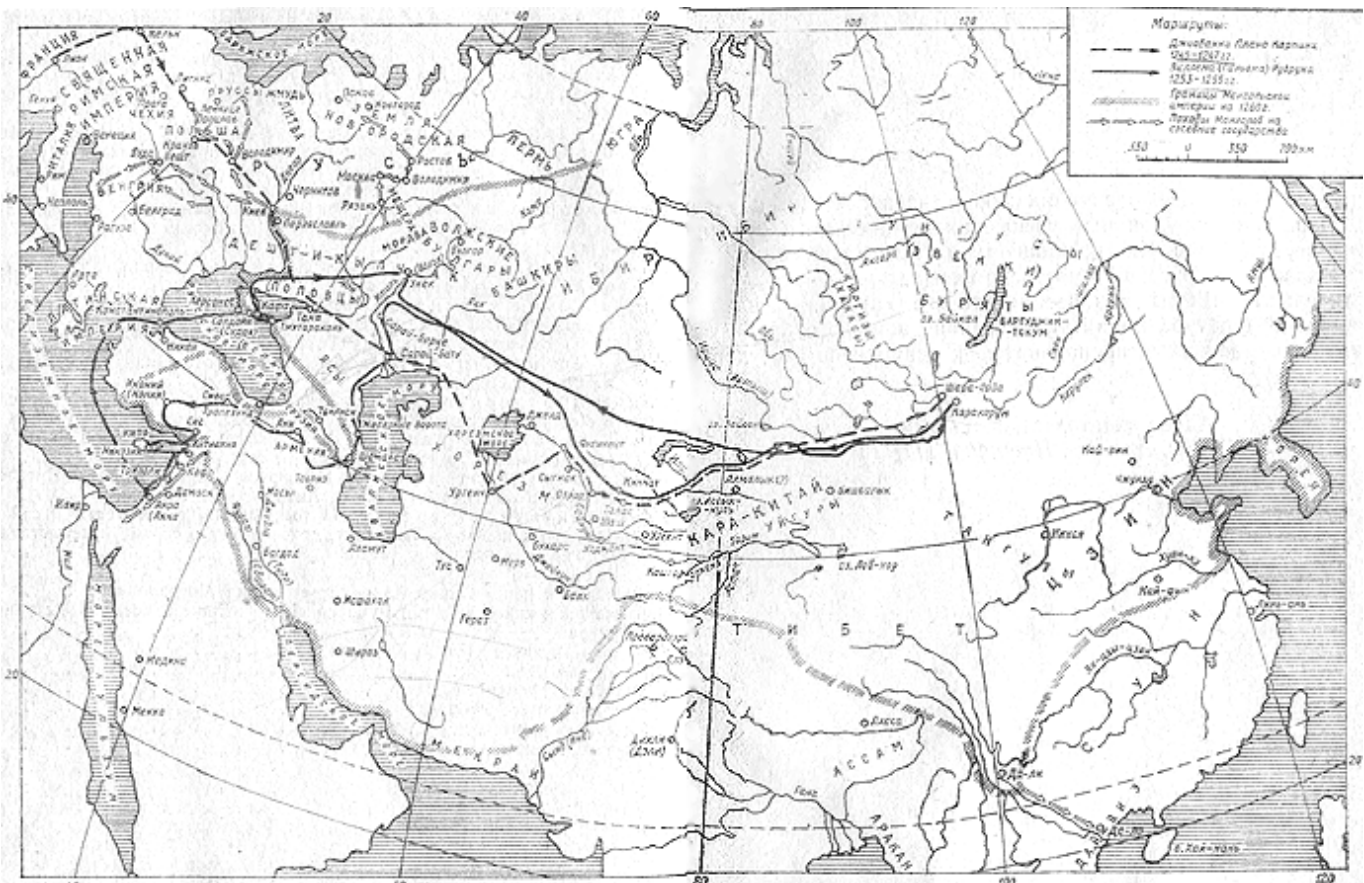
**Tazy-like dog. Painting by a Chinese painter Li Di, 1197, In: Art of China [In Russian, Iskusstvo Kitaya]. Izobrazitelnoe Iskusstvo, Moscow, 1988.**

According to data obtained by professor S. N. Bogolyubsky (1940, 1959), the process of domestication of dog began 10,000-12,000 years ago. He distinguished two major centers of domestication: Sino-Malayan center (southern groups of dogs originated from forms transitional between wolves and jackals) and Indian center (northern groups of dogs originated from northern wolves). All discovered remains associated with that time period indicate only "wolf-like" types of dogs. Possibly, this original "material" was the so-called "Volga wolf" discovered and described by M. V. Pavlova in 1930-1931 (Catalogue of Mammals of USSR, 1981). During recent time, in foreign literature, there are new materials telling us that domestication of dogs took place in Asia at a much earlier time, about 15,000 years ago and its ancestor was one species, the wolf. Differences in contemporary views about domestication of dog indicate that some of the researchers, after Darwin, consider several geographic centers of domestication of dog, while others believe that there was only one center of the dog's origin.

There is one opinion that during Neolithic Period (8-3 millenia B.C.), in the territory of former USSR, there were at least three breed groups of dogs (Gorodtsov, 1940). These breed groups were hunting dogs, guarding dogs and at a later time, herding and toy breeds. Unfortunately, there is very little evidence about actual breeds of those

dogs. Many drawings, rock paintings and written documents were destroyed during the spread of Islam. Archaeological descriptions often did not mention dogs as “non productive” animals or referred to them simply as, “dog”. P. I. Marikovskiy (1975, 1981, and 1996) investigated ancient rock paintings occurring in the mountains of Southern Kazakhstan. He wrote that among them, dogs share a considerable responsibility. A major use is in hunting hoofed animals, mainly mountain goats (teke). By their appearance, these dogs resemble Australian dingoes. They have erect ears, a long tail and relatively short legs. Among the paintings, dogs of other types are very rare.

According to data presented by V. A. Novozhenov (2002), among animals depicted in petroglyphs in Central Kazakhstan, dated as late second or early third millennia B.C., frequency of appearance of horses is first, at (21.2%), then come camels (20.8%) and then bulls (4.4%). The dog’s frequency is only about 0.5%. Those were mid-size dogs, with square body format, erect ears and saber shaped tails carried low similar to dogs described by P. I. Marikovskiy. There were images of bigger dogs with massive heads, erect ears and saber shaped tail, which probably belonged to the herding type, and there were dogs of a sight hound type, which were also had erect ears and curving over the back tail similar to the Tezem of Egyptian Pharaohs. Analysis of petroglyphs of Southern Kazakhstan dated late third-early second millennia B.C. indicated that, besides the types of dogs listed above, there were short-legged dachshund type dogs with erect ears (Medoev, 1979). Thus, rock paintings from different parts of Kazakhstan, belonging to the first chronological period of history of Central Asia, contain pictures of dogs of different types: spitz-like dogs, dachshund-like dogs, sight hounds, sheep herding dogs and hunting big game dogs.

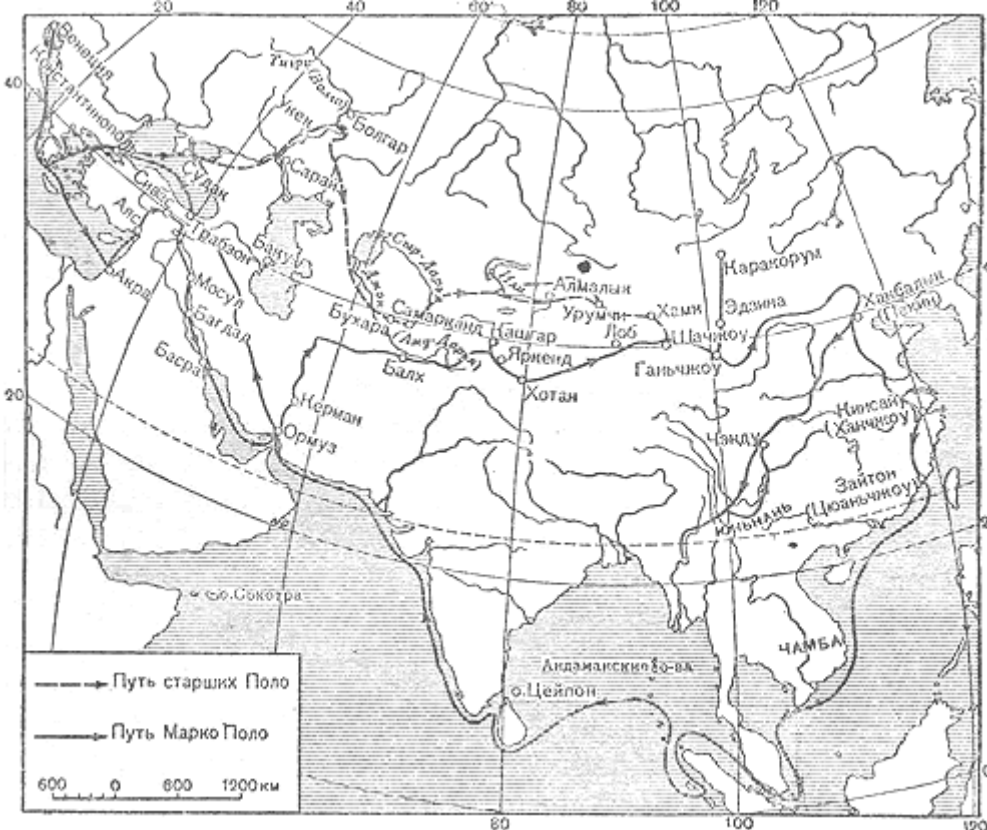


**Travels of Plano Carpini and William Rubruck. In: Travels of Plano Carpini and William Rubruck in Eastern Countries. [In Russian]. Gylm, Almaty, 1993, 248 pp.**

There is less data about dogs of the Scythian tribes of the second chronological period. L. P. Sabaneev (cited from edition of 1987) mentions, “Herodotus, describing the way of life of peoples [Scythians] living in SE Europe at about 500 B.C., wrote that they all were involved in hunting, which was done as follows: a hunter would stalk animals from up in the tree tops; he threw his spear first, then, chased the injured animal with the assistance of his dogs. Perhaps those were not sight hounds, but hunting dogs....”. Their images occur among golden artifacts of the Scythian animalistic style and primarily among group of domesticated animals on the famous pectoral from “Tolstaya Mogila” Hill (IV Century B.C.) made by Greek artists. This is of a dog that looks like a lightly built scent hound with pendulous ears chasing a hare. In the first book of Avesta (book of ancient Iranian religion Zoroastrianism emerged in II-I millennia B. C.) named Vendidad, two chapters are dedicated to dogs, which were a

well-respected kind of animal among Zoroastrians. Besides instructions on how to care for dogs, it sets the punishment for the cruel treatment of dogs: "Dog is your guardian and friend given to you...He does not ask for clothing or shoes. He helps you to catch game, guards your property and he entertains you, when you are resting. Woe to one, who abuses dog or grudge giving him a healthy food. Soul of such a man, after his death, will wander eternally lonely: even a dog would not meet him". According to Avesta, punishment was more severe for killing a dog than for killing a human. Excavations of burial sites of Andronov's Culture of Southern Preuralye and Southwestern Siberia indicated that people of those tribes kept relatively few, small flock herding dogs (Tsalkin, 1972). Images of sight hounds belonging to this time period (Maksimova et al. 1985) were found among numerous rock paintings of the famous Tamgaly site, Almaty Province. One of them is the image of a dog similar to the Tezem, with erect ears and curving tail. The dog is holding of argali. This picture can be interpreted in different ways. One possibility is, as L. P. Sabaneev wrote, that such dogs were used for catching game and this is what was shown on the picture. Another possibility is that the picture is telling a brag story like "look, what kind of a dog I have, he can pull down argali"; this seems particularly likely, because on the picture, the bull is only slightly bigger than the dog. Another rock painting shows a large dog with coarse body structure catching a wild boar.

The third chronological period is characterized by a wide distribution of Tazy-like dogs. Rock paintings, belonging to Turkish Kaganat time, show different scenes of hunting with the Tazy. On the images, the dogs clearly have pendulous ears and saber shaped tails curling into a ring at the end. An interesting finding was made in Eastern Kazakhstan. In one burial site, there were bones of a man and a youth of a Turkish tribe and bones of three horses and one dog identified as Tazy. Artifacts, such as an ornate saber, a bow, a quiver and arrows, etc. indicated that the buried people were high status warriors of VII-VIII Centuries (Arslanova, 1966). Among investigated burials of Northwestern Kazakhstan, Aktyubinsk Province, belonging to V-IV Centuries B.C. (Gutsalov, 2001) and XII-XIV Centuries A. D. (Bisembaev, 2001), there were no burials of humans with dogs found. One picture of a Chinese painter Li Di (1197) shows that a Tazy-like dog was probably known among the Chinese by that time.



A relatively short list of breed groupings of dogs in Central Asia has changed considerably during the fourth chronological period, after the great migration of peoples. Travelers of XIII Century, Plano Carpini, Gilliam Rubruck and Marko Polo confirmed this fact. Most widely distributed dogs became Eastern sight hounds and Masiff-like large sheep hearing dogs. In 1245, by the order of the Pope of Rome Innokenty IV, an expedition under Plano Carpini was sent to visit the residence of Guyuk Khan. The expedition had reconnaissance and missionary goals. The trip took over two years. The route went via the residence of Batu Khan on the Volga River, then to Khoesm, Semirechye and Tarbagatai

**Travels of Polo family. In: Book of Marko Polo about diversity of world recorded by Pisan Rusticano in 1298. [In Russian]**

and then to Shara-Orda. Plano Carpini described the customs of the people which he visited, but never mentioned using of sight hounds. He described a myth about fighting dogs (Travel to Eastern Countries of Plano Carpini and Gilliam Rubruk, 1993, Russian Edition). The travels of Gilliam Rubruk, 1253-1255, are more interesting. He traveled for eight years after Plano Carpini. Gilliam Rubruk, with a team of people started on land from Sudak along the coast of the Black Sea, then they arrived in Ukek, not too far from where Saratov is today. From there, they proceeded to Kenjek in the Talass River valley and Kailak, which is not far from modern Kopal, and then to

Karakorum, which was the final destination of the trip. On the way back, they choose a route further to the north (cited from Russian edition "Travel of Plano Karpini and Gilliam Rubruk into Eastern Countries, 1993). He reported about hunting dogs of "Albania" country situated north of Caspian Lake and described the customs of visited people in great detail. Particularly, the hunting with birds of prey. The principles of which, had also been described in Yasa by Chighiz Khan. In Karakorum, he saw sight hounds: " I saw also ambassadors of Sultan of India, which brought eight leopards (probably cheetahs) and ten sight hounds taught to sit on the back of the horse, like cheetahs do..."

Travels of the famous family of Polo were described in "Book of Marko Polo about Diversity of the World..." (Cited from Russian edition of 1990); they became most widely known and famous. The first trip of brothers Polo took place from 1253 (54) to 1269. They started from Venice. In 1260, they visited Constantinople, then proceeded to Saldadia, to middle parts of the Volga River (Berke and Uvek), Plateau Usturt, to Urgench, Zeravahan Velley, to Bukhara, Samarkand, Otrar, the Ili River Valley, mountain foothills of Eastern Tyan Shan Mountains, Shajou Oasis and further to Khanbalyk (Peking), the capital of the Great Khan. Their second trip took place in 1271-1295. They started from Palestine to Armenia, then, proceeded to the south via Baghdad and Basra to Ormuz, further to Balakh, Kashgar and Hsajou to Khanbalyk. After they had lived for several years at the residence of Khan Khubilai. From China, they returned to Basra and Venice by sea. Marko Polo described different hunting customs of the people, which he visited. This was mainly a "roundup style" of hunting, popular among people of high social status. Additional to the "roundup style" hunting, Khan Khubilai used hunting animals and dogs. Marko Polo listed three kinds of dogs: scent hounds, sight hounds and Medelyan hunting dogs (p. 266, Russian edition, 1990). Further, Marko Polo wrote: "Great Khan has two princes, who are two brothers... Each of them has ten thousand subordinates; ten thousand of them are wearing red garments and another ten thousand of them are wearing blue garments. Among each of the twenty thousand men, two thousand have one, two or more dogs... When the Great Khan is heading to hunt, on one side of him, one of the brothers rides with his ten thousand servants and five thousand dogs; on another side the second brother rides with his ten thousand servants and five thousand dogs. They move close to each other, one after another, spreading over distance of a whole day to travel and catching every animal on the way. It was a pleasure to watch the hunt, the dogs and the hunters and I would tell you, that the Khan himself, when he and his princes were galloping on the plains with their gyrfalcons and the dogs chased on one or another side, bear, deer and all kinds of animals... In the area, where Great Khan lives, as far as twenty days of travel, nobody, a merchant, an artisan, or a peasant, is allowed to keep birds of prey or hunting dogs. In other areas they can keep hunting dogs and birds of prey and hunt as they wish." Also, Marko Polo saw different kinds of dogs, such as hunting dogs and sight hounds in Eastern Tibet. L. P. Sabaneev (edition of 1987) mentioned the ancient Chinese hound called Mahugo, which still survived in late 19th Century in Sichuan Province, Central China.

In the fifth chronological period, the final change and impoverishment of dog breeds of Central Asia took place. By the end of it, the majority of ancient breeds disappeared and different kinds of sheep herding dogs and Tazy became increasingly popular. Unfortunately, in the majority of outstanding accounts of travelers of XIX Century in Central Asia and Eastern Turkestan, including NW China, including N. M. Przhevalsky, V. I. Roborovsky, P. K. Kozlov, CH. Valikhanov, N. A. Severtsov, Siviers and others, there were no descriptions of the dogs of people, which they visited. Perhaps, this topic was not of interest to them.

(to be continued)

## LET US PRESERVE HUNTING TRADITION WITH LAIKA

**By Grigory Nasyrov**

(Translation by Vladimir Beregovoy)

### **Part 3**

What recent authors are involved in breeding of Laikas or other hunting dogs? Let us consider the book "Hunting with Laika" by V. G. Gusev, 1978. I will not discuss entire book which was written by a noted specialist on terriers and dachshunds. The book does not contain one new word about the Laika. Obviously, it is a compilation of other material. However, the author contributed one personal idea: Among West Siberian Laikas, there are some relatively short-muzzled with broad skull dogs. This characteristic was inherited from Laikas of the Central Urals, and also long-muzzled with narrow skull and racy built dogs, which are descendants of "Vogul's Laika".

He should have known that the ancestors of the West Siberian Laika are breed groups of Laikas from aboriginal people of the north, such as Voguls, Ostyaks and in part Zyryans. They all had ethnic

names and have been Laikas of Central Ural, which is a home country of Voguls, where they live until now. Including the Ivdel District. A well known specialist on Terriers and Dachshunds should not write about such a specialized topic of Laikas. The Sverdlovsk center of breeding of West Siberian Laikas and their school of judging Laikas have a long a history. Until the present they bred Laikas with an elongated head, which they are often criticized by experts of other schools.

Publications of V. G. Gusev can be found in “Newsletter of Hunting Dogs” (Vestnik okhotnichyego sobakovodstva, in Russian), No. 2, 1993, Moscow. The author is misusing names of nationalities, Evenks with Evens. Evenks are Tungus people and Evens are Lamut people. There are divided by vast distances, they have different cultures, natural environment, way of life and are ethnically different peoples. Perhaps, to cynologists living near the city of Moscow, all small populations living east of the Urals are just “sort of Chukchi”. These experts do not distinguish between Voguls from Votyaks and think of Ostyaks and Hants like different people. This is an example of crude disrespect to our aboriginal minorities, who gave us their remarkable Laika breeds.

V. G. Gusev wrote further: “Limited original material, and sometimes lack of special knowledge, forced interbreeding. As a result of this, in 1946, at the dog show a very diverse mix of Laika were shown...” In conclusion, V. G. Gusev wrote: “Restoration of national breeds of Laikas from the base of still remaining dogs in provinces is quite possible in the context of rebirth of national self recognition”. It is interesting how the author would like to restore the Lamut’s Laika searching for its “mixed descendants” in Tungus taiga of Krasnoyarsk Territory, instead of the coast of the Kamchatka Peninsula?



All advanced experts believe that the major contribution of E. I. Shereshevsky and the “All Union Institute of Hunting Industry” is the approval of breed standards for Russian Hunting Laikas. It was like Lenin once said: “Procrastination is similar to death”. At that time, mixing different geographic groups of dogs was uncontrollable. This is part of the problem of “restoration of national breeds of Laikas”.

Now, let us take a look at how contemporary leaders responsible for the state of our hunting dogs make their own contribution into preservation of tradition of hunting with Laika. Catalogue of 2001, “Russian Show of Hunting Laikas” dedicated to memory of A. T. Voilohnikov, Kirov. In the foreword of the catalogue, President of Russian Federation of Hunting Dogs, A. A. Ulitin lists the names of “actual people who contributed to breeding of Laikas”.

“We should remember and honor people, who made a great contribution into breeding of Laikas, such as A. Shirinsky-Shikhmatov, M. Dmitrieva-Sulima, I. Vakhru[ev], M. Volkov, N. Smirnov, E. Shereshevsky, F. Krestnikov, B. Shnygin, Geits, S. Lobahev, P. Belqev, V. Grigoryev, D. Furto, N. Poluzadov, I. Perelmiter, V. Lobachenkov and Yu. Antonov. Among them, A. Voilochnikov should be noted in particular. “Because of the dedication to honor our predecessors, it seems we should be more careful to those who have passed away and can no longer to speak up in their defense”.

Why did not the President of RFHD mention our outstanding Laika specialists, such as K. G. Abramov, who surveyed Laikas of Maritime Territory and authored a book “Hunting Laika of the Amur River Region? Abramov was a noted scientist biologist and a wildlife biologist, who left priceless photographs of Laikas of the Amur River region.

He did not mention M. A. Sergeev, who personally selected Laikas for the Pomozda Kennel. His careful selection of dogs secured the successful development of two hunting Laika breeds, the Russo-European Laika and the West Siberian Laika.

He did not mention A. P. Mazover, whose books have been used by generations of cynologists and who selected Laikas for Krasnaya Zvezda Kennel. These dogs, especially “Tayoznik” and “Sudar”, together with other Laikas of the Kennel of the All Union Institute of Hunting Industry became the foundation stock of the West Siberian Laika breed.

The list does not include P. F. Pupyshev, who in Central Russia, after A. Shirisky-Shikhmatov, became a leading Laika specialist. In 1936, he wrote one of the best books about Laikas “Northern Hunting Dogs”.

Yu. A. Liverovsky made a sufficient contribution in our knowledge of Laikas. He participated in a scientific expedition conducting survey of Laikas in northwestern provinces of Russia and collected the most valuable information about hunting with Laikas and their role in the life of the rural population. In 1931, he published a book “Laikas and Hunting with them”.



These names should be never forgotten, because of their efforts, Laika breeds have been saved and gotten a new life being transformed into purebreds.

We can forgive this sin of the official, who did not honor our outstanding predecessors. Perhaps, this happened, because some Moscow clerk put together this list of names for him, because he included so many Moscow experts, who worked only at dog shows and field trials.

Let us take a look at some publications of modern specialists about the hunting style of Laikas. I am reluctant to stirrup a beehive and make enemies, but as an ancient said: “Plato is my friend, but the truth is more important”.

I read an article written by an expert of the All Russian Category, L. V Krechetova, “Hunting Dogs of Russia”. “About Uniqueness of Laikas”. She wrote, “I heard from my colleague experts that there were dogs capable of stopping and holding a moose by hard biting. I will not argue, but I strongly doubt if this would be possible, and I have never seen such dogs. I can agree that with such dogs the hunting can be successful if one has a good knowledge of habitats and skillful positioning the shooters, but the dog biting moose hard does not give the expert a reason to award him a Diploma of I-II degree for moose hunting”.

Here, I would like to add this:

- 1) A Moose never stops in presence of the dog for any other reason, except its own choice. Not because of will of the dog.
- 2) Certificates can be given to any Laika, providing he remains alive, and if he showed an outstanding searching range far away from the hunter, stopping the moose at a safe distance so the moose, with its acute sense of hearing, could not hear the hunter. The dog should demonstrate sufficient tenacity necessary for successful hunting.

In roundup hunting, Laika can not do any of these. Moose hunting with a Laika is done very quietly and it requires the participation of only one hunter. Hunters in the Urals and Siberia, in order to walk closer the moose, often wear stockings specially sewn out of skins, which they carry ready for the occasion in their backpacks or stowed behind the belt. I should comment on this that, usually such stockings are made out of skins of dogs, which probably did not hunt well or attempted to stop moose by biting it hard.



I would not recommend using the word “bite” often. Laika have a very strong instinct of self preservation, which is part of his valuable breed qualities. Usually Laika attacks an animal and bites hard after it is shot because the dog is sure that the animal is wounded. Sometimes, they cannot understand that some shots do not mortally injure the animal. Speaking of behavior of moose in presence of the dog, experienced hunters conclude that moose is not really afraid of dog, unless the moose detects that the dog is in the company of a human hunter.

Therefore, professional hunters, prior to moose hunting, tie their dogs away from the home and during the hunt they try not to touch their dogs so they would not have human scent.

Let us discuss one publication in the journal “Hunting Dogs”, No. 1, 2003; the story title is “Pity of Wild Boar”. It is assumed that a Laika was turned loose for tracking a wild boar. The boar was driven by “beaters” towards the shooters line and they subsequently shot it. The Laika did not have a chance to show even a slight working ability with the wild boar. However, he was awarded Certificate of the 1st



degree for boar hunting. It would be interesting to hear the explanation of experts that participated in this roundup hunting. Why they gave such a high rating to the dog. The story is titled "Pity of Wild Boar", but it seems rather like a "pity of the breed", too.

Here is a catalogue of All Russian Dog Show of Laikas, 2001, Kirov. On the inside of the second page, there is a picture of the now deceased R. R. Potoker. It is clear in the picture that it was taken in spring, because the expert holds a hazelnut grouse in one of his hands (a monogamous bird). It is absolutely unethical to shoot a hazelnut grouse in spring. He holds a gray goose in another hand and a Laika is by his side. The question is what and how R. R. Potoker hunted with his Laika?

Who is to blame that such a picture got into the publication in the first place? Freedom of the press is surely a positive part of our life, but because of lack of control, scenes of poaching and unethical hunting with dogs are published and create a distorted picture of correct hunting.

There is a picture circulating among Laika lovers showing the well respected Mrs. L. V. Ushakova. In the picture, she is shown in a spruce forest with a gun and a Laika. Because the grass is still green, it is still early fall and leaves have just began falling from the trees; L. V. Ushakova is without a hat, which indicates that weather is still warm. This is the right time for mushroom picking, but the explanation under the picture tells us: "L. V. Ushakova at squirrel hunting in Arkhangelsk Province". Such absurdities can be listed endlessly. They all are signs of the loss of traditional hunting with Laikas and, subsequently, loosing correct technique of running the breed.



A leader of RFHD failed to honor people who made a significant contribution in the breeding of Laikas. Another high ranking expert tells us that Laika in roundup hunting, can stop a moose by biting it hard. One must simply arrange the shooters correctly.

One more expert from Korolev city gave a high ranking certificate to Laika for chasing a boar in roundup hunting. The question is for what? Anyone striving for a correct classic hunting with Laika would immediately see the symptoms of poaching and unethical hunting in the published pictures. There are countless examples of pictures showing a hunter proudly posing with his powerful rifle with a scope and a shot sable, but one can see a necktie under his hunting sweater. A hunter posing

with his leg positioned on the carcass of a wild boar, which, with help of Laika could be shot only after one or two day's arduous walking. We became accustomed to put up with embellishment of old values. Are we going to loose the qualities of our aboriginal Laikas along with other values? Will our Laikas share the fate of European Sptitzes? Once we loose the quality of our dogs, we would not need to go looking for them abroad, because they do not exist there. Our Laikas are unique. Perhaps, Laika are not damaged too much by degeneration. Yet, at the same time there are no scientific approaches to this problem.

Resuming research on Laikas under the conditions of professional hunting is needed. In the past, this was done by the All Union Institute of Hunting Industry. Thus, the Voilochnikovs, authors of book, "Laikas and Hunting with Them", were members of VNIIOZ (All Union Institute of Hunting Industry). They received many letters from hunters and local hunting groups containing diligent evaluations of their Laikas. If we want to save the Laika as a cultural heritage of many aboriginal people of the north, we should restore such a feedback link with provincial hunters. Even in the city, there is much research into the psychology and hidden qualities of Laikas.

Some people think that Laika is not intelligent and unruly. This is a profound mistake.

For example, in the 1930's, the dynasty of Durov's, who were famous circus animal trainers, used one specific behavior of Laika to be finely tuned to the wishes of their leader. Durov rode in sleds pulled by a pair of Ostyak sled dogs and controlled them by sending them his directions remotely. The Laikas took off, turned and stopped without any manual signals, just by the voice commands of the trainer, who remained at some distance.

In early 1970's, in Sverdlovsk, a Laika expert, V. S. Zubarev, demonstrated a trained Laika brought from the North Sosva River. He walked on streets of a big city with his dog without a collar or leash. His dog named "Zeya" understood everything and walked with him never lagging behind any further than one step.

Despite the ancestors of our Laikas have lived in the city for dozens of years now, they still remain poorly investigated and many of Laika's become forgotten because of abandonment of traditional methods of hunting.

How to preserve Laika with its complexity of special qualities? Now, an eternal Russian question emerges, "What to do?"

We should raise the standards of the professional requirements for expert judges working at field trials. I do not think every city expert, who chooses the dog judging profession, has the qualifications to evaluate the work of Laika with sable or moose.

There is one thing on which experts of the hunting with Laika agree. The Laika starts working with full capacity in his third hunting season. During the first and second season, he is still developing his experience and special skills. After the third year, he reaches his top performance, and, if the dog is talented, it can be awarded 1st Degree Certificate. Now, it has become very common when a Laika is one to two years old to have been awarded a series of certificates for many kinds of game, including mammals and birds.

In the rules of field trials for rare species in which searching with an excellent Laika may take several days, should be revised and changed. This is especially important in trials for wild boar, moose, sable and marten. In two hours, it is impossible to check the dog's correctness of search, persistence, skill of hunting and other elements.

There are many problems with publications about Laikas. Bookstores are flooded with "works" of all kinds of writers who would not see Laikas other than at a dog show. How do we save Laika enthusiasts from the works of those who have circus skills and hunt with a Laika, everything what moves, even a bear?

Perhaps, we should disseminate by all means possible, the knowledge about traditional hunting with Laika.

It would be beneficial to outlaw hunting without a dog, as it is done in some other countries. Prohibition of hunting moose, wild boar and capercailie without the participation of a Laika and of hunting with high powered rifles would be important. Because the owners of such weapons, as a rule, are lazy and do not walk when they hunt and they do not like nature. To them, the meaning of hunting is shooting at live targets. The prohibition should include hunting from stands. It should include raising the price of licenses on valuable animals that would traditionally be hunted with Laika and now are hunted without a Laika.

Perhaps, many other measures will be needed for preservation of the hunting qualities of Laikas. My goal is to attract attention to this problem, because we should not allow our Laikas to loose their value as professional hunting dogs. At least not, during this time, while we are still here.

## ON EXPERTS IN SYSTEM OF RUSSIAN ORGANIZED HUNTING DOG BREEFING

**Alexander Lyutin, Perm, Russia;**  
**Expert Cynologist of III Category**  
(translation by Vladimir Beregovoy)

**«In Russia, a cynologist is more then expert in dogs»**

In Russia, the system of hunting dog breeding requires that every pedigreed dog must pass several expertise tests at shows, preliminary shows of young dogs, field trials and hunting dog contests. This is absolutely obligatory and any dog that did not go through official expertise testing in the conformation and working qualities of the breed, does not belong to the registered breeding stock. Conducting dog expertise testing is allowed only by people qualified in certain group of dogs or field trials for working qualities. They have expert cynologist certification for certain breed groups and certain field trials. This indicates that an expert being qualified for a certain group of breeds may not be qualified to conduct expertise of working qualities of dogs and vice versa.

The goal of this article is to familiarize interested readers with the Russian system of certification of hunting dog experts, their responsibilities, and rights. Existing regulations in this area are based on “Rules for Experts in Hunting, Working and Decorative Dog Breeding” approved by Chief Department on the Preservation of Nature, Nature Reserves, Forestry and Hunting Affairs of Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, No. 20, May 18, 1981.

At the present time, the following ranks of qualifications of expert cynologists are in force: the Third Category, the Second Category, the First Category and All Russian Category. Former All Union Category awarded prior 1992 is also accepted.

Expert ranks are awarded with such rights as qualification commissions and rank of All Russian Category is approved by the Ministry of Agriculture of Russian Federation.

As already mentioned, expert ranks of each category are given according to breed and kinds of field trials. Hunting dog breeds are divided into groups: sight hounds, Laikas, scent hounds, earth hole hunting dogs, bird pointing dogs, and spaniels. Ranks of experts on field trials are given according to specialization for each of the groups of breeds listed above.

For the primary, the Third category, the following documents should be presented to the Qualification Commission:

- a) Personal application;
- b) A copy of Diploma as a proof of educational background;
- c) Written document confirming the completion of classes in cynology or extracurricular exams;
- d) Special form;
- e) Autobiography including records of cynological activities, experience, etc.;
- f) Characteristics from the last employer;
- g) A petition from a Section, Club, or Association of Hunting Dogs, where the applicant for the expert rank participates actively or gained certain experience, etc.;
- h) Two photographs; and
- i) Other documents required for awarding a dog Expert Ranks.

Conditions necessary for awarding of Expert Rank are described in a special chapter of the Rules. For example, the minimal requirement for awarding the Third Category rank includes educational level not less than high school graduation, completion of special cynological classes or passing extracurricular exams meeting requirements of their programs, and at least three years experience of cynological work. Other requirements of the applicant include his participation in at least two dog shows (or one dog show and one examination of young dogs called “vyvodka”) and a report about on-the-job training including at least 30 hunting dogs of one group, and also a positive review and recommendation written by another expert ranked at least Second Category in the same group of dog breeds, who witnessed the on-the-job training of the applicant at the dog show ring.

For officially certified qualification in field trials, requirements include active participation in at least two field trials, presentation of the report about judging performance of at least 15 dogs of one hunting breed group, and a positive review written by another expert of at least the Second Category in the same group of breeds, who witnessed on-the-job training of the applicant.

An expert of the First Category can upgrade his qualification and become expert of the Second Category after he has worked as a cynologist for at least three years. He must present a report including all his activities, what kind of work he performed, the number of dogs and their breeds, that passed his expertise.

Qualification rank, according to a breed group, is awarded under conditions of available Third Category rank and judging at least 150 dogs at three or more different dog shows. At least 50 dogs should pass his expertise at the show ring, when the applicant was a major expert in charge at the show ring.

Qualification rank, according to specific field trials, requires him to be an expert of at least the Third Category and judging at least 40 dogs of one breed group in three different field trials or contests being a Chairman of expert commission. He must present a report and a recommendation letter written by another expert having at least the First Category qualification in the same breed group and who witnessed work of the applicant.

An expert of the Second Category can upgrade his qualification and become an expert of the First Category after he continues to work with dogs for at least three years becoming expert of the Second Category. The applicant needs to present a report describing his activities in cynological work as an expert, what kind of work he has done, and number of dogs, by breeds, that he judged.

In addition to this, experts in specific breed groups at the rank of the Second Category must examine dogs at least in three different dog shows of provincial and higher level and judge not less than 200 dogs of one breed group and assisted during work of expert of the First Category or expert of All Russian Category (or formerly All-Union Category) at the show ring in the same group of breeds. The expert of the First Category, with whom the dog expertise at the show ring has been conducted, should write a recommendation letter for the applicant.

Experts in field trials, who need to get a qualification of expert of the First Category, should conduct expertise at the Second Category level in field trials or contests with participation of at least 80 dogs of one group of breeds in a role of Chairman of Expert Commission. Being a Chairman of Expert Commission, he must participate in at least five field trials and contests of the same breed group dogs. To be an expert member in the Commission in at least two field trials, where Chairman of the Expert Commission has qualification of least First Category and who will write a recommendation letter witnessing work of the applicant.

Rank of expert of All Russian Category is awarded to experts of the First Category after he/she had worked for at least five years at the level of expert of the First Category. Personal application is not needed, but a solicitation by organizations, such as clubs and associations, where the expert had been active, describing his/her cynological experience is required.

All Russian Category qualification award by breed groups requires to be an expert at the First Category level and conduct expertise of at least 300 dogs in all Russian, provincial, inter-provincial or Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Ekaterinburg or Novosibirsk provincial dog shows. He must present a written report signed by one expert of all Russian Category with a positive recommendation or signed by at least two experts of the First Category; at least one of them should witness his work at the show rings.

Requirements for awarding qualification of expert of all Russian Category in field trials include the following: to be an expert of the First Category; perform expertise of at least 100 dogs at five field trials and two contests at least at a provincial level; presenting a report with a favorable opinion written by an expert of All Russian Category or by two experts of the First Category; and a written recommendation by an expert of All Russian Category or by two experts of the First Category specialized in the same group of breeds.

The following part is dedicated to rights of dog experts.

Rights of a dog expert depend on his recognized qualification level:

- a) An expert of the Third Category can conduct expertise of dogs on his own at regional dog shows and participate as an assistant at dog shows of all levels, except All Russian Dog Show.
- b) An expert of the Second Category can conduct dog expertise at provincial, and territorial dog shows and participate as an assistant at any dog shows of a certain breed or group of breeds.
- c) An expert of the First Category can conduct independent dog expertise at dog shows of any breed and at any level.
- d) An expert of All Russian Category can conduct independent expertise of dogs of any breed and in all dog shows of any level.

Experts in area of field trials of hunting dogs have rights, depending on their recognized qualification.

- a) Expert of the Third Category can be a head of commissions at regional and provincial dog trials or to be a member of commission at provincial contests on group of breeds of his specialization;
- b) Expert of the Second Category can be a head of commissions at provincial and territorial field trials and to be a member of interprovincial and All Russian trials and contests.
- c) Expert of the First Category can be a head of Commission of all field trials and contests of any breeds.
- d) Expert of All Russian Category can be a head of commission of all hunting dog trials and contests on all hunting breeds.

Dog experts have other rights and responsibilities, according to their qualification. They have to be guided by cynological documents, such as breed standards, rules and laws; write reports; teach junior and lower ranking experts and write recommendation and suggestions associated with upgrading qualification.

Experts are accountable for ungrounded expertise, false conclusions, poor quality reports, improper documentation and evading performing their duties without good reasons. They can be disciplined by a "warning", a "reprimand", a "strong reprimand", lowering the qualification rank, suspension up to one to three years and complete disqualification.

In this article, I listed only basic rules for conditions required for awarding expert qualifications, their rights and responsibilities based on the "Rules, 1981", taking into account certain historic changes. I should also mention that there are other Rules, such as Rules of Russian Cynological Federation and Russian Federation of Hunting Dogs, which strongly contradict each other and the "Rules, 1981" mentioned above. Today, awarding of qualification ranks of dogs experts and their duties in area of hunting dogs is based mainly on "Rules for Experts in Hunting Dogs" signed by Chief of the Russian Federation of Hunting Dogs Mr. A. A. Ulitin, in 1994. However, it was have not been approved the Ministry of Agriculture of Russian Federation and therefore, not ratified. Law about Dog Experts of Russian Cynologic Federation signed by its head Mr. E. L. Yeruslimsky, 1992, possibly was approved by the Ministry of Agriculture On 28 of August, 1992, but I do not know about any documents on this matter.

Unfortunately, there was no any work done for updating basic guiding documents in this area. Understandably, this results in confusion and casing problems in breeding purebred dogs. However, actual application, evaluation of judicial existing documents and development of new rules are beyond the scope of this article and would be a theme for the next one.

## ON THE PRESERVATION OF A CULTURAL HERITAGE

**By Sarah de Monchy and Pieter Keijzer**

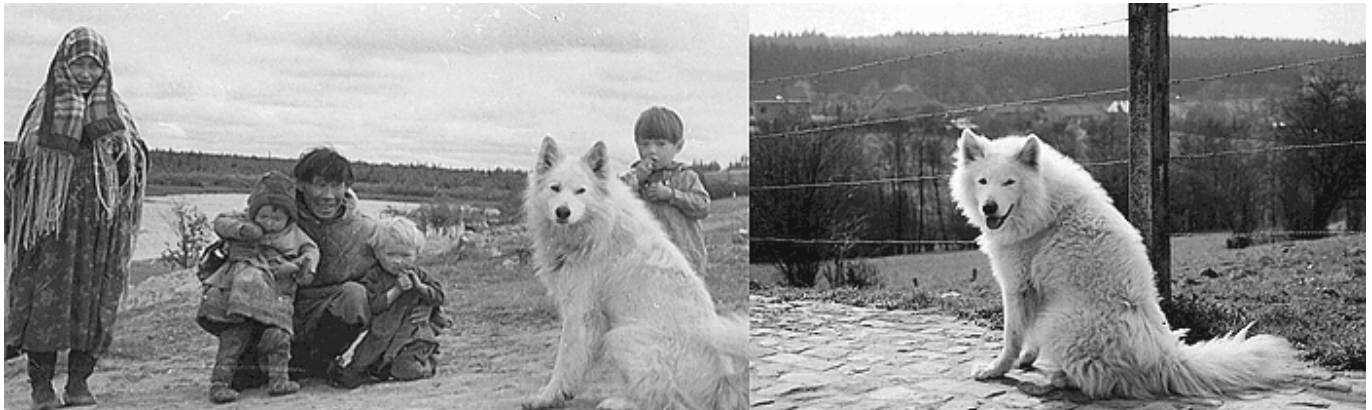
### **Part II:**

#### **A Short History Of The Samoyed Dog As A Registered Breed**

This part is written in an attempt to analyse why and how the registered breeding of the Samoyed resulted in a breed known with this name, but which - in varying degrees of deviation – has now hardly more in common with the aboriginal Samoyed than the white colour of its coat.

The first section, ‘Registered breeding,’ describes this development. The following section ‘Short History of the Dutch Breeding of Samoyeds’ sketches the only known exception to this worldwide trend. In Holland, a small group of breeders still tries to keep on breeding to the aboriginal type.

The last section, ‘Cynology And The Preservation Of Cultural Heritage,’ discusses aspects of the environment in which registered breeding takes place and how it, nonetheless, offers a solution for preserving the breed for the future.



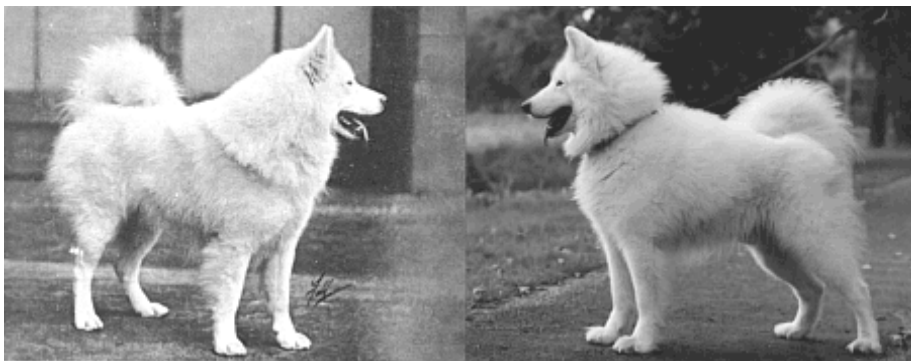
**Noho, Aboriginal Samoyed On Yamal, 1962 And Na-Njarka, Bred In Holland In 1996, Both Dogs Are At The Age Of Two Years**

#### **Registered breeding**

Ernest Kilburn Scott and his wife, Clara, were the first to begin the systematic and purposeful breeding of the Samoyed dog in the Western world. They worked on this project for many, many years to come. Growing up with these dogs, their daughters, Joyce and Ivy, became actively engaged in this project too. It all started with the business trip Ernest Kilburn Scott made to Archangelsk in 1893. Mr. Scott stayed there for a couple of months, and, as mentioned before, acquired the pup, Sabarka, from a Samoyed tribe living in a nearby town. He never traveled all the way into Siberia, but via the many contacts he maintained, he did manage to gather information on the dogs originating in those territories. This resulted in the foundation of the famous and large-scale breeding kennels ‘of Farningham.’

Farningham was the name they took for their kennel after moving to Farningham, Kent, in 1922. Until that time no specific kennel name was used.

Sabarka sired the very first litter bred of an imported bitch called Whitey Petchora. Sabarka is still found in the pedigree of



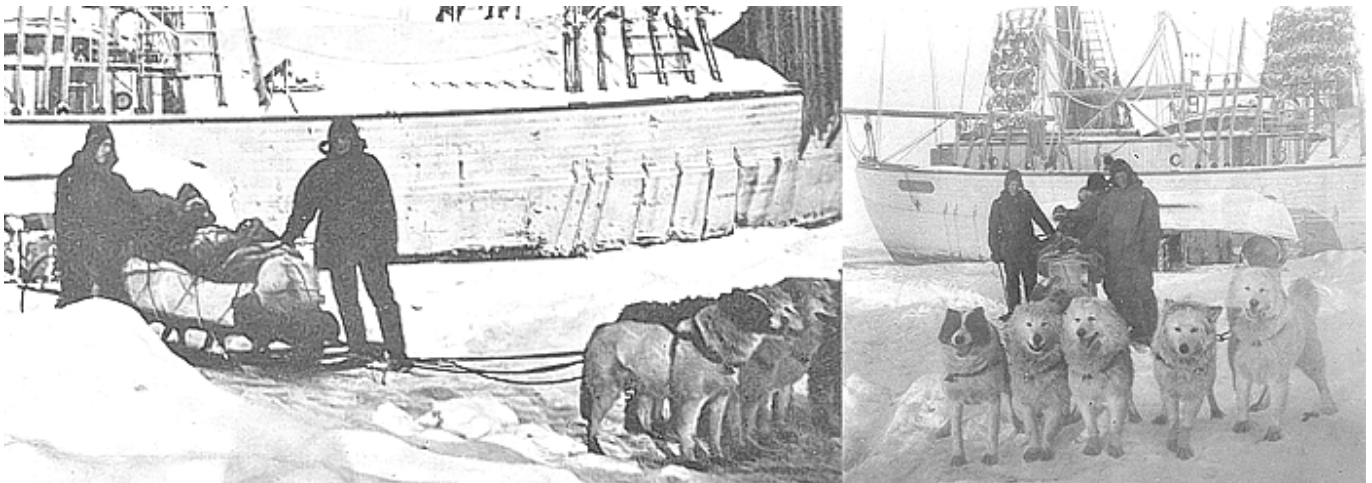
**Polar Light Of Farningham, Bred In England Around 1920, And An Ancestor Of Na-Njarka, Here In 2002 At The Age Of Five Years**

Samoyeds today. Soon after, more dogs came into reach, like Musti. A litter was sired by Musti with

Whitey Petchora. Besides the directly imported dogs, the acquired ones that were among the few canine survivors of different Polar expeditions played the most significant role in their breeding program. It has been the great merit of the Kilburn Scott's that when typical examples came within reach, they put a great effort in acquiring these dogs for their kennels. For example, Antarctic Buck, was an offspring of dogs taken by the Borghrevink expedition to Antarctica. On returning from the South he was left behind in Australia, and was put on display in the zoo in Sydney. He was seen by Mr. and Mrs. Kilburn Scott when visiting Australia in 1904. A year later they managed to obtain this dog and had him shipped to England. Unfortunately, not long after arrival, he died of distemper. But, before his death, he had sired at least two litters, securing his contribution to the breed.

That a Samoyed dog ever reached the South Pole is a tall story. Because of an outbreak of distemper in Greenland at the end of 19th century, Denmark forbid the export of dogs from its colony. After the turn of the century that situation had changed. When Amundsen started to prepare for the South Pole in 1910, he paid a visit to Copenhagen ordering 100 Greenland huskies, which he managed to secure through the Danish government. When the 'Fram' left Norway in 1911 sailing for the South, she had 97 dogs on board that were delivered from Greenland. Amundsen apparently did use Samoyed dogs for sledding though, but that was on his later expedition of 1917 to 1920 for the North East passage sailing along the coast of Siberia to the Bering Strait ending up in Nome, Alaska.

Stops were made at Waigatz and Dickson Island where some dogs were taken on board. Further on the way his ship, 'Maud,' was brought up by ice and had to spend the winter beset on the Siberian coast at Cape Chelyuskin. Two pictures exist of the same situation and, taken from different angles, show a sledge with five dogs attached in front of Maud. These pictures were taken on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 1919 at Cape Chelyuskin, when Amundsen sent a party of three of his crewmembers with post to Nishny Kolymsk, a town 200 land miles inwards. The three dogs in the middle are unmistakably of Samoyed origin. The one on the left with black plates on the head and short coat reminds me of the dog Luska (see: [www.oldsams.info](http://www.oldsams.info)), owned by the Prince of Wales in the 1880s. The dog on the right is clearly a full size bigger than the others and his sturdy posture is more like that of a Greenland husky male.



Pictures Taken On 20<sup>th</sup> October 1919 At Cape Chelyuskin

In 1909, Ernest Kilburn Scott formed the Samoyede Club, the first of all special Samoyed breed clubs established in Great Britain as well as in the whole world. In May 1909, this club adopted the first breeding standard, drawn up by the Kilburn Scott's (probably by Clara, who was the actual breeder of the family). The 'Summary of Points' opens with the paragraph: "**Colour.** Pure white; white, with slight lemon markings; brown and white; black and white. The pure white dogs came from the farthest north, and are most typical of the breed." The second sentence proves that they assumed that they were dealing with an existing, distinguishable white-coloured breed. It also reveals to us the apparent awareness that some of the dogs used for building up the breeding population, showed aberrations to the typical appearance of that breed indicating a certain degree of contamination with other breeds.

The Kilburn Scott's must have themselves begotten an image of the looks of the purebred dog, which served as a guideline for where to aim for, and how to act, and how to proceed in the selection process. The first four paragraphs of a promotion leaflet of the Farningham kennels read as follows:

*“These kennels were the first to be established, and for over thirty years Mrs. Kilburn Scott has been most careful to breed and import only correct types of Samoyed dogs.*

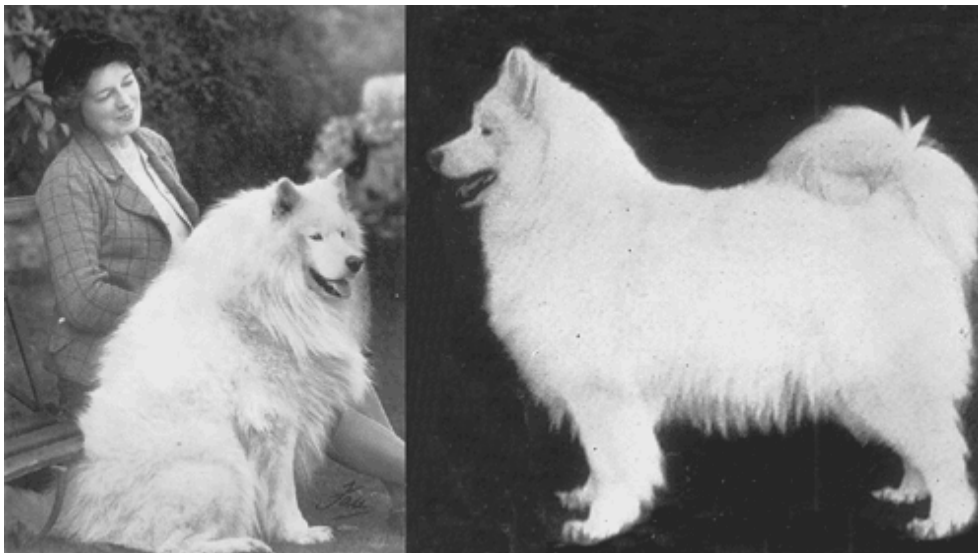
*They are the domesticated dogs of the Samoyed people and their natural habitat is the Tundra country which stretches from the White Sea in North Russia to the Yenesei River in West Siberia.*

*USES. The Samoyed people use them principally for driving and rounding up reindeer, a task similar to that of droving sheep, and they have been so engaged from prehistoric times, also they are used for hunting.*

*They have hauled sledges on various Arctic and Antarctic expeditions and many of those at Farningham are directly descended from such dogs.”*

Due to the diversity in origin of the few - actually very limited number of - dogs available for the breeding purposes, it was possible for them to keep eight different bloodlines in their kennels at a certain stage. Among the dogs they had bred, they distinguished three different types of head, which they called: the bear type, the fox type and the wolf type.

By experimenting and consistent breeding they managed to create a viable and pure inheriting population of the type they wanted. It is, without question, the Kilburn Scott's are accountable for establishing the Samoyed dog in the Western World as a recognised and registered breed. Instead of trying to create a new breed of their own which, in fact, would have been a much easier goal to accomplish, the goal they set themselves was to stick as close as possible to the aboriginal type. Their eventual idea of breeding Samoyeds to provide Polar expeditions with



**Title winners on shows in England in 1938: Spartan of the Arctic and Crystal of the Arctic**

dogs, turned out to be in vain. The sole purpose of breeding became the show ring for the Kilburn Scott's too. But this did not change their judging of the breed, as they have always kept looking for an overall sound exterior.

In the early days of Polar expeditions it was common to invite returned Polar travellers to lecture

about their adventures for select audiences. But the race to reach both the North and the South Poles turned public interest in Polar expeditions into complete hype, reflected by articles published in newspapers. Everything connected to the expeditions became interesting for quite a while. Publications on the Arctic became so popular that several books were translated and published in foreign languages reaching an even broader audience. It also stimulated the wish to own a dog connected with these heroic adventures. Together, with the steadily growing attention for the breed, the number of people engaged in breeding augmented. In the first two decennia of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the Samoyed dog was nationally and internationally sought after and British kennels exported to countries all over the world. World War I implied an interlude to international cynologic live and in England it was even officially forbidden for a while to organise dog shows. After the end of World War I cynologic live revived and soon flourished more than ever.

With the outbreak of the Russian Revolution it became impossible to import dogs to Western Europe from regions under control of the new regime. When the Bolsheviks took over a region, it was closed to outsiders. Trade routes between the West and Siberia had to close down. A route which had served as a gateway for obtaining typical specimens of the aboriginal type was gone.

It England it was during the 1920s that the transformation process began, step-by-step changing the functional exterior of a working dog into that of a show dog with many dysfunctional characteristics. Until this period the breeding by the Kilburn Scott's had been leading, but from then on other kennels started to dominate. One of the most well known kennels of the time was the 'Arctic' kennel of Miss M. Keyte-Perry, which succeeded over the years in gaining in the show ring an enormous collection of champion titles.

Pictures from the 1930s of winning dogs in shows in England clearly show the trend towards big bone, impressiveness, and exuberant coat that had already started.

The following typical characteristics the tended to exaggerate further and further: the whole appearance of the dogs became increasingly plump and squat, low on legs, with steep hindquarters, small round feet, an overall coat profuse and long, the muzzle short and broad, and a set of teeth of underdeveloped size, small, flabby ears, and little mobile, a domed skull, pronounced stop, and big round eyes placed towards the front of the skull making the sight angle smaller, giving a narrowed sight field.

Another peculiarity of the changed type is the rapid pace in which the development of the body reaches the state of fully blossoming adulthood. At the age of two, these dogs are at their peak, and then they start to look aged very quickly. By contrast, dogs of the Farningham type develop slowly. A bitch is not fully grown before she turns three years old and a male reaches its peak at the age of five. Both keep their vitality and beauty until a very old age.

It is very well possible that crossbreeding has occurred with other breeds to achieve this transformation. It is a public secret that in England (in the 1950s?) at least once a Chow Chow has been used for inbreeding. It is quite possible that the White Keeshond has been bred in as well. It is known that in the 1930s and 1940s it occurred in shows held in Holland and Switzerland that specimen of the White Keeshond were described as Samoyed and had to be removed from the ring at the start of judging. Also the silhouette of many today's show Samoyeds fits the silhouette of the Keeshond. Anyway, a lot of the above-mentioned characteristics are traits adherent to either of these two breeds and strange to a sound working dog.

At the end of the 1950s, the pure Farningham type is no longer found in the prominent breeding kennels of England. Around that time, R-PADS member Mr. Clay met Mrs. D.L. Perry, owner of the Kobe kennels. They discussed the breeding in England and she admitted to him in private that a breeder who wanted to compete successfully in the show ring had been forced to follow this trend as with dogs of the Farningham type one did not stand a chance of winning anymore.



#### **Today's Samoyed bred for the show**

In less than a hundred years, step by step the Samoyed breed world wide has undergone a metamorphosis where the wolfishness, so typical for a Polar dog, has been bred out. The functional construction of the body that goes along with speed, stamina, and nimbleness, that are necessary to work under all conditions such as herding, hunting, and sledge dog have also disappeared.

However, apart from all the other changes in appearance it is the change in expression of the head, which is most striking. In the above mentioned leaflet of the Farningham kennels the following description of the head is given:

*“The ears are erect, slightly rounded at the tips and set well apart, giving a fine open forehead, which indicates the extremely intelligent expression of the breed.”*

Exactly this facial expression has been swapped for the looks of a teddy bear, the domed forehead concealed by thick white hair like a knitted cap slid down to the eyebrows with on top two little triangles being the tiny ears popping up.

On July 22, 1997 the FCI published the latest revision of the standard. In this version, a remarkable sentence is added to the paragraph *‘Behaviour and temperament’*, stating: *“The hunting instinct is very slight.”* It shows that the transformation process continues, touching now other undesirable traits for passionately hunting behaviour is inconvenient when keeping a dog as family pet. But the past still lingers in the description of the general appearance, which opens with the words:

*“Medium in size, elegant, a white Arctic Spitz.”*



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All questions, suggestions and comments will be accepted with gratitude. E-mail them or send them as snail mail to: Marina G. Kuzina mail box 12, Moscow, 115407 RUSSIA

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