



Adorable Alaskan Klee Kai
Beautiful Husky Faces In Small Packaging

General Breed Information

<http://www.AdorableAKK.com/>

Widdershin Estates

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Thank you for your inquiry into Alaskan Klee Kai (pronounced ALASKAN KLE KI).

The Alaskan Klee Kai (AKK) is a very new and very rare breed. There are probably less than 500 living in the world today (the majority of them in the United States). There are probably less than two-dozen breeders and less than 100 AKK in the breeding population. We have links to most of the breeders (at least those that have websites) on our AKK Links page. The URL is:

http://AdorableAKK.com/alaskan_klee_kai/links.htm

Fortunately even though the breed has grown in public awareness, the breeders of these small dogs are resisting the demand to breed anything but the best quality AKK so the breed will hopefully continue to be healthy and not seriously fall prey to the long-term health and personality problems that have befallen many breeds.

A bit of history.

In the mid-70's, Linda Spurlin, while visiting a relative in Okalahoma, saw a small husky-type dog who weighed about 17 pounds, named Curious. Her relatives gave Linda this dog and Linda found that she was not the only person highly attracted to this "companion-sized" husky.

About this same time and unknown to Linda, her brother-in-law had begun his own breeding program to produce companion huskies. In the early-80's, her brother-in-law chose to end his breeding program and transfer his breeding stock to Linda with the advice, which had been Linda's belief all along, "Breed the best and cull the rest". With the influx of these dogs increasing Linda's breeding population and gene pool, Linda soon began to see the results of this hard core breeding policy and in fact encouraged her to become even stricter in selecting the breeding stock that became the foundation to the Alaskan Klee Kai we love today.

Although the Alaskan Klee Kai looks like miniature Siberians, their foundation is the ALASKAN HUSKY. The Alaskan Husky is a not a breed but rather breed type based on a scruffy little Indian dog used by the people of interior Alaska, which anthropologists "guesstimate" to be nearly 5000 years old. Over the past 50 years, Alaskan Huskies have become extensively the foundation of the SLED DOGS used by mushers. Linda, like any good chef, won't share all her secret ingredients used to develop the Alaskan Klee Kai, but has shared that there was ONE

registered Siberian Husky, a smattering of Schipperke, and one part American Eskimo Dog and other small dogs of similar conformation to form her foundation stock.

In 1987, Linda finally agreed to send the first Alaskan Klee Kai to the Continental US. That was Niskishka who still lives to this day with Eileen and Greg Gregory in Peyton Colorado. Between 1987 and 1995, Linda and Eileen worked closely together and with other breeders to continue Linda's dream and vision of developing the Alaskan Klee Kai. In 1995, Linda decided to transfer her last nine dogs to Eileen and remove herself from actively breeding Alaskan Klee Kai. Although Linda no longer breeds AKK, her love for the breed continues undiminished to this date and she actively helps, supports, and counsels those of us who have taken up her dream and her vision.

In 1997, The United Kennel Club recognized the Alaskan Klee Kai as part of their Northern Breeds and is now the only official registry of AKK and owns the copyright to the Alaskan Klee Kai Breed Standard.

Personailty:

Alaskan Klee Kai are truly companion huskies. They are devoted to their family and friends with their favorite spot being anywhere their owners are. That said, they are NOT a breed for everyone.

They are by nature EXTREMELY reserved almost to the point of being EXTREMELY SHY around strangers and people they do not know well. On the good side, this is not a breed that will willingly be stolen away from you. On the negative side, in our world, dogs need to be social animals accepting of far more than immediate family and friends. Therefore, owners must SERIOUSLY work to SOCIALIZE their AKK to not just tolerating "strangers" but to accepting strangers.

And by strangers I mean everyone from their attending veterinarian to dog sitters to occasional house guests to people you and they will meet on the streets. And you and they will meet people on the streets....because AKK are true attention getters....everywhere you go people will come up and want to meet your dog.

If you are not prepared to be inundated with attention and questions about your dog wherever you go.....then.....the Alaskan Klee Kai is NOT the breed for you.

Alaskan Klee Kai require this same socialization to get them use to other dogs and animals. They do not think of themselves as small dogs....they will seriously consider taking on even the largest dogs.

If you are not prepared to take your AKK to puppy kindergarten, and on to organized obedience classes and to places where they can meet and learn proper behavior around other animals....then.....the Alaskan Klee Kai is NOT the breed for you.

The socialization process is NOT a puppy only thing. You MUST continue socializing AKK throughout their maturity process. The Alaskan Klee Kai (even well socialized as a pup) will regress during their teenage months (between 8 months and 2 or 3 years) to being once again very unsure about the attention of strangers (human or animal). Constant and continuous work during this time will enable them to outgrow this natural stage of development and blossom into a wonderfully social animal.

Alaskan Klee Kai and children can either get along very well together or not. Pretty much, in my opinion, dependant on the training of both the AKK and the children. There have been cases of AKK being nippy around children....but then many households have a wonderful blend of AKK with children.

AKK can be fence and property protective. They will view their yard and their crate as their domain. As a dog show person, I am forever watchful that people do not stick their fingers into our dogs' x-pens (fence) or crates. Generally once mentally mature providing properly trained and socialized, AKK moderate their protective behavior to appropriate an appropriate level.

AKK do not like being overwhelmed by physical presence. They do not like hands reaching over their heads or being bent over. When you are introducing your AKK to strangers, either request the person kneel in front of the dog or pick your AKK up so that the stranger doesn't give the appearance of "lording over" the AKK. During the introduction time, make sure you are physically touching (controlling) your dog. Your AKK will take comfort and reassurance in your presence and just as important you will be able to read your dog's reaction to the stranger.

AKK do not like dealing with fast gestures from people they do not know well. Fast movement and motions make Alaskan Klee Kai somewhat unsure what to expect especially when they are young themselves. This may be one reason why some AKK (especially those not yet mentally mature) have a problem with children. Children are prone to moving quickly and suddenly and that includes reaching towards something and then snatching their hand away. When introducing your AKK to people of all ages, remind them make their motions slowly and smoothly and to present their hand palm side down unless they are giving the dog a treat.

Not long ago, I was socializing our Harmony – having strangers hand him a treat which he would gently take and then back away if the person reached towards him. Sort of a "I take treats from you, but you are not allowed to touch me" behavior seen in young adults not fully mentally mature. One person (and a person I expected to know better) handed him a treat and with her other hand GRABBED at Harmony. Harmony jumped back and closed jaws on empty air. It will be an extremely long time before Harmony forgets her attempt to grab him, and now he is extremely leery of this person whenever she is near him.

NEVER leave your AKK unattended with any person – adult or child until you are positive how your AKK will react and also know how that person or child will behave with your AKK.

Alaskan Klee Kai look like miniature huskies, but as the above paragraphs indicate that they do not have the same friendly outgoing personality of the Siberian Husky. But on the other hand, AKK do not have the tendency to run so far so fast that they forget where they came from that is a behavior tendency Siberian Huskies are well know for.

AKK are or can be escape artists but both by digging and / or by climbing and / or by simply slipping out through the smallest of holes or door openings. Their nature is to remain with and near their family.....so likely they will not go far.....BUT....horrible accidents can happen right out side your door and yard.

Like other huskies, Alaskan Klee Kai are a very vocal with an enormous range of vocalizations. Less prone then their Siberian cousins to morning and evening song, the AKK will enjoy spending a lot of time literally chatting with you. This is one of their finest, in my opinion, qualities, and those quiet conversations provide some positively wonderful opportunities for both you and the AKK. However, as with all their good traits, there is a downside.

Alaskan Klee Kai are very demanding of attention. After leaving them alone for any length of time, you must expect to be thoroughly greeted when you come home and must be willing to spend at least a few minutes where they have your sole and complete attention so that they can fill you in on all the things that happened while you were away.

Alaskan Klee Kai love to chew especially when young but also into their adulthood. Wood is one of their favorite things but followed by any number of other items and textures. Having a lot of toys (rubber, latex, and plush) and chewies will help to channel their chewing activity into appropriate venues....but.....if you have a house full of priceless antiques.....leaving your AKK loose and unattended may result in a few antiques becoming slightly more distressed than you perhaps want.

Alaskan Klee Kai are extremely smart and learn very quickly. They will learn what they can and cannot do...but they are independent thinkers and can grow bored quickly. Quick learning and free thinkers also mean that they can be mischievous. Smart they will control their mischievous behavior to an acceptable or tolerated level. But they need to be instructed as to what that level is.

In other words....you must be committed to training you AKK. But training your AKK is part of the entire socialization process....and as an activity you do with your dog will be one you both thoroughly enjoy.

I've dealt more with potential negatives of the breed than their endearing qualities....because while these are without doubt the most wonderful breed in the world and make the best companion dogs....they remain a UNIQUE breed with issues and tendencies that make them definitely NOT a breed for everyone.

If you can live with their negatives, then their positive qualities of uncompromising love, unending devotion, and penchant for endearing antics will be make them your best life-long companion. If their possible negative behavior traits and personality quirks give you pause.....then do yourself and the Alaskan Klee Kai a favor and look elsewhere for your perfect companion.

Health Issues:

While the Alaskan Klee Kai is fortunate to be one breed, thanks to the diligence of Linda Spurlin and all breeders who remain committed to monitoring health issues and remain committed to only breeding the best Alaskan Klee Kai, relatively free of serious health issues. That said, the AKK is also a very young breed, so there is only limited knowledge about what health issues might be lurking in the genepool. Afterall, the Alaskan Husky is as previously stated a breed type rather than a pure breed, and mushers are well know for having their own secret recipe for developing their teams to race, so while the Alaskan Klee Kai has a small breeding population, the genepool which makes up the AKK is very wide and relatively unknown.

Currently, these are the following conditions that have occurred in Alaskan Klee Kai

Cryptorchid (Retained Testicle[s])

Patella Luxation (Kneecap Dislocation)

Congenital Heart Disease (Heart Murmur)

Elevated ALT (Liver Enzyme)

Juvenile Cellulitis (Puppy Strangles / Puppy Mumps)

Portosystemic Shunt (Liver Shunt)

Hip Dysplasia (HD)

Juvenile Cataracts

Cleft Palates

Grooming:

Alaskan Klee Kai are a double-coated breed meaning significant shedding at least twice generally three times a year. They will "blow" their coat in the Spring and Fall and frequently have a mid-winter minor "blow". A full "blow" means that they shed out their undercoat and some guard (outer) coat. The minor "blow" will generally just involve losing some undercoat. Intact (unsprayed) females will fully "blow" their coats have a litter and frequently have a minor "blow" after their heat cycles. Following this logic, it is my opinion, that males shed less than females.

During the shedding season, the undercoat will loosen from the skin and appear as tufts. These tufts can be easily pulled from the coat by hand or by use of either slicker brush or pin brush. After the undercoat is shed, the guard (outer) coat will loosen and come out with brushing.

The shedding process can be helped along by frequent bathings in luke-warm to warm water. A full "blow" last anywhere from 3 weeks to 2 or 3 months.

Other than during their shedding time, the Alaskan Klee Kai is a remarkable self-cleaning dog. Neither rain nor snow nor mud seems to stick to their coat. It's amazing during how dirty they can look coming in from outside after a rain storm and romping in the mud and yet within a short time, they are clean and dry while my kitchen floor looks like a load of dirt has been dropped on it. I'm forever saying my kitchen floor gets more baths than my dogs do.

In general, AKK like being brushed and weekly or biweekly brushing will suffice during all but their seasonal shedding times. Between brushings, petting does a lot to remove what hair comes out naturally.

Our AKK keep their nails naturally short with the exception of the front dewclaws which will need to be trimmed every 2 or 3 months. Others need to trim all their dogs nails, it rather depends on the types of surfaces that their dogs spend most of their time on. Fortunately the majority of AKK have light colored nails which makes trimming them easy since you can see where the "quick" is and therefore trim just shy of the sensitive tissue area.

Placement Prices

Placement prices are a private matter between breeders and their clients. Further, most breeders price their dogs and puppies differently based on a large number of variables including but not limited to quality [show/breeding, breeding, or pet/companion], age, coat-color, eye-color, size, etc. About the only general information I can give you on prices is what thoughts I had on prices when I first considered getting an Alaskan Klee Kai pup AND BEFORE I ever talked to a breeder. I knew that I wanted a breeding/show-quality/potential pup. Therefore, I anticipated spending between \$1000 and \$4000. Generally, pet/companion quality puppies and sometimes older pups / dogs may cost less. But again the terms are very breeder dependent, and even more dependant on what you are really looking for.

Still in general terms, as breeders of Alaskan Klee Kai, we developed the Widdershin Estates general adoption fee structure as follows:

- Companion white (spay/neuter contract) - \$1000 and up
- Companion (spay/neuter contract) - \$1500 and up
- Breeding/Show Potential Pup (3-6mos) - \$2000 and up
- Breeding Potential/Show Quality Pup (6mos+) - \$2500 and up
- Champion Titled / Breeding Potential Pup (6mos+) - \$3000 and up
- GrandChampionTitled / Breeding Potential (6mos+) - \$3500 and up
- Conformation Titled / Breeding Quality (2yrs+) - \$4000 and up
- Proven Breeders - \$5000 and up

Please remember these are general guidelines and prices may vary depending on any number or variables including but not limited to: quality relative to the breed standard, quality of markings, eye color, coat color, age, health issues (either known or potential),....

Learn more about the AKK:

- Join the Alaskan Klee Kai Advocates, a Yahoo Discussion group, where the majority of the AKK Community hangs out, I strongly recommend joining the group. The Advocates aka "TLC" (for the founers: Terry Wright [companion AKK owner in Alaska], Linda Spurlin [AKK Kreator], and Chris Shackelford [AKK Breeder]. The URL is:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/alaskankleekaiadvocates/>
- Join the Alaskan Klee Kai Dog Club, a Yahoo Discussion group, where a lot of the AKK Community hangs out, I strongly recommend joining the group. The URL is:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/alaskankleekaidogclub/>
- Join the Alaskan Klee Kai Association of America at least at the Newsletter level.
<http://www.AKKAOA.org>
- Join the United Alaskan Klee Kai Association (formerly the North East Alaskan Klee Kai Association. <http://www.NEAKKA.org> **OR** <http://www.UAKKA.org> (still under construction)

How to become parents to an AKK:

The best and probably the only recommendation I have to begin discussions with one or more of the breeders, decide whether you want to work with a single breeder or get on several of the breeders waiting lists and then be patient. It is impossible to say how long your wait will be....it really depends on what you are looking for in your AKK (coat-color, eye-color, sex, size are part of the variables). I know one owner who waited for 4 years to get her perfect AKK...others have waited far less and are equally ecstatic with their AKK family member. But it seems pretty much without dispute, AKK owners feel that being owned by an AKK is worth the wait!

Thank you again for your interest in the Adorable Alaskan Klee Kai of Widdershin Estates. If I can be of any further help, please let me know and good luck with your search for your own "Beautiful Husky Face In Small Packaging".

Carol Din

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Beautiful Husky Faces In Small Packaging



*Our Foundation Stock
From Left to Right
Melody, Jazz, and Harmony*

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