

BREED PROFILE: HUSKY

Siberian Huskies are admired for being beautiful dogs and can make great companions and partners, but they're also not for everyone. Adopting a Husky is a responsibility that shouldn't be taken lightly.

Think about these five Husky facts before bringing home your own:



Huskies are beautiful working dogs with loving personalities, and for the right people, they make exceptional pets. Do your homework to ensure a Husky is right for your family and lifestyle. The most important thing to remember when thinking about bringing a Husky, or any dog into your home is that it is a lifetime commitment. From the moment you bring them home, they depend on you to provide a stable, loving home.



TULARE COUNTY
ANIMAL CARE & ADOPTION SERVICES

1

ENDLESS ENERGY

Bred to run as sled dogs, Huskies aren't the kind of pet that'll be happy snoozing all day on the couch. They have energy to burn, and if they're not given the right outlet, they'll find their own way to get the vigorous exercise and stimulation they need. A bored Husky with pent-up energy will turn to destructive and troublesome behaviors. As with other high-energy dogs, leaving Huskies to entertain themselves in the yard just won't do. You'll need to commit to daily walks, runs, and other activities. If you think about it though, the Husky may make you into a more active person, benefitting everyone involved.

2

SKILLS LIKE HOUDINI

High energy paired with an impressive intellect means Huskies are skilled escape artists. They have a natural instinct to roam and explore, and an average fence won't be enough to stop them. An athletic and determined Husky can easily leap over a six-foot fence, and if he can't go over, he'll look for other ways of escape. Your fenced yard will likely need to be reinforced if you plan on keeping a Husky confined while unsupervised. Many escaped Huskies will get lost and end up in shelters because they refuse to stay behind even a high fence.

3

FUR-FLAVORED EVERYTHING

Nearly all dog owners have to deal with shedding, but Huskies take it to another level. They're built for cold climates, and they have both an undercoat and topcoat. Huskies usually "blow" their coats in the spring and fall. This means the undercoat sheds excessively as the new topcoat grows in. It lasts for about three weeks, and the result is enough dog hair on the floor, furniture, your clothes, and mixed in with your food to make it look like you own an entire sled team. If you don't want to drown in a fluffy mountain of your dog's fur, you'll need to commit to daily grooming and vacuuming.

4

INDEPENDENT SPIRIT

There's no doubting that Huskies can be loyal and loving to their owners, but their independent nature holds them back from being the lovable lap dogs many people want. They're known for being stubborn, and they'd much rather do things their way than obediently follow house rules. This can make training challenging, but they absolutely need training. Husky owners need to be patient, determined, and consistent.

5

CLIMATE CONCERNS

Huskies do best in colder climates. They're originally from the Arctic, and their eyes, paws, ears, and fluffy coats are all examples of physical adaptations that make them perfectly suited to cold temperatures. In Tulare County's climate, the heat can be a concern. Huskies overheat easily, and they don't do well in the long, hot summer. Be prepared to keep the AC running, and provide your dog with suitable shade and water when outside.