

From time to time I'm being asked the below questions:

- What is our experience with Hokkaido?
- How are they getting along with other dogs?
- How easy (or hard) is their temperament?
- How easy (or hard) is it to train them?
- How loud are they, do they bark a lot?

Here's my personal experience with Hokkaidos:

- I keep each dog in a separate dog run (approx. 40 sqm/dog) but they are let out together to a big playground twice a day.
- If I'm away from home (and also at night) they are closed into their kennels. This is fine for them, they're calm, just lying quietly and waiting for the morning when they are let out
- I don't let them bark, I start with teaching puppies not to bark. My dogs are usually quiet, except when someone comes to us, then they bark until he walks from the gate to the house
- Hokkaidos are also known as "talking" dogs, in our case it means that in the morning, when they see me they "greet" me, but then they're quiet all day
- Hokkaidos are very sensitive, if they do something bad it is enough to shout on them only once and they stop it immediately
- They need a lot of love and they call for it, one of our males (Maru) gently holds my hand and doesn't let me go
- In turn they reciprocate love, they're always close to the owner, they love physical contact and they often sit on the owner's foot
- They are very easy to teach because they'd do anything to meet the owner's expectations
- It is individually dependent whether they bite or not, for example one of our bitches (Seta) hates when strangers touch her, she growls and if you do not pay attention enough she may even bite. On the other hand, our male is very friendly, he loves everybody
- They let everything to their owner, they tolerate nail cutting, bathing and drying very well
- We also have Shibas but they are a lot more independent. If you call a Shiba but she hasn't finished her "job" yet she's deaf. If you want to put her back into her kennel but she doesn't want to go back yet then again, she's deaf. Hokkaidos are very different, they come for the very first call :-)
- The first leash training for a Shiba puppy is a tragedy, they roar (Shiba scream), stumble and constantly shake their head. Hokkaido puppies walk nicely on leash from the very first time.

Overall, the Hokkaido is a great family dog, whom living together with is a pleasure!