



# THE NATURAL DOG



Akita \* Alaskan Malamute \* American Eskimo Dog \* Basenji \* Canaan Dog \* Carolina Dog \* Chow Chow \* Dingo \* Eurasier \* Finnish Spitz \* German Spitz \* Japanese Spitz \* Karelian Bear Dog \* Keeshond \* Laika Elkhound \* New Guinea Singing Dog \* Norwegian Elkhound \* Samoyed \* Shar pei \* Shiba Inu \* Siberian Husky

## What we bred them for ...

These first dogs of the world began appearing as early as 13,000 BC. These dogs are closer to their wolf ancestors, and their origins more naturally evolved, than other groups. Like other dogs, the useful behaviors they offered us were later developed for more specific types of work. So, although not as specialized, they too helped humans with tracking, hunting, guarding, herding and alerting.

## You'll fall in love with your natural dog because he is:

### A FREE SPIRIT

You will revere his intuitive, instinctual, unchained wild nature.

### INDEPENDENT

He is not clingy, demanding, obsessive, or needy.

### LOGICAL

He has more common sense than many people you know.

## You might find a natural dog hard to live with because he is:

### SUSPICIOUS

He has a strong sense of self-preservation, is discerning and cautious.

### INSTINCTUAL

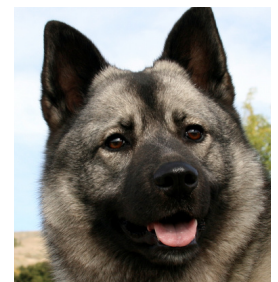
His wilder impulses can range from inconvenient for you to quite serious.

### SELF-PRESERVING

He can be difficult to train, confine, and handle as a "pet".

## Interests, Hobbies and Education

Like his primitive and feral predecessors, he is directed by powerful senses and instincts. His relationship with the natural world around him can be so powerful that he may seem to disappear into another realm. Forget obedience school and, instead, enroll your natural dog in the school of life. Note that any energy you spend trying to change his mind will be totally wasted. He was not bred to be a "pet", much less to be obedient". Takes steps to ensure he feels considered, protected, and confident in your ability to manage life as it unfolds, so he doesn't take matters into his own hands.





**You might find yourself seeking professional help for:**

- Predatory behavior toward other animals, especially smaller ones
- Not coming when called
- Wandering, running away
- Difficulty when he is confined to crates, rooms, yards, etc.
- Intolerance of being handled and restrained - at home, at the vet, at the groomer's, etc.
- Wariness and defensiveness toward strangers
- Destructive behavior in indoor environments
- Difficulty following directions or responding to training



**Natural Dog Relationship Survival Key:**

Remember that he expects you to be **LEARNING** as much as he is as you guide him through daily life.

Give him the greatest gift you can give a natural dog in his daily **ENVIRONMENT** - a big dose of nature therapy in the great outdoors.

Respect the primitive, wild roots of his **GENETIC** instincts for hunting, protection, and self-preservation.

Forget yoga and meditation class - get all the Zen you need from your natural dog (**SELF**).



**Ways to enrich your natural dog's life:**

**Lots of outdoor time**

- provide plenty of opportunities to just spend time out in nature

**Plenty of physical exercise**

- Toy chase (flirt pole, lure coursing, etc.), hunting or tracking, hiking, parkour

**Challenge his mind and nose**

- sniff walks, food puzzles & activities, nosework, freework, scatter feed, snuffle mat

**"Predatory" opportunities**

- lure coursing; barn hunt; toys/items that can be shredded/destroyed such as cardboard boxes, indestructible chew toys, scavenger hunts for meals



To learn more, pick up a copy of *Meet Your Dog* by Kim Brophey  
This really is THE game-changing guide to Understanding your dog's behavior



**LEARNING** - your dog's experiences and education

**ENVIRONMENT** - the many aspects of your dog's external world



**GENETICS** - the DNA that designed your dog inside and out

**SELF** - the unique interior world of your dog - health, age, sex, personality ...