



‘Life without dogs feels wrong’

Since the day they were born, dogs have always played a major role in the lives of Paul and Maya.

Paul was born in Austria and grew up with hunting dogs. Maya is from the Netherlands and has felt that she has had a connection with sled dogs since the day she was born. For the first five years of her life, Maya and her father’s Samoyed Bonnie were inseparable friends. After Bonnie died, Maya endured seven years without a dog, which was tough.

For her 12th birthday Maya was given a Dachshund, which was not an easy dog to live with and certainly not a breed that should be given as a present to a child. However, Maya was overjoyed to have her own dog again and was extremely fond of it. The Dachshund reached the age of 15 and as the first dog Maya owned herself, is still fondly remembered today.

For her 16th birthday she was given the dog she had longed for, a black and tan Collie and of course this bitch was called ‘Lassie’. Lassie was the dog with which Maya started her life as a dog breeder. Within one year, another black and tan Collie came along and was called Laika. In September 1966 Maya’s first litter of Collies was born.

Several years later, Paul travelled from Austria to the Netherlands and Paul and Maya met and married. Together they started to breed the wire-haired Dutch Shepherd dog. In 1976 they decided to become more professional and joined the Kennel Club. They received their Kennel-name registration and graduated receiving the diplomas “Pet-Care-Company” and “Doggy Trimming Parlour”.

The dog-kennels were built together with a doggy trimming parlour. They became busier with all kinds of dog related activities. From 1976, breeding generally became more professional as well. Paul and Maya became members of the Breeding Club and their dogs were examined for HD.

Their first imported dog was bought in 1977 and in 1982 Paul and Maya travelled to Greenland where they became caught up in the sled-dog-trap (see chapter: 'Sled dog trap'). Their first real experience with sled-dogs was in the village "Tiniteqilaq" in Greenland. Of course now it is clear where the kennel-name came from. The Dutch Shepherd dogs had reached a good age and from that time onwards, Paul and Maya decided to change breeds and they bought their first Siberian Husky.

The Dutch Shepherd dogs stayed with them until they reached the end of their long lives, most of them living to 14 or even 16 years of age. In the 1980's Paul and Maya moved from the South of the Netherlands to the North. The main reason for the move was simply that they wanted to have more space for their dogs. In their new neighbourhood they found some Siberian Husky breeders, Gerda and HarmJan Scholte from the Artic Fame kennels. Maya and Paul of course visited the couple and were invited to join their dog-training program.

Once you become involved with something like that, there is no turning back. When you see how happy the dogs are when they pull a sled or dogcart, you cannot help but want to be out with them. Paul and Maya started with the sled-dog-sport immediately and to this day they have not regretted it. It is however important to say that their lives changed completely.

A house with a big garden needed to keep the Siberian Huskies had been found when they moved to the North of the Netherlands, however the car had to be exchanged for a large van. Their usual holidays were no longer possible and their time off work began to be in the wintertime, camping with the Siberian Huskies in the snow.

No more fancy clothing as dog people need functional clothing. The house was full of dog equipment and the dogs had become the most important thing in their lives after each other. Every weekend they went away for racing, sometimes they had to drive up to 2.000 km in one weekend and so they continued for over 26 years.

Paul and Maya studied two more courses to obtain the necessary diplomas for becoming certified dog-breeders, this time the courses were given by the Dutch Kennel Club.

They naturally started to show their beautiful dogs in the big dog-shows, which resulted in two Champion-dogs and one dog that only needed an extra ¼ point to be a Champion. About 10 Siberian Huskies from excellent international breeding lines were imported.

When breeding with their own Siberian Husky bitches, Paul and Maya were constantly trying to find males that had the best results in the sled dog sport together with a high breed standard. Sometimes they would make a round trip of 7,000km to visit an excellent male dog. No expense was spared when trying to get the optimum breeding-quality.

Paul and Maya have been breeding Siberian Huskies for over 25 years now and dogs bred from their Siberian Huskies have gone to the Netherlands (of course), to Germany, to France, to Spain, to Belgium and to Sweden (while they were still living in the Netherlands).

While they were still living in the Netherlands, both Paul and Maya were officials in the breeding club the 'Siberian Husky Klub in the Netherlands' (S.H.K.N.) for 11 years in various capacities. Paul was the president of the S.H.K.N. for 5 years, Maya used to be the Secretary and was on the Breeding Advice Committee.

They organised dog-shows and other dog events, gave a number of workshops, organised exams for people who wanted to become a Kennel Club judges for Siberian Huskies, sold the Club-merchandise and were leaders in a big financial project to reorganise the bookkeeping from 1998 up to 2005. Paul and Maya were both official delegates representing the S.H.K.N. for the meetings with the Kennel Club and they were both delegates for meetings within Breed Group nr. 5.

In 2006 Paul and Maya decided that they were going to stop this kind of work, because they wanted to spend their time with their own dogs. To Paul and Maya that was and still is, the most important thing to them.

All their Siberians stay with them until they die of old age. Paul and Maya are of the opinion that dogs who have given their best years to please the musher (sled dog driver), have the right to stay in their kennel/home until they die of old age. The dogs deserve to enjoy their retirement-years living within the pack they have been living with their whole lives and where they have been (and still are) - happy. They grow old living among their own children and can enjoy life.

Chapter: 'Moving the kennels to Sweden'

On 24 October 2006 Paul and Maya moved to Sweden together with their 29 Siberian Huskies and 1 Japanese Spitz. You can read about this in the above mentioned chapter.

Chapter: 'Our dogs':

Breeding lines, we shall explain this to you in the Chapter 'Our dogs' as well as the health examinations that our dogs receive before we use them for breeding.

Chapter: "The Sled Dog Trap":

All details about the 'trap' can be found in this chapter. It is very important to read this carefully, once you are in the 'trap' there is no way out. You will fall deeper and deeper into the magic. This has not only happened to Paul and Maya as all Siberian Husky people who are really serious about the breed, fall into this trap and never want to get out again.

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