



TAMASKAN BREEDERS ASSOCIATION HOME OF THE AATU TAMASKAN

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ALBA KENNELS WELCOMES NEW BOY ON THE BLOCK!

Akati Sunsong Sos @ Alba (Bear, The Gentle Giant) recently arrived at Alba Kennels in Scotland. He joins Magnus and Odin as their Aatu Foundation studs.

In any rare breed, the diversity of the genetic gene pool is critical for the success of the breed. We are so pleased to welcome Bear and all that he brings to Alba's breeding program. His structure and temperament make him the whole package, and a wonderful addition to Liz Wilson's kennel in Scotland.

And, Liz absolutely adores him! She states, "We are so happy with our new boy and [he] is so

loving, but he is taller than me when he goes on his hinds to give me a cuddle." A gentle giant indeed.

Bear underwent his hip testing immediately after arriving on February 15, 2010. The BVA has reported him as a 10 (6:4). So, now being cleared for breeding, plans for introducing new lines with Bear are already in the works, and people are already lining up.

What an exciting addition and future for Alba Tamaskans and Aatu!



Congratulations Liz ... and Welcome Bear!

First Aatu Tamaskan earns AKC Canine Good Citizen Certification

by REGINA SKARZINSKAS

The AKC is a one of the largest registries of purebred dogs in the world. In addition to maintaining the pedigree registries of over 160 different breeds, the AKC is also an advocate for companion dogs, advances in canine health and research, protection of the rights of all dog owners and promotion of responsible dog ownership. One of the many programs offered by the AKC is the Canine Good Citizenship certificate, also known as the CGC.

The CGC program stresses responsible ownership and basic good manners for dogs. As the basic program has expanded, the CGC test has found many different applications. The CGC is used as a preliminary step in training for therapy and service dogs, and dogs used for police work, as well as a beginning dog training program for children. Some breeders, especially those with rare or new breeds, use the CGC as a screening tool for temperament. [CGC Brochure](#)

With the recently discovered information of the infusion of wolf/wolfdog in the UK Tamaskan Dog lines and even more uncertainty in terms of the quality of the dogs used by the founders of the UK breed, the CGC has become an important tool used by Conchur as well as other Aatu Tamaskan breeders in order to screen for temperament.

For more information on the CGC and how to participate in the program go to: <http://www.akc.org/events/cgc/>

At the January 2010 Rose City Classic in Portland, Oregon, Mikko (Blustag Onager at Conchur) earned his CGC certification. He is the first Aatu Tamaskan to earn his CGC.

Mikko easily passed the 10 part exam.

(http://www.akc.org/events/cgc/training_testing.cfm)



**Congratulations Mikko on
a job well done!**

TBA BREEDER PROFILE

by KIMBERLY MONAGAS

REGINA SHARZINSKAS * CONCHUR TAMASKANS * OREGON

Good quality, honest and ethical breeders are hard to find in any breed. Yet, we are honored and proud to have *several* choose to become part of the TBA. One such breeder is Regina Skarzinskas of Conchur Tamaskans. Residing in the luscious, green surroundings of Oregon, Reggie is a toxicologist by trade and has been running her own environmental consulting business since 1995. She has six grown children, the youngest of which is 16. Humble, honest, knowledgeable, talented, caring, and displaying a continued willingness to share, Reggie is both well-loved and well-respected by the TBA members, as well as other breeders and puppy owners of this and other breeds.

Reggie has been breeding dogs for almost a decade, specifically a small, toy breed called Havanese, which up until recently had rare breed status. However, having owned larger dogs in the past, she states, "I soon realized that I missed having big dogs around. My son was actually interested in a Husky or similar dog, and in the process of researching a dog for him, we came across the Tamaskan. I was intrigued by their looks and temperament, and the fact that this was a rare breed still in development cinched it for me. I was hooked." About her current Aatu stock, she says "Mikko [is] the most devoted, loyal companion I have ever had, and Inna is my cuddler."

Concerning this venture and her decision to fur-

ther the Aatu, Reggie's excitement is clear: "I think in my past lives I was a pioneer. I love being at the very beginning, and the idea of being involved in the development of a new breed is such an exciting and humbling experience. Those of us who are involved in writing the breed standard, selecting the foundation dogs, determining the appropriate health testing and temperament of the breed, and establishing a solid foundation and unique niche for a healthy, vibrant companion breed have such an exciting adventure ahead. Is there any wonder why we have all been drawn together?"

Reggie's humility is further evident when describing what she has learned through her experiences since she initially got involved with the Tamaskan breed:

"Well I believe Robert Fulgrum said it all in a little book called *'All I really need to know I learned in Kindergarten'*:

- Share everything
- Play fair
- Clean up your own mess
- Don't take things that aren't yours

And, no matter how old you are, when you go out in the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.

And that is what the TBA and the Aatu Tamaskan breeders do best!"

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TBA BREEDER PROFILE cont.

Success is the only possible result when you work with people like Reggie. And what does she see for the future of the Aatu and TBA? "Through a network of mentors, the TBA website (as it becomes more useable and used, especially the breeders section), and of course the careful, thoughtful, purposeful breeding of quality Aatu Tamaskans, success [for the breed] is there for the taking. As long as we remain humbled by the process, responsible for ourselves and our decisions, honest with each other and our puppy owners, and dedicated to the health and success of the breed, the Aatu Tamaskan can do no less than mirror our efforts. And the value of that is

immeasurable."

Having known Reggie now for over two years, I am personally proud to be working side by side with such an incredible individual... unselfish with her knowledge, a willing spirit to share, a team player and a visionary. Most importantly, I am proud to call her friend! The most important characteristic of a leader, in my opinion, is to be willing to work on the team. And Reggie is just that kind of person. Thank you Reggie for all you do and contribute! Here's to the future of the Aatu because of your willingness to stand for something bigger and better for all of us who came to love the breed before this.

RAW FOOD SERIES: RAW vs. KIBBLE by REGINA SKARZINSKAS

Last issue we discussed some very basic reasons why you should consider raw feeding. Do you know that raw feeding is recommended for your Tamaskan puppy? As of this writing, considering all of the Tamaskans in the US, the best hip scores have come from raw fed dogs. My vet has concurred that raw feeding should get the bulk of the credit for this! Feeding a "fancy" diet may be well and good you might say, but what about my pocketbook? I am happy to report that even your pocketbook will be happy with a raw fed diet! Here are a few more reasons to feed raw.

Lower vet costs

Where do we start with the math?

Cleaner teeth, stronger gums and jaws, few (if any) allergies, healthier coats, fewer overall health problems or concerns; all benefits of a raw diet all mean fewer trips to the vet! For a more comprehensive list of cost/benefits see Table by [Feed This, Inc.](#)

Tailor made diets

As you prepare food for your dog or cat you can easily adjust his diet to his stage of growth and development, activity level, and other situations like preparing for breeding or whelping of puppies.

Less waste

The bottom line is that on the front end you don't pay for kibble

ingredients such as fillers, additives, preservatives or grains and cereals which dogs cannot digest and on the back end (literally) you don't have to pay for the extra poop bags, pooper scoopers or yard maintenance since raw fed dogs have fewer stools with little to no odor. How much more can you ask for?

Questions and comments can be directed to regina@ConchurTamaskans.com



Mikko & Inna
Conchur Tamaskan, Oregon, USA

TA-KARI'S LITTER EXPERIENCE

by KIMBERLY MONAGAS

I must say that it really was a pleasant experience, and I enjoyed it immensely. I actually thought it would be harder. [I do believe that raw feeding cuts down on the poop factor, so I wasn't constantly cleaning up messes.] But, they were a happy, healthy bunch and Mom Takeia did a great job! But, I'll admit, around week 7, the "tiredness" started to set in. And the fact that this litter was HUGE (13 pounds at 6 weeks; 15-18 pounds when they left for their homes at 8 ½ weeks) kept me (and others) in constant awe.

Keep your bitch healthy: I made it my continued goal that Takeia maintain her weight and not lose weight herself while providing milk to the pups. To see the neglect that some nursing bitches undergo nutritionally, and how skinny her mom was when I picked her up at 7 weeks, I promised I would not let her look like that and that I would 'Keep the bitch healthy'!! I DID NOT want my girl looking like a bag of bones, especially since she has never been an easy keeper. So, I made sure she was fed at least 4-5 times a day (much of that being handfed), and a large, healthy portion each time. [I believe making sure the bitch remained healthy played a large part in the fact that the puppies were as big as they were.]

PUPPIES: ENS Exercises: Performing Early Neural Stimulation with the puppies from Day 3-16 did not take long (a minute or so each), but I believe it gave them a great start. And, based on the feedback I have gotten in just a few days of their re-homing, I am confident in their success.

Desensitize your puppies: Make sure to hold your puppies daily. Get them used to human

touch. Play with their feet, ears, face, and mouth. Hold them on their backs to expose their bellies as much as possible as they grow so they are easily managed. Remember, being on their backs shows submission. Clip their toenails and hold their feet often. Desensitize them to make it easier for the owner to handle. [I WISH I was able to clip Takeia's nails without a fight. And as for Dakari ... well I'm grateful that I haven't had to clip his nails (just naturally short I guess), as he hates his feet held.]

Deworming: Puppies were dewormed with Pyrantel weeks 2, 4, 6, 7 & 8. They never had issues with loose stools. And to date, there have been no stomach issues reported by any of the new owners. In fact, vet checks confirm they are healthy. (Even the vets can't believe how big they are at such a young age.)

Paper training: These puppies are smart!!! They all picked up on the paper as soon as I put it out (by 4 1/2 - 5 weeks). Of course, they're not going to get it right all the time at the beginning, but they should learn to use the paper rather quickly. In fact, subsequent litters will be started even earlier as experts suggest (by 2-3 weeks, after their eyes have opened), so I will make some minor modifications for subsequent litters. Since re-homing, only one puppy has used a puppy pad (and only the first day). So, because of early training and consistency, they transitioned to housebreaking very quickly and easily.

Give them lots of toys and different shaped objects. Remember, they will start to cut teeth and teethe at just two weeks or so. So, it is important to provide them with a variety of things that they

TA-KARI'S LITTER EXPERIENCE cont.

can play with and get used to. [I put a water jug in there, stuffed animals, hard rubber rounds, tennis balls, etc., and they gladly played with each.]

Crate training: We started exposing to their crates around 4 weeks, and actual crate training at about 6 weeks (but they can be started as soon as their eyes open). I found some inexpensive plastic/travel crates through Craigslist and put them in the whelping box without the door. They would learn to voluntarily go in and eventually sleep in their during the day.

Puppy Rules of Seven: It is important to expose the puppies to different sounds, surfaces, smells, etc. to again desensitize them. Put them on carpet, linoleum/tile, cement, glass, grass, rubber flooring, gravel, etc. Let them smell or play with a lemon or orange; spray some freshener in their pen; even just smelling the wind can help. Introduce them to different types of people (women, men, old folks, children, ethnic friends). I vacuumed around the puppies; my father used a loud nail gun and compressor while working in the house and in the puppies' presence; play music or the television; drop things; start the car with them in the garage. Don't 'be quiet' for the puppies' sake ... make noise. Also, when they are old enough, take them for car rides and get them used to the motion (car sickness is the worst for a dog to have to go through!). [This was a 'winter litter', so there were a few limitations on exposure; but warmer weather litters can certainly be exposed to even more.] <http://www.houhaswissies.com/ruleofsevens.html>

A good friend of mine, and breeder, has always said that most puppies/dogs are returned, etc., because the fundamentals being ignored: paper/housetraining and crate training. I did not want this to be an issue with my puppies.

What I learned is that you can't do it ALL ... but you can do a LOT, if you care enough about the development of the puppies and those that are going to have them for a lifetime. As difficult as it may be to follow through because you hate to see a puppy cry, if you follow through, they will learn and make the transition to their new home a pleasant experience for all. A well-behaved, well-trained puppy is a happy puppy who can comfortably spend time with their family. I am happy to say how easily each has transitioned to their new homes, and without incident. The consistent comment is that they are "so smart!" And, again, I attribute that not only to the breed mentality, but to proper attention to the puppies from the onset. I may have been tired in the end, but the results were worth the time and energy.

Some breeders are of the mentality to let the puppies fend for themselves, or think it's ok to place puppies with stomach or other issues, or to take the puppies from the pack at an early age (the rule of thumb is no sooner than 8 weeks). While I certainly could have placed healthy puppies at 7 weeks, I found that the extra week really did make a difference for everyone. Additionally, I've learned that giving shots at 6 weeks is of no benefit but is usually done so that puppies can leave the roost sooner

TA-KARI'S LITTER EXPERIENCE cont.

(to their detriment). That extra time also allows you to really focus on the personalities of the puppies and make sure they are being placed in the right homes. And, I am very proud to say, all pups were placed with the right family temperamentally.

You should not get involved in breeding to meet numbers and demand, or to benefit you; you don't do it for popularity and accolades. And you certainly don't do it to make money (a good breeder never does) [that's why I have 2 jobs ... to support me and the dogs]. You do it for the benefit of the breed, and the main focus should always be healthy puppies and proper placement. I've seen so many toot their own horns because they've been breeding for 30 or 40 years. But, in reality, their track record speaks volumes, and their lack of ethics is always brought to the fore. Sometimes it is the "novice breeder" that is the one that remembers the real reasons to get involved in breeding. It is a continued learning experience, owning up to any mistakes made, and always striving for better! I will never "arrive", but will continue to learn and grow.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: This was not simply MY litter. Many were invested emotionally, and others were involved in imparting some knowledge, direction or experience to me so that I could do the best possible. So, my sincere thanks for all your care and help! This is a continued learning experience, and each litter and puppy will be different. So, I will continue my search for knowledge and learning, and I will review everything again

for each litter. But my goal will always remain the same ... To better the Aatu breed through exemplary canine husbandry and to provide healthy, well-adjusted puppies to all who come to Ta-Kari.

TA-KARI TAMASKAN LITTER





The Aatu Tamaskan... Man's best friend in wolf's clothing™

If you have any questions or would like some information on the AATU Tamaskan or the TBA please contact us at:

Email: info@tamaskanbreeders.com

Website: <http://www.tamaskanbreeders.com>

Bad Breath Banishers

- 2 cups brown rice flour
- 1 Tablespoon activated charcoal (find this at drugstores, not the briquets!)
- 3 Tablespoons canola oil
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh mint
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 2/3 cup lowfat milk

Preheat oven to 400F. Lightly oil a cookie sheet. Combine flour and charcoal. Add all the other ingredients. Drop teaspoonfulls on oiled sheet, about 1 inch apart. Bake 15-20 minutes. Store in airtight container in the refrigerator.

THE AATU TAMASKAN BREED STANDARD

Over the past few months TBA Member have been working diligently on revising the Aatu Breed Standard

ORIGIN: The Aatu Tamaskan was developed from the UK Tamaskan Dog, whose origins stem from the Northern Inuit and Utonagan breeds (GSD, Husky, Malamute, wolfdog and Czech wolfdog). The Aatu Tamaskan was introduced in late 2009 with the goal of improving health, stabilizing temperament and enhancing the wolfiness of the background breed.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND CONFORMATION:

The Aatu Tamaskan is a powerful and adaptable domestic dog developed to look like a wolf. The body, shape, movement, coat texture, coloring and mask are similar to that of the grey wolf. Developed as a companion dog, with the ability and aptitude of the working dogs, the Aatu is capable of almost any kind of work.

This breed is a good companion indoors and out, and is loyal and devoted to its family. The breed

is low maintenance in the sense that it is robust and long lived, but higher maintenance in that it is very intelligent with an active mind, preferring challenge and mental stimulation, including solving problems.

The Aatu has the structure and stamina for endurance and engaging in active work.

The Aatu is above average in size, with the length of the body typically slightly longer than the height of the body from the ground to the top of the withers. The ideal Aatu is 25" – 31" tall with a weight range of 55 – 100 pounds.

For a complete updated Breed Standard please visit the [Tamaskan Breeders Association](http://www.tamaskanbreeders.com) Site.



ODIN

Alba Tamaskans
Scotland