

Pam Bernier

To: jack ricker
Subject: FW: togo

From: jack ricker <newhouse1293@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 5:37 PM
To: Pam Bernier <pbernier@cwhayden.com>
Subject: Fwd: togo

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: CYNDI <Cyndi@polandspringresort.com>
Date: February 18, 2025 at 5:24:59 PM EST
To: jack ricker <newhouse1293@outlook.com>
Subject: togo

Submitted by Jack Ricker

Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government on LD 80, An Act to
Adopt the Seppala Siberian Sleddog as the Maine State Dog.

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and
esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee
on State and Local Government:

My name is Jack Ricker. I reside in New Gloucester,
Maine, and today I represent myself, the Board of
Directors of the Poland Spring Preservation Society,
and my family's ownership with the Poland Spring
Resort since 1794 and Poland Spring Water since
1845.

In 1926, inspired by the Nome Serum Run, Leonhard Seppala toured the 'Lower 48' with 44 dogs, culminating in a race at Poland Spring against Arthur Walden in 1927. After winning, Seppala established Seppala Kennels with Elizabeth Ricker, significantly impacting dog racing for nearly a decade, including an exhibition at the 1932 Olympics. Seppala left his aging leader Togo in Maine with Elizabeth Ricker for retirement.

Seppala's contributions, along with the Poland Spring Kennel, greatly advanced sled dog sports and established the Seppala Siberian Sleddog breed, which was officially recognized in the 1990s. Jonathan Hayes continues this legacy, maintaining the Poland Spring kennel of purebred descendants from Seppala's original team and serving as president of the International Seppala Siberian Sleddog Club. On the centennial of the Nome Serum Run, Hayes led a Maine-bred team of Seppala Siberians on an expedition retracing their ancestors' path to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Great Race of Mercy.

Having lived in Alaska during my military service, I was a handler for the team, which allowed me to experience mushing first hand, and seeing the eagerness these dogs showed for running

To honor Maine's mushing heritage, it is proposed that the Seppala Siberian Sleddog be designated as the official state dog. Currently, thirteen states have official state dogs, and two New England states already recognize sled dog breeds as their canine representatives.

Change it anyway you like!

Cyndi Robbins
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