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My name is Maddison Bosse. I am fifteen years old, and a freshman at Poland Regional High School. This paper is dedicated to why the Seppala Siberian Sleddog, should represent Maine as the State Dog. A few summers ago I started volunteering at the Maine State Building at Poland Spring Resort. I figured it would be a good use of my time, and I could get some volunteer hours in. During that summer at the museum, I became extremely involved in all of the history that the museum had to offer. I spent time memorizing the details so I could give tours to visitors. By the end of summer, I was giving tours independently around the museum! This required me to talk about the history of the Maine State Building itself, and know a few stories about Poland Spring Resort history. One of these stories, was the story of Togo. This story was one of my favorites to share by far.

Togo was a Sepalla Siberian sled dog raised by Leonhard Seppala. In 1925, in a small town in Alaska, there was a serious outbreak of diphtheria. Togo led a pack of sled dogs to deliver diphtheria antitoxin, approximately 261 miles, to the town of Nome. This sled race was known as the "Great Race of Mercy." Without Togo, Leonhard Seppala, and the rest of those sled dogs, nearly all of Nome's population would have been wiped out by diphtheria. As Togo aged, Leonhard Seppala took Togo to the Ricker Kennel at Poland Springs, where Togo eventually retired. On December 5th, 1929 Togo was euthanized at the age of 16, due to joint pain and partial blindness. He spent his last years right here in Maine at Poland Spring.

To go hand and hand with this heroic, heartwarming story, the Seppala Siberian Sleddog also has a very strong historical tie to the state of Maine. You see, after Togo passed away Leonhard Sepala spent the rest of his time in Maine breeding Togo Siberian huskies. This made up the majority of Siberian husky's bloodline in the U.S!

Today, Jonathan Hayes is a breeder who works to breed Togo descendants and runs Madawaskas Poland Spring Seppala Kennels. As he once said: "If any dog gets this honor, it should be the descendants of Togo." With all of this being said, this is why I believe the Siberian Husky should be chosen as the dog to represent the state of Maine.

Sincerely, Maddison Bosse