



Client Name(s): Tula's Parents

Household Overview

- Two-adult household, no children
- Both owners are handlers; reported equal control
- No other pets currently but planning intro to a family dog BurmeseX
- Indoor/outdoor activity balance appears high
- Crate available but not used



BETTERDOG IN-HOME DOG TRAINING

Jon Wells & Nancy Corriveau

BetterDog.ca

Ottawa-Gatineau | In-Home Dog Training & Behavioural Support

Email: ottawa@betterdog.ca | Phone: (819) 593-3040 (613) 316-6473

 **Dog Profile: Tula**

Attribute	Info
Name	Tula
Breed(s)	Husky Mix
Age	2 years
Sex	Female (spayed)
Owned For	6.5 months
Acquisition Source	Chiot Nordique (rescue)
Living Setup	Sleeps on dog bed, crate not used
House Training	Presumed complete
Muzzle Use	No

 **Breed Snapshot: Husky (Mix)**

Source: CKC Standards + BetterDog Expertise

Trait	Husky (and similar mixes) Profile
Temperament	Intelligent, independent, alert, social but often aloof. Needs strong bond to be responsive.
Working Group	Working Group (sled dog origin)
Common Challenges	High prey drive, escape artistry, stubbornness, selective hearing
Medical Predispositions	Zinc deficiency, hypothyroidism, hip dysplasia
Fun Fact	Balto, the hero of the 1925 serum run, was a Siberian Husky!





Trainer Note: Her reported "stubbornness" and "selective listening" are consistent with the breed. This is a high-drive, intelligent dog that needs structured mental outlets and deep trust work.

Food & Medical Overview

Food Brand	Notes
Current	Performatrin (kibble)
Transitioning To	Canino (raw)

Food Analysis

Performatrin Ultra (most common version)

Source: *DogFoodAdvisor.com*

- **Rating:** ★★☆☆ (3.5 stars)
- **Protein:** ~27%
- **Fat:** ~15%
- **Carbs:** ~40–45%
- **Top 5 Ingredients:** Chicken meal, **brown rice**, **oatmeal**, chicken fat, **barley**

Issues:

- High carb content for a working-breed mix
- Rice, oatmeal, and barley are top ingredients—low meat density
- Could contribute to low energy dips or attention challenges during training

Canino (Raw) – Vet-Approved Transition

- Likely better fit for breed's metabolic needs
- Will support lean muscle, mental clarity, and behavioral stability if balanced correctly

Other Notes:

- **Allergies:** Sensitive to dairy; prone to ear issues from insect bites
- **Vaccine Status:** Up to date
- **Crate Use:** Not implemented—considered as training tool only



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Behavioral History

- **Previous Training:** Basic level 1 with success
- **Knows Verbal Commands:** Sit, stay, down, focus, come, go sniff, mat, paw, “done,” “off/leave it” (less reliable)
- **Control Balance:** Both handlers have roughly equal control
- **Other Handlers:** None

Behavioral Concerns & Triggers

Concern	Details
Resource Guarding	Food/toy possession reported; severity unclear
Leash Pulling	Mentioned under "stubbornness"; needs loose-leash fundamentals
Distraction Reactivity	Squirrels, people, and high-arousal environments impact recall
Dog Park Dynamics	Ball and people possessiveness reported, particularly around other dogs

Trainer Red Flags :

- **Resource Guarding:** Needs to be monitored closely—this can escalate without structured boundary setting and Emotional Marking work. **Monitor Closely.**
- **Selective Recall & Dog Distractions:** Common in Husky types; not dangerous yet, but could become a safety issue if off-leash without emotional buy-in. **Monitor Closely.**



Breed Comparison Table

Trait	Same / Different	Notes
Barking	Different	Not excessively vocal for a Husky mix—might be environmental or temperament-based
Guarding	Same	Guarding is typically low in Huskies, but resource guarding may come from a past trauma or mix influence
Sociability	Same	Social with humans; slight aloofness aligns with Husky independence
Energy Level	Same	High energy; consistent with breed and age
Trainability	Different	More human-focused dogs tend to train quicker; Husky mix means higher independence threshold

Environmental Observations

- **Recent Change:** Only known is 6.5 months post-rescue adoption
- **Upcoming Change:** Planned introduction to family dog (cousin dog, BurmeseX, age 6)
- **Training Implication:** Ensure slow, structured intro; respect both dogs' consent and emotional markers

Recommendations & Prompts

- Start Emotional Marking Protocol at home, especially around guarding scenarios
- Leash conditioning with EM-based directionals
- Off-leash prep via long line and high-value verbal marking
- Social intro to Emma via gradual proximity work and mutual disengagement cues
- Consider reintroducing crate as “zen zone” or recovery space—not punishment





CLIENT REPORT: TULA

Meet Tula

Tula is a 2-year-old Husky mix with all the classic trademarks: smart, energetic, independent—and absolutely stunning. Huskies were bred to run, think on their own, and survive in tough conditions. That means they're incredibly capable, but they do things on *their* terms unless we help them feel emotionally safe and connected.

Fun Fact: The most famous Husky of all time, Balto, helped save lives during a diphtheria outbreak by running over 1,000 km in Alaska!

What We've Learned So Far

You've given Tula a warm, structured home where she sleeps on her bed, has outdoor adventures, and is already fluent in a long list of commands. That's impressive! She knows the basics—but gets a bit “Husky” when distractions show up. You're both involved in her training, which will make her progress even faster.

She's come a long way since her rescue 6.5 months ago, and her story is just beginning.

Food Talk

You're switching from Performatrin kibble to a raw Canino diet—smart move. Huskies often thrive on a higher-protein, low-carb diet. The kibble had too many grains and fillers, which might've impacted her focus or energy. Canino raw is likely a better match for her working-dog metabolism and may even help her ear sensitivity over time.

Behavior Themes

Here's what we'll be working on together:

- **Possessiveness:** Tula may guard toys or people, especially around other dogs (like at the dog park)
- **Leash Pulling:** She gets distracted easily and wants to GO—classic Husky!
- **Selective Listening:** Commands like “leave it” or “off” need more emotional weight behind them to land during distractions
- **Dog-Dog Dynamics:** We'll prep her for a calm, respectful introduction to her cousin



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Why This Might Be Happening

Tula's behaviour isn't "bad"—it's communication. Her instincts (like guarding or pulling) likely come from a mix of her breed, past experiences, and how emotionally "tuned in" she feels to you in the moment.

At BetterDog, we use a method called **Consent-Based Training**, which helps dogs feel safe, understood, and eager to follow your lead. Combined with **Emotional Marking**—our special way of using tone and body language—you'll build the kind of trust that keeps her listening even when squirrels or balls show up.

You're Not Alone

Everything you're seeing is normal for a young Husky mix. And you're not the first to face these challenges—we've helped hundreds of dogs like Tula learn to come when called, relax around toys, and walk beautifully on leash. You've already done the hardest part: you reached out for help.

Next Steps

We will guide you through a custom plan designed for Tula, starting with foundational communication and building from there. You don't need to have all the answers—just show up with curiosity and consistency.

You've got this. And we've got your back.



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