



*Elizabeth
Ricker
with Togo
1927*



*Cyndi
Robbins
with Sawyer
2023*

In 1972, my late husband, Mel Robbins, shared with me the remarkable story of Togo. Who could have imagined that 50 years later, I would become the owner of Sawyer, a retired Seppala Siberian Sleddog? I also had the privilege of helping facilitate the creation of a sculpture to honor Togo which was placed here at Poland Spring. Additionally, I serve as the Vice President of the Poland Spring Preservation Society. Our mission is to preserve the rich history of Poland Spring which dates back to 1794.

In 2019, I watched the Disney movie about Togo. While the story was accurate, I found the ending quite disappointing as it failed to convey what happened after Togo's heroics in saving the town of Nome, Alaska. It overlooked the establishment of "The Poland Spring Kennel" by Leonard Seppala and Elizabeth Ricker, which played a significant role in the Seppala lineage, breeding over 158 dogs during their time at Poland Spring.

I wholeheartedly support the designation of the Maine State Dog as the Seppala Siberian Sleddog, a breed that shares a deep connection with our state and truly deserves this honor.

*Cyndi Robbins
Innkeeper, Poland Spring Resort*