

In Game of Thrones fans' pursuit of *real-life* dire wolves, huskies may pay the price

On "Game of *Thrones*," the *dire* wolves are played by Northern *Inuit* dogs and an arctic wolf. The animal actors are shot on green screens, doubled in size to *replicate* dire wolf *stature* in the show, where they have served as loyal protectors of the *protagonist* Stark family.

real-life 现实的

throne 王座；权力

dire 可怕的；悲惨的

Inuit 因纽特的

replicate 复制

stature 身高；身材

protagonist 主角；领导者

It's not a surprise that people might want them — or something like them.

Enter *Siberian huskies*. Their *shaggy*, gray and white fur, *pointy* ears and *lupine* facial features make them near-doppelgangers of dire wolves.

Siberian 西伯利亚的

huskies 爱斯基摩犬；哈士奇

shaggy 蓬松的

pointy 尖的

lupine 似狼的

Huskies are a particularly *high-maintenance* breed. If they don't get the at least two hours of daily exercise, they can be very destructive. But people are increasingly buying them without doing their research, which often results in a lifestyle *clash*. As a result, lots of huskies are ending up in shelters.

high-maintenance 高维护

clash 冲突

O'Neill, a *veterinarian* and senior lecturer at the Royal *Veterinary* College, is *hooked* on "Game of Thrones." He has seen the consequences of media-driven dog purchases play out before. When you get a dog on impulse because of what you see on television, he says, you're treating the dog as an accessory. "You're buying the image you carry around in your mind."

veterinarian 兽医

veterinary 兽医学

hooked 入迷的；成瘾的

Siberian husky rescue groups across the U.S. and U.K. report observing a significant increase in the number of abandoned huskies since 2011, when "Game of Thrones" debuted. "They're often coming in with the "Game of Thrones" names," says Swanda, vice president of the Delaware Valley Siberian Husky Rescue.

"It's not a game," says Swanda. "No pun intended."