

Snowbird

Two men, Luke and Beaver, lived in Alaska. They worked in the cold bringing supplies from stores to houses far away.

Luke and Beaver used snowshoes to walk in the snow. As they walked, they had to carry the supplies on their backs.

Once they were walking back after carrying supplies to a house far off in the hills. Their snowshoes helped them walk, but it was snowing, and they could not see well.

As they walked, the men heard a dog barking. They knew that something was not right. They ran to where the barking came from and found that a big wolf was fighting a black dog.

Luke got the wolf to go away, but the wolf had hurt the dog.

When the men got to the dog, they found that it was a mother dog. She was hurt, but she knew the men were friends. She took them to where there were two puppies. One puppy was white and one puppy was black.



The mother had been trying to keep the wolf away from her puppies. But she knew that the men were friends, and that they would not hurt her puppies. She got down on the snow and cried. She was trying to tell the men that she was too hurt to care for her puppies.

Luke and Beaver took the mother dog and her puppies back to the small town where they lived. The puppies were so small that their eyes were not open.

The men had some milk, and they fed the puppies. They took care of the mother dog too. They kept her and her puppies very warm.

Day by day, the mother dog got a little better. And her puppies grew and grew! The white puppy was called Snowbird. The black puppy was called Lucky.

Luke and Beaver liked the dogs very much. They liked to play with Snowbird and Lucky. They were very happy to have the puppies.

The two men had to do their work every day. They had to carry many supplies. They had to go from the store to many houses far, far away. It was hard to take good care of the puppies and to keep them warm.

Luke and Beaver had a small sled that they pulled. But they could not put the puppies on the sled. The puppies would be too cold. So the men made little pouches for the puppies. They put these pouches under their coats.

Luke carried Snowbird and Beaver carried Lucky. Each man had a puppy in a pouch under his coat. In the coats the puppies could not put their heads out and get them cold.

Once the men went to an Inuit village with their supplies. The Inuits came out to see the puppies. Snowbird was all white, with blue eyes. Lucky was all black, with brown eyes. The Inuits looked and looked at them.

Snowbird and Lucky grew to be big, strong dogs.

When their mother was well again, Luke and Beaver gave her to a friend. But they wanted to keep Snowbird and Lucky and show them how to pull a sled.

In Alaska at that time, the best way to get from place to place was by sled. A sled pulled by dogs could go over snow, through woods, and along rivers.

The sled Snowbird and Lucky pulled was small. A lot of men used a big sled. It had to have many dogs to pull it. Men with this kind of sled would give a lot of money for big dogs like Snowbird and Lucky.

Luke and Beaver would not take a lot of money. They would always keep their dogs.

One day Luke and Beaver thought they would go over the mountains to find a river in Alaska that was very far away. They were told they could not do it, but they wanted to try. So they started.



For many days the two men, their two dogs, and the sled went higher and higher into the mountains. The wind blew and blew. They got very tired. Their food was all gone. The way was much longer than the men had thought.

Snowbird went on and on, but Lucky was not as strong. He could not go on pulling the sled. He could not go on without food. And so he had to be pulled in the sled by Snowbird.

The sled, pulled only by Snowbird, went on and on. The men ran with the sled. At last they began to go back down the mountain. The men found some food and gave some to Lucky and Snowbird. At last they could get out of the wind and rest.

After a long time the men and the dogs got to the river they had wanted to find. There were towns there and people who could give them food.



Lucky was better after he got some warm food and rest. But Luke and Beaver could see that Lucky did not want to pull a sled through the cold snow any longer. They made him their watchdog and let him live always at their house.

But Snowbird was now a great sled dog. And soon people all over Alaska had heard the story of this big, strong dog.