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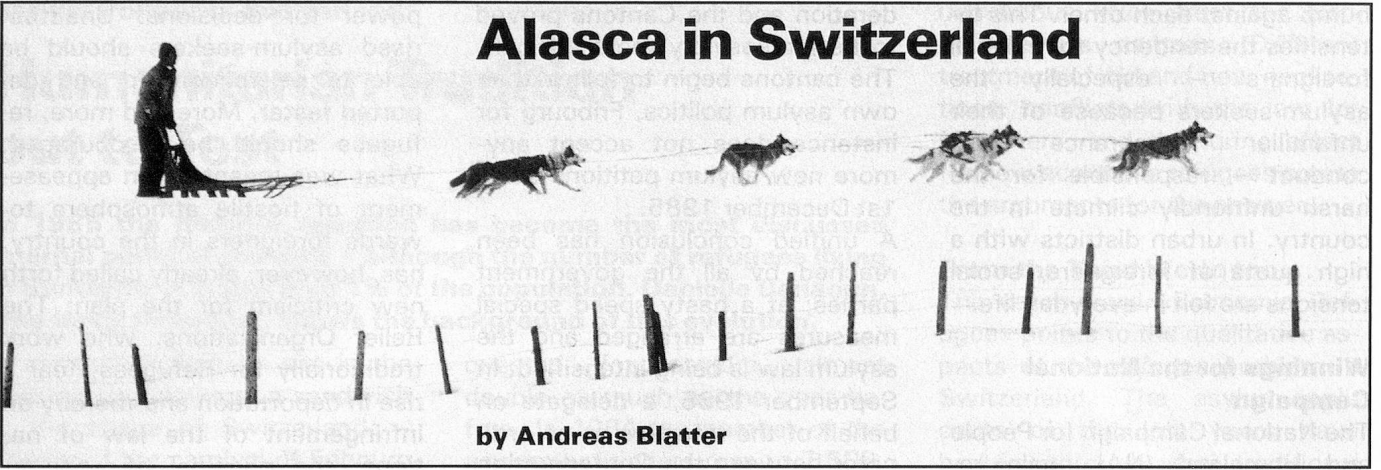
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Alasca in Switzerland



by Andreas Blatter

In former times, sledge dog teams were the only suitable means to move for polar expeditions – now sledge dog races are growing more and more popular in Switzerland.

There are two categories: With the American way of racing, the dogs are tied to a central drawing lead in front of the sledge. The leader, called musher, stands on the elongated runners of the sledge. With the Scandinavian way, however, the musher is drawn by the sledge with a line and he follows on cross-country skies.

The lively and tenacious dogs – the usual breeds are the wolf-like Siberian Huskies and the white Samojedes – are absolutely unsuitable for guarding purposes or to be kept as pets.

The pictures were taken during the 14th International Sledge Dog Races at Lenk. ●

