

Dear Shiloh Friends:

I received a two-page letter from a gentleman who has just recently joined the Shiloh club. He wrote to me sharing his concerns about the "changes" taking place with regards to the club. I would like to share a portion of his letter with you since it seemed appropriate, and made even me sit back and think.

The following paragraphs were cut out, and recopied to this letter from the original. It has not been retyped or altered in any way.

Patti Schaefer

We have all been intolerant and bigots at times, but it foolish to remain in that condition. I hope that the members of the SSDCA will remember something that should not be ignored nor go unappreciated. Namely that a lady that I and many others have never met, Tina Barber, has had to be a person of great strength and determination to face the adversities of being a pioneer. For only a pioneer spirit would have stuck with developing a new breed of shepherd that we now all enjoy. Standing firm against criticism and fear and compromise, and not giving up the dream.

Many people want the rewards of the pioneer but do not have the courage to pay the price. That is why only a few step up to the challenge and follow the dream to its conclusion. And others stand by and say, I knew that you were going to do it(right!), and others plot on how to take it away, pointing out the weaknesses of the pioneer, not realizing that great strengths also have corresponding great weaknesses. You can't have one without the other!

Ingratitude and jealousy and pride can cause others to say "I could do it better", now that the pioneer has paid the price and produced the dream. Thinking that "they" can maintain the dream, but it does not work, for a seed of compromise is already in the usurper waiting for its time to start compromising the dream(The Shiloh Shepherd). Think it can't happen, look at the modern American German Shepherd. A visionary person does not exist to please us, but to lead us with a commitment that won't compromise the dream. They may make us mad at times, and appear uncompromising, but we must get over it, we always need the Pioneer!

It is appropriate and honest for Tina Barber to use whatever symbols she feels represents the origin and motivation for her original work in bringing forth the breed that we now recognize as the Shiloh Shepherd. If she were Jewish and she used the Star of David, then great, it would be *her choice*. But it is her choice in whatever she choses to use. The Rule of Origination says that the Originator has the right to set the standard and the boundaries. And that Rule is seen everywhere in our society. Authority to define the invention or product starts with the Originator.

I guess the point of this letter is, lets all follow "offense" honestly to its completion: If someone or others are offended by the fish symbol because of Who it represents and wants to "demand" that it be removed, then they must also "demand" to get rid of the name Shiloh because it points directly to Jesus Christ.