

DOG-SLED DOCTOR



When she makes a house call, it may mean wending her way among 10-story icebergs in 75-below-zero weather

**Photos and Text by
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WHEN DR. INGRID GIVSKUD gets an emergency call, it could mean a two-day trek by dog sled through the 24-hour polar darkness in 75-below-zero weather over a frozen coastal sea where 10-story icebergs are routine hazards. And when she gets there, it could mean performing an appendectomy in an Eskimo hut by the light of a whale-blubber lamp, while serving as her own anesthetist.

Since 1956, this cheerful, strong-willed woman has been the Danish government's medical officer for the 550 Eskimos living in a 400-square-mile territory around Kanak, Greenland, 700 miles above the Arctic Circle. Dr. Givskud has won the respect of her patients not only through her medical help but also by learning to drive her own dog sled, hunt sea lions, and eat whale steaks like a native. To show their appreciation, the Eskimos elected her to their hunting council—the first woman ever so honored.



By the light of a whale-oil lamp, Dr. Givskud (upper left) examines a child for mumps. She pays a social call on one of the village patriachs and his wife (upper right) and joins some young patients (left) in a religious celebration.