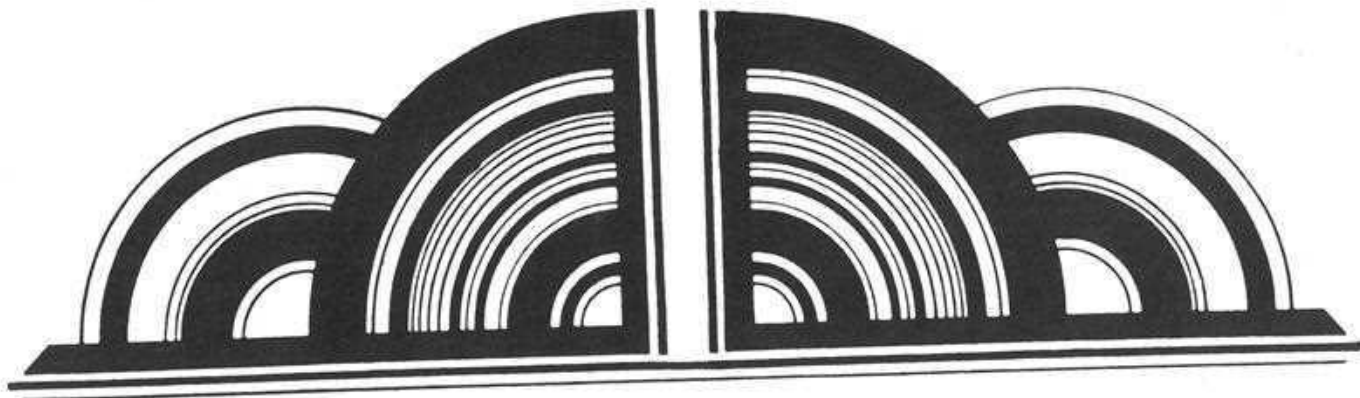


The
SAMOYED
QUARTERLY



Winter 1981-82

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SAMOYED PEOPLE



The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
Barbara and Mako Yamasaki
and Pat Hamann
RICKSHAW KENNELS
El Cerrito, California

The interview was conducted by
Lyn Snyder Hoflin

How did you get started in dogs?

Barbara: I had them before we got married, and I showed them in obedience. From there, we went on to conformation.

This was Samoyeds?

Barbara: Yes.

How did you get your first one?

Barbara: My sister bought one from a pet shop; a blue-eyed Sammie, just gorgeous, who got distemper and died. When my sis was in the hospital having her first child, I went out and bought her another one ... after 3 days, she didn't get it - I KEPT IT! (laughter) I got too attached to it, and that's how it started.

Why Sammies?

Barbara: At the time I owned a

Mustang; I wanted a Great Pyrenees, but I couldn't figure out how to get it in the car! (laughter) So I decided on a Sammie!

So, you weren't involved, Mako, in the dogs at the beginning?

Mako: Not really.

Barbara: No, he took me in WITH them!

Love me, love my dogs?? (laughter)

Barbara: Right!

When did Pat get involved?

Barbara: I met her in obedience, and she had to have a Sammie puppy because I had one. So she got one, too!

Pat: Since they were going down to Fresno for one, I thought I'd come back with one, too, and I did! (laughter)

Barbara: So that's how she got started. And it's still going. In fact, she's waiting for a new puppy...

How many years have you been in dogs?

Barbara: Approximately 19 years. But not active all those years; we were into obedience, and then we had to LOOK for show and breeding stock, which took a couple of years. We finished our first champion in 1969; and we've been very active since then.

Who was that?

Barbara: That was Ch. Czarina Frostina. She was bought for \$50. She had been shot in the leg, and she was totally green; really in horrible condition. Two weeks after I got her, she had a litter of mongrel puppies, on my bed. (laughter) It seems that all the show people had seen her, and nobody wanted to buy her. I really didn't WANT her, but I felt sorry for her. We were going to clean her up, and give her to some kids down the block, but she never made it that far! (laughter)

The following year, after her litter, we were going to go on the Oregon circuit, and Pat didn't want to



watch her because she was REALLY a tyrant. So we took her with us, and entered her in Novice the first show, which was a 3-point major; she won! And the next 3 days, she was in open, and she won 3 more majors! So she finished in 7 shows; our \$50 dog!

And with her litter of mongrel puppies! (laughter)

Barbara: Right, even with that! (laughter)

Did you ever breed her?

Barbara: Yes, we bred her a few times, and she produced some champions for us; so she was a good start.

Do you consider her your foundation bitch?

Barbara: Her, and Mushka. Mushka, who was top brood bitch in 1972.

Did Mushka come after?

Barbara: Yes, she came after Frostina, right. Actually, she was "ordered" when we pick up Frostina. We had to wait about a year and a half for her.

Where did you get Mushka?

Barbara: From Gretchen Raymond. Most of our basic stock is from Gretchen; and Mushka was gorgeous, all 24

inches of her! Slightly larger than a male, but ... ! (laughter) Mighty Mite is her daughter. She was a big girl!

Do you want to tell us about Mighty Mite?

Barbara: Well, her father is Ch. Pechenga's Sir Rickshaw, her mother Mushka. She's just a big house pet right now. She's been spayed, so of course we aren't showing her. She had one litter of two puppies; each one was 24 ounces when it was born! They were HUGE! (laughter)

What do you think is the ideal height? Do you have a preference?

Barbara: Not really. I mean, a dog has to be BALANCED, to begin with. As long as the dog is NICE, I don't hold the size against him, large or small. And as long as the dog can MOVE.

So movement is very important to you?

Barbara: YES! Extremely, but along with movement, you HAVE to have the looks. It goes hand-in-hand, otherwise, you might as well take a white Shepherd in the ring! (laughter)

How many litters have you bred?

Barbara: Between the two of us, in the last 18 years, I think we've had 11. It's kind of a small operation. We don't have the opportunity to breed, really. If we breed we want to keep a puppy, and since the dog laws are so strict, it's kind of hard.

Do you have any idea of how many champions you've bred?

Barbara: 17 or 18, with about 11 more that are pointed as near as I can recollect. (laughter) How come YOU guys aren't answering questions? (laughter)

Pat: You're doing such a GOOD job! (laughter)

If you have something to say, jump in!

Pat: I think we've only had two dogs that we bought that were champions; that was Frostina and Sir; the others we bred.

Barbara: Yes, that's right.

What one individual would you say had the most influence on the direction that you took?

Barbara: Of our own dogs?

Well, of your dogs, but also of people.

Barbara: Well, basically, Gretchen Raymond had a lot of influence. And we've been very successful, crossing the Williwaw line with Silver Moon. We've used Ch. Khan from Pat Morehouse a few times, and he's produced well for us. And then the Lamoreaux's up in Eureka, with their Ch. Syuchan Rho Hari. I think that Don and Dick gave us a good start. We were able to use their dogs. They've been probably the biggest influence on us. THIS is a picture of a dog, Vodka, that I bought from them 12 years ago, and he died at 14 months of age of cancer. This is a picture of Ace, age 15 months, taken a few years ago.

Pat: And he looks quite a bit like the original dog. It's taken 8 or 9



Ch. Rickshaw's Suntori - S.C.L.A. Specialty Best of Breed Winner.
Ch. Syuchan Rho Hari x Williwaw's Byelet Sosuka

years to come CLOSE to that dog.

Barbara: Yes, we've been looking for another dog LIKE him.

What do you think has been your best litter?

Barbara: Mushka and Harry; they had four champions in that litter and one more with points.

And this was out of how many puppies?

Barbara: Nine.

Pat: Was it nine?

Barbara: Yes, nine that lived.

And if the fifth one finishes, that will be over 50%.

Barbara: Yes. She probably could have, but she got this strange disease. Her head caved in on one side. In fact, she got her first major, missing her two front teeth! Really a quality little bitch ... ! (laughter) But I do think that was our most successful litter.

You don't know what they called this disease?

Barbara: Not offhand, but it's common in larger breeds.

Pat: It's NOT anything that BOTHERS her; she functions perfectly

well. We've never bothered to go into great detail, as long as it doesn't hurt her, and she can function. It's just that when you feel the skull, the muscle mass is missing. It's really strange.

Barbara: She's 10 1/2 and still functioning.

Well, then obviously it hasn't slowed her down any?

Barbara and Pat: No, it hasn't.

Pat: Not mentally or physically.

Barbara: I own a Sammie that is 17 1/2.

You have very long-lived Sammies!

Barbara: I think so! The majority of them are between 10 1/2 and 17 1/2. We do have some younger ones, but they're not with us at the present.

So you don't agree with putting a dog down once it has "fulfilled its usefulness?"

Barbara: No. If anything stays with us past 6 months of age, it will generally stay it's life with us!

You're stuck!

Barbara: Yes. Right! That's part of the problem, and we're stuck with it.

Pat: I think dogs get used to a



Rickshaw's Top Ace of Sunsan
Ch. Rickshaw's Orkdomain Aero x Ch. Rickshaw's Bonfire

certain way of life, and to their people, and I don't believe in carting them off just because they're through doing whatever they can for you.

Barbara: Our dogs are pets first, show dogs second, and breeding stock third. In fact we have, or did have, several bitches that were never bred, including champions.

How many dogs do you have?

Barbara: Currently, 7 1/4 - in residence.

A quarter? (laughter)

Barbara: Well, the quarter is the Schipperke; I only count him as a quarter. (laughter) It's not fair to count him as a whole dog.

So that's seven Sammies?

Barbara: Yes. 7 Sammies and him.

I was going to say, "I see something out there that doesn't look like a Sammie."

Barbara: Oh! Well that belongs to my sister. He's an oldie too; he's 11 1/2.

How much land do you have here?

Mako: About an acre.

This is really beautiful. I love the way that you have the pool area.

Barbara: The dogs like it too; every once in awhile, they jump in! (laughter) They all like to go swim-

ming.

You exercise your dogs at Point Pinole. You said that there is a thousand acre area back here?

Barbara: A HUNDRED thousand.

Oh!

Barbara: Yes, it's a bird sanctuary. They allow us to turn the dogs loose.

That's fantastic!

Barbara: Yes it is. And for some reason, when all the dogs are loose, they all get along together.

You generally don't keep them all together?

Barbara: Several of the males run together. They're all brain-washed! (laughter)

You WILL get along! (laughter)

Barbara: Exactly.

Pat: Walk softly and carry a BIG stick! (laughter)

I noticed when we were outside that the dogs didn't seem to bark very loudly...

Barbara: They've all had their voices "lowered," it makes it easier. This way they can bark, yet they don't bother anyone.

Is it hard on the dogs?

Barbara: No. We generally have it done between 4 and 6 months. As long as the dogs can hear themselves,

no matter how quiet their bark is, they don't mind.

Pat: It doesn't affect them at all. In fact, I think they're happier because they're not always getting into trouble for making too much noise.

Barbara: Their voices may grow back. Sometimes we've had to have it done as many as 3 and 4 times. It's a minor operation. It takes an hour, and they're just in and out of the office.

You've never had any problems with anesthesia with the dogs?

Barbara: Not with my own.

About a month ago, I bought a bitch from an outside line, and I took her to be debarked. I told the vet that Sammies are sometimes sensitive to anesthesia, and to go light. So he decided to give her a tranquilizer and she had an allergic reaction to it, and we lost her. That was the first time. But generally, no problem at all...

Pat: Our vet usually takes it very slow and is very careful. We try to stay with the dogs during the operation. You make it a point to stay with them?

Barbara: Yes, we usually do. For some reason we didn't that time. Oh, we had company, and we were showing them around town, and so we just left the bitch at the office. And that is the first and LAST time I'll do that!

Do you stick with one vet?

Barbara: I use two. We use a horse veterinarian in Rodeo, and then we have a regular vet here in El Cerrito for emergencies and things.

You prefer the one in Rodeo?

Barbara: Definitely. He's hard to get hold of because he's often out working on horses.

It's good to have somebody that you can rely on. You said that most of the Sammie people in this area do tend to get their dogs' voices lowered?

Barbara: Yes. Because if you live in the Bay area, unless you're in the country or in an unincorporated area, you're only allowed 3 animals of any type, including cats. That makes it kind of rough on a show-breeder person.

Is it rather difficult, then to get a kennel license?

Barbara: Yes. You have to have LOTS of land. And your kennel has to be 200 feet away from your house, to begin with. I don't know - even if I were in the country I wouldn't want the dogs that far away from the house. Most of ours are house dogs.

What do you think has been your biggest winner?

Barbara: Actually, none of them. We finish them, but we don't really campaign the dogs. You have your choice of either SPECIALING one dog, or finishing others; and we chose to finish the others, rather than concentrating on one. We do have Specialty winners, and we've placed in group, but we really don't actually go out and campaign a dog. We might show a dog, if he's lucky, half a dozen, or a dozen times after he's finished, and that's it!

(laughter) And we don't usually use them at stud. I think it's too much of a hassle. We do maybe one to two outside breedings per year, and that's it.

Well then, what do you think has been your best dog?

Barbara: Oh-oh, we're going to have an argument here! (laughter) We will all pick a different dog!

That's super; it's fine!

Barbara: I'm partial to Tory. Pat likes Tom. Mark likes Saki.

Pat: They're all from the same litter. (laughter)

Barbara: We each chose a different puppy.

Any particular reason why you each chose the different dogs that you did?

Barbara: MARK likes girls! (laughter)

You like the girls, huh?

Mako: When I showed dogs, I always ended up with the bitches, and I think they showed a lot better form.

Barbara: In fact, we sold Saki when she was four months old to a couple and they had her for two days. They took her around the Bay area and everybody told them that she wasn't show quality. So they returned her. Two months later, at 6 months of age, we entered her at Santa Clara; it was a 5 point major. And from the 6-9 Puppy Bitch Class, she went Winners Bitch. Her first show! And luckily, the people were standing at ring side! (laughter) It was BEAUTIFUL!

Did you hand them the ribbon?

Barbara: No, but I LAUGHED! This is a picture of her at 6 months of age at her first show.

Pat: And she looks the same way at 10!

Barbara: And she was, what about age 6 or 7 at a Golden Gate, when I brought her out as a special, and she beat all the boys!

Mako: We specialied her a few times.

Barbara: And she did well when she was shown. I think we showed her as a special 8 times, and she won Best of Breed 6 of those times.

Have you generally found that it's harder to take Best of Winners, or the Breed with a bitch, than with a male? Do the males seem to win?

Barbara: Yes, they do. And I think more consideration SHOULD be given to the bitches, definitely.

Mako: As far as the breed goes, a lot of judges go by the amount of coat rather than the quality of the dog...

Do you think that the quality of the males in Samoyeds is generally better than the quality of females?

Barbara: It runs in cycles; one year the bitches might be better, and the next year the dogs.

Were you going to say something, Mako?

Mako: Well, I haven't been to a dog show in about 5 years or so, I guess. I don't know how it is in dogs



Am./Can. Ch. Rickshaw's Drum
Specialty Best of Breed Winner - Sire of several champions from one litter.
Ch. Syuchan Rho Hari x Ch. Williwaw's Byebei Sosulka

nowadays ... but the first time I ever went to a show, I took Mushka, and I didn't know how to handle a dog! (laughter) I think there were 5 in the ring, and I was dead last! (laughter) We had this girl with us who had come to the show, and she was walking Mushka and the judge saw her, and he said, "How come you didn't enter that dog? What a beautiful looking dog you have!" She said, "Mushka was entered, but you dumped her!" (laughter) The judge thought about it, and he said, "Oh, yeah I remember her, but the guy JUST massacred her!" (laughter) I was a novice! But I thought, "There's got to be more to it than this!" We started going to some dog classes, and I learned how to show a dog...

Barbara: He did so well we wouldn't let him OUT of it! (laughter)

Pat: Other people would ask him to show their dog, and he would, and he'd beat us! (laughter)

Barbara: Right, I took Reserve

to him! I've done that a couple of times!

So you were a potential great handler, and you didn't know it?

Barbara: We retired him early! If you were going to do it, you'd do it well, but you're not all that big on it?

Barbara: No, he didn't want to go into professional handling. Too much pressure. He does better at home, taking care of the dogs ... while I go out! (laughter)

They all seem to be in very good condition.

Barbara: Thank you - they're FAT!

Fat and sassy?

Barbara: No, just fat and LAZY! That's when you enjoy them the most, though, when they just settle down and sleep all day!

Do you usually handle your own dogs?

Barbara: Three-fourths of the

time. Paul Booher does a lot of handling for us at shows that we can't make, and sometimes when we get to a show and say, "Gee, I really don't want to handle today." So he will take them in. He's very good; we've become extremely close friends.

Pat: It's not a client-handler relationship. It's gotten to the point of being a FRIENDSHIP.

Do you think having a handler makes a difference?

Barbara: Yes, under a few judges. Not all, but some are inclined to go with handlers, especially if they're unsure of the breed.

You're talking about a big name handler, right, not the ability to handle?

Barbara: Yes. All of our dogs like Paul. They can see him across the show grounds, and they go wild. They are probably in better hands with him than they are with us! He's very conscientious.

I've certainly heard some horror stories about what happens to some dogs when they go with some handlers.

Pat: Yes, especially on circuits.

But you've never personally had any bad experiences?

Barbara: No. But, there are only two handlers that I would consider using today.

Paul, and ... ?

Barbara: And Al Lee, Sr. He did a lot of handling for us in the very beginning, when we were just starting. And I think I would stick with those two mainly because I know them so well. I'm sure there are other capable handlers.

What is the most dogs you've ever kept?

Barbara: At one time? Oh, that's a loaded question! (laughter) Probably 14, and that's a bit much. But you know, what do you do with the old dogs? You've got to keep them. But we had a good opportunity offered to us in September, so we had all the younger dogs moved up North with Vicky Nolte. They're on 160 acres. We bring them down for showing, but they're happier up there where they room to run. And it's a lot nicer for us! (laughter)

Well, at least they're running! I talked to a Saluki person the other night who said they'd just fenced in two acres for their dogs, and then put the dogs out ... and they just stood there!

Barbara: Well, Sammies have a tendency to be lazy, and you have to go out and run with them. But they're right near an airport, so they go out and chase the planes! They're having a lot of fun!

Never caught one?

Barbara: No, not yet! They're trying, but no, not quite yet!

When you conduct a breeding, do you usually help the mating along?

Barbara: We're in the same room - and this is terrible - we breed the dogs in the living room. I have a male on leash, and somebody is generally holding the bitch. I don't want to take

the chance of either one of them being injured, so they're under close supervision.

You've never had any problems?

Barbara: No. Well, I'll take that back. Once we had a bitch that we had to muzzle because she was very snappish, but that was about the extent of it. But we really don't do that much breeding.

Have you ever refused to service a bitch?

Barbara: Yes. Quite often.

What criterion do you use?

Barbara: Like I say, if it's a total outcross, then we'll recommend it to someone else that has that line. If you're going to breed, no matter WHO owns the bitch, you try for the BEST. A lot of times we feel that our males aren't strong enough to help the bitch. We're funny about breeding; when we do it, we feel like we're responsible for that bitch's litter. For instance, if the breeder won't step in and buy the puppies back when the people he has sold them to have problems, then WE will. We don't want to get in too deep - more than one or two litters per year - in case something goes wrong. In fact, I bought 3 out of 5 puppies back from one stud service, and they all had distemper. So we're really leery about things like that.

What do you think is a fair price for a stud fee?

Barbara: Different people have different ideas. But what with the air fares and all today, I would probably say around \$200. Because the people that are breeding the bitch are going to have a lot of expenses right off the bat, especially if they're using an outside stud.

Would this be for a proven champion?

Barbara: Right. Right. I think \$200 or pick of the litter is fair.

Have you taken pick of the litter very often?

Barbara: ONE time. Actually, I co-owned the litter with the girl, and I took the puppy instead of the stud fee, or half a stud fee, or whatever you want to call it! (laughter) We haven't really done that many outside breedings. We generally take a stud fee, and IF there is a puppy we want, then we'll buy it.

If the bitch doesn't take the first time, do you allow a return breeding?

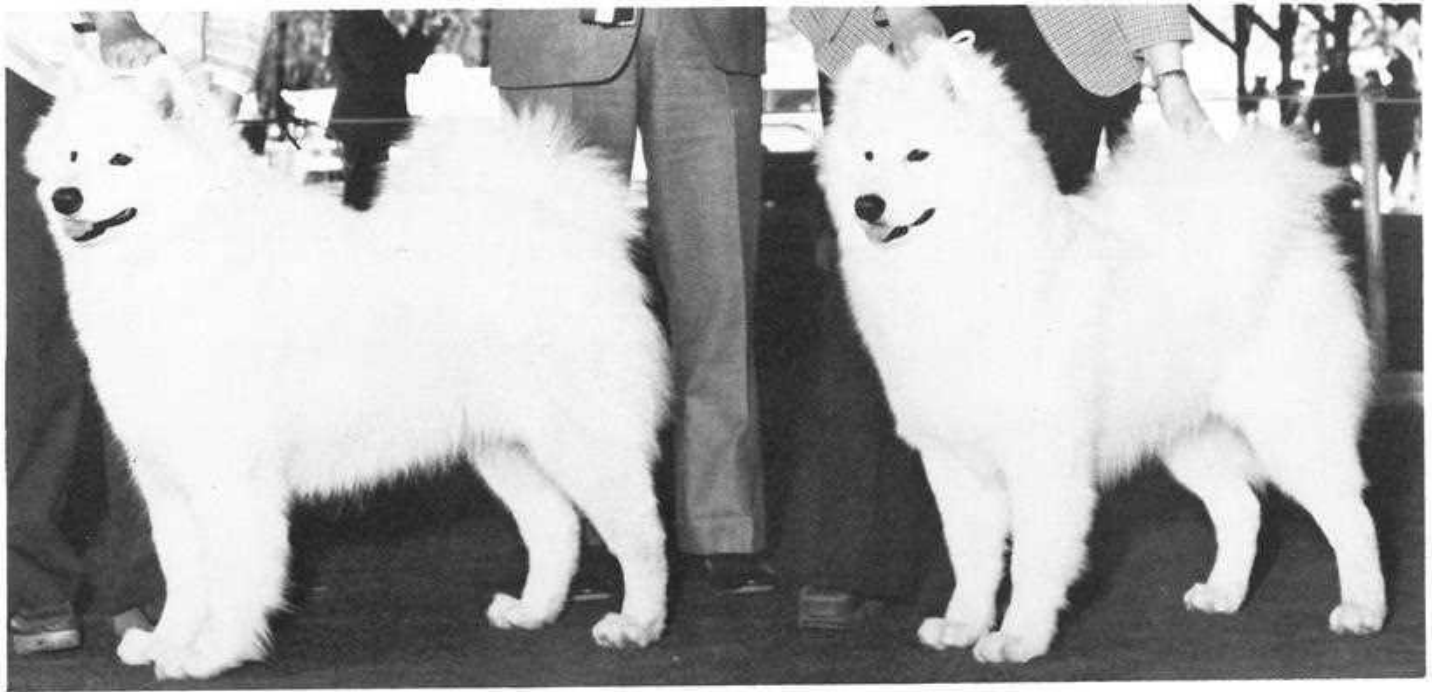
Barbara: Definitely. And we guarantee two live puppies - so if a bitch has a litter of one, then she's welcome back.

The next time, she has ten, right? (laughter)

Barbara: Right! (laughter)



Ch. Rickshaw's Hot Saki - Best of Breed Golden Gate Kennel Club
Ch. Syuchan Rho Hari x Williwaw's Byeiei Sosulka



Ch. Rickshaw's Bonfire & son (9-12 months) Rickshaw's Sunfire of Carlin

What do you think a show quality Sammie puppy should sell for?

Pat: Depends on whether you're buying or selling!

Barbara: TRUE! (laughter) Generally, in this area, they go for between 3 and five hundred. So, whatever! (laughter)

Make: Well, anything that doesn't have a disqualifying fault is "show quality." But a great, outstanding puppy is hard to come by.

Barbara: We never sell "pick of the litter"; if we breed a litter, the "pick" stays with us. And when we sell a dog, if for any reason, the people are unhappy with the dog, we will buy it back at the purchase price. In fact, it's in our contract that the dog HAS to come back to us; it can't be sold to anyone else. I want to know what's WRONG with the dog!

Do you sell on terms, or cash only?

Barbara: I've done both. It depends on the people and the circumstances. You have to learn to judge people, and hope you're right!

Have you ever gotten burned?

Barbara: Not really, no. We've gotten a few puppies back, and have been burned that way, but...

Do you have any sort of contract specifying puppies back on a bitch that you would sell?

Barbara: No. I co-own a bitch with a girl up in Willows, and when we breed her, we split the litter. But whoever the dog lives with - those people have the final say. Whatever they say goes, because the dog LIVES with them, whether I disagree or not.

Pat: We don't do involved things with strings attached, like: "I get the first litter, and you get the second,"

and so forth.

Barbara: I think people who do that are taking advantage.

Pat: I don't think it's really necessary.

So, if someone you co-owned a bitch with called you up and said, "I'm going to get her spayed," you wouldn't be all that upset?

Barbara: Well, yes, maybe. I'd try to talk her OUT of it, if there was nothing wrong with the bitch, but ...! If the other person decided not to show, and didn't want the hassle of the bitch coming into season, and just wanted it as a pet, I'd have to go along with it.

That's a very understanding position.

Barbara: Not really! I might be SEETHING on the inside, but...! (laughter)

At what age do you usually sell puppies?

Barbara: From 9 weeks on. Most people like to sell at 7 weeks, but at least in our own line, I can tell more at 9 weeks. I've got a typical example here - my own cousin did this to me! But this is what our dogs look like, and why people PANIC! This is a picture of Ch. Rickshaw's Mandarin Lady at 5 months; they returned her because Gretchen told them she wasn't show quality. At a year of age, she went out and took a couple of breeds, and this is her at about a year and a half.

It doesn't even look like the same dog ...!

Barbara: No, it doesn't. My mistake was in giving her back, but I felt sorry for them, so when the bitch was about 8 months of age, I called the girl back, and said, "Hey, she's really show quality, if you want her, take her!"

Pat: By then, we'd been taking

her to classes, and she was all show-trained and everything! (laughter)

Barbara: But our dogs do go through some pretty funny stages, and by now, we're used to it. But a lot of people aren't. Most of our puppies go through the "uglies."

How about Samoyed pedigrees. Do you think they can be trusted as to their accuracy?

Barbara: We're going to have to trust them really. I don't know what else we can do.

You don't think there have been any incidences of putting down the wrong sire, or something of that nature?

Barbara: I think people are honest. They're not fooling anyone else, and of course they're not fooling themselves, since sooner or later the truth



Ch. Rickshaw's Mandarin Lady - Best of Opposite Sex, S.C.A. Specialty, Denver. (Ch. Syuchan Rho Hari x Williwaw's Byebei Sosulka)

is going to come out.

What are your feelings on line-breeding versus inbreeding versus out-crossing?

Barbara: It depends on the bitch, if we're doing the breeding, which way we go. We're linebreeding right now. Next year, we're going to be doing a little bit of inbreeding. And after that, it will be time to go OUT! (laughter) So it just depends upon the bitch.

If you had a dog with a very serious fault, but everything else about that dog was outstanding, would you breed to it? Or is there a fault so serious that you wouldn't breed to it, no matter how good everything else about the dog was?

Barbara: You mean like hip dysplasia, or PRA, or ... ?

Well...?

Barbara: It's kind of hard to say until the actual situation occurs, but I MIGHT use it on my own bitch. But I would NEVER use it on an outside bitch. PRA, no. Not at all. If we're talking about a dog with a bad front, that's another story. I HAVE a dog with a bad front, but it's MAN-MADE. We got the dog back, and it had rickets and bone disease, and a few other things. He came back weighing 35 pounds at 15 months. I've been using him, and that fault HAS NOT come out. In fact, it's been 99.9% proven medically that it was man-made, and not hereditary. We finished the dog in spite of his front. It's Ch. Ace. He's a gorgeous dog. But he has a kind of a flick to his pasterns, but he DOES NOT reproduce it. And we have films of him at 5 months, just before we shipped him, and his front was beautiful. So something happened within the next 10 months. He went through acupuncture treatment, the whole bit.

Pat: He went through all kinds of tests, and his whole system was just completely screwed up.

Did you go and get this dog back, or ...?

Barbara: The people that had him shipped him back. They were unhappy with his temperament and his movement.

Pat: No wonder! (laughter)

Barbara: He runs with all my males. He's probably the only one that I can trust with EVERYBODY. He never growls or fights. For some reason, he was unhappy where he was. We took him to Bea Lidecker, the dog psychologist. We had her analyze him, and she told us that he would be happy as long as we didn't put him in a kennel run, but that if we put him into a kennel, he would get very vicious. So I took him over to a friend's house, and we put him in a run, and he got vicious within 5 minutes. We turned him loose, and he was mellow and sweet, and absolutely a doll. So I don't know what happened to him, but I'm GLAD that we got him back.

Pat: He already has a couple of pointed puppies. He's been fine!

What do you think about people who seem to "run" to the big current winner when it comes to breeding?

Barbara: Well, it's fine if the dogs are compatible. If they're going just for the sake of going because he IS a big winner, then that's wrong.

Mako: Judges are really setting the trend in the Samoyeds. In fact, in other breeds also, probably. But if the judges put up a certain dog enough,

Mako: Everybody has ideas about breeding, and it is up to the individual to produce quality.

Do you feel that there are a lot of breeders breeding to please the judges: Breeding for what they think judges are looking for?

Mako: Well, they may be breeding for a certain type of dog now, that is winning; but next year it may change. So, by the time a breeder gets some



Ch. Rickshaw's Kami
Ch. Sam O'Khan's Kubla Khan x Ch. Mister's Bit O' Peaches N' Cream

then they have a BIG influence on the breed.

Do you think that if there were a lowering of quality of the Samoyed in the breed ring at some point, that the responsibility would lay more with the judges than with the breeders?

Pat: Well, you can't stop people from breeding.

puppies that are all big, supposedly to win in the ring, the ones that are being shown are all small! (laughter)

Let's say a new person who has never had a Samoyed before comes to you to buy a puppy - do you try to educate them in any way about the Samoyed temperament?

Barbara: Oh, yes! We let all the

dogs in! (laughter) That way, at least they know the dogs SHED!

Pat: We try to tell them all the bad points first!

Barbara: A lot of people end up buying stuffed animals when they leave! (laughter)

Do you think that sometimes you have lost a sale because you've been honest about the breed?

Barbara: I'm sure we have. In fact, I KNOW we have.

Mako: Well, at least that way, the buyer has a choice. You can't just say, "You want to buy a puppy, HERE is a puppy; so BUY it!"

Barbara: We advise people to go out and look at litters in the pens, and dogs. We want them to know what their dog will look like when it grows up. Again, we don't breed unless we're going to keep something from the litter and we have two or three sold. Otherwise, no. You could end up with a half dozen Sam pups running around your house, and that's expensive!

How many litters should a bitch be allowed to have?

Barbara: In my own personal opinion, three. Each time you breed a bitch, you're jeopardizing her life, so I think 3 is enough.

Do you generally believe in skipping a breeding between seasons, or...?

Barbara: Oh, right, I never breed on two consecutive seasons.

Pat: How could they spring back that quickly? It's not fair to the bitch to breed every season; there is no way that she can get back into shape in 5 or 6 months.

Barbara: I still wouldn't do it. *At what age do you usually evaluate your puppies, as to show or pet potential?*

Barbara: I like to look at them the day they're born. You can get a general idea as to the neck length, the head structure, and the body length. Of course, you can't tell how they're going to MOVE until they actually get up and walk! (laughter) This dog (Song) - I had him picked as my pick of the litter from the day he was born, and he is and was, simply gorgeous. But in whelping, I twisted his leg, and it never straightened. Paul said he could finish him anyway, but I didn't want this dog touring the country, sort of "gimping" along!

Do you cull your litters at all?

Barbara: I've never had to. We had one litter of 14 that my vet whelped, and he culled it, mainly because Mushka started hemorrhaging, and he couldn't handle 14 puppies! He did away with half of them immediately.

So he made the decision?

Barbara: Yes, he did. *You weren't upset by that?*

Barbara: No. No, there wasn't anything I could do about it; I wasn't there, and it was a matter of her or the puppies, and I would go for her.

What about ideal Samoyed conformation? Can you describe it?



Williwaw's Bit O'Biscuit, C.D. (Cappy)
Ch. Czar Nikkolos of Williwaw x Ch. Trushcka of Williwaw

Barbara: I think everybody has their own ideal! I haven't bred a dog yet that I've been a hundred percent happy with. I'm still trying, and maybe someday I'll get there! But with each litter, I want something new added to it. I think it's strictly in your mind, what YOU want the picture to be.

Can you described the picture that's in your mind?

Barbara: A very typey dog that

can move; has a nice head, gorgeous coat, and ANIMATES. I don't think anyone is ever going to breed the perfect dog, to be honest. If so, we might as well have CLONES running around the ring!

So what would you say is your long-range breeding program?

Barbara: Long-range? Just to produce quality dogs, and to satisfy MYSELF; ones that can go out and win. Sound in body and mind.

By winning, you mean finishing?

Barbara: Right.

You're not talking, necessarily, about being "Number 1."

Barbara: No. You have to work at being number one. A dog that's sitting in the backyard, no matter HOW good it is, isn't going to be number one. In fact, we had an opportunity about ten years ago, to sell one of our males, and he was going to be campaigned not only in Sammies, but in all breeds, to try to be number one. But he was my BABY, and the answer was NO; he sat in my backyard!

It sounds like you definitely love your dogs.

Barbara: Yeah, I get overly attached to them! (laughter) Mako and Pat say that the dogs mind if I'm not home, but if I'm at home, they won't mind!

Pat: That's right, I don't have any



Rickshaw's Subatai O'Sansaska



Rickshaw's Willie El
(littermate to Ch. Bonfire)

problem with ANY of them until she walks in the door! (laughter)

They say, "We know who loves us!"

Pat: NO, they know who is NOT the disciplinarian! (laughter)

Barbara: Yes, I do HATE to discipline them. They look at me with those big eyes ...!

How important do you think the top ten or the top twenty is?

Barbara: I think it's important to the owner. If I were in the position to really campaign a dog, then it would be very important to ME!

Do you think that a lot of times, being number one or two is perhaps more of a comment on "time and money," than the quality of the dog?

Barbara: That's another loaded question! If you're in the right time and the right place, under the right circumstances, you can win with ANYTHING. There are a lot of dogs who have been number one, who are GOING to be number one, that deserve it... (laughter) Well?

Okay, let's go back to conformation. What do you think should be the ideal front?

Barbara: What do you think?

I think everybody is looking at you, Mako!

Barbara: He's the expert on that.

Mako: Well, technically that question is answered, proper angulation, good separation, and well balanced. A dog can have a good or bad front and the same with the rear - I generally go on the total dog.

Barbara: I think Ace is a good example. There was no way you could hide that front. It was BAD. You'd have to be blind not to see it! But he had such a good rear, and a good side gait, and good coat and head, that judges overlooked the front. Not really overlooked, because I would have judges tell me that they noticed the front, but because of the QUALITY of the rest of the dog, they were going to overlook it.

How about shoulder layback?

Mako: Whose, Barb's or mine?

(laughter) The dogs'!

Barbara: Well, you want the 45 degree layback, but unless everything else is balanced, it's not going to do you any good! We don't have time in this article to go into the details in depth.

You think movement is very important in a Samoyed. Can you describe the type of movement you are looking for?

Mako: Well, people like Barb, who have an eye for a dog, don't see things the same as somebody who sees a dog and think it looks "flashy." Flashy is not the proper movement for a Samoyed.

Barbara: I like a very smooth, easy gait. I don't like to see a lumbering or hackney gait.

Do you feel that you put more emphasis on side gait than front and back gait?

Barbara: A lot of people DO, but I can't stand living with a dog that isn't clean in the front or rear, because I have to watch it coming and

going! You can always hide a side gait in a large ring, if it's crowded with dogs, where no one may have the opportunity to move out. But coming and going, you're going to SEE that!

Do you feel that a Samoyed should single track?

Barbara: Yes.

Mako: Definitely. Very dull interview, Barbara! (laughter) I'm not a person to say what I think.

Barbara: You have to catch him about one or two o'clock in the morning, and then he'll keep you up all night! (laughter) That's his favorite time.

Maybe we should have scheduled this for the evening?

Barbara: No, about one or two A.M. is the BEST time! We call him "motor mouth" at that hour; if you get him started on dogs, you can't stop him! What makes it interesting is that when we breed, and then we go to pick a puppy to keep, we ALWAYS pick different puppies. Then we have a contest to see who's going to WIN



Rickshaw's Sanpan, Am./Can. C.D.

first, and who's going to finish first, and so on!

Who does finish first?

Barbara: Well, mine, because I won't let his out of the house! (laughter)

That's terrible! (laughter) How much importance do you think should be given to the Samoyed head?

Barbara: A lot of importance. It's a good characteristic. Like I said, if you don't have the TYPE, or a good HEAD, why NOT put a white German Shepherd in the Sammie ring? I've got a Sammie, Tani, who has a body that you CAN'T fault; but you'd have to put a paper bag over her head before you could show her. She doesn't look like a purebred. You take each part of her head separately, and it's okay, but when you put it all together, then it's absolutely HORRIBLE. I would NEVER go in the ring with her. She is 4 years old, and we've been debating for the last 2 whether to breed her or not. She's got the structure, and she can move, but she doesn't look like a Sammie. I've even had my vet ask me if she's purebred! (laughter)

We've had dogs that were so DIFFERENT. We had one that would answer the telephone. People would call and talk to her! The only problem was, she didn't know how to put it back on, and the phone would be off the hook all day! But she would yodel to people.

She'd knock the phone off the receiver?

Barbara: The minute it rang. She would answer it.

Pat: She would open things, too.

Barbara: Ohhh...!

Pat: Like when I would put my purse in the bottom drawer of the nightstand, she had to know WHY I was hiding it! If I had left it out, she would have never bothered it. She would open the drawer and go through my purse!

Barbara: She never destroyed anything.

She wanted to know what was going on!

Barbara: Yes. Anything that was in a box. She would dump boxes of dog cookies on the floor, but she would never eat them! She used to sleep in the oven when we first got her. I'm trying to break her of that one!

Did she open the door and let herself in?

Barbara: She'd either sleep on the kitchen table or in the oven. (laughter)

How important do you think temperament is?

Barbara: VERY. I don't expect a male NOT to fight, but I don't want him to be the one to START a fight. I want a male to protect himself, but I really don't want one that I can't trust.

How about around people?

Barbara: All of mine are very friendly. They'll open up the front door. THAT is why I have a Schipperke; he's my watchdog! (laughter)



Am./Can. Pechenga's Sir Rickshaw

Do you think that temperament is a problem in the breed, generally speaking?

Barbara: There are a few fiesty ones, but on the whole, no. I think that when you do have a temperament problem, it's more the fault of the owner than the dog. The environment, or how they were raised.

Have you ever encountered any problem like with a shy Samoyed?

Barbara: I've had a few bitches hit the shy stage when they are teenagers, but they come out of it, after their first or second season. We've had very few temperament problems.

Would you breed to a dog that you felt had an undesirable temperament?

Barbara: No.

Regardless of how the dog looked?

Barbara: No. Because in my own mind, I would never be sure whether it was the dog itself, or the owner who had made it that way. And if it was the owner, I certainly wouldn't want them to have a litter of puppies.

How intelligent do you feel Samoyeds are compared to other breeds?

Barbara: They're pretty smart. I always thought they were intelligent until we got the Schipperke. And then I began to see a difference in them! (laughter) Sammies can be stubborn. They are going to learn WHAT they WANT to learn. They're very hard-headed. The bitches will sit and think

- you can actually SEE them thinking of ways to get out of doing things! The boys are more agreeable.

How did you come up with your kennel name?

Barbara: I don't really know! (laughter) Do you remember?

Mako: Well, we wanted to get something oriental, so we picked "Rickshaw."

Have you ever run across any pig-ment problems?

Barbara: Once in awhile we'll get a puppy that will be slow in getting the proper pigment in the mouth; it will be "broken." Generally, it does fill in by two years of age. I think we've had maybe two puppies that had broken eye rims, but they filled in by 10 weeks of age.

How about snow nose, or winter nose?

Barbara: You mean where it goes real light?

Yes.

Barbara: Some of our old ones have it. As they get older, they seem to get it.

Have you ever noticed a problem with missing teeth in Samoyeds?

Barbara: No, that's not one of the basic problems.

What do you like to see with the depth of chest of the Samoyed?

Barbara: A deep chest. You mean in relation to...?

To the elbow?

Mako? Well, I like to see a leggy dog.

Barbara: You just can't talk about chest alone. If you have a chest, the rest has to go with it. When we talk about the different parts of dogs, we connect it all together. But I don't like to see the chest end above the elbow. Actually, slightly above...

You briefly mentioned the standard - do you like the present Samoyed Standard?

Barbara: It's a good standard. Of course, there is always going to be a controversy over size. I think the majority of them are slightly above the standard now.

Are there any changes you'd like to see in the standard?

Barbara: No, not at this time. Not really, I think it's a good standard, ESPECIALLY if you start reading some of the OTHER breed standards! Like I've been reading the Schipperke Standard, and all they have to have is a coat, and be able to walk on four legs! They can move any way they want!

Are there some faults that are prevalent in Samoyeds today that you feel that breeders, as a whole, need to work out?

Barbara: I'd say fronts. There are a couple of nice-moving dogs in the ring today, but they seem to lack the type of a Sammie. Nobody is really able to put it all together. It seems like if you have a Sam that can move, it is lacking in the looks department, and if it looks good, it can't move all that well.

Do you think the Samoyed has become too popular?

Barbara: When I see them running loose on the streets, yes.

Do you have anything in this area like a rescue program?

Barbara: We have a very good one. It's based in San Francisco, but they operate throughout the Bay area.

What do you think can be done about this over-popularization of the breed?

Barbara: I think, educating the general public. We've refused quite a few stud services to people who just want to breed pets.

Pat: Any reputable breeder knows you DON'T make money! If you're lucky, you break even. But there is the SATISFACTION that you get out of it.

Barbara: But I think we're overly cautious when it comes to breeding a bitch. We take it in for a 6 week and 8 week check, and the last week, it goes in every day. (laughter) So we add on to our own doom!

Pat: The last litter she had, had Parvo.

Barbara: When it was born.

Pat: One was born dead, and she lost one later, and saved a couple that, by all rights, should have been dead.

You know that it was Parvo?

Barbara: Yes.

Pat: She was like a zombie.



Left to right: Williwaw's Byebei Sosulka, S.C.A. Specialty '72, Best of Breed Winner; Ch. Rickshaw's Mandarin Lady; Ch. Rickshaw's Suntori.

She'd call and say, can you come over and watch them for a couple of hours so that we can go out to dinner?

Barbara: You see, we stay with them, in the bedroom until their eyes open. So, for the first couple of weeks, they're never left alone. And those puppies had EVERYTHING; they were on I.V.'s every morning.

Pat: She'd take them to the vet every morning, and he'd say, "I don't know how they've survived this long."

Has Parvo been a big problem in this area?

Barbara: Extremely. (I'm nodding - I don't know WHY I'm nodding when you've got the tape going!) (laughter) But, yes, it has been a bad problem.



Ch. Rickshaw's Silverblaze
Ch. Sam O'Khan's Kubla Khan x Ch. Mister's Bit O' Peaches N' Cream



Ch. Syuchan Rho Hari with Pat Hamann - father of Suntori
Ch. Rickshaw's Suntori with B. Yamasaki

We've been vaccinating every 3 months.

Which vaccine are you using?

Barbara: Whatever we can get hold of, to be honest! (laughter) At this point, we're not particular.

Where do you live, Pat?

Pat: Downhill. Just downhill.

Do you have dogs at your place, too?

Pat? Yes.

How many do you have?

Pat: Sammies, or what?

Well...!

Pat: We have 2 Maltese, and 2 Sammies.

Barbara: They're veterans, too. I think we're going to run an old-age home! For Sammies! (laughter) We'll just go out and rescue all the old ones! Do you want an old Sammie?

Well, I have some old Borzoi!

(laughter)

Barbara: Then you know what it's like!

How important is coat to winning?

Barbara: VERY FEW Sammies go up, who are out of coat. They say coat isn't EVERYTHING, but it IS part of the standard. They should have a very harsh, stand-off coat, and if they don't, then it's hard to judge by a mental "picture." So I can't necessarily fault a judge for not putting up a bald Sammie (except if I'M in the ring with a bald one!). But the coat IS important; it finishes the picture.

Do you feel like judging is fair?

(laughter) Yes, Mako?

Mako: Well, since I haven't been to a dog show for 5 years, I can't say how it is nowadays...

Barbara: He thought it was too political then, which was why he decided not to show! (laughter) As long as the judging is consistent, you don't mind. Usually there are four or five Sams who take turns going up at every show, and they're pretty consistent, if they're decent dogs. You DO hate to lose to one that can barely hobble around the ring!

Do you feel like advertising influences judges?

Barbara: Yes, I do. More power to you, if you can afford to do it all the time. When they see the dog in all

the magazines, it's only human nature to go with it.

Pat: Or, they see the HANDLER, and go with HIM.

Barbara: If I were campaigning a

dog, I think I would advertise it in everything. Being oriental, we're easily recognized over here. I went to Hawaii last year and showed under this particular judge, and he kept staring at me. He put me up, and afterwards I went up to say hello, and he said, "I thought it was you, but I couldn't really tell - everyone over here is oriental!" (laughter)

Do you show train your puppies?

Barbara: We try to.

Pat: It's not extreme training.

Barbara: No, no. When they're small, we start teaching them to bait, and we put them on a grooming table. Some of them are NEVER really leash broken, but we try! (laughter) I couldn't get Sumo trained, and I had him entered in a show, so I got Paul to handle him! And he won with him, and won the next 8 shows, I think, still UNLEASH broken! When he finished, he was still not leash broken!

This is a picture of Paul. You can see, he's a little dainty petite



Ch. Samurai's Sumo of Rickshaw (5 months)
Ch. Sam O'Khan's Kubla Khan x Ch. Rickshaw's Mandarin Lady

man! (laughter) After saying that, I'm not giving him a copy of the Quarterly! (laughter) We've learned a lot from him, though; handling tips.

Pat: We've learned MORE from other breeds than we have from Sammies.

Did you find that the Samoyed people weren't as willing to talk about dogs?

Barbara: Well, that isn't exactly the right words. I think it's because we have a tendency to be reserved, and we weren't really open; we weren't that friendly towards them, because we did not know them that well, and felt that we were intruding. So we tended to go to people with other breeds.

I haven't noticed that you're reserved! (laughter)

Barbara: It's all this Pepsi! (laughter)

Intoxicated by the "cola nut" (or whatever!)? (laughter)

Barbara: Right! I really think that everybody in conformation should go through obedience at least once, with some dog.

How many obedience degrees have you put on?

Barbara: Oh, let's see, between Pat and I, Gengy, Kappy, Pandi...

Pat: I showed my Maltese in obedience.

Barbara: A lot of the dogs are trained, but we don't have the time to go to the shows and spend the whole day there just for an obedience leg.

You definitely feel that the training should be there, even if you don't have the time to compete?

Barbara: Especially for a novice person. It establishes a rapport between you and your dog.

You don't see any problem with obedience and conformation showing at the same time?

Barbara: No.

Pat: If it's done right, and not harshly, the dogs will learn to accept both.

Do you have any training tips you want to offer our readers?

Barbara: Just be consistent! (laughter)

Pat: Yes, you just have to keep at it.

Barbara: My first Sammie that I put through obedience - I was asked to leave two obedience classes because he was so unruly! (laughter) He was a holy terror. It took me two years before I'd take him off leash. We could not trust him; he was aggressive, and a real PAIN! And after that, he was fine; it was just a matter of hanging in there.

Have you ever done any open or utility work?

Barbara: Yes, Genji, my 17 year old, is trained for Utility. But when he was - what, 3? - he came down with non-infectious hepatitis. He has no immunity. The vet told me he was going to die within a year! But we do know if a stranger comes in who has been around other dogs, he will immediately

get sick. Anything strange or new is hard on his health, so we have to keep him isolated.

Pat: If we'd take him to a show, or something, you can BET he would come down sick.

A stress situation or something?

Barbara: He just has no immunity. And something will trigger it.

How do you feel about taking Samoyeds places off lead?

Barbara: Yes, I take them off lead out in the country. Not in the city.

Pat: If they get near water, you

just have to wait for them to come out! They all love water.

Barbara: We have a picture of a lot of our males together.

Pat: Yes, they're fine running loose. Even the most aggressive male seems to be fine if he has enough room.

Barbara: Yes, nowadays I think fighting is a stress factor that occurs when dogs are too confined - they have nothing else to do.

Pat: This is Sumo. You may notice that he only has half a tail!

Barbara: Yes, my bitch puppy chewed off his tail!



Ch. Czarina Frostina

Pat: Yes, he is just really a great, great dog with puppies.

Barbara: But once they are a year, you'd better remove them, for his sake!

Pat: The Williwaw dogs had a reputation for being mean, and they weren't.

Barbara: They weren't mean, but they were fiesty and high strung. Well, not really high strung.

Pat: MY Pandy bitch is out of Williwaw, and she is very FIESTY. She is very eager to work, but she doesn't want to be bothered by other dogs. She doesn't go around starting things, but...

If they start something, she'll finish it!

Pat: That's right.

Have you purposely tried to breed out some of this fiestiness, or aggressiveness?

Barbara: No, it just happened that way.

Pat: And we've got the showmanship, without so much aggressiveness now. You don't want to have dogs that live in close quarters that can't walk through a doorway without lunging at each other.

Barbara: I've got my dogs so brainwashed that when I do a breeding in the living room, I can have other males, crated, in the same room, and they don't say a word.

They just sit and go, "Oh, not my turn." (laughter) Do you feel that there is a difference between a good show temperament and, say a good companion, home type temperament? Does the temperament that makes a good showman also make a good house pet?

Pat: I think so.

Barbara: Yes, I do, too. A lot of people disagree. They seem to think that if you take a show dog and leave it in a kennel, he will respond better to showing; I've heard a lot of people say that. That the dog will be SO eager, he will really put out. But I don't think I could live with a dog that way. We've had a few that never made it to the show ring, because they don't enjoy it. They're nice, sound dogs, but they won't show.

Pat: And we don't want to put them into something that they're not happy with. The dog has to enjoy it too.

Do you think that the shy or aggressive dog can be corrected through training?

Barbara: To a certain degree. I think it's easier to tone down an aggressive dog than to bring out a shy one!

What do you feed your dogs?

Barbara: Basically just simple diet; kibble and cheese, meat or supplements, depending on which dog it is.

What type of supplements?

Barbara: Do you mean like vitamins? Different kinds. We use everything from Forlac to Puppy Nutritional; vitamin E, vitamin C, dicalcium tablets!



Ch. Rickshaw's Orkdomain Ace Aero
Ch. Samurai's Sumo of Rickshaw x Ch. Mister's Bit O' Peaches N' Cream

(laughter) It just depends on what the dog needs.

When do you normally wean puppies?

Barbara: I start feeding them lean ground beef at two weeks of age, as soon as their eyes are open. I feed them little tiny balls of it, and then gradually add kibble or cheese to their diet.

What type of kibble?

Barbara: I've had the best luck on Friskies Puppy Kibble, but it's hard to get. Last year I had to use Kennel Ration, just the adult, which worked out fine. But I don't particularly like feeding them the pabulum formula. They get a lot on themselves, and hardly any in their mouths.

Pat: They probably don't like the taste of it, anyway!

Barbara: So, you just spend a fortune feeding them lean meat, while YOU eat the fatty stuff! (laughter)

How important do you think diet is?

Barbara: VERY important. Improper feeding can cause rickets, bone deformities, all kinds of problems.

Do you condition your dogs?

Barbara: Some of them we have

to, we have to take them out and FORCE them to run and play. Like Mighty - otherwise, they'd be PETUNIA pigs.

How about road work?

Barbara: We do, on some. We take them out and car gait them. It just depends on the individual dog.

What would be the earliest that



Rickshaw's Top Ace of Sunsan (p.t.d.)
Ch. Rickshaw's Orkdomain Aero x
Ch. Rickshaw's Bonfire

you would take a dog out and start road working him?

Barbara: About 15 months. And even at that age, we'd go very slow.

What advice would you give to prospective breeders just getting started in Sammies?

Barbara: I'd ask them to sit down and think about it! Why do they want to do it? What do they expect to get out of it? They should really be dedicated to the sport of breeding and showing dogs. It's not just something to jump into. Actually, we'd try to discourage them!

Do you think they should go to the big kennels or the big winners?

Barbara: I think they should go EVERYWHERE, to the big and the small kennels. You only have big winners through campaigning. I mean, you can do your share of local winning, but in order to get to the top, you do have to go out and work at it.

How much grooming do you usually do with the Samoyed?

Barbara: It depends. Those that are retired only get it when I can't stand them (laughter) and they're shedding, and they really look terrible! We try to keep up those that we're showing, giving them a bath every couple of weeks; we want to keep their coats from staining.

Do you do any trimming? Like sculpturing of the tuckup, or...?

Barbara: No. Oh, like on Sumo, with his butterfly ears, I will trim up the excess hair; but as far as the tuck-up, no. I suppose you can make the dog look better, but you're not actually hiding anything. I can always tell when a dog has been scissored, and I'm sure a judge can. I do cut whiskers on some of the dogs, and I clip hocks, and the bottoms of their feet.

Are there any particular products that you use in grooming, which you would recommend?

Barbara: No. We won't tell our secrets! (laughter)

Mako: Soap and water! (laughter)
Ivory Snow? (laughter)

Barbara: NO! Ivory Snow yellows our dogs! There is something in it that doesn't agree with our particular dogs! (It's a good thing I'm not doing a commercial!) But that's one thing I won't use on them!

Pat: We just sort of make our own shampoo - we use Lux, vinegar, glycerin, and throw some blank in, or whatever. 1/2 cup vinegar, and some bluing and water.

Mako is giving you a dirty look! (laughter)

Barbara: Well, it's not copyrighted! It's in all the Sammie books! It doesn't have a trademark!

Barbara: No, no. But we'd go bankrupt trying to buy "Snowy Coat," or one of those! (laughter)

What advice would you give to someone new in Samoyeds who wanted to handle their own Samoyed?

Barbara: To go to the shows, and observe; to go to a LOT of training

classes, and then enter some fun matches.

Pat: And try to find an instructor who is knowledgeable. There are a LOT of training classes, where the instructors don't know the finer points of handling and showing.

How would they know who to go to? How to find someone who is really good?

Barbara: Well, by that time, after they've gone to some shows and watched, they can pick out people or handlers that are winning consistently.

Pat: And they should go and introduce themselves, and get to know those people.

What do you consider to be the best Samoyed kennels today?

Barbara: There are too many to name. If I tried to name just a few, I think we would be slighting too many of them.

But you are fairly impressed or pleased with what most of the major breeders are producing?

Barbara: Yes.
Let's talk a little bit about YOU.

Barbara: Oh, do we HAVE to? You're not going to get any answers now; here we go, back into our shells! Okay. How long have you lived here?

Barbara: This is my sister's house. We live at home. (laughter)
Where is home?

Barbara: In Richmond, about 10 minutes from here. Mark was working in North Carolina a few years ago, and so were Bes and Wes, so I lived here with the dogs and the children. So we use this as our home base. Well, after the people tried to steal the puppies out of the yard, I'm not TOO free with our home address! Makes a lot of sense, huh? (laughter)

Are you originally from California?

Barbara: From Bakersfield.
How about educations and occupations?

Barbara: Welllll ... we're CURRENTLY on WELFARE! No, I don't work. (laughter) I stay home with the dogs.

I'd like to live like this and be on welfare! (laughter)

Pat: I work at the University of California.

How old are you?
Barbara: About eighteen! I can vote now! (laughter)

How long have you been married?
Barbara: Have we ever been married...?

Or we aren't married, or...?
(laughter) Have I confused you?
(laughter)

Pat: You mean I've been giving you anniversary presents for NOTHING?
(laughter)

Barbara: How long ... well, too long to get an annulment, I think.

Do you have any children?
Barbara: Just four-legged ones.

How do you feel that dogs have affected your life style?

Barbara: OH, we would have been

RICH without them! Sometimes, I wonder WHY...

Pat: If you had something else, you'd just spend money on that.

Barbara: I think they've made a big, big difference. We can't go anywhere, at least not together, because of the dogs. Someone always has to stay home. I think they've played a very big part.

What about the benefits?

Barbara: The benefits. Well... The dogs are fun to have around. They're good companions. I think we'd probably do it over again; just maybe not as many dogs at one time. But we would definitely go into dogs.

Pat: How can you know that your dogs are going to live to 17 years old? (laughter)

That's just about the time that a child would be getting ready to leave home!

Barbara: Yes, that's right, except the dogs never leave.

Do you feel like it's been worth it?

Barbara: YES. Definitely. HE doesn't, but...! (laughter)

Mako: Yes, I do.

Is there anything you would like to add that we haven't talked about?

Barbara: Mark, can we "un-muzzle" you? Is there anything you'd like to say?

Mako: Hi, everybody! (laughter)

Barbara: No, I think we've about covered it. If we say any more, it's going to take DAYS! If we really get into it.

Do you have anything you want to add?

Pat: I've really enjoyed having the dogs, and it's a great outlet.

Barbara: Since we only have veterans now, she's waiting for a new puppy.

What about sportsmanship? Is it pretty good in Samoyeds?

Barbara: Well, it could all be improved. There were some times



Rickshaw's Sunsprite, aged 3 months.



Rickshaw's Victor O' Artic Song
Ch. Sam O'Khan's Kubla Khan x Rickshaw's Myte Myte

when we could have been better sports, too, I'm sure! (laughter) But I think that's human nature.

Mako: I'll just say that dogs have more class than people.

Barbara: I told you you should have shut that off 5 minutes ago! (laughter)

Anything else?

Mako: I've seen in some books where they say that you can take the circumference of the chest, and something about that it should equal the height of the dog, or whatever. I don't think it proves anything, because the dogs might be barrel chested, or slab-sided, or something.

This is a picture of the four littermates who finished in 21 days.

Who are they?

Barbara: Saki, Tom, Tory, Chatter, and Peaches finished in that group too, although she wasn't a littermate.

On the whole, we have met a LOT of NICE people in dogs. We enjoyed showing around the country, but the people in Idaho, in particular, are FANTASTIC. They make you feel welcome; you just can't describe them. They are unbelievable.

Pat: Yes, there were some people up there who were just really, really nice to us.

Have you ever shown outside the country?

Pat: Just Canada.

Barbara: We went to Hawaii, but that's not out of the country. North Carolina?

That's not out of the country!

Barbara: Yes it is! I consider that WAY out! (laughter)

Now wait a minute!

Barbara: I know, I heard you say earlier that you were back there showing, and you're from that general part of the country! (laughter)

They have some nice shows back there.

Barbara: THEY DO, if you can stand the weather. (laughter)

Well, at least the air is clear!

Barbara: True. How is it in Denver?

About like L.A. I can imagine in five years or so, due to the temperature inversions and what not, it will be just like L.A.

Barbara: That's too bad. We went to a specialty back there in Denver, and it was just beautiful.

How did the dogs take the altitude?

Barbara: No problem whatsoever. You know, I think I would love to hear this interview played back! Do

you have this much trouble with everyone? (laughter)

Mako: No, just us!

This isn't any problem! (laughter)

What about becoming a judge?

Barbara: These days, it's too easy to become a judge. I think we should go back to the old ways of having apprentices in the ring. Anyone who has spent only 2 or 3 years in dogs these days can get their license.

So you don't think the requirements are stringent enough?

Barbara: NO. I do not. That's because I'm going up for my judging license! (Laughter)

Are you really?

Barbara: Yes. It's been filled out for the past 3 years; I just haven't mailed it!

Pat: She keeps sending for new copies, but she keeps losing the old one! (laughter)

Barbara: Well, I don't think a judge should show and judge at the same time, and I'm not sure which direction I want to go in. I think it should be one or the other, but not BOTH.

If you became a judge, you would not continue to show?

Barbara: No, I would not continue to show.

Would you continue to breed?

Barbara: I don't know. Not unless Pat or another close friend would show them because it would be defeating the whole purpose. Why breed to be breeding, unless you're going to show? There is a conflict there. That's why I've been thinking about it for so long. But I would say within the next couple of years, I'll probably switch over.

Have you judged any matches?

Barbara: Quite a few. I just did one two weeks ago. In fact, Mark was going to go into judging, but he never quite made it.

Why not?

Barbara: He decided it was too



Ch. Mister's Bit O' Peaches N' Cream
Ch. Mister Williawaw x
Ch. Czarina Frostina



Golden Gate Kennel Club Stud Dog Winner
 Sire: Am./Can. Ch. Pechenga's Sir Rickshaw
 Progeny (9-12 months)
 Ch. Rickshaw's Ksunji of Kalmarli & Rickshaw's Myte Myte

time-consuming.

Mako: It's kind of hard to tell people that their dog isn't good enough, or whatever.

Barbara: Yes, at that point they are usually upset, because that's their baby.

Mako: Well, if they ASK me, I'll tell them.

Pat: NEVER ask Mark unless you want a straight answer! Because he'll tell you exactly.

Barbara: Yes, he's unhappy with a lot of dogs that we've bred - he can't understand why they're out there winning! (laughter)

Are you both Japanese?

Mako: She's Chinese.

Oh! Well, I knew the name Yamsaki was Japanese so, I assumed ... So the Chinese and the Japanese get along okay?

Barbara: Yes... If we have a big World War, then I'll decide which way I'm going to go! (laughter)

How important do you think ring procedure is with a judge?

Barbara: Very important.

Pat: Yes, this one judge we had had such excellent ring manners. He started out by saying, "Good morning, everyone!" He talked to each individual person all the way down the line, and

just took his time. He was really, really pleasant.

Barbara: Yes, I resent judges who act like YOU are doing THEM a favor. I think in all these years, there are only two judges, possibly, that I would not show under again. But NO WAY will I say which ones! But on the whole, it's a fun sport. I think that, after going under a certain judge a half dozen times, you can pretty well know what he is going to put up. Each judge has his own individual taste. There are some judges that I just know what they're looking for, and if I have that particular type, I will enter.

One thing I will do that drives people absolutely crazy - I might go to a dog show where I only have one dog entered, but I'll take SIX with me! They love going!

Pat: They all enjoy it, so we kind of rotate it around. They love it.

Mako: You ought to go to a show with 7 dogs, and have them all entered! See how the professional feels! (laughter)

Do you travel in a van?

Barbara: Sometimes two vans, or a friend's fifth wheeler. It just depends.

Well, thank you VERY much! ¶¶

