

THE SAMOYED QUARTERLY

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Samoyed people

The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks with
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Chesapeake, Virginia

Part II

Do you have Junior Showmanship in England?

Yes.

What are your feelings on Junior Showmanship?

It's quite a good idea. We used to have them at the Breed club shows all the time, but now the general shows have picked up on it, and it is quite the thing. The youngsters are doing well. I sometimes marvel at the youngsters who are doing Junior Showmanship. They are very professional. Sometimes, it gets a bit hard for some of the not quite so professional ones, but they do try, and the majority of them seem to like doing it. However, I've seen several whose moms pushed them in there, and they don't want to do it, and that is a bad thing. However, on the whole, it is a good idea.

Do you have a special method for keeping track of dogs when you have a large group?

Not really. I've had as many as 27 in the ring in one class. Of course, at Crufts there were 28 bitches in Open class. I go over each dog and mentally I sort of file away little things, such as everything is equal. If one dog has light eyes, then that has to take it back a peg or two, something like that. After I finish going over each dog and I have moved each dog, then I cut my numbers down, because as I said before, a balanced dog will stand out. I think I cut the class down to about twelve, and from those twelve, I'll get the five I want. Once you get down to twelve, it is a manageable deal. You can look at twelve and pick out the best of those twelve. When you have that many, you have to have a cut. It's really too unwieldy otherwise.

Do you enjoy judging?

Yes, I do. I've always enjoyed my judging. I guess I'm very conscious in my judging, when my dogs come in, puppies especially, they won't walk one

way but they'll walk the other, so I walk to the other side of the ring, and then it works great, and sometimes I grin. Sometimes people come up afterward and say, "I love to watch you judge. You just enjoy it." And I do. I've been pretty good on the whole. Just about everything I gave tickets to has finished their championship in England. And those I brought forward and given placements to have either finished afterward or sometime in the future.

Do you feel that champions should be special?

It depends on if it is a really nice dog, and then I don't see why someone shouldn't special a dog, although I can't see someone special a dog time and time again if it is not going to do anything. It's hard on the dog, and it's hard on your own pocket-book. If you have a nice dog, I see no reason why not.

Does making the Top Ten or Twenty mean anything?

That really doesn't mean anything in England. Again, it is the system that you were brought up with. The system we were brought up with was to get the Challenge Certificate. Anything after that was gravy. If you managed to get Best of Breed, then that was icing on the cake. No one ever looked to take Breed. You didn't even think about it, although dogs I've bred that I've sold have taken Groups in England, and to take a Group in England - especially the Working Group - that's really something. There are 50-some breeds in that. It is still Working and Herding; it hasn't been broken down yet. Here, we broke it down into a Working Group and a Herding Group. They are talking about turning it into Working and Pastoral next year. The Pastoral will include the Samoyed because why we were ever in the Working Group I don't know.

Bob and Dolly Ward always maintained we should have been in the Herding Group because their actual job was herding reindeer. It was not pulling sleds, but herding reindeer. I have an album around here somewhere showing the Siberi-

an people actually using the dogs on the reindeer. It is a wonderful album, circa the 1800s. It's wonderful. I really enjoy it.

Do you feel that the judging is fair, let's say, here in the United States compared to England?

It is kind of hard to do that. Judges over here do so many breeds. In England, you can only judge one breed once every twelve months at championship level. If I judge Samoyeds this week, I can't judge them for another year; whereas, over here, you can have a judge traveling all over the country and judging Samoyeds every weekend. Therefore, it is difficult to equate those kinds of numbers, especially when you'll probably get twenty Samoyeds, and if you judge once a year, you'll get maybe 150 to 175. It's very difficult to equate the systems. However, on the whole, if mistakes are made, I tend to lean toward saying this judge didn't study the Samoyed standard, rather than saying they are crooked.

Have you used a handler for a lot of your dogs?

Not on a lot, no. I've had a couple of Samoyeds that I used a handler to finish them because I knew I was going to be out. I have a friend in Siberians who just loves the Cavies to death. If she can get her hands on them for a weekend, she is delighted. She'll call up and say that she is going to so-and-so and let her have so-and-so, and I let her take them. No, I don't use a handler. In fact, I think I've only used a handler about three or four times. Bert Hallsey is absolutely marvelous, and if I ever want anyone to handle my dog, he's the one. He's absolutely marvelous. He and his wife Marlene are two wonderful people, but their attitude toward the dogs is what I love most. I haven't ever heard Bert say that there was a breed that he didn't like. My dogs just go off with him and couldn't care less. They just think he's great. He is the person that I have used the most.

Have you ever handled for other people?

I have handled for masses of people, but not as a handler, and it is usually dogs that I have bred myself that I have sold to other people.

How do you train your puppies to get them ready, besides laying them

back and tickling their tummy?

Normally every day I turn playtime really into training while we are playing. I sort of tickle them under the chin or play with them, and while I'm doing that, I open their mouth and look at their teeth while they are sitting on my lap. I did that with the Shibas because Debbie said to me that they were terrors for having their mouths opened. So while they are sitting on my lap and I would be playing with them, especially Pixie, I would say, "Let me see your teeth, Pixie." It got to where I would just say, "Let me see your teeth, Pixie," and she would show me her teeth. (laughter)

Leash training I used to be very good about. I used to get my pups out in the garden and leash train and have no problems, but once my legs started going, it was holy hell. I did get the last Sammy lead trained. I managed to hobble around locally, and I had her pretty much leash trained and I said to John, "Don't let her slide back while I'm gone," because I was going for a month to England, and he said, "No, I won't. I'll take her out." He took her out exactly twice, so that when I came home she was a banshee. Therefore, Hilda has been out in the garden putting them on a lead.

Pixie was eight-and-one-half months before we could even get a lead on her. She was a holy terror, she really was; however, once we got the lead on her, she more or less accepted it. It suddenly just clicked.

She had this habit though, and it was one of the reasons I never showed her. She used to embarrass me so at the matches. I'd take her and she'd trot alongside me, then all of a sudden, she'd just flop straight on her back with all four legs in the air, and she'd just lay there. Then she'd wrap her feet around the lead and look at you and say, "I dare you." So I would pick her up, dust her off and put her back on her feet, get the lead out, and we'd go another five, six, ten steps and she'd do exactly the same thing again. This went on for about two or three months.

She was driving us batty, so one day I said, "Okay, I've had it with you," and the grass hadn't been cut so it was nice and thick, and the next time she

did it, I just pulled her along on her back with the lead, and after about five steps, she shook her head and looked at me, "I don't think I like this," and she got up and walked, and she hasn't done it since. (laughter) Every dog is different. She was funny.

Do you feel that it is appropriate to take a dog anywhere off-leash?

Not in today's climate. Sometimes we will go out front and be working in the garden or something like that and Dazzle will go out with us, but the minute she moves from my side, I give her a call and she'll come right back. In today's climate it just isn't worth getting into any

classes. Find a good training class and go to it. Also, watch other people in the ring. It's amazing the little things you can pick up just by watching a good handler. I love to watch Debbie Meador for this reason. I've never seen her in the ring with a totally unruly dog. It almost seems like she walks inside the ring and everything comes together. I've watched her quite a bit with the dogs. If I had to model myself on someone in the Shiba ring, it would be her. She never seems to get flustered or upset with the dogs if anything happens. If the dog doesn't win, it doesn't win. And if it screws

along?

If it is a visiting bitch, I usually get my husband to hold onto the bitch's head just in case she gets frightened and snaps, then I just stand by the back end to help the dog if necessary. Our dogs are usually very gentle. We've never had a Sammy that would rush in and grab the bitch or anything like that. Our dogs would like to play with the bitches first. We turned them loose, and they'd play at first, so the bitch is used to the dog by the time she's really ready.

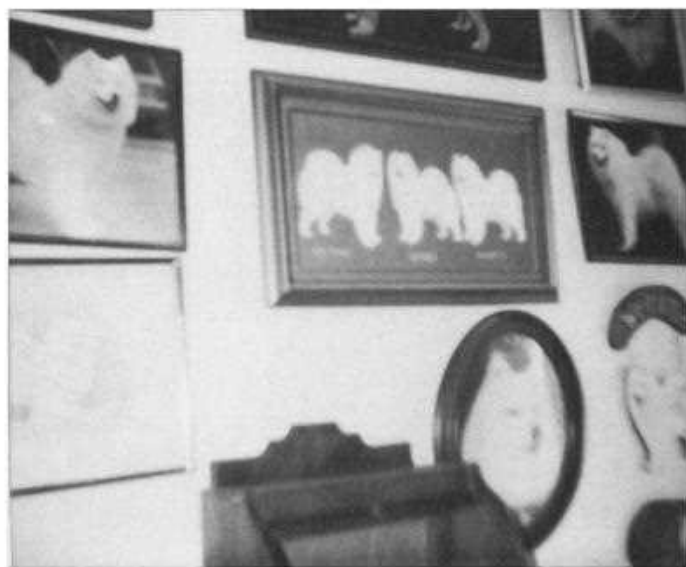
Do you help your bitches whelp?

Yes. They are never alone. We have a whelping box usual-

puppy, we tend to supplement feed them. I usually tube feed, so they get plenty. I always make sure that everyone has a full tummy. If I find one that is maybe dropping back, then maybe I will supplement them, but it is usually only for a couple of days and then they'll start to pick up.

Do you have a particular formula that you use?

Yes. I bring over a formula from England called "Whelpie." It's a milk substitute, and I've used it for years, and we've had wonderful results from it, even when we have occasionally had tragedy and lost our bitch and



Trophies and awards.



Bowfort Justamoe, seven months, five-point major, May '98. Hilda Brower handling.

problems. Someone only has to scream, and everything is off and running, even if the dog's been sitting in your lap out there. I don't think it is worth getting into a problem with it.

Can shy or aggressive dogs be changed by training?

I honestly don't know. I've had a shy one, "Pebbles," and she wasn't exactly overly shy, but she was one of these little dogs who would sit in a corner, and if she didn't like you, you couldn't coax her out with caviar. However, if she likes you, you can gradually get her to come to you.

An aggressive dog, no. I wouldn't want to keep them in the house.

Can you give any specific advice to owners who would like to handle their own dog?

The best advice anyone can give you is to go to training

up, well, that's the way it goes; there's another dog show tomorrow. That tends to be her attitude and it comes across very nicely.

The breedings that you have done, and I know you have only done one in the Shibas, was it natural or controlled?

I don't know. She was bred before she came to me, but as they had done this breeding before, I would say it was probably natural.

With the Samoyeds, did you do natural?

Oh, perfectly natural. I've never had to mess around with them. I did do one AI on a bitch, because we were afraid she was going to go over the top, and then the day after we did it, they bred naturally. Sammys are great dogs for breeding naturally.

How do you help a mating

ly put up in my office. We monitor their temperatures, and from the time their temperature starts to drop, which is a pretty good indication, not always, but there are signs over the years that we have learned to know that they are in labor, we don't leave them. The little ones we whelp in that pen most of the time. We just raise the floor and I can stand there and not have to bend over which is great. They are such easy, quick whelping dogs. They are really fantastic dogs, which is why we hope they don't get too popular. And the Sams are pretty good. I don't run into too many problems.

Do you have to supplement feed very young puppies?

Not as a rule. Once in awhile, if we get a very small

are left with orphan puppies. We have raised four litters on this. It has worked great.

Does it have everything in it?

Yes, it is a commercially made food especially for orphaned puppies, and they make it in five-pound tubs. I don't think there is even an expiration date on them. You pack it up and put the lid on and the lid seals absolutely tight. You have a heck of a time getting the lid off, it's that airtight. There is always some out there in the kennel room.

Do they make anything like that here?

I don't know. Everybody says they feed Esbilac. I've never had to use it.

Do you wean the puppies yourself or let the bitch do it?

It's a combination. As soon

as their teeth start coming through, what I usually do is take the bitch away for a few hours once they get to the four and five week stage when their teeth are coming through, and then I put some hard dry dog food just sprinkled over their bed. I find they are such nosy

Sometimes, very rarely, when they are about a week old and they are lying in the nest, you can pick out one that seems to be exceptionally well-put-together. However, I don't make a final decision on my puppies until they are eight weeks old. I watch them as they

picked a bitch puppy that has already gone to a show home, and the other little bitch puppy is gone as a pet because of the mismark on her face. The two boys have both gone to show homes. They are both very nice. They have come along beautifully, and I feel quite con-

used to say I was stupid because I sold them so cheap, and that I should do this and I should do that. However, I've always looked at it that if I can break even on a litter that's fine. Most times I lose money, but I can't see scalping people. I know some people have come to me



Ch. Novaskaya Arctic Rose, HIT, SCA.

little stinkers they go out there and mouth it to death to start off with. Within a matter of days, you can hear them crunching it. Once they get to that stage, I usually pull mom away and let her feed morning and night only, and feed them the rest of the time, and it works out fine.

At what age do you evaluate your puppies for pet/show quality?

grow and see what changes they are going through. They change so much from the time they are born to the time they are eight weeks old. Usually, I tend to make up my mind around seven to eight weeks.

Is that what these puppies are?

These puppies are eleven weeks old, but we've already made our decision on these. We

fidet sending them to a show home now.

What should a show puppy in the Shibas sell for?

I have no idea. The highest I sold one for was \$600, but the average I get for my puppies is around \$500. It's one of those things. In England, it seemed like my puppies sold for less than anybody else's. People

and said that they have just called someone and they want \$1,800 for a puppy. For me, it's just not done. I just won't do it. And I look at it that if I have to replace a puppy in money I can find \$600 easier than \$1,800.

What happens if the puppy doesn't turn out to be show quality?

Hilda: You cannot at eight or nine weeks, or even ten

weeks, guarantee that the puppy will be a show dog.

If you want to sell a puppy for \$1,500, then you need to wait until it's about six or seven months old to where what you

my puppy is \$500, but I can't guarantee it is going to be show quality, but I think it will. I would rather deal with someone like that.

At this stage, we can only

go on to undershot and not right. An undershot puppy is unfit for the show ring.

Emily: It's the same basically with most puppies.

Hilda: But you see a lot of

I don't push it on people. I suggest that spaying and neutering is a good thing. If they say, "Would you do it if you had a pet puppy?" I say, "Yes, I would." It's more comfortable



Eng Ch. Novashaya Imry Lafay (Ch. Novashaya Silva King x Novashaya Shani Lafay). Owner: Lloyd Winger; breeder myself. BOB, Crufts, at nine years. BOS, Crufts, at eleven years.

see is what you are going to get. But when someone wants to take a chance on an eight- or nine-week-old puppy, fair is fair. That's the way I look at it. I often think that if I wanted to buy a puppy that I would rather deal with someone who said that

say that the two boys have definitely got a lot of show potential. But until they are six months old when their teeth have changed, though with these two lines we don't have a problem with teeth, you never know whether they are going to

breeders, especially over here, who tend to guarantee a show puppy at eight weeks.

That's impossible to do?

Emily: Yes, it is.

Hilda: Absolutely.

Do you sell your pet puppies with spay/neuter agreements?

for a pet bitch not to have to cope with seasons. Most of the people that I sell these puppies to, they tend to say, "Would you mind if we had it spayed or neutered?" and I say, "No, I wouldn't mind. That would be fine with me."

How about puppies back when you sell a bitch? Do you do that?

No. I've co-owned very few dogs. It seemed like I always fell flat on my face when I did, so I gave it up, and now I sell my puppies outright. If I sold a little bitch puppy out of here, and they bred it to a dog that I liked very much, and the resulting litter was one which I was very happy with, I would be willing to buy one puppy back in. However, I don't sell them with a puppy back.

What do you feed your dogs?

so we did. We put her on lamb and rice and she has not torn herself up now for two years. We are just so thrilled. Then I noticed that Pixie was starting to chew herself on the bottom, and we did the same thing for her, and it worked like a charm. We have a couple of oldies that tend to be a little bit overweight, so they've gone onto a lite food. We've had some good luck with the Science Diet Growth, so we've tended to stick with it.

Do you feed supplements?

No. When I look what's in

so muscled that I don't think I need to do anything with them. And these little things, they don't need any conditioning to speak of. I used to walk my dogs miles and miles when we were in England. We had a big farm about two minutes from the house, and I used to take them over there and turn three or four of them loose at the same time because we were inside hedgerows, so we had no problem in getting them back. That's what I used to do there, but now, since John works with

turn them loose in the house right after a good towel dry.

Do you have favorite grooming products for the Shibas?

No, not really. I tend to use the same things for all of them. I do use Crown Royal basically, but I don't use a lot of sprays, because that's the way you are brought up in England. They used to go around at the Championship Shows, and when you got Best of Breed, especially at Crufts, they would take coat clippings to make sure that you had no foreign substance in the coat, and if you did, they would disqualify you.

They did that to the Best in Show Standard Poodle one year, a black Standard Poodle. They took some clippings and found out that the coat had been dyed, so the Best in Show award went to a Terrier. I don't remember what kind. I think it was an Irish. The Poodle was a top winner. Then, of course, you have to go up in front of the committee for doing things to the dog that you shouldn't do, but apparently she got away with it by saying that she used a spray on the dog that she didn't know had dye in it. However, they were the top Poodle breeders in England, so you know.

Any particular tools you use on the Shiba?

No, just a steel comb and a nice pin brush. I give them a good hard comb and a brush, and they love it.

Do you scissor?

Just the underside of the feet. I haven't really found any other place that needed it.

How about the whiskers?

No, I don't take whiskers off.

How do you kennel your dogs? What is your set-up like?

We've turned the garage into a kennel-type room. That's where they all sleep, or most of them. The oldies come in the house. As they get old and one dies, we then bring another one in. We do bring the oldies in. They each have their own crate, and they know exactly where it is. You open the door at night, and they just hop right in, but for the rest of the time, they mostly live in the house.

Do you keep your adult males and adult females together?

Yes. In fact, up until this year, with me not being quite so good on my pins, we usually let the males run together - the only one we keep separate is the



Ch. Bowfort Copper Angel.

As puppies, we feed them Science Diet Growth with the little small bites, and we feed them that until they are about ten months old; then we put them over onto lamb and rice. We have had very good luck with lamb and rice with our dogs. We've had several that had flea allergies. "Shamrock," we couldn't show her at all for almost four years because she'd get one flea bite and she'd rip herself from under her rib cage down to her bottom, so finally the vet said that we were just going to have to change her food and put her on Advantage,

there, I think to start feeding extras would be oversupplementing, unless they weren't coming along as well as they should. Then I'd call my vet, Ruth Ann, and tell her what I was feeding and how they were coming along, and she might prescribe something, but other than that, no, I don't prescribe for myself.

How do you condition your dogs?

I don't do a lot of conditioning because John sleds my dogs and races them - the Sams - so they don't need me to do anything. The Shibas, they run so hard up and down here and are

them, I don't really need to condition them. They condition themselves, which works out great for me.

When showing the breed, how much grooming should be done?

As much as is needed. If you have a short-coated dog like the Shiba, then you don't need a lot of grooming. On a heavier coated dog, a Samoyed, it can be up to two hours, because after their baths, they are blow-dried and then they are combed down to the skin all over. These little ones don't take any grooming to speak of. The Shibas are my wash-and-dry kids. You can

old boy – but there is usually somebody here with them when we do that. We don't take silly chances with them. The Cavalier males run together, and we have no problems at all, and they run outside with the Sammy males. I don't have any Shiba males. I have bitches, so

did. Talk to a lot of people and study the breed before you decide to go into it and learn the bad as well as the good. Shiba puppies are just so adorable. They are just as cute as a button. However, they grow up, and there are some tendencies in some of them to be not as good

said. Don't be too high and mighty to take advice on anything. I can still learn, even in Samoyeds. You learn something new every day in dogs. If anybody says that there is nothing new to learn, then they need to get out of dogs.

Should they go to a kennel with

I don't know too many of them, not being in the ring that much. Just from looking at the dogs in my own dogs' pedigree and seeing them in the ring, there are a lot of good kennels. I've found that the Shiba people who I have met and talked to are not adverse to saying that



Emily judging the Tibetan Mastiff National Specialty Sweepstakes, 1993.

that sort of cuts that down a little bit.

What advice would you give to breeders who are just beginning to get involved in Shibas?

That's a hard one, because my first two, as I said, just didn't come up to scratch. However, basically, do the same thing I

tempered as you would like. On the whole, they are even tempered, but then something might upset them, and they can shoot off. The only thing you can do is just study the breed and talk to people and find yourself a good breeder, and when you do, listen to what's

big winners to purchase a pup?

Not necessarily. There are a lot of good breeders that may not breed specialty winners; nevertheless, they consistently breed good sound temperament dogs.

What kennel would you recommend?

someone has a good litter, absolutely beautiful and a good sound temperament. They are not adverse to putting you onto somebody else. That's a nice way to be.

Do you feel the parent club is doing enough to educate judges and new members?



Am/Can SKC Ch. Novaskaya Silva Snowblaze winning Group at nine-and-a-half years of age. (Colleida Caliban x Novaskaya Silva Safron).

That's hard to say with the two Cavalier clubs not sort of getting along. I don't have a lot to do with the Shiba parent club, I must admit. They do seem to be trying. They have their Code of Ethics that I noticed they are working on again to improve. It's an unforgiving job being on the committee of any breed club, so you are loath to say anything about them because whatever time they are there for, it's some of their time

that they are giving up, which I'm not doing. Breed clubs can do a great deal to educate newcomers on their dogs.

Is there an AKC video in the Shibas?

I'm sure there is. I must admit I haven't seen that one, but I'm sure there is.

What about adequate literature, books, magazines?

There isn't a lot on the Shiba out. There are a couple of books out about them, but not a

great deal, but then I find this is so in a lot of breeds. For years and years, the Samoyeds never had anything. Now they have about five books out all at once in the last couple of years. It is very interesting to read the articles in there, especially on other breeders. It's a way of finding out things.

How long have you lived in your present location?

A little over ten years.

Why did you move here?

My husband's job.

And you lived in England previously?

No, we went back to England in 1970 when he was in the US Air Force and we left there and came home finally in 1981, so we stayed eleven years. First of all, we went to Las Vegas, Nevada, and we were there for little over a year, and then John finished his service, and we came to Long Island, New York for a couple of years while he

was getting settled in his new job. From there, we went to Mountain Home, Idaho, just outside Boise, for a couple of years, and then from Boise we came here.

So you have traveled a lot.

We've traveled more in the last eighteen years than we ever did all the time we were in the service. We spent eleven years in England after going back, which was only supposed to be a few years. He just kept going and saying, "I'll re-up for another twelve months," and it was his parents who got on our back and said, "You've been gone eleven years. It's about time you came home." (laughter) So we did. We have traveled quite a bit.

Where did you receive your education?

In England.

Are there any stories about some of your favorite dogs that you would like to share with us, particularly the Shibas?

I don't know a great deal of Shibas, but one of my favorites is one of Joan Young's breeding, Kinouk's Road Warrior Tanasea. He is such a sweet dog. Again, this is me with temperament. I've never seen that dog snarl at another dog. He's always so beautifully behaved, and he is always so happy to see everybody. He's such a really nice dog. When Debbie suggested this breeding, I was thrilled to death. It was wonderful to watch that litter grow. I enjoyed it. I would like to have another Shiba, I must admit.

How have the dogs affected your lifestyle?

We no longer have vacations. I do, but John doesn't. Well, we never get joint vacations. I get to go to England usually once a year, to get home. Next year, I will be going to Finland, as I said, and to England at the end of the year for judging. My house got turned over gradually to dogs. When we didn't have so many, we allowed the dogs in the house and on the furniture, etc. They just literally ruined it, so we do have a law in the house now: no furniture. And they are very good. We don't have to yell at them too often, and if we do yell, it's usually at a Cavalier. However, Pixie has been known to jump up in my chair and curl up in the back, and she seems to squeeze herself into the back of the chair thinking, "The

farther I go, they can't see me."

Tell me the benefits of being in dogs.

The benefits are great. I've met so many nice people. It's amazing how many nice people there are in dogs. You tend to hear the negative side more than the positive side. I have friends now that I've known 40 years, and they are still in dogs, and we email back and forth, and I go visit them whenever I go home. They know that anyone who comes over here is always welcome to come and stay with us. A lot of people come to the shows, show their dog and go home. I know so many people now, through my stewarding as well, that I can spend the whole day just being with people. The dogs are shown and that's fine and then they go back in their crate or sit on my lap or whatever, and the rest of the day is talking to people and talking about dogs. I've enjoyed it. I don't think I would have wanted to miss it.

So it's all been worth it?

Oh, yes. There are times, when my dogs die or something unexpected happens like Zoey. She died on Christmas Eve and I was alone in the house. I couldn't do a thing for her. I couldn't get my vet, and she couldn't have done anything. Zoey had an aneurysm. I just sat on the floor in the hall and cuddled her and she died in my arms. Those sort of times, I don't want too often. The rest of the time, I wouldn't have missed it. No.

Is there anything we haven't covered or any soapboxes?

I have a few soapboxes, but they are usually my little private ones. I don't push them too often. I just enjoy the world of dogs as a whole. Even when I go home on vacation to England, I get hauled into stewarding. I've stewarded at the Hound Club shows. Even though I am over for vacation, I say, "Yes, let's go. Let's have fun."

I went home in February this year and went to Crufts on Thursday, which is a working day, and on Saturday, which was the Toy and Non-Sporting (Utility in the UK) day, and I won with the little Samoyed bitch I handled and co-own with someone in England, Avis. From there, the following weekend, we drove up to Scotland, and handled the same bitch in

two classes, and won with her again there. Then the following Tuesday, we went to Ireland to the St. Patrick's Day Show. That's really something. Mind you, it was better this year. Most years you just get on the ferry absolutely whacked and you are so tired and you can't sleep. This year we rented a cabin, so as soon as we got on board, we both climbed into our beds and sacked out for four or five hours and woke up just before we landed and climbed into our clothes and went to the St. Patty's Day Show and I handled a different bitch and got Best of Breed with her and a ten-point green star and Group Four. Then we went to another show down south, Horsham, got BOB, drove all the way down there and back. I think the first two weeks I was there we never stopped. Shows on the weekend and shows during the week. It just went on and on. It seems like when you have been in dogs this long that's what you do.

It certainly has been a pleasure being here, and I know all of our readers will enjoy everything you had to share.

As I said, I'm a novice with Shibas. I readily admit that. I'm learning all the time, and I would like to do more with the Shibas, but until I get this squared away, I'm really not up to doing too much with them.

You say "this" and pointing, and I know what you mean, but the people reading this will not know what you mean.

I had this total knee replacement done in September of 1996, and it is really doing so well. This one, it has only been two weeks since I had the surgery, so I'm doing far better with this one than I did with the last one. The first time I don't think I really got out of bed for a month, but with this one, I've been up practically from day one. It is coming along much, much better.

We certainly wish you well and hope the recuperation is fast.

I sure hope it is, because next June, I'm going to Finland come hell or high water. (laughter)

You were very kind to allow me to come in today, and it has been a pleasure to meet you also, Hilda. Enjoy the remainder of your stay.

Emily: We've done quite a bit in dogs together. Hilda had Samoyeds years ago when I first

got my Judy Moody, but she didn't carry on. She let the Sammys slip and went into the tiny ones instead.

Hilda: I bred Standard Poodles at one time. My "Kyla" was a gorgeous brown and she was sixteen when we finally had to say good-bye to her. Then we decided we would get into the little Cavaliers.

Emily: They are an adorable breed. They are so totally different than the other two breeds. Their life consists of being on your lap, and if you don't have time for them, they will just go off and lay three or four to a basket. If you have time, then they are the first ones there, but they are not worrying dogs. They don't worry to be made a fuss over all of the time. If you say, "That's enough. Go away," they just toddle off.

Hilda: It's a whole different ball game showing those in England.

Emily: It's nothing to see 300 to 400 of these at one show in England.

So to win over there, you have to be exceptional. Right?

Emily: It's very hard to make a champion in England, which is why they are highly prized when you do get one. It really is. The nice thing, too, is when you breed a champion, even though you don't show it and own it - you breed it and sell it - The English Kennel Club issues you a certificate, what they call Breeder's Diploma, so that every one that you breed you get a diploma for, as well as if you own them and finish them you also get your Champion Certificate. The Breeder's Diploma is out there as well. Some of ours, not all of them, are out there. I think the last count was 53 or 54 champions in Sams all over the world.

These pictures all around the wall are all our champions at one time or another. They are my babies. And I do get my hand in sometimes and paint some of them, but I don't seem to have time to do too many of them.

Oh, they are great. So this is a hobby.

Yes, and I also do needlepoint.

Oh, that's gorgeous. Emily, let me thank you again. I have certainly enjoyed it.

Thank you. •