

THE SAMOYED QUARTERLY

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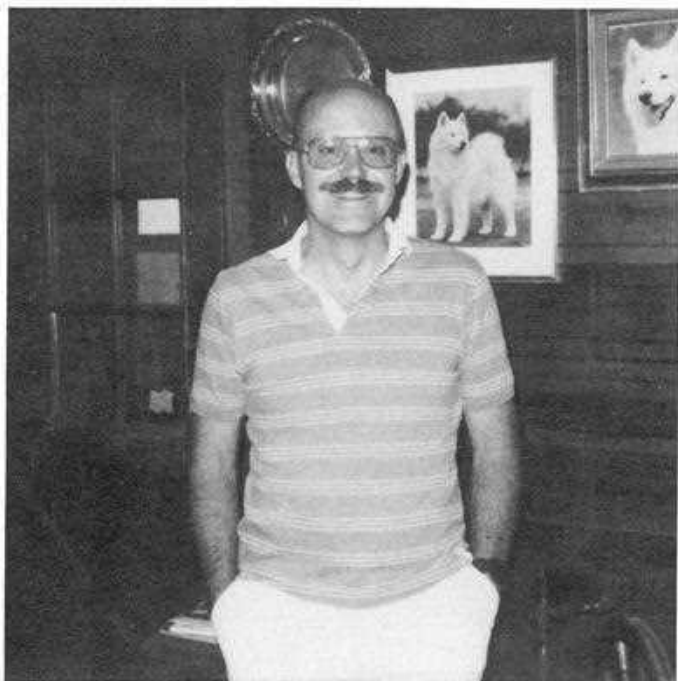


AMERICAN / MEXICAN
CHAMPION

CRIZTA'S LIL DRUMMER BOY

MULTIPLE-GROUP WINNER
MULTIPLE-BISS WINNER
AND ALL-BREED BIS WINNER

Samoyed People



The Samoyed Quarterly Talks With John and Carol Chittum BELAYA

Sierra Madre, California

Part II

This interview was conducted in September, 1985, at the home of John and Carol Chittum by Brenda E. Abbott.

Do you think advertising influences judges?

Carol: Oh, I think it probably does at the Group level; I'm not sure it does at the Breed level that much, at least in Sammies. I know a little bit about one other breed (Whippets) and I don't think it has a great deal to do with it there, either.

Do you mean on the class level, or for Best of Breed?

Carol: On the class level. Possibly it does make a difference for Best of Breed if a dog is being heavily campaigned; yes, it could have an influence.

John: It probably does; judges are human. This goes along with what we were saying before about the judge's competency and his own convictions. Do they know enough to pick a dog, or do they feel safer going with a dog that they know has won before? Somebody else has put the "seal of approval" on this dog and so they are safe and will go along with that. If they really had strength and knew what

they were doing and still put the dog up, fine. If that is the best dog on that day, go with it.

Carol: I don't complain about a judge or complain about losing if I feel that judge has done a knowledgeable job, and a fair job. This is not always the same thing. Sometimes a person who is a new judge to a breed and comes from another breed brings a different frame of reference. That doesn't even bother me; say, for example, if a person has been a German Shepherd breeder and is now judging Samoyeds. It doesn't bother me if they look for all the dogs with a lot of reach and drive; at least they are looking for something that is consistent and they are obviously applying their previous experience to the breed. I don't take exception to that if I see a pattern or feel the judge has found the "right" dog for him. Where I complain is "a little of this handler, a little of that handler," and I wonder a bit and might be less than happy with that job of judging. I will usually give a judge two times because I feel each is a different situation. The dogs are not always in the same condition, and usually it isn't the same group of dogs twice. I will even give the judge a dog of my own twice because of these varying conditions.

John: More than that, if you simply feel comfortable with what this judge has done.

Carol: Right, maybe my dog wasn't in the best condition that day. I will always

give a judge at least two times. It is wrong to condemn a judge on one day of judging, even a breeder/judge.

John: Of course, it is silly to take a dog and enter it if the judge is obviously looking for something else and your dog doesn't even come close. You look at your dog and you look at what went up and you decide to bring the "other" dog next time!

Do you think having a professional handler enhances your chances of winning in the ring?

John: It depends.

Carol: I think it absolutely does if the handler does a better job of presenting the dog than the owner does. It doesn't matter how good the dog is if he is straining at the lead, or has his ears back the whole time, or if he is not groomed properly. It doesn't matter how good he is underneath it all; if he is not presented well, he is not going to win. A handler can make a difference in that respect. On the class level, I don't think it makes a difference in terms of it just being the handler; if the handler is presenting the dog better, then he makes a difference. On the Best of Breed level, again, if a dog is being campaigned, that can have an influence with an insecure judge. At the Group level, it probably does have an influence with some judges, and with others it doesn't matter a particle. Handling, whether it is by an owner or a professional handler,

has a great deal to do with what happens to a dog in the ring.

John: Absolutely. Presentation is part of what you are there for; this is a show and you are "selling" a product, if you want to put it in really straight terms. The better job you do, the better chance your dog will have. However, this doesn't mean necessarily that the dog that is presented the most impeccably will win if the judge is always looking at the dog, but it gives you a better chance over the dog that is not presented well. You can have a wonderful dog, but if it is bounding around the ring, the judge has every right to refuse that dog, or not put it up. Owners have a responsibility in presenting their dogs. There are some people who simply aren't good handlers, and won't be for one reason or another. But most people can learn, and because it is their dog and they spend the time with it, they have the possibility of doing as well or better than a professional handler. For those reasons, there is no reason why a professional handler should have the advantage as far as just being a professional.

Carol: I get amused at people who complain about handlers winning and they don't look at WHY handlers win. They win because they do a better job in many cases in the grooming or the handling or both. But given everything equal, I think under the majority of judges, an owner has just as good a chance as a handler. If the owner is as well-groomed himself or herself, if the dog is well-groomed and well-presented in the kind of superb condition that one thinks that a handler is going to present a dog, they have an equal chance.

John: This is a job to these professionals. They have a responsibility to do the best they can in presenting their dogs or they will not have the dog to handle, or any subsequent dogs to handle if they can't do it.

Carol: As an owner, you have to have that same attitude yourself. You have to have the attitude that this is really important, and important enough to learn how to do it really well. It isn't enough just to own a good dog.

How do you like to see a Samoyed move?

John: Well. (Laughter)

How well?

Carol: On a loose lead, not too fast. It does not take a foot race to show the dog's gait. Relaxed, not strung up. These aren't Terriers and they shouldn't be shown like Terriers; I've nothing against



Ch. Belaya Anja Padrushka.

Terriers, mind you, it is just not the proper way to show a Sammy, in my opinion. Ideally, we hope that at an extended trot the Samoyed is going to singletrack, which means that the four feet converge toward the center line of the body. One doesn't see a whole lot of singletracking and I get amused when I hear someone criticize a dog who is actually singletracking for being too close in front or rear. We need to read the standard. If you talk at all to people who sled successfully, the dog has got to be able to trot efficiently. It can't trot efficiently without singletracking, which means not moving like a Terrier. It means converging on the center line with all four feet at the right speed without wasted motion.

John: While they are moving differently in the ring than when they are pulling a sled, it is still a trot. A Samoyed should not have a short, cropy gait.

Carol: It should be ground-covering, with a long stride. Covering the most territory with the fewest steps.

Is there anyone, past or present, whom you respect for their efforts on behalf of the breed?

Carol: Oh, golly yes. Several people. I think I would have to start with Agnes Mason, who is with us no longer, but what she did certainly had a great influence on us. I would have to mention the Krausses because I think they have done a very good job with the goals that they've set for themselves, and they've made a good influence on the breed. I admire what Kay Bailey is doing because she started out first as a person who was interested mainly in sledding. She has now made many of her sled dogs champions, and she really kind of renewed my interest in keeping going because she is working with dogs that come down from some of our old dogs. To back up a bit, one of the reasons we chose Ruble for one of our first breedings was because he was a working sled dog on an all-champion, all-male, Samoyed team for Madeline Druse at that time. I don't know how she would have rated in comparison to other breeds that were sledding at the time, but it impressed us that she had dogs that could all work together and who were competitive.

John: There are lots of people who have made contributions to the breed,

and people who influenced us earlier.

Carol: The Kauzlarichs certainly had an influence on us in terms of helping us to find out information on the dogs behind our original dogs. Jan was one of the first people who really showed me, taught me, to look at a pedigree and figure out what is important and what isn't. That has certainly been a durable influence on me. There are many people who have talked to us over the years, told us stories of older dogs. Ed and Gertrude Adams, because Gertrude, through the illustrated standard, has probably had a profound influence on the breed; at least I hope she has and I hope the standard has. The work that she did with the standard committee, which was actually headed by Agnes Mason, was so important. At a couple of different points in modern history, the Samoyed Standard has been revised. At one point, for example, there was a "point system," where the head had so many points and so forth, and that was dropped after one set of revisions. Gertrude had the task of taking all the measurements of these more than 100 champions and translating that into a visual form. This has influenced, certainly, some of us who are aware of the illustrated standard. It should be used by present breeders as a teaching tool for their puppy people, and again, I would like to see the SCA do a little more with it in terms of using it as a teaching tool for judges. In that respect, I think Gertrude's work will have had a really durable value and a profound influence on the shape of the breed in the years to come.

John: Bob and Dolly Ward have had an influence on us and on the breed.

Carol: Absolutely, and I think especially with the idea that I mentioned earlier in Bob's early work with sledging. The kind of temperament that he found he could work with at that time, which came from his Ch. Starchak, who was a Rex of White Way son. That has certainly had an influence, not just on us but on the breed, because the dogs they had several generations down from Starchak that, ultimately for us, led to Ivan. He was descended directly from the male line of Starchak. Their work in chronicling the history of the breed and simply as proponents of the breed over the years can't be overlooked as a contribution. I guess it would be a fairly safe statement to say that that early group of the Wards and the Masons and the Adams had an effect on the breed that is still being seen in many of the present-day top winning lines and

kennels.

Did you ever do any obedience training with your dogs?

Carol: Absolutely. Ivan had a CD and Tony had a CD and Peppers did not! (Laughter)

Was that due to a lack of effort on Peppers' part?

Carol: No, it was due to the fact that Peppers did everything I ever wanted him to do in the ring and on the trail. He was a wonderful backpacker and a very mountain-wise dog, and yet for him obedience was a catastrophic bore; he really couldn't stand to do it over and over, and it was a question of how many times I could stand the frustration of him not doing it perfectly enough to get a score. I finally decided that it wasn't worth it. Ivan, on the other hand, was another story. He had his CD, and he was a ringwise dog; he would choose each different trial to fail a particular exercise at, although he would never make a mistake in class. I think it took us fourteen or fifteen obedience trials, but the first time up he took a leg, and he was High Scoring Samoyed in the show (all breed show). Each time out after that he would pick something different to blow at each show, and I swear he would do it on purpose! He once followed me like Mary's lamb to the end of the ring on the recall. He got a score of 196 at our specialty one time after not working for several weeks. I showed him another time at Del Monte and he did the whole heel free from three feet behind me, perfectly! He sat three feet behind me and never once caught up. He would do that sort of thing because he had a sense of humor, I swear, and he did these things just to keep me humble. We finally just didn't do anything for months and John took him in stone cold and got his third leg, and John had never even been in the obedience ring before. I think Tony finished his in about five trials. He failed one because it was freezing cold in February and it was on bare cement that was wet. He didn't want to sit in the puddles and I didn't blame him!

Did you do a lot of backpacking with Peppers?

Carol: Yes, he carried between 20 and 24 pounds. He carried his own food and most of Peter's belongings because Peter was about six and seven years old at the time and too young to really carry very much. Peppers allowed us to do quite a lot of nice backpacking with Peter, even though Peter was too young to carry much. He was very wise, would never cut a switchback, wouldn't leave us, didn't

chase the marmots, and was just generally a good boy. He was very smart and just had a knack for it. We never had enough dogs at that time to have a team, although I think he probably would have been just fine on a team. I think we only ran him once with the Adams one time with Tracier and Tony Tiga just for fun. We didn't have enough adult dogs at one time to do it ourselves. But Peppers found his niche with the backpacking and I just couldn't see pushing the point on the obedience business. He was just so bored with it, and he did it all, but not in the right sequence when I wanted him to.

I know Peppers' registered name was Ch. Belaya's Sargeant Pepper. Did you get that from the song by the Beatles?

Carol: Yes, Andy was six at the time he was a puppy and he named him. We had taken Andy to see the Yellow Submarine with Sargeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band; Sargeant Pepper in the movie was this funny little sargeant who stood with his chest stuck out very properly at attention. We came home from the movie, the litter was about three weeks old, and Peppers would always sit like that with his chin back and his chest sort of sticking out. Andy said, "Mommy, that's Sargeant Pepper." That's where the name came from, and even as an older dog he always sat that way.

How important is training to winning?

John/Carol: It's everything!

Carol: Winning is not an accident these days, with the competition the way it is now. You have to have a dog that you can depend on to do what you need it to do, when you need it to do it. Whether it's standing and staying or whether it's trotting nicely at your side on a nice loose lead, it is absolutely essential.

John: It's part of the presentation and working with enough that you and the dog are part of a real team working together.

Carol: I'm not sure formal obedience training is what we're talking about, but training to be "obedient" in the show ring? Absolutely. It is something that can be done and can be enjoyable for everybody, and yet I think it has to be a factor for a successful show dog.

Do you think the average Samoyed needs obedience training to be a good pet?

Carol: Possibly not formal obedience training, but yes, some training. They need to learn to "come." That's essential. I think they need to learn "no," and I think

they need to know how to walk on a lead without pulling the owner's arm off or straining at the lead to such an extent that the gait can't be seen properly. That's probably one of the single biggest flaws I see in the show ring; a lot of people have caught on the baiting and having a dog stand and bait, but a lot of people still don't move a dog well. Again, in my own handling classes I recommend to people to go and watch other breeds and watch the professional handlers and see how they look when they move with a dog and when they stand with a dog. I certainly don't propose overhandling, and the kind of one-armed-paperhanger, Chinese fire-drill sort of handling that you see with some of the professional handlers; I don't propose that at all. But I do suggest enough training on the part of the handler to be competent and confident, and enough training on the part of the dog to be depended upon. You have got to be able to know that the dog is going to be able to do it when you need him to do it, stand and stay when he needs to stand and stay.

What other kind of advice would you give to a novice who was interested in the breed and wanted to breed and show his own dogs?

Carol: Any novice getting into the breed should accept the fact that he is probably going to make some mistakes, not only in the first dog that he chooses, but in what he does with it. Don't compound those mistakes, however, by going with this dog if it isn't good enough. They must be willing to accept the fact that they may not have chosen a proper dog to begin with, and they should be willing to study pedigrees and breeders enough to find something that IS good enough to get them where they want to go even if it means waiting. Don't get into it at all if you don't have patience; the biggest single quality that a breeder needs is patience; patience to watch puppies grow, patience to wait for them to mature, patience to wait for the right stud dog to come along. Patience in every aspect. Patience to show the dog at the right time, go through the training, to find out how to groom and do it well. This is an expensive hobby and unless you are really dedicated to try to make an improvement on the breed, I don't even think most people should get into breeding. Go ahead and have a show dog, fine, but don't bother to breed unless you are going to study enough to make a positive influence on the breed. It just isn't worth it otherwise.

John: And you must learn to "select,"

which brings up culling, if we can talk about such an awful thing.

Carol: Culling can also mean eliminating from the gene pool. We have culled in every sense; we've put puppies down and we've neutered and all of that.

Do you have a spay/neuter contract on your puppies when they are sold?

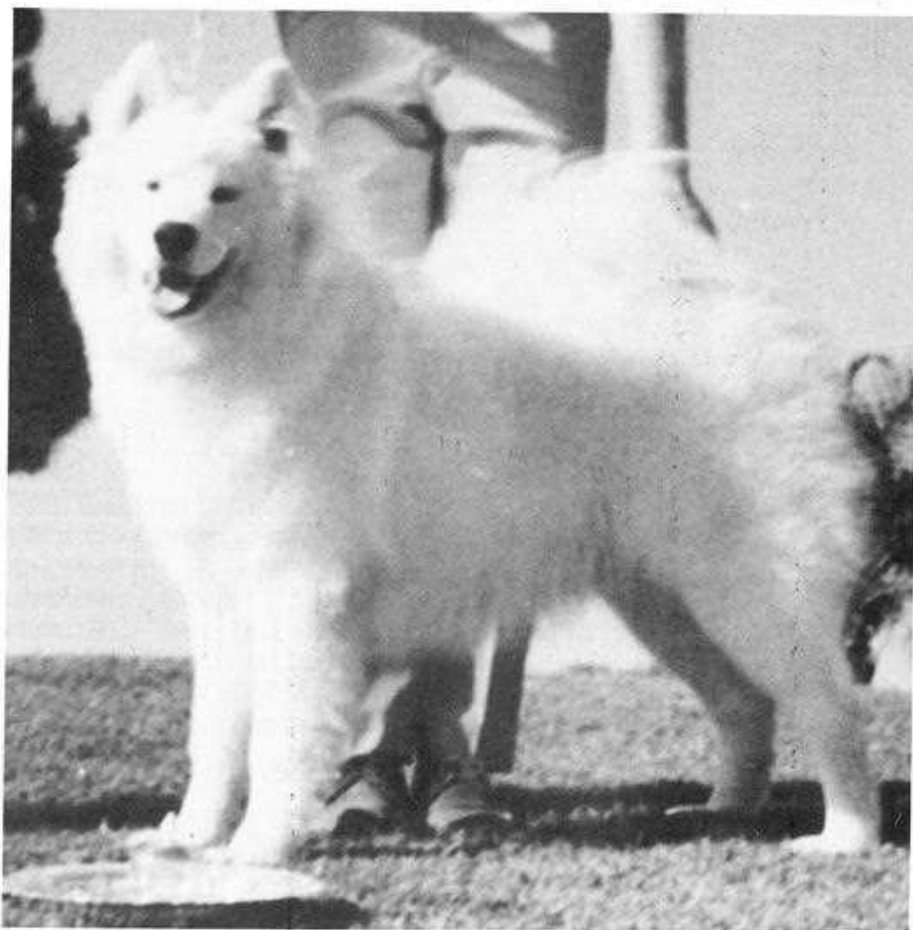
Carol: Yes. There is really no good way around the whole idea that not every dog ought to reproduce, and it is a matter of being honest about it. There are so many dogs now, in this urban area, especially, we are a little influenced by the fact that there are so many dogs. I'd rather have a really good dog in a home where it isn't shown than have that home be taken up by a dog that can't contribute to the breed. I have put really nice dogs sometimes in just a pet home, but at least I can be proud of it and if it does happen to be bred, then I'm not going to be ashamed of the results - hopefully.

John: We had some friends tell us one time that people who have horses understand the need for "selection" a lot

more because not every horse is "stud quality." They geld the majority of horses; only a very small number are kept for breeding purposes. By the same token, only a very small number of dogs are suitable for breeding.

Carol, I'd like to change the direction here for a moment. I know you spent most of the summer overseas. Would you tell us, informally, some of your observations?

Carol: Yes, and it is really quite relevant to talk about this because the future of Belaya is in France at this moment. We have exported two bitches of our breeding which are the first two American bred Samoyeds to be exported to France in modern times. I don't know about pre-World War II. One of those bitches, which is a Ch. Celter's Posed in Plush (Posey) daughter, is linebred to Ivan. She is Ivan's granddaughter on one side and great-granddaughter on the other side, so she is tightly linebred to Ivan. She was bred to the Kauzlarich's Fabri (Ch. Kauzjas' Kwintus Fabrikus) and the best bitch from that litter was sold



Ch. Los Laika's Belaya Traicer.

to France. She was then bred to a French champion. The woman who has these two bitches now has kept a real nice male from that breeding. Last summer we also exported to her Belaya's I'm A Pepper Too, who was the 1982 Sweepstakes winner, and she will very shortly be bred to a dog of Kay Bailey's breeding who is in West Germany. As well as those two bitches, Michelle also has a bitch from the Krausses' breeding who is out of Merlin and an Ivan daughter, so much of our future is in Michelle's hands. I hope to bring back a couple of youngsters from those breedings at some point in the next year or so.

I saw Samoyeds in France and Germany at two big all breed shows. I would say just in relation to what we were talking about before, the Germans do a very nice job handling; the French - some do and some don't. It is certainly more casual. There were not a great number of Sammies at either show; Samoyeds in the show ring are not very popular as a breed. They are much more popular for sledding in both countries. There are many more Sammies sledded in both countries than shown, both on purebred teams and mixed teams. I'd say that the two nicest dogs that I saw (aside from the dog in West Germany who wasn't shown that day) included a young female from Holland who comes down from the Wards' breeding and a young male who was from Finland and comes down from Kaularich's Coco, who is Fabri's brother and was

exported to Sweden several years ago. The American influence is being felt on the Continent, certainly, and I would say quite positively. I think I could safely say that the influence that some of the English dogs have had recently on the Continent hasn't been as pleasing to my eye as some of what I saw that came down from some of our own American dogs. In both Germany and France there is no Samoyed "club." There is a Nordic breed club that includes Sammies, Siberians, Malamutes, Elkhounds, Akitas and all of the other Spitz type breeds, most of which we don't have in this country. I guess the Finnish Spitz has now been recognized in the Miscellaneous class here, and there are a number of other Spitz breeds that are popular and being shown in the western European countries. Some of them are very interesting looking and, obviously, quite closely related.

It might be interesting for your readers to know that the man in Germany who has Kay Bailey's dog has had contact with a Samoyed breeder in Finland who has traveled in Russia and who has seen Samoyeds in Russia, although the Russian government officially says that they don't exist because they don't want to admit that the Samoyed people ever existed as a separate culture. Not any more than they want to admit that the Ukrainians or the Lithuanians, or the Laphians existed; it is all now simply "Russia." In an effort to seek that uniformity that they need for their system of government, they

have suppressed all of the influences and mention of any of the separate subcultures. There is probably some interesting research to be done if someone had access to do it. The article that I translated for your book had some interesting references to some old texts, and yet it doesn't seem as if they are accessible anymore.

Some of the other "Laika," which is the general term in Russian, had some very interesting, specific chores. There is one that simply hunts bear, and that's all. It resembles a cross between a Samoyed and an Akita. They are a very large, very independent dog; most of the Laika are very independent. I spent some time in Germany talking to some of the breeders of some of these different dogs. There is another of the Spitz breeds that does nothing but "tree" game. They tree lynxes and stand there and bark until the hunter comes to shoot them. That is all they do, that's their whole task and what they are bred for. That's what they are still being used for in the nordic countries. They are not especially great pets; they are strictly a hunting dog. There are more of those dogs that are hunters rather than herders, which might give us all some pause to think. Interesting, because there has been a great deal of dispute about the history of the Samoyed and what they actually did. The two schools of thought are 1) that they herded, and 2) that they guarded. After having talked to some of these people, I would tend to be of the later school; I expect that they guarded more than herded. None of the others herd; they all guard or hunt.

John: They are certainly, at least, a multi-purpose dog. Maybe they did both. (Laughter)

Carol: That's my husband, the diplomat! Well, it's all a guess anyway, now, because we don't know for certain, other than what the original explorers found out. It was really interesting to see.

John: Tell them what you told me about how casual the judging was. If you wanted to take pictures, you could even walk into the ring to do it!

Carol: Oh, yes, the handling is very casual. There are no professional handlers and there are no professional photographers. After spending the better part of my time at one of the shows OUTSIDE the ring, frustrated because I didn't have the right lens, I found out afterwards that I could have walked right into the ring and taken pictures and nobody would have minded. It would never have even occurred to me to ask because, of course,



Poppy at 6 months.

that isn't done here. As far as the judging goes, it is painstaking by comparison because the judge has to do a written critique of every dog he judges. They judge far fewer dogs in a day, maybe 50, and the dogs are benched. One judge had only seventeen dogs to judge and he took all day. He could allow himself that luxury because he didn't have to rush. They have many more judges per show than we do, and you might be an hour in the ring with eight Open bitches. You are basically standing there because the judge is taking the time to go over each dog and write this critique. It is very painstaking. In the FCI system, too, between your first CACIB and your second CACIB, a year must elapse; you cannot finish your championship in less than a year's time, and you can't be under a year when you start. You can't qualify for a CACIB or the CAC for any country until your dog is over a year, so this means there are no "puppy" champions, basically. The dog has to be durable and not fall apart; that simply doesn't happen. I've also noticed that the European breeders are much more patient; they don't really rush. They can't, because there aren't as many shows. Although distances are shorter in Europe, traveling is not as easy as it is here. In Germany, the autobahn is wonderful, but in France and Belgium they don't have the same system of freeways that we do here. We think nothing of driving eight hours; well, you can drive for eight hours and still not be all the way across France. Gas is much more expensive. The people that show dogs are usually hardcore breeders and they are really very dedicated. Then, of course, at every show you have the inevitable ones that come to that show because it is in that town and is most accessible to those people's pets; you can always tell those in the ring just like you can at an American all breed show. In Germany they have the additional system where somebody from the breed club comes and looks at your litter and tells you how many you can register, and whether or not they will be confirmed to be able to be shown. It is a very stringent system, and one that Americans would never put up with, but on the other hand it does eliminate a certain amount of substandard animals. It is another form of culling and a certain kind of selection that the breeder himself doesn't even do.

Do those puppies have to be put down?

Carol: No, they just don't allow them to be registered and their progeny couldn't



Ch. Belaya Sergeant Pepper.

be registered. There is also a different mentality that I've discerned among the Europeans, which is that they don't seem to have the big urge to instantly become breeders: People are perfectly happy to buy a pet and just have a pet, or even show it and just simply still have it as a pet. There is not this instant breeder syndrome that we have in this country where somebody shows a dog and thinks the next step is to automatically breed it. I questioned my friend, Michelle, on that because I wanted to know what she did with the puppies if they don't put them down. Well, there are a lot of people who simply want a pet and that's ALL they want. They want it to be registered, but they don't care if they never breed it or show it.

John: And France has a tremendous number of dogs.

Carol: They have more dogs per capita than we do. France is first, then Germany, then England and then us, statistically. The Europeans are dotty on dogs, and, of course, in some of the European countries they are allowed everywhere so you are much more aware that

everybody has dogs.

Some of those attitudes wouldn't be a bad idea for us to think about here, even though they are not forced on us by the system. If we all maybe thought about waiting a little longer on a puppy and watching it mature and making sure it is really what we want before we go on with it breeding-wise, maybe that is not a bad attitude to think about for ourselves.

Is there anything we haven't covered that you wanted to talk about?

John: The American Kennel Club used to have statistics that showed the average show life of the average person in dogs. A lot of people get into this for a short length of time and are then gone. Probably one of the worst things that can happen to a novice is to get an extremely good, winning dog as his very first dog. We all know this; the first dog should be a learning experience. Many people who have as a first dog one that maybe isn't too good, end up sticking with it longer. They learn right at the beginning that not every time you walk in the ring are you going to win. That's a hard lesson to learn with

your SECOND dog and can cool you off fast.

Carol: It can also be dangerous if that first dog is just average and mediocre. Then, if the dog wins sometimes and maybe doesn't win sometimes, the person really doesn't have the objectivity and they are tempted to go on with that dog and all they do is perpetuate the mediocrity. I think too many breeders compromise on what they really feel is "breeding" quality. Show and "breeding" quality need to be synonymous; if it isn't good enough to be shown, it isn't good enough to be bred, and vice versa. I don't go along with this, "Well, we'll keep her for a brood bitch."

John: The mentality of that idea is absolute nonsense; if she is not good enough to show, she should not be good enough to breed.

Carol: The only exception to that would be the bitch who was really good enough to show, but who was injured in such a way that she couldn't be shown. If she had a broken tail or something, fine, but the structure and everything else should be there.

John: I also don't go with this business of one outstanding show dog in a litter, and the littermate was good enough to show, but they bred it. Over a long period of time, breeding the better individuals, the dogs that ARE the good show dogs, is the way you are going to get the better dogs.

Carol: Providing the show dogs really are the better dogs.

John: Yes, providing they are, and that, again, is a very subjective thing. Novices need to understand this is a "show" and there isn't a ruler by which you can judge that the "tallest" (or whatever) one is going to win. This sport of judging dogs is very subjective and it involves people's feelings and emotions. It is a matter of presentation and there is no absolute way to judge. People get upset about winning and losing, and you have to be tough. (Laughter)

How long have you been in your present location?

Carol: Oh, goodness - it will be sixteen years in December.

John: We found this house through somebody who knew the dogs.

Carol: In fact, Ch. Czar of Entropy lived here before we did. He was a dog owned by Sally and Giles Cocklet in Montana. Those people had rented this house and John was a struggling student and I was a young mother, and we needed



Ch. Ivan Belaya of Taymylry CD.

a house to rent that would take dogs. We found out about this through Bob Penny's handling class. He is our neighbor and a wonderful man; we learned all about training dogs from him. The Cocklets also went to his class and we met them; they were moving and the house was available. I walked into this room and said, "I have to have this house, because I love this room." We've been here ever since; we rented first and when they decided to sell, we bought it.

Is there a "non-doggy" side to the Chittums?

Carol: Oh, heavens, yes. Several. (Laughter) We have more interests than are even good for us, I think. We didn't meet because of the dogs, we met because we were both active in international folk dancing and we both performed in two different performing groups. We ended up in a new group that was formed together, and so we met through folk dancing and we danced to the exclusion of practically everything else. We still do dance occasionally as a hobby, although we haven't done a great deal in the last couple of years; we do still enjoy dancing together when we have a chance. John has been

active in cycling (bicycle) for a long time and now our sons are both interested in that, too. We have also been involved in their activities very much, which is one of the reasons we kind of pulled back a little bit from all of the dog activities. I'm still active in the club, and we are both on the board of the Sammie club right now, but I've not done nearly the amount of showing in the last few years as I have before, because our children are our first commitment. We have two boys who have been very good musicians as well as athletes, and all of those things take a lot of time.

John: Part of the reason we all went to Europe this summer was because Peter was on tour with the Pasadena Boys' Choir. He was the primary soloist and they did performances in Notre Dame and Chartres.

Carol: It was absolutely one of the highlights of our lives as a family; we loved those concerts in France. We did not go on for the part of the tour in Germany; the boys were ten days in France and ten days in Germany and we were just with the tour for the first ten days because later I became the godmother of my friend's baby. This was quite a special summer for



Belaya's I'm A Pepper Too.

all of us. Peter is still in the Boys' Choir, so we have another year of that with concerts and rehearsals and so on; if it meant going to a dog show or to one of his concerts, you know what the choice would be. That has really been our other interest, that and getting this house restored!

John: I've started back to school and am going part-time at night. I do have the dog grooming business, and the interest in the dogs led to that. We needed a legitimate way to make the dog expenses, and we started the shop not really meaning to make it a profession. One thing led to another and I ended up with the dog grooming shop and not able to go on with school until recently.

Carol: I teach French. I was lucky enough to be asked to design a program for elementary school children at a private school for both French and Spanish, and this will be my eighth year of implementing this same program at the school. It has given me a wonderful way of being able to travel, as well as the friends that I've made through the dogs; the combination has been very fortuitous.

How have the dogs affected your

lives?

Carol: Speaking for myself, I think that even after all of the chewed, nibbled and piddled on things are taken into consideration, they've been a real positive asset because they've given us the opportunity to meet some really wonderful people. Many of our very best friends we have met through the dogs, and they are still our best friends because we find out that we all have other interests in common besides the dogs. That is the meeting ground and from there some of those people have come to be wonderful, life-

long friends.

John: The dogs themselves are very important and mean a great deal, but even more than that, it is the personal relationships that have developed from the involvement with the dogs.

Carol: In summing all of this up, I guess what I would want to say both to novices and my peers in dogs is that in the long run there are only two really durable things about the whole dog game. One is the human relationships, and the other is the gene pool. The rest of it is really not very important. Those are the things that really matter and those are the things that really make a contribution either to one's life or to the breed. Those are the things that we really need to look after.

Would you do it all again?

Carol: Yes.

John: Yes. The same way? Well, there are always differences and you think you might know better if you had another chance.

Carol: Maybe there are some breedings that I always regret that I didn't make. Pat Morehouse and I have talked about this a great deal. In retrospect we always wish we had been able to breed either an Ivan daughter to Khan, or a Khan daughter to Ivan, and it never fell into place at the right time. There was just never the right combination at the right time and we've always wished we could have. Now, we see some things that make us think that might have been a really nice combination.

John: He was really a sweet dog.

Carol: He was another dog that I should have mentioned and was a dog that I really admired; his temperament was superb. That was one of those things that if I had it to do over again I would have done; I also wish I had kept an Ivan daughter and I never did. Other people had good Ivan daughters, but I never did.

Well, thank you very much.

You're welcome. •

Breeders' Directory

Kennels are listed in alphabetical order.
KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS.

- p - puppies available occasionally
- d - grown dogs occasionally for sale
- s - stud service to approved bitches
- b - dog boarding available
- h - Samoyed handling

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8157, Stn F, Calgary, Alta, Canada T2J 2V3.

ALA-KASAM (psh), 914-246-7509. Thomas & Beverly Delaney, 7369 Fred Short Road, Saugerties, NY 12477.

ALEVER (ps), 414-876-2957. Eve Rittberg, Rt 1, Box 14, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020.

ALLEGRO (pdsb), 214-882-5858. Jim & Terry Young, Rt 3, Box 279, Lindale, TX 75771.

ALPHA (ps), 215-966-4079. John & Lucy Ackerman, 104 Fairview St, Macungie, PA 18062.

ALTIER (psh), 516-735-4829. Mrs Lillian Rusch, 144 Bloomingdale Rd, Levittown, NY 11756.

AMBERLANE (pds), 888-1000. P J Richardson, 8819 Antioch Rd, Overland Park, KS 66212.

ANATEVKA (pds), 619-448-7371. Mark Joseph Walsh, 9934 Pratt Ct, Santee, CA 92071.

ANTARES (ps), 228-8286. Jo Anne Marineau, 29241 Yellow