

# The SAMOYED



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# SAMOYED PEOPLE

The Samoyed Quarterly Talks With  
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*(Introductory conversation).*

*Now, maybe we should start right from the beginning and ask you how you first got started. I know that I did hear from someone that you had imported many of the original dogs. Could you tell us something about them; how you decided to get this breed; and why this breed; and where they came from? Why did you pick Samoyeds?*

Why did I pick Samoyeds? Because, as a child always liked white dogs and so, when I would go out to the farms to get a dog -- you see, we had no serum in those days with the dogs -- and if they got a mild case of distemper then they lived the rest of a normal life, but if they got a severe case there was no way to stop it. And so every couple of years until the last dog we had, I'd have to get a new dog. And I always picked a white dog and my Mother always scolded me for doing it because she said it got dirty in the snow and slush, and so forth. But I did. So, after we were married I had to have a dog, but I hadn't gotten one yet because we weren't permanently settled. And there was a little white-and-brown spotted small dog that came around that was very good, and everybody was stoning it. And all the neighbors were throwing at it, but they didn't know that I was feeding it. It wasn't going to leave. So, finally I couldn't stand it being so dirty. And, of course, I took it in the house; and so I bathed it. And they all wanted it. But when I couldn't stand the Texas climate and we came to California, I was asked to leave it at my father and mother-in-laws, and so I did. When they came out here, down on the streets in Los Angeles I saw a man who was crippled and was selling pencils. He had been crippled in the first World War. And he had a little white puppy beside him. And, of course, it struck me and when I went home that evening I told my husband, "Oh, I saw the cutest little puppy and it was only fifteen dollars." We thought about that fifteen dollars because he had just gotten out of service, and I had too, and we had gotten married on fifty dollars, so fifteen dollars was quite a lot. But, anyway, I worked it out with the man. He had given me his address so I went and got the little puppy, but it was not registered and it was an awfully cute little thing.

*How did he happen to have it?*

Well, he had an unregistered female and he had bred her, so I had her for 13-1/2 years and, of course, never bred her or anything. And then she died, she was sick for about two months -- didn't suffer at all, I had her put to sleep, and then I missed her so that 5 months later my husband came home with a registered Sam that he had seen advertised in the paper. She was only ten weeks old and of course I always did like her. And the next morning when we got up I put paper on the kitchen floor for her, and I knew her stool was (inaudible), and he said, "Well, take a ride over to the vet." And the vet said, "Oh, let me put her to sleep. She is ((inaudible)) and distempered." And I wouldn't



do it, and for three weeks I took her over to the vet every day and she started to get better. And I slept downstairs in a two-story house we had, but I had her on one twin bed downstairs and I was on the other all that time, and gradually she got over it. but by six months she had no teeth at all. She lived until she was 14-1/2, and she had never had any teeth after she was six months old. But that's how I started.

*About what time was that for you?*

That was in 1944.

*Since that was in 1944, then you really had your first Sam in the 30's, didn't you?*

Yes; she died in 1944 in the Spring.

*So when did you actually start breeding?*

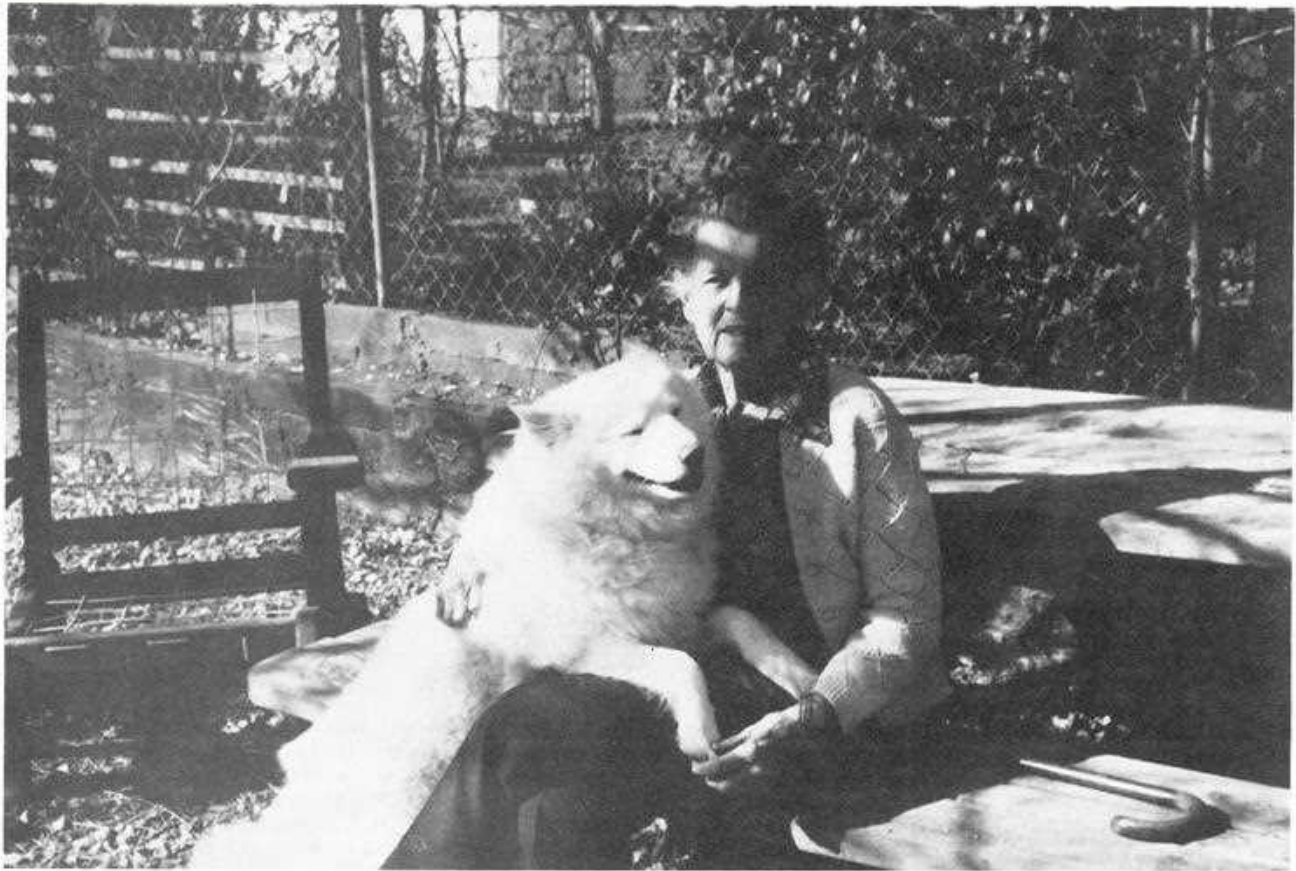
I started with her; we waited until she was 18 months old and then we bred her at 18 months to -- we had gone to three different dog shows looking at Sams because we wanted to know something about them. So we always chose one dog -- one always appealed to us above all the others, and so we got a catalog and in there we found the name of the dog and the owners so then we contacted them, the Robert Wards, they are both judges. And Bob judges all breeds; Dolly judges two or three. So they were the first people I knew -- first friends I had in San Juan Valley. Then we mated her to him and we got our first litter and Champion Kunto was my first champion out of my very first litter. And, of course, Wards and I have been very good friends ever since, naturally.

*In that litter, was he the one that finished, or were there any others that finished from that first litter?*

That's taking me back many years -- 30 some years. No, I think he was the first one. I think he was the only one in that litter that finished.

*You know, like with your kennel name, it's Kobe; does this come from the English?*

Yes, but that doesn't come in until later. I bred her to Ward's Starchak twice and then I bred her once more, and then I went to a beginner in dogs. You know, they think they have the best dog in the world and so I had to use Kunto (we call him "Boy"). Back in his pedigree his grandfather



was the English import like ((inaudible)) Agnes Mason, and so I wrote to her and sent her the pedigree and she thought it would be okay. It was outbreeding. There was a dog advertised in the English Dog World -- Assemblat -- his parents were both champions and that's the pedigree I sent up to Agnes. Then Agnes thought it would be fine and then we wrote to Mrs. Perry who had, at that time, the best-known kennel in England and we imported her in whelp to the English champion at that time, Champion Raff of Kobe who was doing all the winning so that was Ceretta of Kobe and she came to me in whelp to Raff of Kobe. Later Raff was imported into this country because, of course, it had been some time since anybody had imported an English Sam and so it was quite advertised a lot in the bulletins, etc.

*How did you actually decide to start importing? Did you have someone suggest that certain dogs would be good to bring in or did you find these dogs on your own?*

No, this magazine came to me and to this day I don't know why or how I got that magazine because I was not known anyplace at that time, you see. But it came and here was this Sam and I knew that Agnes had imported White Way of Kobe, and I just wanted one of it, and we didn't have any children, and so as a result we decided we would get her. And then she talked about importing. And they had kept her over there a couple of weeks longer because a new type of serum for distemper had come out over there, or would be out in two weeks, and she wanted to give the dog a Ceretta bath before she shipped it to me so I thought she was well protected. Well, we had two acres where we were living then in the Valley and I had the club coming, and all, but they wouldn't hold their meetings off and on, and this time there was some disease around. I knew some Sams had a disease so I asked that no one bring Sam, or come on my place. They could park on the

street, but not to come on the place. Well, somebody with their sick dog came and my Ceretta of Kobe got the disease.

*And was this distemper?*

Oh, yes. But when I took her to the veterinarian he said that there were various kinds of distemper, and that the English type that she had had the shot for was not affected with our American types. So I lost her and I was so upset about that that we had decided to get another one. And then that was Champion Monte of Kobe, and then after that I got two more. And the last one Janina of Kobe just died in June, 1975. They were both 14-1/2.

*How did you happen to start using the name Kobe?*

Oh, a little later, of course, I was breeding and people started to use my Kobe name, you see, and I'd advertise and somebody else would advertise and they didn't have any Kobe blood at all and I had bred five; at that time, I had only had four. And one of my friends -- that's one of her children on the piano -- said they were trading on my name. And friends talked to me and finally I registered it just to protect, because I wouldn't have registered the name Kobe, although Kobe does mean dog. But otherwise I would have gotten some Northern name, or something like that. Ceretta was in whelp when she came and she had seven puppies. We kept all but one, and then I sold her to a handler and he went to shows and took her as a puppy and I guess she must not have had a good distemper shot because she got distemper and died.

*So you kept those six puppies? That was quite a few to keep. Did you have them with you for a long time?*

Oh, yes. I have a picture of the two that I made Champions out of here.

Now, this is a hard question, I know. It is really hard to get down to a number. How many litters altogether were there?

I would have no idea.

Take a wild guess; would there be 20?

Oh, my, no. Let's see...I have been breeding for 34 years and usually after my husband passed away I always had probably 4 litters a year and he died in 1932, so I couldn't tell you -- three or four per year. By that time I had 12 dogs for about -- I couldn't begin to say for how many years -- and then I kept any puppy that I liked. And all of a sudden, I don't know how many years later, I discovered I had 37 Sams!

You must have had a pretty big kennel.

I had 12, and after my husband died I had a 30-year-old girl who was Hollywood-struck; you know what I mean, and she had moved to a barn that was right behind me that was made into living quarters and she complained because I had 12 dogs. But it wasn't my dogs that were barking; it was someone across the street who had a Doberman and a Schnauzer. I think he turned them loose every night. He had a grocery store in Hollywood and it was close to where a lot of the moving picture people lived and he was afraid of being robbed because he was so well-known and so it was their two males. They kept them closed in the day and then let them out at night. And they would circle the house. So the City contacted me and said I would have to either get rid of my dogs or move. And it was very hard to find a place because I didn't want the industrial district. But that's where I had to go, eventually. And I was there 21 years until I moved out here. And then I only moved out here, really, as well as health, I moved out here mainly because the police were coming in to see that I was all right and warning me all the time to keep my gates locked and my windows and doors locked at all times, because there was many, many a time the street that I lived on was roped off by the police and we would have 12-13 police cars and everything down there and it got to the place where they would tell me it was just too dangerous for me to live there alone because I had dogs, but sad but true, my dogs all have a very gentle disposition. And they would go and say, "Oh, hello, come on in, quick. Play with us!" So they weren't a guard dog at all.

So, finally it got so it was just best that I move and I didn't want to have to move again so I chose Sun City, Senior Citizens, because I was so alone down there that I wanted neighbors. It was just the wise thing to do and that is the only reason why I came.

Especially you do have room for some of your things.

Oh, yes, you have seen my back yard. I don't like the rocks. I talk about getting them taken out but I am told it is very expensive.

Plus it is probably very easy to care for. I have another question for you, too. This is a very hard one, but of all the litters you have bred, do you have one litter you would consider the best?

The best litter. Wait -- you go to this. I have line bred so many years that I know the type of dog I can get by breeding certain dogs together and as I was playing with the pictures here waiting for you to come, I can see by certain pictures that now, 15 years later, the dogs look alike. My champion Babbitt and my Robin really look so much alike that after a number of years you have a hard time telling them apart.

So you really developed a type or a strain?

Oh, yes, definitely. So much so that when I was showing all the time, people who had my dogs could take them into the ring and the judge would say, "Oh, you have an Encino dog, haven't you?" These two dogs, as I said, I can tell, that's why.

I think that's marvelous. I think that is really the test of a really good kennel.

Well, I have done line breeding straight through from the very beginning. The English dogs were line-bred with the Champion White Way Kobe, you see. So, from the very beginning I have done line-breeding. Of course it comes out. Now, Janina, my last English dog, was slightly different than my original English dogs, but still you see how many years between.

Right. So you really don't think you have one litter that you think of as your best litter?

No, of course, your first litter you always remember. And then I had two litters with twelve puppies each, which is very unusual, and one I had three years ago had 14 in it. Now, there's only one in the middle that has ever been born with fourteen pups in it.

That is quite a few, isn't it?

Yes, for Sam. Usually they run from six to eight; that's the average.

I have some questions here that I think will end up helping the new people who are in this. Do you help your bitches whelp?

Oh, very definitely. I never leave them. I always have them whelp in the house. I always have them whelp at the foot of my bed. I have never had a whelping out in the kennel, anything like that. And yes, definitely. And I stay right by them, and nine times out of ten they start to whelp from twelve to two o'clock in the morning. And then I am there with them. But I definitely do. And I have saved many a pup by helping them out of the canal; also breaking the sac and everything.

Do you leave some of the bitches on their own?

No, never. Because when a bitch has a big litter they get too tired. They don't break the sac quickly enough, or they try to eat the after-birth without breaking the sac, they are so tired, and then the puppy swallows water, the fluid, and dies. We have saved many and many a pup by doing that. Nor do I put small puppies to sleep. I especially wanted Robin and so I bred the dogs that I wanted as her parents and the mother had five pups -- four males each weighing 14 ounces, and along came Robin and she only weighed 5-1/2 ounces. Now, had I put her to sleep, I wouldn't have had her and they say "Oh, she will be a 'runt'." There is no such thing as runts; you make a runt by not feeding properly, by not feeding the mother properly while she is in whelp. And then they will stay small if you don't give them the right nourishment while she is nursing the puppies. But now Robin is 21-1/4 inches tall, and yet a lot of breeders would have put her to sleep because she only weighed 5-1/2 ounces. And here she is: lovely. She has been in two shows and took the blue ribbon for her class each time. So you see, she is good.

You brought up something interesting here. You mentioned a lot of people don't feed their bitches adequately when they are in whelp. Is there anything special you do for your bitches?

Sure. I always give them raw meat. Always-- raw beef and I always give them milk. I always give them cottage cheese and they get it every





Ch. Kobe-Sur-Ruff of Encino

Ch. Kobe-Du-Dinka of Encino

day. Also, of course, I use kibbie. I double the amount of Pervenal for the mother.

*Do you use a vitamin or a supplement besides that?*  
I use extra calcium.

*While we are still on this feeding thing, we can talk about -- how about puppies? Do you ever supplement feed your puppies? Besides what they are getting from the bitch?*

With the large litters -- I have had one Mother had four litters -- I never let my Mothers have more than four litters in a lifetime, and there is one that had four litters and had ten each time. She was Winners Bitch at one of our National specialties and she had three majors with twelve points and I had had her home less than two months when she had her uterus infection. And to save her life I had to have her spayed. I explained the circumstances to the American Kennel Club and all they said was they could see my viewpoint but it was a point of order for them and they could not sanction it. I wished afterwards I hadn't even mentioned it and just finished her. It wasn't fair. She had had 40 puppies living; it proved definitely that she was a good brood bitch and good quality.

*I think I would have said nothing. And just gone ahead and done it. Is there like when you feed them with a bottle?*

With the large litters -- two travelers each, I divide them into three groups...in boxes: 1, 2, 3. And then I put the mother on one side, and put the four of them on the upper nipples and sit there and wiggle them so they can't go to sleep so

they got their nourishment, and keep them there so I'll know between 5 and 10 minutes -- depending on how they nurse and then I take them off, turn her over, and put the next four on the other four nipples and while they are wet-nursing I would hand-feed the first four with a bottle. And then I would take the second bunch off, and do the same and put the third bunch and let them have all eight. And then each time I would put box #2 on first, because the last milk is always the richest. So then they all got their turn at all eight and the richest of the milk, until they could eat.

You see, I had never seen a puppy or an animal born, so the first litter, they were five weeks old and I was still feeding the mother very heavy and so forth. And when Agnes Mason came down...everyone knows Agnes because she was very prominent...and they were lovely, fat puppies and she asked, "Now what are you feeding them?" And I said, "I'm not feeding them; the Mother's nursing them." And she said, "Oh, you should have started early. I start at 18 days." As long as the Mother has plenty of milk at 18 days she starts giving them a little meat balls with a pinch of Pervenal in them, so from then on I always have started at 18 days.

*And do you use this raw meat? Never cooked?*

Oh, no, never cooked because you destroy half of the nourishment. I always use raw meat; my dogs today are getting raw meat every day.

*And you start at 18 days?*

Yes. If it is a large litter and the Mother has plenty of milk, then I start feeding milk around 3-1/2 weeks, and then at four weeks I will

start the puppy meal. And add it gradually so they don't get diarrhea.

*I think that is close to just about what most people do, I think.*

I am afraid a lot of people today use only the puppy chow because it has powdered milk in it. And that powdered milk is not a fat milk. And so they get no fat, and the Mother's milk is very, very fattening. So I don't think they get proper nourishment. I tell you when it comes out later in life if the Mother hasn't been properly fed and the puppies will be more susceptible to disease and they won't live quite as long.

*I think nourishment is probably such a big factor.*

As I tell people when they get puppies, if you feed your puppy -- use the same rules for your puppy that you use for your babies and your children -- then you will have good dogs. Then they will reach their maximum of development that their genes need.

*Common sense is a good thing. I have another question; these are questions that are sent to us, and one is: "What is the best dog you ever bred?" I know it is so hard to pick out one dog.*

You see, I can't, because I just couldn't afford to campaign any one, on top of which I had so many dogs by letting myself get up to 37 and I adored them all. I wanted each one to have their turn in the shows. And as a result I just didn't have the money to do that, and then of course after I couldn't show them myself -- I showed them for 15-18 years -- but then after I couldn't show any more, it just got too expensive.

*Is there any special one that made you the happiest?*

No, I just can't pick it; no, because I rejoiced with each one!

*I think in talking with you that this is something you should be very proud of, is the fact that your dogs had developed a definite line that people could actually tell they were your dogs.*

Oh, definitely. You can, today. Now, the picture up there; he is three years old now and he is the same type as Raff back here; he is the same type as that. And yet he is way back in the dog, maybe, four generations back. Yet your line breeding does that. Of course, if you grade, and I grade. And cull. Well, to me, people say they cull and then they put that puppy to sleep. I can't do that. I grade my puppies and ship them -- easily three-fourths of all the pups I have bred have been shipped. I have shipped two or three to Hawaii; I have shipped to Alaska, all over Canada; I have shipped to Brazil, Old Mexico, and I think I have puppies in all states of the United States except a few. I think it is about 40 that I have shipped to over the years. I have shipped to so many; I have a letter here I haven't answered yet. They say that I was recommended highly to them for honesty, which makes me feel good.

*And they know you have a very consistent type of dog, too. Do you have some one person who has influenced your breeds? Is there a person or some thing that has influenced your breeding program?*

I would say Agnes Mason because she was up in Alaska -- she was raised there -- and her father had a team of dogs and she had a team of dogs and she was up there until she went to college. Then they had to come down here because I don't believe the University of Alaska was in existence at that time. So she knew what a racing dog was. Well, I have never bred for show dogs, for glamour dogs, never. I have bred for working dogs because they are working dogs. They pull the sledges in the Arctic, so I have always wanted to keep my dogs that size. Now a

lot of people today are breeding for big dogs -- big dogs -- but I have discovered that some of them, regardless of what they breed, they bring back to the original size of dogs because in the Arctic they are the size that the standard calls for, male and female, they are that size.

*From your trips to the Arctic, then, I suppose that helped you decide.*

Yes, yes. I went first in '62 and the last time in '71 and the White Way dogs -- that is Agnes Mason's kennel -- and probably people today would know a White Way by their name. But you see that's what she bred for. And structure, as you know, shows gait. I mean, gait shows structure. And so what is a working dog if it hasn't structure? And when you breed for something like coat; now I love a beautiful head, I do love that. And I wouldn't--- the English male that I got, I used him three times. And I never used a male, either, for a stud until he was 18 months old. But he always threw his very coarse, chowy, head, so I never used him again. He lived to be over 15 years old. I just didn't care for his head, and also he did not gait for me. He was good. I have had all my dogs x-rayed since 1952. But he was, oh sort of stunted in gait and together those two things -- I never used him again.

*Wasn't that good of you? I mean, after importing him, some people would not have cared what he did.*

I think perhaps too many breeders -- not all, by any means -- but the few will hurt the breed. But I think too many do breed just for money. I did this because I was alone and hadn't anything to do and I was in the industrial district. I could have all the pups I wanted and no one could complain, but I do think that some of them think too much of the money instead of the good of the dog.

*Two other questions here: How many Samoyeds do you keep now, and what is the most you ever kept? Now we know, 37 is the most you kept and those were all adults, not including the puppies. How many do you have now?*

I have the two and am purchasing one which will be all my blood line. And the color of the male in that picture will be the sire. Of course he is my breeding; the female is not my breeding. She has the mark of the English -- I owned her and then when I came down here I had to sell her. Because I wanted my own breeding to bring with me. But then she goes back to my blood line. So the English line moves into my English line and then on the other side she goes into my regular blood line.

*I have some more of these questions that are, I think, really aimed at the new people of the breed. I will just go through them all once and then we will go back to each one. Do you help a mating along? Have you ever refused to service a bitch? How about the first one: Do you help breedings along? Some people will just leave their two dogs.*

I think I went into that pretty good, didn't I?

*I think that was before the tape was on, so we have to make you go through that again.*

Okay, I didn't know. Oh, definitely, I have helped my Mothers. From the time the temperature starts to drop, I never leave; I stay with them. Sometimes for two days, sometimes it will drop in the middle of the day and they will start dropping by evening.

*Billie, you misunderstood me. I am sorry; I didn't explain myself. I meant, do you help a mating along? When the bitch is in season and they mate her to the dog?*

Oh sure. I stay with them. If it is not

necessary -- no. Especially with a maiden bitch, I stay regardless, but I often do that to hold her. But also she has to be in season. I never breed a maiden bitch before the 12th or 13th day.

*What do you think about some people just leaving them?*

I don't believe in that at all. I think that is too dangerous; something might happen and cause a separation and you could kill the male. He could bleed to death and you could tear the female, terribly. Oh, no. If it is a matron I usually don't have to help them at all, if they are both experienced.

*I think that is very helpful to know. Have you ever refused to service a bitch?*

Many times.

*How come?*

I have had many people bring a six-month-old to under a year to me for service, and I have never given service. I always advise them to wait until they are 18 months. You see, a Sam isn't mature until he is 3 years old and so after they are 3 years old they never change in structure. Oh, they can get fat or thin, you know, but they never change in structure -- it is complete. Then I have had registered Sams brought to me with their papers that they have declared -- right now I am thinking of two -- they have declared they were full-blooded Sams, and I know perfectly well they are not and yet they are registered with the American Kennel Club as Sams. They couldn't be because they have none of the characteristics.

Neither will I give service to a dog who has a bad fault; I don't want that fault passed on.

*Or for someone to say, "Look at what that dog sired."*

Yes, they do that. But I wasn't thinking so much of that as I was thinking of the fact of selling a puppy to somebody knowing that it wasn't right.

*I know. That's a good question, of selling the puppies, that we need to go into. I think prices are probably getting out of hand. What do you think of prices? What were they when you were selling puppies and what do you think is a reasonable price now?*

Well, when I started -- I got the female in '44 and then I bred her when she was 18 months old and I was getting \$50 for top quality -- show-type quality. But then I was paying seven cents a pound for horsemeat at that time, too, which was quite different because now for puppies I get the lean meat and I am paying as high as 52c a pound for young puppies and then I get just the regular ground beef for the adults and it has some fat, etc., in it.

*How about now? What do you think is a reasonable price?*

It depends. There is one breeder who keeps her dogs until they are from four to six months old. And she housebreaks them -- I only paperbreak -- and she takes them to training class and then if she keeps them until they are six months, or older, she gets some points on them. Now those are worth much more. Of course, because she has fed them all that time and she gets anywhere from \$350 to \$500, which is, I think, very fair, because she has put a lot of work and energy and money into them. But today, I sell mine -- if I have to ship them -- I sell them for \$225. And if I don't have to ship them, then it is \$200. And then if there is a couple of top quality I will sell them for \$150 or \$175; if there is one that I don't want to have bred then it is pet quality and I sell them for \$25, without papers.

*You do withhold papers for one of that quality?*



Janina of Kobe at 7½ years  
Santa Ana Show 1968

Definitely.

*Do you ever sell the puppies on terms?*

I did years ago, but I find that for me it isn't a good thing. I discovered years ago that people were buying puppies that really shouldn't have bought them. They didn't have the money to feed them. They would give them only kibble from the moment they got them and that does not produce a good, mature dog. So since then I take a deposit when they send the order to me. As I said, three-fourths of mine were shipped out-of-state so I have a deposit and then if they were to pay in-between until the puppy is ready to ship, I take it and then the puppy is paid for when they get it.

*At about what age do you let your puppies go?*

I won't ship before three months. And I prefer 3-1/2 when I ship out of country. But if somebody comes and picks them up, I let them go at 10 weeks, never before 10.

*Do you ever, or do you now, ever have sales where you required puppies to come back from a bitch?*

I have, only if it is on my blood line. I never have unless it is on my blood line. If it is stud service, no, I don't.

*There's a question, too. What do you think is a fair stud service? Like what was it when you first started, and what is a fair stud service now?*

I believe stud service was \$50; it seems to me I remember \$40, too, but today I get \$85 for an unproven stud, \$100 for proven stud and if he is a champion, then \$125. I am perfectly satisfied. Some people get \$150-\$200, etc., just because they are campaign dogs. But when I give stud service I also ask them to call me in case they need help of any kind. Bring them back and let me see them and I will help them in any way I can. I grade puppies

for them and if they are not used to grading them I do everything like that.

*That's another question that would be really good... especially for the new people in the breed. At what age do you evaluate your puppies and what do you look for?*

I never evaluate a puppy before it is 8 weeks old. I watch the puppies from the time they get on their feet. I know pretty well what to watch out for because after all, having bred dogs for so many years, I know my own line very well and I know exactly what to look for and what to like and what not to like. But in helping somebody else grade their dogs, their puppies, I don't know all the ancestries a lot of times so then I look for gait, front and back, carriage, general appearance, whether their tail is too flat in the back or whether it is placed too high or whether it is placed too low on the body, or whether it is just right, so it makes a nice arch with the back to balance up with the head; whether a puppy holds its head straight out or whether it has a nice arch or whether it is too erect. And so then its head balances nicely with its tail.

*So then after you do look at them after 8 weeks do you see any change when they get to about 12 weeks?*

Oh, yes, you can tell lots more. When I have to grade at 8 weeks I like to wet cement and have the puppies gait on this. Then you can see the placement of their feet, but after they are 10 to 12 weeks old then you can see very plainly. Put them out in the driveway and have them gait. Have someone call them to and from you and then you can tell very easily, and as I said, gait shows structure, of course.

*Sometimes you will see a dog that has excellent conformation and it moves in a rather restricted way, and sometimes you see dogs without conformation and they just move beautifully. Do you have any ideas why that is. Sometimes it is a question that I think about too and wonder why sometimes a dog with good conformation just doesn't seem to move just right. And I don't know why.*

Because in conformation is really different from structure. Conformation is generally an all-over picture and when the judge puts his hand on a dog, he feels things in his hands -- any long-coated breed -- he feels things that we can't see, unless we put our hands on him, and probably the structure of the dog that doesn't go up, although he is a beautiful dog, isn't correct.

*So, again, coat hides a lot of things.*

And, also, the handler hides a lot of things. If they aren't showing the dog correctly, that is why handlers go up with a poor dog because they are a professional. They know how to cover up the minor faults, and also a very good dog they just will not accept it to show. Of course, then they don't win and they lose customers.

*At what age should puppies be placed in their new home? How do you train the puppies at what age? Say, you are going to keep a puppy, and show. When do you start training the puppy?*

I handle my puppies from the very beginning. And I will hold them and pet them at three or four weeks. And I will just put them on the table and put my hands under their bodies and just lightly bounce them up and down and say "stay." From then on I watch them, but I usually start at six weeks, by letting a very little lead drag with them and they learn with that. And I then I pick the lead up and say, "Good girl; good boy." And then they do what I want them to. And then you just go ahead from there. With just simple words, "Stay",

"Stand", etc.

*Talking about training and going on from there, what do you think about taking a Sam to obedience training?*

I would never -- never -- take a Sam to an obedience class before it is 12 months old. A Sam is very outgoing and a beginner always feels it loves people and everything is just fine. Going to take it and have it just in perfect condition to show. Because a Sam is so outgoing and love people so -- but they are very sensitive to the voice, especially the owner's voice, and it is always the owner who trains his dog. And a cross voice can make a dog duck, make a Sam duck -- and jerking can make them rather afraid of the lead. And they get to the place, well personally, I like to see a dog with spirit. I like to see his face light up and all. And if you give obedience training to a puppy before they are 12 months old, you can take that out. They will stand there like a statue and just stare at you -- afraid that you might scold them. Maybe they are not doing it right and you are going to scold them, and they don't like that. And I have been backed many times by my customers for telling them not to show them -- after they are a year old, show them, sure it's fun.

*Talking about temperament in a Sam...What do you think is the ideal temperament?*

Of course, I sold one dog -- a female, and I sold her to people in Texas whose son wanted a dog that would guard his 85-year-old Mother. And I told them the dog was not my breeding, by the way. And it was one I had bought as a puppy. But I told him that I wished he would not breed her because of her disposition, because she growled, and so forth, and I did not like that in a Sam. And he said it was exactly what he wanted because he didn't like his Mother being alone. So he took her and he wrote to me a number of times after that for almost a year and he said it was exactly as he wanted. She had a major in 8 points, I had put that on her, but I didn't want him to breed her at all. And so I sold her and they were delighted. The man was delighted with her.

*So you like a very friendly dog?*

I like a friendly dog. Now you can train a dog to bark when people come. I did have Roga guard me; he wouldn't let anybody come near. But I trained him. This was just after my husband passed away. So I trained him to guard me. And he would bark if anybody came to the window of the house. I went to the same service station for years and the same man always waited on me and he wouldn't allow that man to come near the car. He would bark -- and I would tell him it was okay -- and he would wag his tail and pet him all and everything. But you can train the dog to do that. But they would attack a man, unless you have the wrong disposition and that was what I was afraid of with this female.

*What do you think about intelligence of Sams compared with other breeds?*

Well, I don't know now what AKC says, but years ago when I was active -- and that is 20 years or so ago -- the Sam was one of the six breeds of dogs that AKC recognized for children and for their disposition that you could trust them and I don't know whether that is so today or not because I do know some that I could not recommend.

*And also St. Bernards, that we have always known as being a typically friendly dog and now there are some that will attack. It has to be due to terrible planning and breeding.*

I took a dog to a training class once and the trainer was a woman and she had St. Bernards and she



*Kobe-Du-Kinka of Encino, BOS Long Beach 1951, Judge Lepine*

warned us. She said, "You cannot trust all St. Bernards because some of them are very friendly, do not overstep with them when you go to a dog show."

*This is a question that was brought up before. Can all Samoyeds pedigrees be trusted as to accuracy? You know, we were talking about that when you said people came with registered dogs and you just knew they hadn't, so that is a tough question.*

In any breed, in any line of work, regardless of lawyers, or doctors, or anything, you have people who are not honest. It is the same thing in the dog world because twice that I can think of right now. Once over in Encino and once on Fulton Avenue in North Hollywood, I had women come and ask me for papers for their dogs because they were not registered, and I naturally refused and tried to explain to them what they were doing, that it would get into the pedigree and then people who would want a certain blood line would buy and because it had certain dogs in it, and they really weren't in there. Both times I was told, "I know a breeder who for \$25 would give me papers. Why don't you?" I told them it was dishonest.

*That's terrible, but as you say, it happens with human beings.*

Yes, with human beings, and some are this way and some are the other way.

*This next question is almost a question in semantics*

*in line breeding.*

Let's go back to the other. I had a pedigree come back to me from the Midwest and they had one of my dogs as a dam.

*They had the nerve to send it to you?*

They had sold puppies that didn't have my blood line in at all and yet here was my blood line. So, yes, people can falsify. When you sign your papers you guarantee that it is true as far as you possibly know.

*What do you think of inbreeding, line breeding, out-crossing? You developed a line that was definitely one type of dog.*

When we got our first registered Sam we just took it from the people. We didn't know anything at all and it wasn't until I wanted to breed her that I started to question that and that is why we went to the three dog shows to see which dog we liked best. So we always chose the same dog. We never spoke to one person at those shows; we just went and stood and watched and decided which one we wanted. And of course dogs change in the shows each day, each show, and we always chose the one. And then we found out that dog had been bred by Agnes Mason of White Wave Kennels up in Sacramento and then we got the name of the owner out of the show catalogue and went to see these people. And it was Bob and Dolly Ward that had Starchak that was made a champion and so we bred twice to him and then kept three males. Then

we couldn't choose between males with the Mother, so that's when I had to start going out for stud service and then I got my first English import in order to breed to my champion out of my very first litter, Ch. Kunto.

*We have already answered things like: Would you breed to a dog with a very serious fault that he had outstanding. You wouldn't. Suppose he had very outstanding points. Do you think you would breed to him, then?*

What do you mean? No dog is perfect; you have to remember that. No dog is perfect and a minor fault which didn't influence structure, yes, I would breed to him. Now coat would make no difference to me because knowing and having seen those dogs in Alaska I know that they don't have the big, long coat. They have the medium length coat, but the undercoat is so dense that you can't find the skin and that is the type that I would breed to. But people, especially beginners, want the glamour so they, not knowing structure, they go for glamour and forget that this structure under that can make a working dog. They are working dogs, definitely. And sled dogs.

*What do you think about special (inaudible) and the dog makes the top ten? Does that mean anything?*

I think it is fine if you have the money to do it. If you have the time to spend on it and if you are willing to travel all around and you have a good dog that doesn't have a major fault and just minor faults. Then shoot her because that is the way you get stud service. And that is the way you get known throughout the world of your breed.

*Talking about getting known, that brings us to: Do you think a breed becoming very popular with the general public. Do you think that helps?*

No, it hinders it. It hinders the quality of dog because they will breed anything then. I remember one Christmas when something like 26 poodle ads in the Los Angeles Times and some of them were as low as \$25 just to get rid of the unwanted puppies. No, I think it hinders the breed; I think it makes the breed go down in quality.

*I think so, too; I almost feel that some breeds are becoming too popular.*

Even if I didn't want to breed as near and as close to the standard as possible, I would hesitate about big coats due to them hiding faults. And, too, in the North Bay, in the Arctic, they ice up. In their change of climate, they ice up.

*There are many people in breeds -- not just Samoyeds -- but every breed, seem to breed to the just current, so they don't seem to care about the pedigree of the dog themselves. Do you know, or have you known, many people who really understood Samoyeds and really, really knew what they were doing?*

Yes, I have. I have known quite a few. Because quite a few of the earlier breeders, and I know a number of breeders today, who are very conscientious about what they do, and what they breed. And they study pedigrees. Now a beginner, just breed to the winner. They don't know yet. They haven't been into a breed long enough to realize that the first qualifications for any breed is to do the work that it was born to do. And bred to do. And not just for looks.

*You mentioned sled dogs; I have always been fascinated by sled dogs.*

Oh, yes, that Christmas card was a card that Mrs. Dorothy Perry of England sent to me one year and it was taken in Switzerland and I do have a

large picture, and am trying to find it. It seems to be missing.

*Sled dogs have intrigued me.*

I have some pictures out there; I was going through a lot of pictures because I want to get some framed. Not being busy raising pups and everything like that, I am going to work now to get my pedigrees in condition. Of course I have pedigrees back 35-40 years because I was behind when I started and I want to get them in condition and I have boxes and boxes of pictures.

*I was raised in New Hampshire and they did have some sled races and I had gone to sled dog races there.*

There is a man up there now who has Siberians, I don't remember his name, who has gone to Alaska many times and has taken his dog to the dog races and several times he has won. I think he is a veterinarian, if I remember correctly. I didn't notice his name last year in the list. I take the Alaskan magazine and then I also take a magazine that is just for people who do sledding.

*I wonder if a picture like that, if you would let Don use it, wouldn't be a good picture for the front of the magazine.*

You most definitely could not. I hate to part with it. I couldn't replace it at all, you see, because John Ludwig who is our show photographer, as a favor to the mother of those two children, enlarged it and Jean had a picture made for me and for two other people and she has one. But did it just as a favor so it is impossible to ever get it but I would worry about it. Because I had it in one of my albums and I always let people see my albums.

*We can go into something right here, then. We are talking about sledding and this is a good time to bring this up. Did you, or do you, condition your dogs. Is there anything you do to keep them in shape?*

I just feed day after day the same thing. I always feed meat, half a pound per dog, even when I had 37, I did that. My dogs have always come first. My dogs are by far more important than a dog show and the people I sell them to. I will never beg anybody to show them. And I don't sell a puppy and say, "You can have it if you show it." The first thing is a happy home for my dog. What was your question?

*Is there anything such as roadwork or exercise?*

No, I have never taken them beside a car and I always warn everybody about doing that due to the fact that you don't know. You might go too fast or the dog might see something across the way and jerk and be thrown under the wheels. But if they go very slowly, its okay, lots of people do it. But I have always had plenty of room that my dogs run loose in the field. Because all my dogs have taken their turn being up at the house, even when I had 37, they all had their turn. I have had, generally, 3 of the dogs at my house at a time and they are delighted and I keep them for about 10 days to 2 weeks and then I take them back and bring the next bunch out. And then they around the house; at the one place I had the two acres and the front acre was fenced with a six-foot chain-link fence and I just put half of them out there and my males together with my females and everything. I have always been able to put my males and females together.

*Oh, that is one of our questions. Can your adult males stay together even if there are bitches in season?*

I have always had them and I have taken them out. Now, today with neighbors I couldn't do it. I put Jimmy in boarding kennel because I didn't want to

disturb my neighbors but no, I have never had fighting due to dogs being in season. Of course I wouldn't put a female with dogs if she were in season. Of course not, but you just use common sense, that's all.

*The question we never get to when we are talking about feeding. Do you feed once or twice a day?*

I feed only once. I have always given my dogs treats every so often, even when I had the big number, I would give them each a cup of milk in the morning but I have always fed late in the afternoon due to the fact that get them adjusted to that before they are sold. Of course I never sell a dog after they are six months old. I have fallen too much in love with it! Except that one I talk of that went to Texas; she was nine months old, but as I said she was growling and, but anyway, on holidays I have bought weiners, or various things like that. They always have a treat on holidays just the same as I do.

*I know; I am afraid I have the same problem. I don't like to get rid of puppies.*

When I had my first litter I kept them until they were 3-1/2 months old and they all started to pick on the big, fat, lazy one. And I said to my husband, "Well, now it is time to sell them." I can part with them now because you can't have them picking on another dog.

*What do you think about pigment in the dog? Would you breed to the dog who is missing pigment?*

It depends on the amount of pigment that is missing, and it also depends on the age of the dog. My English dogs were very strong in pigment, and often the puppies were born with black noses and black eyelids. I still have it very strong in some of my puppies; it will come through very strongly. In my last one, Janina, it came through very strongly. There is just a difference; I find that a dog can have over an inch of broken lipline when it is six months old; it may fill up in a couple of months or it may not fill up until it is eighteen months old. But they do fill up.

*Have you ever had any, then, that never completed their lipline?*

No, they always fill up. Now, my first champion had a little break back in the corner of his mouth until suddenly at two years (he was a champion before he was a year old) I was grooming him and working with him when I realized "Why, that's gone!" I don't know when it filled up. If they were all white -- no -- I wouldn't breed to it. Because that is too much albino. In the North Country, the story is for what we need and our dogs did it back in the 1940's. Their noses turned pink in the winter and then black in spring, because they are Arctic dogs and they had to turn because they lived in the snow -- no trees, no shrubbery, or anything for them to hide in. A black nose was a give-away to the enemies so nature took care of it and turned them pink in winter, and we did that for a long time.

*Do they still do that so much?*

No, not down here. I don't know about up in the snow country. But they often will start to turn around four or five years...they will get a little spotty, which goes back to the original dogs.

*I have a question, and I don't know if this is correct or not, but someone was telling me that in the early Samoyeds that they allowed dogs with some spotting. Is that allowed?*

Oh, yes, that is allowed.

*But we don't see that; we see biscuit.*

I am talking only of biscuit. And black is a

fault. It is definitely a severe fault. Tan is allowed; we don't like brown. But tan or buff is allowed. And lots of dogs when you are bathing them their ears will appear a little buffy, but as soon as they dry they are pure white.

*Do you mind seeing the biscuit?*

I get so many litters. I want my puppies to be pure white, but I have bred for pure white dogs. That was another thing about the male: he, too, a little color, a little buff. But you see in England they do have a class for all buff dogs and many of our early books on Sams have the pictures - I think his name was Pedro - I think was black except for a white place here and white feet.

The story is that they originated in((inaudible)) and they were a tribe that was not aggressive and gradually they were pushed by increase in other tribes and other people, and they were pushed farther and farther north, until it took centuries to get them to the Arctic. Nature took care of their coat color and bleached them out white. And if you mate a Sam with a mongrel that is all white, and yet it is a mongrel, it is recessive. The white in the Sam is recessive white and it can't be bred to any other dog of any other breed except one that is dominant in white without producing spotted puppies. I gave service to one of my own females that someone had bought and two days after she had been mated, no it was less than that, it must have been the next night, a dog up the street that was black and white got in with her, by digging under the fence. I saw the puppies in six weeks and every one of them, black and white, all six puppies were black and white. They were white underground, but black spots on them. I saw the dog that was mated and he was white with black spots.

*How about feet? What is an ideal foot and should a dog with bad feet be bred? The reason for that question, of course, is because it is a working dog.*

No, it is because it is an Arctic dog and they should be slightly longer, not round, slightly elongated because when going through the snow it is more like snowshoes. That is why I said when we were talking that I want to breed to the standard, because the standard, when they first started, Mrs. Mason who was raised in the Arctic and had her team. She knows what is required for an Arctic dog, so I took her word for it. When the standard was written I wasn't a member of it, I was an alternate. I went to the meetings that were held in this area. Of course I could discuss but I didn't vote, but anyway, that is how she knew so much about the Arctic dog because she lived up there, until she had to come down to the states to go to college.

*That is good that you had someone like that, that was a help to you.*

Yes, and I followed her very closely because I thought that they were Arctic dogs, we should keep them as Arctic dogs. We have lots of dogs. The Pyrenees are white; if they want a big dog like that, let them get a Pyrenees instead of changing the Sam. When you change a dog from its original, you also change something else about the dog. Your collie -- one dog did a lot of winning. It had a long, narrow head and it was a very gentle, sweet dog, and then all the beginners started to flock to that big winner and as a result they got a nervous dog. They are still a sweet dog, but they are high-strung. They are nervous today, and that is just from wrong breeding and that's what they will do to the Sams if they don't watch out. Nature knows what is right, and when you change it, you change something else that probably you don't want to change.

Here's another question that probably isn't all that important, but do you ever see crinks in Samoyeds' tails?

Do you mean just a kernel?

No, a crink, almost like a break.

I did know some dogs years ago that looked like a break right at the end. However, the reason why we are so careful about tails is that in the Arctic a few dogs have protection from weather. They just dig a hole in the snow and sleep right there. And if the tail isn't bushy enough and long enough to go up over the nostrils, then they freeze their lungs. So that is why we watch that.

The tail is very important, but people don't understand it. Usually a tail that is a little too short will flag and they can't put it down. Or it lays too flat on the back and then they can't get it around to cover their noses. They don't penalize that at all. When it is flat on the back, it is thought of as a balance of the dog, as a picture. It doesn't balance with the way it holds its head; therefore, it takes away from the picture of the dog.

So you don't want it flat on the back, and you don't want a gay tail, either.

One that comes up over the back and down on the side easily. That's why the beginner breeder in the Sams doesn't know enough about, and hasn't had enough experience, to go to the picture, because it is a beautiful dog. But they haven't had the experience to study the structure and all. And what is and what isn't. And some of them don't realize that disposition means so very much in a Sam and they see the picture and it is a beautiful dog and they don't inquire about anything else.

I guess if you had a team they would really have to get along, quite well, wouldn't they?

Oh, yes! But you can cower a Sam with too much hitting; you don't hit Sams because they are so sensitive. And they are very sweet and very gentle, but they are stubborn. They are a stubborn dog and if you go beyond what they think is right in punishing them, they will let you know. They won't bite you, but they will snarl at you, if you get too rough with them. That's happened with a dog right today that I know of. They have to. Self-preservation is a law of nature. And we defend ourselves. If a woman is attacked, if she can, she is allowed to kill a man. Then why shouldn't she? It is a law of nature. So why shouldn't a dog protect itself just the same?

How about relationship of chest depth to the rest of the dog? Do you like to see a deep chest in a dog?

I like to see a chest that comes down to the elbow, and that is what the standard calls for. It can be too shallow, and then from working it doesn't have the depth of lung to breathe.

Do you see many dogs that honestly come down to the elbow?

Oh, yes. I see lots of dogs that do come down to the elbow. But if it is way below, then it interferes with the gait. So right at the elbow is just right for a working dog.

We have gone through coat a lot, but there are a couple of questions here. On a point scale of a hundred, what would you say the relative weight factor of a coat should be? Do you think it is worth, 50%, 25%; what do you think coat is worth?

To my way of thinking, it certainly is not worth 50%, by all means. But the undercoat must be long enough and dense enough for an Arctic dog to keep the warmth of the body in. But with the long coat, the glamour coat, if the undercoat weren't

dense, it would probably freeze. If the outer coat is too long, then it ices up, because they have sudden changes of climate up there. And it ices up and the dog can't travel.

There's something interesting. Have you seen the difference of the dogs since they have been here in Southern California -- do you think that Sams will possibly gradually lose their coat because they are not in the Arctic?

No, I have always raised Sams here in Southern California and they take my dogs from here up to Canada and they do get a heavier, denser coat. But they don't go beyond their genes in length. Now, when I brought the English dogs in I had to watch out for that, because England has a law that they do not work their dogs; they are not allowed to work Sams at all. So they have gone a lot for coat and they do have glamour coats and that's where Jimmy gets that longer coat that I am not especially fond of, but he does have a long, English-type coat.

That ruling in England; it seems almost a shame.

There must be some law; Mrs. Perry wrote me about that. I got my first Sam in 1948.

Probably just to protect dogs from mistreated -- somebody who doesn't have any idea about dogs.

We started the sledding teamwork down here in recent years; that was around 1954 and 1955 we started that. In those days we had only Sams when we started and then some other breeds -- Siberians and the Malamutes, etc., wanted to join in; it was a good idea but they wanted to use whips in driving their team. I haven't done it now between ten and fifteen years since I have had dogs in teams and I don't know what they do now, but while I was in and while the Sams were the main teams in the races, we would not allow anyone to use a whip on the dogs. We had to do it all by voice.

Has it been your experience that coat was very important to winning in the ring and in color, would you actually penalize biscuit, or would you like it just as much?

No, I wouldn't penalize biscuit because it is in our standard; it is permitted; I would not penalize it. We tried to put several things into our standard but AKC vetoed them so we couldn't put them in. We wanted some penalties but AKC vetoed them. But, no, I would not. I prefer pure white. The standard has been a bone of contention for many years; they wanted to raise the standard of bitches to 22, and AKC vetoed that. It passed for 12 and then vetoed, because if you change one thing, then the next generation is going to want to change another, and the next, and then you haven't the original dog at all.

I think the old standards is probably what the dogs were

Yes, and what you should keep them as.

I know how difficult that is, though, because we find that in other breeds.

As I said before, when you change one thing you certainly change another. Now your big dogs that are 24 and 24-1/2 -- they are not like gaiters. And they get heavy bones and the dog is too big for snow country to pull a sled through deep snow. So anything you change, you change something else.

How about what advice would you give to other breeders who are just starting out?

First, study the standard. And then go to dog shows and see what dogs they like personally. And then get a puppy and train him and then watch if they want to establish a kennel. And watch all the dogs in the show ring and see, because sometimes when you are starting out, you like several different dogs.



*Sled Races at Truckee, California - Starchak in Lead  
Nicky, Skippy, Lindas half-brothers (sired by Starchak) at "wheel"  
Bob Ward's Team, early 1950's*

And they are slightly different. And then get the opposite sex from the other dog that you like and then mate them, and then line breed. And then start from your puppies and grandchildren, then line breed and keep to that line breeding. If there is one thing that you want to establish, of course, you in-breed, but then you have to keep your puppies from six months to a year in order to know that you are saving the right puppy for the point that you made dominant by in-breeding.

*How about when showing a Samoyed? How much grooming should be done, and specifically, what did you use?*

I never took a dog to a show without first bathing it and grooming it. That is half the battle. The judge goes from dog to dog -- from breed to breed -- and you take a dirty dog in the room, who has not been bathed -- and it is the same thing if the dog has a cold. If it has anything contagious it should never be taken into the ring because you are passing something on to the other breeds, to your breed as well as to dogs to come in. So I get to thinking of seeing pictures of the shows from a long time ago. Which was this question?

*What kind of grooming did you actually do?*

Baby shampoo is excellent; Sam's skin is extra-sensitive to detergent and after I no longer bathed my own dogs, I have had to change from one groomer to another because they have used detergent and the skin breaks out. I brought one champion home from a person I was just trying because the groomer I had had for some time moved out of town and I asked her not to use detergent on him, and she did, and the whole stomach and every place where there was any skin showing at all, broke out in a severe rash. And she was to go a show on Sunday. So I use baby shampoo, or Ivory Flakes. I have never had any trouble with Ivory Flakes (not the powder, but flakes). And you pour hot water over it, and beat it with an egg beater and I have never had any trouble with skin rash from Ivory soap.

*Is there any clipping whatsoever that is done?*

The hocks will get sort of wild hair on them and also the feet. I don't like to trim feet so much; I have never had to because I don't inbreed on coat. So I have never had to do much to the feet. But sometimes the hock will get long, unruly hair on, and especially where he cut off the dewclaws. Then you cut that off, of course, but otherwise, after I had to give my dogs to handlers they always cut off the whiskers, but I never did when I was showing my own dogs. I like my dogs natural. It makes a clean muzzle, sure, but some muzzles that are a little too narrow, they will let them stay on because it makes them a little broader. Otherwise, I have never had any trimming to do.

*How about brushing? Do you brush your dogs daily, once a week, or how often?*

Now, when I had 37 dogs, they got brushed when they were in the house, brushed and groomed, unless I was taking them to a dog show. You see, your Sam has a waxy coat and it can get very dirty -- be out in the mud and get dirty and caked -- but let it dry and give it a brushing and it all goes off and almost you don't know that it's been there. After too many times, after some months of that, then of course it is a little dirty and brown, but otherwise, down here, sure, my dogs get groomed every week. Sometimes I have a wire brush and comb here and I just brush them when they come and want attention. They are house dogs, of course. But I just simply towel them good and while they are drying I brush them. When they are almost dry, I take a wire comb and keep combing them. And then I take a regular hairbrush and brush them and groom them. Then when you are all through with Sam you take a brush and brush the ruff up around their shoulders, and the pants, of course.

*What is the youngest that you think the Samoyed puppy should be shown?*

I wouldn't think of taking a puppy to a puppy match until it was four months old, but some people take them when they are two months. It is just too young to expose them to all kinds of things. You don't know whether the Mother's immunity was still

too high when you gave them their permanent shots, or not, and whether they are fully protected against disease. I wouldn't think of it before four months and I prefer six months.

*Did you ever go to many match shows to start the puppies off or did you just start actually taking them to the shows?*

Fifty-fifty. I have always trained my own dogs myself. That is my trouble right now because I couldn't train these pups myself. They are five years old and I couldn't train them as puppies and they are not well-trained. That is why Jimmy had to be a novice because I wasn't able to train them and gait them. I showed the dogs myself for 15 to 18 years. Everybody in moderate circumstances showed their own. I am not talking about those who had the money to campaign. And it is so much more fun to show your own dogs and you and your dog win a championship together rather than to have somebody take it in and out, and then have a champion. Sure, you may have a good dog, it depends on the competition you are against whether you have a good champion, or whether you don't.

*Should a handler be used and does a big name handler help in some way to win?*

I think without a doubt if your dog is not absolutely tops, a well-known handler helps.

*Have you had any especially good or bad experiences in the shows -- anything special -- good or bad.*

As a novice I had something that wasn't nice but I didn't know it at the time until after I came out of the ring. I had Ch. Kunto and I had taken him to a show; it wasn't in Southern California, and I had taken to a show -- now you are having me go back 30 years ago -- in his first show he had been put down. I had the blue ribbon in my hand; the judge was complimenting me on the beauty and the excellency of the dog, and he leaned down to pet the dog, and Pluto washed his face for him, with his tongue. And he said, "Oh, I am sorry, young lady, but the dog -- even if he is a puppy -- must have ring manners." And so he took the blue ribbon from my hand and gave it to the reserve winner and the reserve winner happened to be from another district. So he went up and told them about this beautiful dog that was down here. Well, we had entered at that show up in the Bay District. We had entered Kunto and her brother -- they were always together -- those three dogs I kept were always together and never fought. And they all knew about this dog that was coming up from the South. So I was in the ring -- my second time in a show -- and I had never been at a match or anything. So we were gaiting around and this dog behind me was coming up and smelling my dog. Well, not being used to anything I thought I was gaiting too slowly for her and that I was holding her back. So I stepped aside, and nicely said, "Why don't you go ahead with your dog?"

And so she went ahead. Well, after I got out of the ring they came up to me, laughingly, and complimented me on doing it. And here that was a stunt to make my dog misbehave, and I being so innocent, thought I was holding her up. And so they all were so pleased with me because she was in the habit of doing that with everybody. And I, not knowing any tricks of any kind...

*Did you catch on pretty soon?*

No, I have quite a few times said, "Please, don't get so close." I have said that, but that is all, because it does annoy a dog to have another dog come up behind it. Or when you are lined up for inspection to have someone come and get right up against you, and not even let enough room for the judge to walk around. It's not nice.

*Some of them just make a mistake.*

Oh, yes, especially the beginners.

*Can you give any advice to owners who would like to handle their own Samoyed?*

By all means, handle it yourself. If you can. As I said, there is no doubt -- the fun and the memory of you and your dog, in later years, of you and your dog doing the winning. You know, it is all just you two and nothing else is influencing the judge -- just you and your dog. And your joy of that when you think back of making your own champions: it is by far better.

*Those are nice words to use: The joy of looking back. This is a toughie and we all know these problems do come up. Do you think judging today is fair, and what can be done to improve it?*

I would say that a sincere judge will always be fair. Just like we were saying -- there are people who are honest, and people who are not honest. And the judge that looks at the handler -- whether the owner or a professional handler -- he's not being fair. He is being dishonest; he is judging the owner instead of the dog and there is nothing that I can see that you can do about it. That's human nature, you see. Just when you know that it is that type of a judge, just don't show under him, whether it is a male or female judge.

*Back to sledding -- do you think sledding has any value to the dogs?*

Oh, yes. I think yes in both ways -- I think sledding will tighten up a dog, make his muscles as they should be, especially in a working dog, develop muscle and strengthen the dog throughout and then it is lots of fun. Most dogs, if they are properly handled and not beaten with the whips, they love to be hooked up and raced. They love it! I had a full brother, but not a little brother, of my second litter of puppies -- if I would get the harness out he would see it and start to work with it at all, he would start to cry right away. Oh, and jump, and yip, and everything. All of my dogs that I used for racing did this -- when we would take them to the snows -- Oh, they would get so excited, you would go to hook them up and they couldn't stand still -- they would "yip, yip, yip!!" and oh, the fun you would have with them. It is just the most fun!! Sure, your hands get cold; your toes get cold, too, to us from Southern California, but oh, it was so much fun. I have missed it! My husband was crippled from the first World War so we couldn't run our own dogs; did I ever have a female in harness? I don't believe I did, but I have often had three of my dogs on one team. But I used Bob Ward's dogs for the first two litters and he liked to have a team that Starchak's sons, so I often put three of his sons in teams with them. But, oh my, that is fun!!!

*How old should a dog be before you start letting him pull?*

We took pups up that were 4-1/2 to 5 months old. But we just hooked them up and let them play. Took a light sled just to get them used to being in harness and running, and playing, but they would go in all directions to start with. But it didn't make any difference: they would pull in all directions. But we didn't put any weight at all on the dogs until they were older and once in awhile they would get hooked up at six months, but not for heavy racing. Just for going through the snow and letting them pull it up and down without any weight.

*You mentioned having all males in your team? Was there any problem with the females and males together?*

No, I can tell you some stories about that.

In our very first races, a couple had three dogs and the female was in season, just coming in season but enough that she gave a scent. So they trained her for the lead and put the two males back. We had 16 teams lined up, anywhere from three dogs to seven dogs in the team, and that female -- none of them were well-trained, except Bob Ward's dogs, but he had taken them up North and trained them with Agnes Mason's dogs -- so, they shot the pistol and the dogs were to go, and this female decided she wanted something over there and she was next to the last dog on one side and she cut right straight across all the lines of dogs and every team except Bob Ward's, which was well-trained, all turned right after her!

But you can, yes, some females make excellent lead dogs, just excellent. You can't make just any dog a lead dog. They have to be able to obey orders. They are more or less even-dispositioned and that they will take training, and if something jumps along the side of the road when you are racing dogs, you have to watch out that the lead dog is trained not to chase even if he would like to, he is trained not to. And if you don't have a dog that will train and take orders, then you don't have a good lead dog.

*How do you give orders as far as turning, etc.?*

Oh, there are as many types of orders as there are drivers. "Gee" and "harr" are the ones I use mostly, and something like "hey!" or something like that to stop the team, and I think they generally use "halt" or something, when they stop the team. But as soon as they are trained for team work, then the lead dog does all the maneuvering. He has to know all them. The other dogs will learn, of course, just from watching the lead dog and some change with the lead dog; they get to that place, but because they learn fast.

Of course to get a real good lead dog you would take it out by itself and train it for "gee" and "harr", etc. And it is best not to train them to have anybody at the head holding the team; it is better to just train them and the word is "hold" for the lead dog. For instance, "Starchak, hold!" to attract his attention and he would draw the trace tight and just stand there, and then all the rest of the dogs stand with him. There are only about four or five words that they really have to know.

*This might be a difficult question to answer, but what kennels do you consider the best today, and why do you consider them the best?*

I never criticize another kennel. I never criticize a dog from another kennel. I will criticize my own to my customers and answer their questions, but I never do. I learned that many, many years ago. I will say this: Oh, she has some beautiful dogs, but I will never criticize point by point, no, I would never do that to another breeder.

*But do you think there are certain kennels today that are definitely good kennels?*

Oh, definitely, that I would trust completely.

*Would you feel free to mention any of them?*

No, I would rather not. I have known some, many years ago, who declared they x-rayed their dogs only to find out that they didn't and they give stud service. So I just never recommend any, even when they asked me, I don't.

*These next three questions are all together and they are really more about you -- they are personal-type questions. How long have you lived at your present location? Why did you move here? Where did you live previously? How old are you? Have you ever been married? Do you have any children? What did you do for a living? What is your educational back-*

*ground? ....What would you like to start with?*

*How long have you lived here?*

I got my first registered Sam in 1944 and I had the unregistered Sams for 14 years and in 1944 when she died -- just six months later -- I got the registered Sam. That was in Encino; I was over there, and in 1954 I was asked to move by the city because I had too many dogs and I moved over to North Hollywood in the industrial area. Then I stayed there for 21 years, due to the health and surroundings, I moved down to Sun City -- Senior Citizens town.

*Didn't you actually grow up in Pennsylvania?*

Oh, yes, I have had dogs all my life and I was in service for thirty years. I was a physiotherapist after the first World War. Then I lived in Texas for a year and that was when I had the little dog that the neighbors threw at, and then after I bathed him and cleaned him up, then they wanted him. Then it was after we came to Southern California from Texas that I got my first Sam in 1944.

*Where did you get your physiotherapy training?*

First, I went to Kellogg's Sanitarium in Battle Creek, Michigan at a coed school for physiotherapy and physical education. I stayed there for the first semester and then being old-fashioned -- we wore big bloomers at that time -- I couldn't lay down on the floor and kick my legs and do everything with men in the room, too, coed, so then second semester I changed to a girls' school, physical ed, in Chicago and stayed there. It was a good thing because I got the background for physiotherapy there.

*And then, do you want to tell us about yourself and your husband?*

He had dogs all his life, too. Since we didn't have any children, you have to have something to love, so we got dogs. And since I always like white dogs, naturally, we hunted for a white dog. When we got the registered dog, my husband just chose a name that was in The Times, and went to that kennel and got it. Fortunately, I knew nothing about hip dysplasia, until she was 10-1/2 years old so I took her right away and had her x-rayed at once, and at 10-1/2 years she was perfect. She didn't even have any calcium.

*Is hip dysplasia a big problem with the Samoyeds?*

It is no larger in the Samoyed than any other; German Shepherds are much worse. And Irish Setters -- the big dogs.

*Is there anything else about the Samoyeds that you would like to bring out?*

Just that I certainly hope they won't change the type and the disposition of a Sam. I just wish every breeder would impress on the people that they sell puppies to about disposition. If they want coat they can have it; I want the natural, like the dog was when he first came out of Siberia. But if someone wants a glamour coat, fine, that is their privilege. But I do wish and hope that when the breeder sells the puppy, he will talk on structure. I do think today we do have better rears than we had some years ago; I can't say as much for the front. I think we had better fronts before. Now, many dogs are perfect today, just the same as they were in those days. But we have more poor fronts today than we did in those days. And I do wish they would watch that. They are very minor things in a dog; the minor things you just don't inbreed on that, that's all. You compare the two dogs and try to find out something about their ancestors so that you don't make a minor fault become a major fault. But I think that is the duty of the breeder to alert a beginner because I was so ignorant when I started with Sams.

\*SQ\*