

Quality – Believe It Or Not

Phoebe Faulmann

THERE are those folks in every breed who can consistently produce quality in their dogs, and their achievements and popularity over the years are proof of their success. Their success gives them the credibility to be referred to as “real breeders.” There is nothing quite as refreshing, informative and even sentimental as having the opportunity to share time with these breeders to exchange stories and ideas. In talking with these people, they tend to focus on quality and explore the positive aspects of the breed while at the same time considering problems without discrediting other breeders.

Unfortunately, we are sometimes subject to those who are in a position to influence the breed who have never been real breeders. Possibly, they have bought or produced one or two dogs who have big wins under their belts and thus become “instant breeders.” Often these instant breeders are in a position to influence many novices, who are impressed by the sheer numbers of wins, rather than their number of winners or the actual quality of a dog itself. These instant breeders often have more time to participate in social and political aspects of dog showing. Such individuals are usually far more vocal than the real breeder, who more often than not has little time for such activities. It’s also true that some of these folks often wind up with a judging license, speaking at symposia, and making rash proclamations influencing the most naive of all, “the novices,” who are actually the breeders of tomorrow. Therefore, the influence of these instant breeders is widespread, both nationally and in the future of the breed.

Word of mouth and advertising play a big role in keeping up with the breed. If all of us were able to travel to the different areas of the country to see most of the dogs in the flesh rather than rely on pumped-up advertising campaigns or biased rumors, qualitative evaluations would be simplified. Unfortunately, few normal folks and even fewer real breeders can

afford the time and expense. Therefore, hearsay, whether from breeders or judges, becomes relied upon far more than it should.

I have always felt somewhat inhibited when I try to tout my dogs up to a prospective puppy buyer. I feel a sort of embarrassment, sometimes akin to the used car salesman. I’ve had to learn to extol my dogs’ virtues because far too many times I’ve lost a puppy placement to an instant breeder due to a “sell job.” A possible problem with this is that you can go overboard and end up losing your own credibility. A similar situation is when people “hype” their stud’s qualifications.

Credibility in an advertising campaign is also a concern. A sensible breeding program should produce consistent quality. How is it possible to believe in a breeder who advertises his

dogs as “super” this and “super” that, and then shows them without even reasonable success? And how do these same people get by criticizing other dogs and breeders, nevertheless winding up in a position of authority and credibility?

Quality and credibility in a breeding program are a combination of the attitudes of the breeder and the attributes of the dogs. Therefore, the next time you think about making some authoritative statements or comments (verbal, printed or implied) about your own dogs, the dogs you compete with or, more importantly, the breed in general, remember that your statements reflect on you and your own credibility as much as they do on the parties in question.

Quality, in dogs as well as people, will tell – believe it or not. •

Racing Rules

*Brenda and Geoff Abbott
Pine, Colorado*

OUR lovely, white dogs are taking on the more sinister aspects of wild Indians on the warpath; vivid orange stripes on the head; red, green and yellow spots adorn shoulders and flanks. These are the markings used to designate the team dogs in each class at an ISDRA sanctioned race. This rule, as with most, is for the safety of the dogs and prevents an unscrupulous driver from running a dog in more than one class. A world class lead dog could take such a driver to the money more than once in a weekend but might die of exhaustion doing it. Marking dogs also prevents a driver from taking eight dogs to a race, running in the six-dog class and replacing his weakest dogs on the second day.

One is idealistic to believe that all drivers, even in a sanctioned race,

know the ISDRA rules. True, an entry form has been signed which attests to the fact that said driver has read the rules, and rules are provided in the driver’s race packet, but reading the rules and knowing the rules are two different things. We met a very nice couple at a recent race and were naturally drawn to talk because they were running two Samoyeds on their three-dog team. A short while later, I went over to help them get their team to the starting line, placed my hand on the neck of their lovely Samoyed bitch and found, to my horror, a heavy chain choke collar ... on choke! The next five minutes were a blur of running between our truck and theirs to outfit their dogs safely. All three dogs were on (forbidden) choke collars; there were no nylon tugs on their, otherwise, acceptable harnesses; very light, flimsy snaps had been used and there was no neckline to connect the wheel dogs to the gangline. A fine start off the

line and a finish in the middle third of a class of 31 teams prompted me to ask just how long they had been training under these conditions: a year and a half! To their obvious credit, they went directly over to the professional outfitters at the race site and bought heavy, brass snaps and the adjustable nylon semi-slip collars required by ISDRA.

The rules of our SCA Sled Dog classes require that races used for qualification in these classes be run accord-

ing to ISDRA rules. If you run a team and don't know these rules, shame on you! A majority of them were written strictly to ensure your safety and that of your dogs, so you owe it to yourself to learn them and see that other drivers also abide by them.

It is a fact that informed participants in any sport make that sport more enjoyable for all concerned. Learn all you can about the sport of sled dog racing, and make it a point to help others learn. •

and "you're welcome" will probably give you a happy High in Trial Samoyed, provided you're sincere. Never attempt to fool the intelligent Samoyed; she will laugh in your face publicly. Believe me, Sams KNOW what is embarrassing, and they will do it to you every time if you try to lie to them. Be sincere, and don't feel silly about it; other Sammy people go through the same thing, and we all understand that good manners are the hallmark of the truly experienced Samoyed owner.

The first time I ever heard these words of wisdom were from the breeder I got my first dogs from. Foolish novice that I was, I didn't truly believe until I got to know a friend of hers and heard this tale, now a famous saga among Sammy people, often told around kitchen tables at kennels all over the country. I will now share this with you:

This woman, beginning in obedience many years ago, was taught her manners the hard way by one of the most brilliant and stubborn Samoyeds I have ever seen. This dog knew the exercises in her sleep, and performed them with flash and style in class most of the time. When it came to competition, however, she improvised. Like a musician who has performed the same hit song a million times that it's boring, this dog filled in her own variations on the required theme and embarrassed her owner to no end. Eventually, the dog earned an unprintable nickname, and in time, people flocked in droves to the obedience ring to see what she would pull next for their entertainment. After 35 AKC shows, the dog earned her CD.

HER human, now well trained, went on to become one of the finest breeder/handler/trainers in Sams. Never did she let a dog get bored, and every dog she handled performed happily and with a great deal of true pleasure just to work with her. Her record as a handler and breeder spoke for itself: five Am/Mex/Can Champions from her kennel, all well-adjusted dogs. Her record as a boarding facility also said it all: my dogs would come home (reluctantly!) from her place with a taste for expensive hors d'ouvres fed hot from the table, and every request prefaced with a "please" and ended by "thank you"!

Mind Your Manners

*Clu Carradine
Santa Barbara, California*

A number of Samoyeds depend on me for their visible means of support. I'm sure that deep down under all the white hair they appreciate my efforts, or they wouldn't stick around. You see, Sammies are a lot like cats; if they're not happy where they're at, they pack it in and leave.

Most breeds of dogs look at us with limitless tolerance for our many human shortcomings. My mother's English Cocker Spaniel is a classic example. "Bundy" is the very picture of serenity. She tolerates a four-foot high fence, commercial dog food and handsy strangers with the patience of Job. Sams and cats consider these things an insult to their intelligence, as well as perfectly good reason to move in with the neighbors lock, stock and feed dishes. Bundy would never dream of going to such trouble. I mean, why leave home when you have someone like my brother who feeds you macaroni and cheese dinners with ice cream for dessert every night?

My thundering herd of white fuzzies, on the other hand, are a whole 'nother smoke. A four-foot fence is good for weeks of laughs, and forget commercial dog food, they either refuse to touch it or, being white dogs, turn funny colors that aren't so funny in the show ring. So it's all-natural food, formulated by a frustrated Sam owner here in California; and home

cooking at great expense. And people think I make MONEY in dogs!

Samoyeds being the curious and essentially friendly creatures they are, like most people, greet most folks with the characteristic "Samoyed Smile" and outstretched paw. Do not, however, get overly personal or come at a Sam with dirty hands. Whatever you do, don't say anything inane such as "Good doggy. Sit and stay." Like cats, any formal command such as this is good for a heavy dose of "The Look." This consists of rolling the eyes and nonchalantly gazing sideways with a long-suffering expression in the offenders' general direction: "SURELY you couldn't possibly be addressing ME?"

Contrary to popular opinion, however, Sams can and often do execute obedience exercises beautifully, and with the flash and charisma so unique to the breed. All one has to do is remember that the conventional training methods do not apply. In fact, you can toss most of the time-honored methods of obedience training right out the window alongside the chocolate brown carpeting that matches the furniture. Should you wish to have an obedience-titled Sam, you can rest assured that the insanity has taken firm root in your life; but I can show you the true way, the way that was taught to me by my dogs and the lady I'll mention in a moment.

The "Magic Words" we all learned as children are the ones that get the results. "Please," "thank you"

Samoyeds are fun, bright and beautiful. I have lived with and loved this breed for nearly twelve years. My friends in other breeds think I'm a little disturbed. This one only sleeps in that crate and on these rugs, that one only goes in this run with the special holes she dug when she was little, etc. Sammies are never boring, it's always something.

As I said before, Sams are a lot like cats; if they don't dig the scene, they move. If you live with Samoyeds, you are truly blessed. Your dogs are saying they love you and you're doing right by them. Your cooking is good, your home is comfortable, your carpets hairy, your TV is on the correct channel, and you don't mind five of them in bed with you.

Other people think you're a little strange, and sometimes refer to you as the old woman who lived in a shoe. Everything you own, down to your sneakers, is not soft, white and woolly. Company can't find a place to sit, and you have to beg with at least one

sleeping white fuzzy to please get out of the bathtub so you can use it. No matter how many automatic waterers or full buckets you provide, there are always at least three heads in the Johnny and you have to ask to use that, also.

However, it's worth every bit of it and more when you come home from working late (so they can have the best food) and get your own personal choir practice at the front door upon your arrival. Nobody has a more beautiful singing voice than a Sammy, and with more than one, you get harmony.

One of the best feelings is when the crew is fed and sleeping, and your eldest slips up on the couch next to you and spends the entire late show holding hands with you as only a Samoyed can. The bottom line is: you give a little bit extra, but you get a lot back. For lasting and true friendship, you can't do better than "The big white dog with the smiling face that carries the spirit of Christmas in his heart the year round." •

argument. To me, a dog that is structurally correct, with lovely arch of neck, forelimbs correctly placed and set well under the body (indicating correct layback and correct bone lengths), a body that is slightly longer than the height at the withers, hind limbs with well bent stifles, hocks set behind the pin bone, a standoff coat, leg length slightly longer than elbow to wither, and good balance and substance. Isn't that TYPE? It is to me.

OUR structurally perfect Samoyed (picture #1) has the scapula set on the rib cage at an angle of 45 degrees to the perpendicular. The scapula and humerus meet at an angle of 90 degrees. The elbow joints, formed by the humerus and radius and ulna, meet at about 135 degrees. The carpi or pastern joints form an angle of about 170 degrees between the radius and ulna and the metacarpals. The paw joint forms an angle of 80 degrees between the metacarpals and the phalanges and the ground. Our Samoyed has the correct 55 percent length of leg to the total height.

Since the hind limb assembly must balance with the forelimb assembly, and our Samoyed can stand with a relatively level topline, we find that our ideal hind limb is as follows: The pelvis forms an angle of approximate-

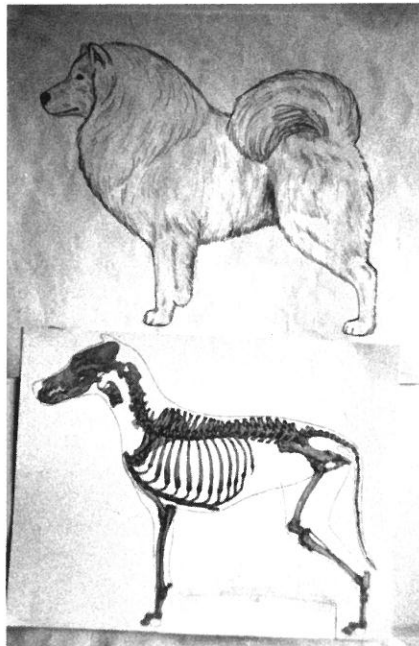
Differences in Layback

Betty McHugh
Oshawa, Ontario

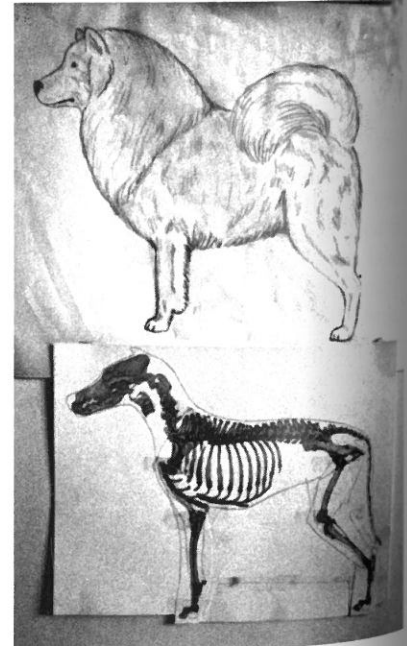
THIS article will try to illustrate the differences between a Samoyed with a 45-degree layback and one with a 30-degree layback. My artist friend, Jan Carr, took skeletons illustrating each and drew a Samoyed over them. I will now explain the resulting changes, since nothing ever changes in only one area.

The head on this Samoyed was drawn over a skull that had equal length of muzzle and skull. This is Mother Nature's design, and there is no doubt that it is the most structurally correct, but after many years of looking at Samoyeds with shorter muzzles than skulls, I find that I definitely prefer the latter.

This exercise goes a long way in destroying the type versus structure



Picture 1.



Picture 2.

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ly 30 degrees to the horizontal. There is no doubt that for proper movement this angle is the most efficient. The hip joint forms an angle of 90 degrees between the pelvis and femur. The stifle is also at an angle of 90 degrees between the femur and the fibula and tibia. The hock joint is approximately 120 degrees between the fibula and tibia and the metatarsals. The hock of our perfect Samoyed meets the ground at an angle of 90 degrees.

Remember that structure is inherited. Environment can alter the angles of the fore and hindlimbs, either to improve or make straighter, but can't make a poor angled dog into a perfect one. If we could take our structurally perfect Samoyed and change him into a relatively straight shouldered dog, the following would happen:

Our dog now has a 30-degree layback to the perpendicular (picture #2). Since we have opened the angle between the scapula and the humerus, the angle becomes about 110 degrees. The angle of the elbow opens to at least 145 degrees and the pastern is more upright.

The pelvis remains 30 degrees as a rule. That can change, but for other reasons. Since the topline seems to remain level, however, the remaining angles of the hindlimb are now more open. The angle of the hip joint becomes more open at approximately 100 degrees, and the stifle joint opens to 100-plus degrees. The hock joint opens to at least 125 degrees. The reason that we can't be more definite with regard to the adjustment of the angles is that there is always a change in the bone lengths, particularly the fibula and tibia, which also changes the angles. But the point of the exercise is that our dog, considerably straighter in front, is also much straighter in the rear.

THE most startling difference is one not so readily seen and not even thought of. Since the angles of the forelimb assembly are more open, the bones are in a more upright position and the dog is higher. Our dog, with the 30-degree layback, is at least two to three inches taller than our dog with the 45-degree shoulder and the only difference is the angles of fore and hindlimbs. Because most of the changes have occurred above the elbow, the distance from the elbow to the top of the withers is probably equal

to the distance from the elbow to the ground, perhaps even more. Also, since the angles are more open, the forelimb assembly is more forward on the rib cage and the elbow is now below the line of the rib cage. Our ideal dog was slightly longer than high ... however, our straight shouldered dog, being taller, probably closer to square. Both are contrary to the standard and make a much less efficient dog.

If you wish to discover the projected reach of the forelimb assembly, which governs the strength of the

movement, simply take a pencil or ruler and project a line through the spine of the scapula to the ground. This will give you the reach, and since the arch is equal to the front and to the rear, will give you the length of stride.

Interesting? More like incredible ... When you begin to understand the mechanics of structure, it becomes a matter of mathematics. Once you understand this, then the depth of discovery is limitless.

Reference Material: "Dogs - A Hobby or a Profession," Volume 2, C. Gardiner and Dr. E.S. Gibson. •

Samoyed People

The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
Betty McHugh
NEPACHEE
Oshawa, Ontario

This interview was conducted at the home of Betty McHugh by Jocelyne Ivanovskis on March 4, 1984.

How long have you been in Samoyeds?

I have had them about 30 years. I haven't been breeding them that long, of course.

Who was your foundation dog?

Am/Can Ch. Bai of Lucky Dee. I bought him at thirteen months from the Dawes of California. He was a finished American champion, and he finished his Canadian championship in three shows up here. He did very well, he was a very nice dog. He is in the pedigrees of some of the current dogs that I have now.

Where did you go to get your first bitch?

She actually was a daughter of Bai's. Somebody used him on stock that came from the Maritimes, and I got pick bitch. We went on from there.

How many litters have you bred over the years?

I would guess at least 50.

Are there any litters that are particularly outstanding for you?

One of the last litters that we had out of Ch. Nepachee's Vanilla Parfait and Ch. K-Way's Tabor Revellie, an Omen son. They are quite nice. They are bigger than we usually see here, but they are doing very well. Two of them are pointed, one finished, two of them have at least one leg on their CD, and the third is being trained. There were eight in the litter, the rest went to pet homes. They are very well built. They are going to be, when they mature, gorgeous animals. They will win both sides of the border. Good moving and working dogs, which is what I think is important.

You are a busy lady. You teach, you judge, you show dogs, and you breed them. You have done a fair amount of obedience, haven't you?

Yes. I was counting for an article, and I think I have eighteen CD's. Three of them are American. This is more than just the Sams. And, four CDX's, which were mostly Sams, and Utility, which was a Sam. Most of the obedience has been done on the Sams. They have been my major breed over the years. But I have taught all classes for a long time. I taught obedience classes for 25 years before I retired. I still freelance for people, but I don't run classes now. I don't have time to do the paperwork. If somebody wants a Utility or Open class taught, I'll do it for them. I am doing a Utility this fall for a local school. My involvement

has been in obedience for many years. Sams came first, then came obedience, and then conformation.

Bai trained but didn't get a title. Rowdy got his CD.

How are Sams in general in obedience work?

They are terrific if you know what you are doing with them. Unfortunately, the northern dogs have had a lot of poor press in obedience, or been in the wrong hands. If they can figure a way around what you want them to do, they will. Most of the obedience instructors are not versed in northern dogs, and they just cringe when you come in. They tell people, "You are not going to get any place." We had it happen last weekend. One of my customers has her first obedience Sam, and the judge said to her, "Oh, well, they are not known as good heelers." This is the opinion people have of northern dogs. But if you know them and know how to work with them, they are very capable of high scores. I have had a lot of Highs in Trial on a lot of different northern dogs. It is possible, but you have to get the psychology right. Unfortunately, if your customers go in classes, and the instructors say, "You are not going to accomplish anything with that dog," you're handicapped at the start.

The wrong attitude.

Yes, they are put down right off the bat. They have nothing to aim for. When I had classes here, local instructors would, if they got a phone call and the people had Sams, they would say, "Call Betty McHugh." They would send them to me because they didn't really want them. It wasn't that the dogs were cross or biters or anything like that, it was just that the people weren't smart enough to outthink them. They didn't realize the way these dogs can get around doing what they are supposed to do.

What is the special psychology, what is the difference in approach?

Sams and Siberians vary a little bit. With Sams, in the beginning, you insist they do it, and do it your way, and then lots of praise. With Siberians, it is a little different, you have to do that, and then give them back a bit of dignity, because they really are primitive, and you can't be quite as hard. If you really harm a Siberian, he never forgets and never forgives you. A Sam can take discipline, and forgive

you. He will be mad at the moment, turn his head the other way, then he will turn back and say, "Oh, well." They are more doggy.

How did you get involved in racing?

We started here just fooling around with the dogs. All our friends said, "Why don't you race with them?" This is weekend mushing, not professional, believe me, I am not into that, as it is a full-time job. We kind of got interested. When I lost Rowdy, who was my lead dog, several friends lent us their lead dogs which they weren't using, and that is how the Siberians came on the scene. Of course, we had to have one. It wasn't good enough, so we had to breed a better one. It is a lot of fun to go on a weekend race. The races are exciting, especially when you have a team in them. It is a great way to put a winter in. It takes a lot of time because you must put miles on your dogs, you must run them at home. The more miles you put on, the better they will do. If you take them out with under 100 miles on them, you are not really going to be competitive. They won't run six to eight miles consistently well. They get tired. So, to be competitive, if you really want to win, you have got to put 200 to 300 miles on them before the season starts. That takes a lot of time, because you must start fairly short runs, under a mile, and gradually build up.

You start with a real rig, especially here when there is so little snow. You pray for snow because the dogs' attitude changes completely once they get on snow. Dragging the big wheeled rig is a pain. But you have to build up the cardiovascular system, you have to build up muscles. It is a long process.

How do you get a good lead dog?

You have to have a dog who is born to go ahead, they won't all do it. I don't think, sometimes, the most intelligent are the ones that are lead dogs. It has to be a dog that wants to get out ahead, and to stay ahead. A lot of dogs are great team dogs, but you can't put them ahead because they won't keep going. You take one that is a natural, that will go out, and then you begin to teach him commands. Turn right and left, go past, and things that he has to know. Of course, you give him a lot of miles so that he has



Ch/OT Ch. Nepachee's Snowdrifter, second Samoyed in Canada to earn a UD title.

confidence. He has to know how to follow trails, he has to do as he is told, he has to pass teams. Sometimes there is head-on passing. Imagine two teams passing head-on. He has to have a lot of ability with a lot of self-confidence, and a desire to run because he has to set the pace. He doesn't have to pull the load, he has to set the pace.

I don't expect to win races, but I do want to go out and just prove to people that Sams can do it.

Why is that? Wasn't that their original function?

That is a bone of controversy within the breed. I am not much on history, but when it comes down to origins, I know the purpose of the dogs. A lot of people feel they were originally herding dogs. In fact, someone once said that since they were herding dogs, why did they have to be well-built? Anybody who has ever worked a herd would know, especially reindeer, but I think probably they were used for everything like most northern dogs were. They were used to hunt, to herd, to haul, to carry, they were eaten and the fur was worn. That was what they were there for. As I said, there is a lot of controversy. The people who are wrapped up in sledding, they say they were sled dogs, and the people who aren't say they were herding dogs. There are some people who are using Sams for herd-

ing, and I have had enough experience to know the instinct is still in the occasional individual.

What would you say that people today basically breed for in Sams?

Companions and show dogs. There are not that many people working them anymore.

If the people feel they can live through the business of showing dogs, what do you suggest they do to try to prepare their dogs?

If this is their first dog, they will prepare it, simply by having it as a pet; that is the best background for a show dog. I wish they could all be pets. I wish I could farm out my puppies and bring them back when they are ready to show. We would have it made. Go to handling classes, exercise the dog, feed him well, and walk him a lot. The best show dogs are well leashbroken. It will help you with judges who like your type. Each judge has a mental picture of the ideal. There is no point of entering under a judge whose mental picture is not my ideal, so we will help you pick judges who will appreciate your dog. We suggest that when your dog loses his coat around a year of age that you get into an obedience class and work with him. Do obedience until he grows up and becomes a mature dog. Our dogs don't mature until they are three or four. We suggest that people don't show them between one year and two, because they are very gangly adolescents, and they are carrying the poorest coat they will ever carry in their lifetime. So, basically exercise, training and getting yourself out to learn how to do it.

What about exercise? Could you mention some of the different kinds of conditioning?

I think any supervised free running. We now have one paddock, I would like more. The dogs that we are going to do a lot with have a lot of free running, ideally with another dog or dogs, because then they will chase. I find the muscle tone on dogs that we have done this with is good. The agility and movement is good, so they need free running. If you have the time (I can say this more than I can do it), walk your dog on leash. The more you walk, the more it will help you end up as a unit, which is what a successful show dog and handler are. A unit that works together. The dog and

you find a pace that is flattering to the dog. It always has to be to the dog. He learns to trust you and walk straight with you, he doesn't side-wheel, he doesn't swing out or swing in, and you don't bang together. The more miles the two of you put on together, the better you will coordinate when you are in the ring. Just taking him out and running and walking with him on the leash is the best training for the show ring.

A lot of people don't think about conditioning through obedience. Do you think it is important?

They don't. You are so right. They think any dog can go in and do it, and they can to a certain extent. I think the thing that really taught me that was years ago we had a very prominent American obedience trainer come up here, and he suggested that even though the method was quite different than any we had ever used, we should try to find a dog or use one of our dogs that had never had any training, and try to totally block out in our minds, if possible, a method that we had used previously. I hadn't anything here that I hadn't worked with, so I borrowed a dog. He was kept in a pen in the basement, and had very little running. He was totally out of condition. I found he couldn't last any more than five or ten minutes when I first started training him. Just simple heeling really tired him. By the end of the course, when we graduated, he was a lot stronger and in much better condition, and could do the work. I hadn't really thought about conditioning an obedience dog, up to that point, because our dogs all had a certain amount of free running. A ten-minute heeling pattern to them is nothing. But to this dog, it was more than he could do. It is definitely important. If they are going to jump, even more so. They need conditioning, they need agility to be able to get over that jump, and have the balance and have a mental attitude that they can do it. They are not going to fall. Teaching jumps is a whole subject in itself.

I have seen Sams being campaigned who just barely made the jumps, actually almost scrape their tummies. Many Sams are very straight. It is a breed problem. It is the same reason. That, and the fact that they are too heavy in the body, and many times just plain too fat.

Now that the jumps are lowered, it is less of a problem. As of July 1, they're down. I don't know if they will come back up or not. I think most of us have just given up. The board lowered it. They don't know anything about obedience. The obedience council didn't give them a clear mandate on it, so they started counting votes. What I mean is, who is going to vote for them in the next election? So, it is done.

The people with poor dogs, the dogs that could not jump one and a half times their height, don't want to give up their pet, they want to be able to do everything with this one dog. So, there were enough of them who wrote letters, and the jumps came down. They lobbied and they won. Now, all the judges are upset, most of the professional trainers don't like it, but it's people with one or two dogs who got it done. I can understand. Many of the dogs they are bringing back are dysplastic, they make no secret of it. "Oh, yeah, he is grade three, now that you dropped the jump, I can bring him back." Isn't that something? You wouldn't believe how common it is.

It angers me. It really shouldn't be. I think people who do conformation and obedience, most of them do it with the same dog. There is a period in a dog's career that is suited to both. That is what they do. If he is being campaigned heavily, then he shouldn't be doing obedience. When he is either finished with conformation or, if he is a coated dog, when he is out of coat, then do obedience. The dog likes to work year around. Once he is used to going out, he doesn't want to stay home, he wants to be doing something. There is always something for him to do. I think it is great when they take old dogs who have been campaigned in conformation, and are past their prime, and do obedience with them. You see so many American do that. They are so far ahead of us in this respect. The dogs do very well. They are half trained, they are used to the ring. They do the stand for examination, which they have done for years. They just enjoy it.

What are some of the faults that you see as a breeder?

Some of the things I see are a little bit different from the average breeder. Start with the head. There

are too many down faces, which would lead to a different eye placement, the eye is rounder, more prominent. I think they are breeding too short a muzzle, which leads to bite problems. I don't think the Sam was meant to have a Chow head. It should be more moderate, slightly short in muzzle, shorter than the length of the skull. It gives a sounder head, a better eyeset, a better bite. So many have lost the nice arched neck. They have very flat necks their necks seem to be sitting on their shoulders. You have to have a nice broad, arched neck, which makes the ruff stand up. It is just gorgeous, especially on the male. Many of the shoulders are so straight, but the breed hasn't progressed to the point that you can't breed angulation. It's around. You can find bloodlines that are still well-built. In many breeds, that is impossible. They have gone the whole way, so the structure has been lost completely. But not in the Sams, it is still there. If you want to breed good ones, you can still do it, but you have to look hard. There are so many short upper arms in the breed. It is a big problem. And short legs. They are getting so short-legged. There is a big scare over dwarfism now. There is a lot more research needed, but I think we are going to find that it is related to breeding shorter legs. How did they breed the Dachshund? They are not crippled and they have short legs. Short legs are a problem. In the end, hip dysplasia is still with us too much. There are long femurs. There aren't a lot of short pelvises, which affects a lot of other breeds. A lot of the sighthounds have short pelvises, but the Sam's pelvis seems to be a good length. The femurs are long, fib-tibs are too short, and we are getting too many rear ends that look like they belong on Chows. With all due respect to Chows, a Sam is not supposed to be a Chow. Those are the major problems I see.

There are many coat types. I don't care what color the dog is, if he is good. I like a nice biscuit dog and a nice pure white dog. I can get past poor eye color and poor pigmentation, if it is on a dog who is well put together, because it is so easy to correct pigmentation and eye color, but it is hard to breed a sound dog. I like a nice tail carriage, but I can overlook that, too, if the dog is sound. I like a coat that is



The beautiful head of Ch. Gol' Chikha of Nepachee Can/Am CD.

easy to work with. I like a coat that sheds quickly, but is standoffish, and the guard hair stand off well and is thick. I don't like long flowing coats on Sams, they weren't supposed to be that way. It is not a working coat, it is a deterrent to the breed. They are getting so long and flowing that they are being cut and shaped.

A male Sam, who has a proper coat, should look nice even out of coat, because the guard hairs will stand up. It won't be as full, but it is the type of coat that will shed dirt and snow, it won't get all balled up in the wintertime. A lot of people like a lot of hair on feet, and it is definitely an asset in the north, but to work in this area with wet snow, you would have to trim it. This is what a lot of breeders don't understand. You have to cut it back, and you have to Vaseline the feet, otherwise, they snowball.

It is very painful on the trail, because you can't stop every time they get a snowball and take it out. So, hair on feet, I don't worry about. Most of the Americans trim it off anyway. They trim the nicest little cat feet on Sams that aren't supposed to have cat feet.

What is the foot supposed to be like?

It is a flatter foot. I hate to say

played, because it is an awful word, but it sometimes gives the appearance of being slightly that way. But that is a Sam's foot. It is a functional foot for what they are supposed to do. But they are not supposed to have cat feet, like many of the show dogs do.

You were saying before that you personally didn't object to a biscuit dog; the color wasn't important.

The majority are white, but I have a six-year-old biscuit dog. Biscuit fades as the sun bleaches it. It is not obvious, but when he is coming in new coat, he has big splotches on his side, and it is a gorgeous color. I got one Group placing on him. I specialied him a couple of times. Most of the time, if there is a white dog, the judges will give it to a white dog. He is pretty. He has great pigmentation, nice coat, and he produces white dogs. The funny thing is that they produce white dogs and the next generation we will get biscuit. But I don't object, it doesn't matter to me if they are biscuit.

Non-breeder-judges think Sams are white. It is a rare dog that is totally white, as most of them have biscuit someplace on them. We have had great biscuit dogs in the past, but it is hard to special them. Color doesn't bother me when I am judging. A lot

of people have color preferences. Among judges there are color preferences. But after having only white dogs, for so many years, a good dog can't really be a bad color, unless it is a color not allowed in the standard.

Do you want to talk a bit about your Sams and how they differ from some of the other "types" that you are seeing?

Mine have, first of all, probably a little more leg length. There has to be a certain ratio of leg length when you start breeding shorter stock, as it creates a lot of problems, not only with the front, but with the rear, to topline and the back legs. We start with the fact that it has to be well-angulated, not perfect, because we can't breed perfect dogs. We just aim for perfection. Next, we have good bone, not too short in the leg, and of course, the rear usually follows along. You have a fairly respectable rear usually on a dog with a good front. Then I would like the prettiest head I can get. I will take one that is not as pretty over a littermate who isn't built as well, but I like a pretty head, and a good coat. That is just about all there is; the structure and breed type. People don't realize, but when you talk about breed type, what is it? It is what you see, it's the coat, the outline and the head. In class, we have done dissections on dogs. When the coat is off, you can't tell what breed it is. Did you know that? You can't tell if it is a German Shepherd, Siberian Husky or a Sam without the outer shell.

That is type?

That is type. Actually, type is structure, too. The outline of a dog with ideal structure as opposed to the dog with poor structure is a very different thing. To me, type is that outline, plus shell and the coat, etc.

What are you seeing that you don't like in terms of type?

Short legs, poor heads, necks sitting on shoulders, loss of elegance. Dogs that are so straight, front and rear, just a totally different picture. I don't like the poor movement that we are seeing. No reach and drive. You don't see Sams with unbalanced fronts to rear usually, as much as you see it in some of the other breeds. Coming and going, it is not a huge problem, but reach and drive is. I don't like to see Sams that are long-legged dogs and look like they are white Shep-

herds. That is the extreme to the other side.

You talked about angles. I know you have taken the Canine Science course, are you aiming for a 35-degree layback?

I have passed that, I am aiming for 45, but we haven't got it yet. You have to have an ideal. So many people, when they go out and start looking for the ideal, and can't find it, feel they should lower the standard, to cover what they find. They are never going to progress anyplace by lowering it. Know that it is an ideal, that it has been accomplished. We have found a number of breeds that have a 45, but it is rare. If you don't aim for it, you are not going to upgrade what you have. Most of what we are breeding now, is consistently 35 to 40, but there are so few good ones. Somebody said that poor shoulders are dominant, and I don't think of it in that respect, but yes, the theory is right. It is tough. It isn't just shoulder, it is other things, too, that are related to it. Thirty-five degrees are what you are finding. That is a good average in the shoulders, but you can do better. The majority are 30's, up and down. As I said, you can still find good Sams, you can still find good Siberians, you can still find good Dachshunds, but some of the breeds are totally ruined. You must breed what is there.

When you increase the leg length, are you also getting good back?

Backs are subjects in themselves. A dog should be longer than he is tall. No dog was meant to be square. If he is square, then he has problems, usually in the back. If you make him tall, he is square, if you add angulation, then they are longer than they are tall. If you add leg length, they don't appear to be longer. I don't know how to describe the type of dog I want to breed. He is elegant with a good head, good legs, a neck, good angulation, laid well back in the body. He has adequate angulation in the rear, so the dog can propel himself, even just trotting around the ring or trotting down the driveway, with good reach and drive. There is a totally different look to a well-built dog, and to me, that is type and that is what I look at and say, "That is the type I want." Regardless of the breed, it is a look that's correct in any breed.

If you have a short-legged dog,

and I am talking about any breed, and the legs are shorter than they should be, then the pelvis is usually flatter. One goes with the other. The Dachshund pelvis tends to be ten degrees flatter than Sams. If you flatten it, you add length, so it is not only an illusion of length of back, which is part of it, the shorter the legs, the longer the dog looks. Actually, he is compared to height, because when you shorten the legs, you reduce the height. When the pelvis flattens, the lumbar area flattens out, also. You don't have the arch, you have a very flat lumbar area, which is longer also. So, everything is relative, you can't change one thing, you change a series. This is what people don't realize. They breed for one thing, and it changes a whole spectrum. There are physical changes and illusions.

Do you like your dogs better than your bitches?

Yes. You can tell I like dogs in Sams. I get more out of dogs than I get from bitches. Some of the bitches can be sulky. That doesn't suit me, whereas the males are straighter and more affectionate. They are not smarter, the bitches are smarter. There is a difference. But they are straighter and I find them easier to work with. When I run, most of our teams are males. A lot of people run only bitches.

When do you start measuring dogs?

We measure them at seven or eight weeks. When we tattoo, we measure. I have a chart made so the dog's measurements are put down with the tattoo number, so he is always identified. I have a book of puppy measurements. Someday I might get the time to do some things with them.

Do you remeasure them as they grow?

Yes, if we still have them. They may not be as well angulated. In the case of some Siberian lines, once they reach old age, they are better. The best, structurally, at that age remains the best.

How does the measurement compare in terms of angles?

The angles are pretty accurate. The thing that we have difficulty in predicting is short upper arms on some lines. If it is present at seven weeks of age, I won't keep that puppy, as it will always be there. It sometimes appears

as a growing phase in some lines and it disappears at two to three years. However, if one puppy is shorter in leg at that age, it will be shorter in leg than its littermates as an adult. If it is short in fib-tib, it will be short in fib-tib as an adult. The thing that we are having trouble with, even more so than short upper arm, is a long femur. It simply does not show up at that age, but it will as an adult. There are some lines that are long in the femur. It changes the rear angulation and is not nearly as efficient. If you are talking about show dogs, they gait parallel, hocks are parallel, which judges don't like to see. It is not desirable.

How important is size in terms of quality?

It is important. You don't want extremes either way. Middle-of-the-road is the safest in all aspects. You don't want a square dog. Usually he is that way because he is straight and cumbersome. You want them agile, and the ideal is in the middle, always, I think. Moderation is the key.

Are specialties a good place to see dogs?

Yes, they are excellent places. Look at the dogs and if the best one wins, then that is great. It is the judge's opinion. I have only been to two American specialties for Sams, and I thoroughly enjoyed myself. I disagreed with some of the judging, but I agreed that the judges put up what they thought was best. I don't mean to put any dogs down, however, I probably would have found another dog that would have suited me better. It wasn't political. They put up what they thought was best, and that's great. The people were a lot friendlier. I just thoroughly enjoyed them both. I wish I had gone to more. This is definitely the place to see the dogs, to see the bloodlines and try not to pay too much attention to the placements.

How have dogs affected your lifestyle?

Absolutely totally. You can spend a lifetime studying dogs. Maybe it is not the best way to spend my time, but it is the way I must. However, I wouldn't give up my family for dogs.



Ch. Nepachee's Music Man Can/Am CD, trained and handled by Betty McHugh.

What is the most dogs you have ever kept?

Forty or fifty at one time.

Is that too much?

Way too much. We probably have 30 to 40 on the premises now, and that is still too much. We are cutting it down, but you can't put them down because you want to cut the numbers. You have to let them live their lives, but they won't be replaced. I want to get them down to something that is a little more manageable.

When I get to be an all breed judge, and that is what I am going for, I will not judge in the area because of

conflicts. It's hard. I am not going to quit breeding. There are too many things I want to do.

What advice would you give to somebody just starting?

Take your time, don't be in a hurry to get into a breed. I know that people just don't pay attention. They rush out and buy. Spend time going to shows, talking to breeders, reading books, research. Learn before you make the mistake of going out and getting something that isn't for you.

Thank you. •

Centerfold

Am/Can/Bda Ch. Lulhaven's Snowmist Ensign

September 3, 1966 – January 14, 1980

Breeders: Clyde N. Lulham and Sybil R. Spough Owners: Ott Hyatt and Sonny White

Rhanor's Santa Claus
 Maulcheek of Rhanor
 Khatanga of Rhanor
 Ch. Stormy Weather of Betty Blue
 Kikmik of Oceanside
 Vicky of Betty Blue
 Tess of the Storm Country
 Am/Can Ch. Tod Acre's Fang
 Ir/Am Ch. Snowland Stara
 Tod Acre's Storm
 Am/Can Ch. Dushka of Altai
 Tod Acre's Starlet
 Ir/Am Ch. Snowland Stara
 Ch. Tod Acre's Tanga
 Am/Can Ch. Dushka of Altai
Am/Can Ch. Saroma's Polar Prince
 Nikita of Snowland
 Kikmik of Oceanside
 Ch. Nova Sonia of Kobe
 Ch. Kolb's Siberian Mick
 Am/Can Ch. Chimi of Betty Blue
 Connee Puna of Nichi
 Piu-Lengi Nichi
 Ch. Leordan's Taku Glacier
 Maulcheek of Rhanor
 Ch. Stormy Weather of Betty Blue
 Vicky of Betty Blue
 Flicka of Sammack
 Am/Can Ch. Chimi of Betty Blue
 Taita of Betty Blue
 Lilly of Betty Blue

Ch. White Way of Kobe
 Rex of White Way
 Ch. Herdsman's Faith
 Winter Trail's Rogue
 Noskoi of Encino
 Chastuska of Encino CDX
 Kizil II
 Talkeetna Tymba
 Ir/Am Ch. Snowland Stara
 Ch. Kazan of Altai
 Karolena of Altai
 Elisha of Snowdrift
 Polar Cap
 Dewie of Polar Cap
 Yena of Morre
Ch. Princess of the North II
 Captain Sam
 Keetna of Ala-Cryss
 Lady Kana
 Sojourner of Ala-Cryss
 Alaskan Crystal
 Natinka of Ala-Cryss
 Narva of Ala-Cryss
 Nikki of Snowland
 Silver King III
 Shan El Grandioso Champion
 Starlight Taffy Kisses
 Mizell's Polar Frost
 Silver King III
 Georgette Michele Marina
 Starlight Twinkle

AM/Can/Bda Ch. Lulhaven's Snowmist Ensign (Tiki) was born in Yakima, Washington. Dick and I went to Yakima to see the litter and promised to bring back a nice male puppy for Ott and Sonny and one to be sent to California. We narrowed the choices to three out of the eight puppies. Clyde kept the one he liked best, we sent the one I liked to California and Ott and Sonny got Dick's choice.

Tiki showed early promise going RWD one of the first times he was shown in the Puppy class.

As he matured, it was evident that he was something special as he finished his championship – owner handled – with three straight Group placements going BOB over specials at large shows and taking Group III, Group II, and finally Group I on the day he finished. The rest is history. His percentage of

Group I's and Bests in Show may never be equalled in that almost half of his 100 BOB's ended with Group firsts and half of his Group firsts ended with Bests in Show. 100 BOB, 24 BIS, 48 Group firsts, 24 Group seconds, 9 Group thirds and 5 Group fourths. That means that he won or placed in the Group 86 times out of his 100 Bests of Breed. He was the top winning Samoyed in the U.S. in 1972 and the top winning dog – all breeds – in Canada the same year (the only Samoyed ever to be top winning dog, all breeds, in any country). He retired undefeated in the breed the last 56 times shown.

A tally of how many dogs he defeated was never completed, although at the time his record was published, it was over 27,000. This may or may not be a record. However, on the basis of BIS and Group wins, Tiki is most certainly the top winning

Samoyed of all time anywhere in the world. When his record was published, he was the first Samoyed to take back-to-back Bests in Show, the only Sam for fourteen years to place in the Group at the prestigious Chicago International, and the only Samoyed to go BIS at the same kennel club in consecutive years.

He was handled to most of his wins by Pat Tripp (a professional handler from Canada, now retired) but Sonny also handled Tiki to a number of his big wins, including at least two Best in Show when Pat, for one reason or another, couldn't be at the shows.

No one who ever saw Tiki and Pat together will ever forget how he moved on a 20-foot lead in front of Pat as they circled the ring. It was spectacular and would always bring the crowd to its feet, literally cheering as they went round and round. What a show they put on! The all breed crowd that stayed



for the Group judging adored them.

Tiki traveled a lot. But when he was home, he was a house pet and went everywhere with Ott and Sonny. He was not a large dog – about 22 1/2" at the withers and weighed about 62 pounds. Needless to say, he was beautifully proportioned and wonderfully conditioned. He was a showman with an outgoing, friendly temperament, both in and out of the ring. He always seemed to enjoy "turning on" for the crowd. He really was a great show dog in every sense of the word.

Tiki's sire, grandsire and great-grandsire were all winners of the National Stud Dog trophy in their day. Am/Can Ch. Saroma's Polar Prince had also been the top winning Samoyed in the U.S. (1964), thus indicating the strong male line from which he descended. Although we do not have information regarding Tiki's producing record, I do remember Ott telling me three or four years before Tiki died that he knew of at least seven champions sired by Tiki, and at least one was a Group winner. •

Notes by Martha Beal

Does it Matter What You Call Your Dog?

*Jeanne Nonhof
Waldo, Wisconsin*

THERE once was a young Sammy bitch with the name of "Truly Scrumptious" and she was just that, a lovely young thing who won handily and charmed every judge in her path. Now THAT was a dog whose name fit like a glove.

Recently, I saw a dog whose name was "Sir Klunk," and he is not a clunk at all, but before I even saw the dog, I EXPECTED to see a clunk. I know a bitch called "Miss Piggy" who reminds me not at all of a pig, nor of the sanctimonious, self-centered cartoon character, "Miss Piggy."

The names we hang on our dogs influence people in the way they think

of them. "Max" is going to be a Terrier or a Dobie. "Hunk" has to be a Saint Bernard. "Lassie," you know, is a Collie. "Barney" is a Beagle. "Fifi" is a Poodle.

When selecting the AKC registered name for our dogs, we are limited by the AKC to 25 letters. AKC allows three spaces on their registration forms for spaces between words. Names are subject to AKC approval and AKC may assign a number suffix which is generally done with common names such as "Snowball" and "Prince." AKC stresses that names should be unique and allows you a first and second choice. Only rarely will the second name be used, but it has happened, so make sure the second choice name is something you can live with.

With 95,000 individual registra-

tions per month, there aren't any common names left, so it is best to come up with an unusual name. With kennel names used as a prefix, one has a lot more latitude in choice of name. There may be umpteen "Princes" but not many called "Snowview's Prince," or change the spelling a bit to "Snovu's Prynce" and you're in business.

If one has a long kennel name to cope with, finding a short, impressive name can be a problem. Succinct kennel names are much to be preferred for this purpose.

Most kennels, with any kind of reputation at all, will want you to use their kennel name in the prefix position on any registered name to be used for a show and breeding quality animal. Many guarantees specify that the guarantee is null and void if the kennel

name is not in that all-important prefix position. Some breeders will not stand behind those dogs of their breeding which are not registered with their kennel name.

In addition to the kennel name, sometimes you want to include a "catch word" in your dog's name which denotes his parentage. A number of Sams around the country have things like "Diko," "Khan," "Pepper," "Chief," "Breaker," "Crush," "Hot," "Ima," or "Star" incorporated into their registered names. Thus, anyone looking at names listed in the Gazette or wherever, who is aware of what has been happening in the breed for the last ten years or so, knows "Oh, that must be a son or daughter of Old So-and-so."

SOMETIMES, when we are sending those AKC registration papers to the powers that be in New York, we are feeling a bit quixotic and send in a name which we later live to regret.

My daughter named her foal "Ima Grasshopper," as this filly had the habit, when she was young, of bunching her feet together and jumping, "sprong, sprong, sprong," across the pasture, thus she became Grasshopper, grew up to be a nice gray Morab who loves to jump. All you have to do is show her a jump and her ears go up and she just can't wait to see if she can clear it. She even goes over the jumps alone when she is in the pasture where they are set up. Kelly, now 22, feels Grasshopper should have had a more dignified name, but when she was 14, she thought it was great. Now, she kind of shudders whenever "Kelly Mahloch, riding Ima Grasshopper," is announced over PA systems at the horse shows for having done their thing in the hunter classes. The advantage is that nobody ever forgets that horse's name. Kelly is thinking of naming Grasshopper's upcoming foal "Jump for Joy." Now that I think of it, "Grasshopper" is a better name than her stable name, "Poopy Do."

Names are important when we look at pedigrees or when we're talking about an animal, for they can subconsciously influence us. What kind of an impression does a Connee Puna or Poochie give you? Or a Snowball, Fluffo or Whitey?

Some of my favorite doggy names

are Kondako's Thank You JJ - now I wonder what the story is behind that. Or Dika Damma - I know there is a story behind that one, but I haven't heard it yet. And I like one of my own names very well, too, Moonlighter's Ima Better Bet, called "Betsie." And how about Karalot's Kit 'N Kaboodle? Her owner must have thought she had it all. A name like Samkist's Classy Chassis can only go on a dog who is well built. The same thing goes for a Bo Derek.

Sometimes, when trying to think of a name for a dog, it pays to sit down with a dictionary or thesaurus. Frequently, I like to name a litter with names which begin with the same first letter or use a theme. It makes it easier when trying to remember just what litter a dog came from. Thus, we have a litter with Hallmark, Hikimo, Harbinger and Hipy. We also had a Bark Star, Better Bet and Bellringer. Our latest litter will have as a theme "Gal," as they are sired by Guy and are all girls.

I always wanted to name a Hallmark son "Trademark," but somebody already used that by the time I had a dog I thought worthy of it. (Doris, are you listening?) Well, I certainly had no claim to that name. Which brings up another point. It is very impolite to use another's kennel name or a name which has been associated with a prominent dog if you don't have any direct relationship. It will throw the pedigree hounds into a quandary a few years down the road because it is illogical. The AKC will not allow you to use a registered kennel name without permission from the owner of the name.

There are various names which have caught my fancy over the years. I have always wanted to use "Great White Hunter" (really fitting for some of my mouse hounds), but it is too long with my particular kennel name. Then there is "Sterin," which means "white flower of the storm" in Gallic. If anybody wants to use that name, go ahead ... I've given up ever finding the right dog for it.

Recently, I wanted to get some AKC registration papers in and hadn't come up with a name I wanted to use. So, I roped in the people that work in my office and organized a contest. The big prize was a Coke from the office machine. I gave them the names

of the sire and dam, told them that it had to include our very long kennel name (11 letters) and that they could only use a total of 25 letters. In addition, I told them if they could work in "Ima" and/or some breed characteristics, I would like it very well. The winners were the following: Glad Eyed Gal, Shotavadka (sound it out), Ima Honky (white guy), Super Smooth. I opted for Moonlighter's Glad Eyed Gal, for it certainly fits this little laughing puppy bitch.

Some people don't name their dogs officially until they are nine months to a year old, after they see if they look like they're going to fulfill their early promise. Apparently, they don't want to name one "Epitome" and have him turn out to be more suitably called "Dregs."

Look in your show catalogs. Collies have great names like "Heir of Nobility" and "Sheen of Dark Water." Some of these are a little high flown for my Sammy friends. Look at some of the white breeds for names, like Westies, Great Pyrenees, Kuvasak, Bichons and Maltese.

HORSES also have great names. In fact, I know that Am/Can/Bda Ch. Lulhaven's Snow Mist Ensign (call name "Tiki") is named after a top winning American Saddlebred horse. I recall a horse named "Burn 'em up" who had a son named "Me Burning Too." I thought that was kind of cute, but an animal named in such a way has a hard time becoming a dog himself; he is always thought of as his father's son.

As an example of continuity in a pedigree, my youngest daughter's horse's name is Johnnie Kum Lately, sired by Dirty Johnnie, sired by Double Dirty. It is very easy to remember a pedigree like that.

Some names make us smile. A long time back there was a Samoyed registered as Kwitcherbitchin. Sound that one out and see what you get.

Some names which strike me as lovely are Windsong's Sonata in Silver and Dream Weaver. Touch of Class is nice, and so is Kissa Mia. Some like Chancy Decision make me wonder just what was going through the owner's mind at the time of naming the dog. Nerak's Temper Tantrum Terra has always intrigued me.

Some names make you think of

movement, such as Fascinatín' Rhythm, which is also a song title. Dogs with names including "Super" and "Great" had better live up to their names.

SOME names will have various connotations to different people. For instance, "Ruffian" is a very nice name for a girl or boy type dog, but it makes ME think of that gallant race horse who was involved in the stakes race with Foolish Pleasure and winning when she broke her legs near the finish line and had to be destroyed.

Then there are those names which have one kennel name in the front and one in the back, which makes you wonder just who did breed the dog. Generally, the breeder's name is first and the buyer's name is on the end. Or it may be a stud fee puppy, in which case the general rule is that the stud owner's kennel name goes in the primary position.

Looking through an old show catalog ('81), here are some of the names that catch my interest and seem to say something about the dogs who wear them. I have left off the titles, as I don't know exactly who is or is not a champion by now. Think of what kind of dog these names might fit. Some are definitely feminine and some are very masculine.

Winterway's Mr. Wonderful, Taza's Misty Reflection, North Starr's Rhapsody in Blu, Silveracres Theme Song, Dazmozek's Miss Ruff Stuff, Snow Fantasy's Main Man, Aladdin's Dominator and Aladdin's Vindicator, Shebaska's Diamond Dazzler (must have silver tips), Timberline's Justin Time (who was whelped just in time for the '81 National Specialty), My Way's Portrait by Sparkle, West Wind's Too Hot to Handle, Gem-Mar's Good Time Charlie (there is more than one Good Time Charlie), Candenza's Mountain Laurel, Seamist's Lavendar and Lace, Devonshire's Touchin Velvet, Winterway's Wayward Wench (notice the alliteration), Suzuki's Autumn Elegance, Kondako's Somebody's Girl (Anybody's Girl and Busybody).

Frequently a dog will have more than one name, his AKC registered name and his call or kennel name. Thus, Am/Can Ch. Saroma's Polar Prince became "Peppy"; Ch. Nachalnik of Drayalene became "Chief"; Ch.

Moonlighter's Hallmark is "Ike." Other examples are: Ch. Samkist's Classy Chassis is "Shasta"; Ch. Frosty-acres I've Been Samkist is "Cricket"; and our old Ch. Moonlighter's Ice 'n Spice was "Pup-Pup."

Some call names do derive from the dog's registered name. Ch. Northwind's Running Bear is "Bear"; Ch. Moonlighter's Ima Bark Star is "Bark"; Ch. Karalot's Hot Shot of Windsong is "Hot Shot"; Ch. Moonlighter's Ima Spark 'O Bark is "Sparkle"; Ch. Quicksilver's Razz ma Tazz is "Tazz"; Ch. North Starr's King's Ransom was "Rance"; and Ch. Blue Sky's Pound Cake is "Pound Cake."

It is kind of neat to use a name in the native tongue of the breed's origin. I believe the Samoyed dialect is lost, but we sometimes see Russian names used. Certainly, I don't know how to

pronounce most of them and have little idea of what they mean. Like many people, I tend to forget what I can neither pronounce nor understand. Foreign names are difficult to remember. For instance, it took me years to learn to pronounce Donna Yocum's kennel name, "Tsiulikagta," which I believe is Indian in origin. Maybe I'm just a slow learner.

Think about what you want to say with your dog's name. Do you want to say he moves well, he's the son or daughter of a famous Samoyed, he has personality, he's white, he has "Bright Biscuit"? Do you want to say that he is your own dog, as "My Own Brucie," the dog that changed the Cocker Spaniel breed?

Put some real thought into your Sammy's name. It could become a very important name to the breed and to you. •

984

Walk With an Old Dog

*Gayl Jokiel
Anchorage, Alaska*

Because you will not be forever
Hope against time though I
may
I paint your picture in my
memory -
Eyes blue with age, muzzle gone gray.

Because you walked with me in
springtime
Puppy-clumsy, running free
As you grew, we grew together -
You became a part of me

Because you shared with me my sorrows
Not understanding, simply there

Often spurring me to laughter -
My friend, you know how much I
care.

Because the years have slowed your
fleetness
Though your spirit still is strong
I promise I will take more time now -
So that you can go along
Because you do not fear the future
Living only in the now
I draw strength from your example -
Yet time keeps slipping by, somehow.

Because the day will soon be coming
When I will no longer see
Your rise to greet me but in memory -
You will always walk with me. •

Different Forelimb Assemblies

Betty McHugh
Oshawa, Ontario

MY last article dealt with the variations caused by a steep shoulder or layback. Now, I would like to deal with several other deviations, or problems, seen in the forelimb assembly of the Samoyed.

The most common problem, in addition to steep shoulders, is the short upper arm, or humerus. You remember that our ideal Samoyed had the measurement of the scapula and humerus equal. This is quite easy to palpate with your hand. Now, note illustration #1, which shows the short humerus. The humerus is almost perpendicular to the ground. Although this is difficult to see on our coated breed, it is easily seen in dogs with short coats. The problem is rampant in all breeds. It is inherited, and in some bloodlines is the norm, which makes the problem increasingly more difficult to breed out. Some of the problems which result from this deviation are: reduced front reach as the dog moves, and a tendency to "goose step." In the extreme, the height at withers is reduced to such an extent that the rear is higher than the front. Since elbows are now well below the level of the

chest, especially in young dogs, or very steep shoulders, we see "elbows" as the dog comes at us. When combined with short legs (radius and ulna), there is a tendency for the elbows to be out, legs curved in an east-west position from the pastern to the foot.

In some breeds, the measurement of the scapula is shorter than the humerus. I have not found this common in the Samoyed. A short scapula will cause the elbow to be in a position behind the column of support, in order that the dog can find his static balance. Moving, this deviation will cause a hackney gait. This will also reduce the height of the dog.

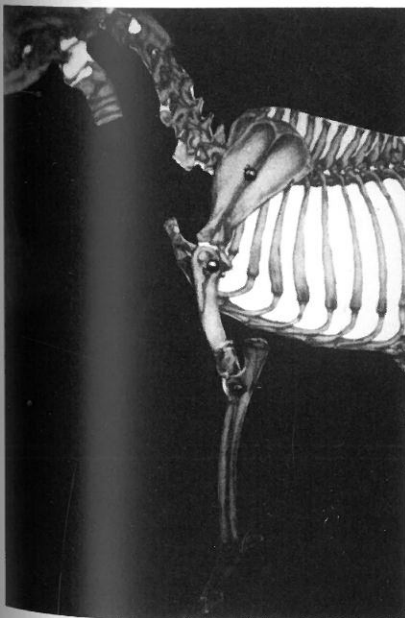
Our ideal Samoyed has a length of radius and ulna about 25 percent longer than the measurement of the scapula and humerus. Many of our Samoyeds are much too short in this area. In addition to reducing the reach, and height, this fault gives the illusion, and in actual fact lengthens the back. Think of the Dachshund.

In illustration #2, I have taken the forelimb assembly and simply moved it forward on the rib cage. You can see the faint lines which indicate the normal position of the forelimbs. We know that this happens but don't have definite answers as to why. It can happen with barrel chests, legs that are too

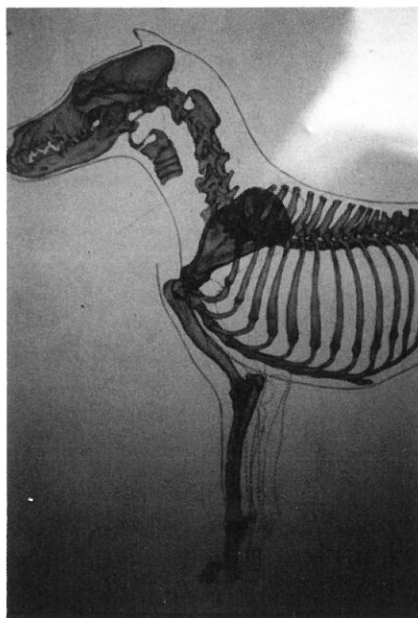
long (the wolf), or with a steep pelvis. When we have a forward front, the manubrium is now behind the points of the shoulders. Since the rib cage narrows at the front, the legs are closer together, and the legs now seem to "come out of the same hole." The elbows are below the lower level of the chest. In our illustration, the dog has a good layback and angle between scapula and humerus. If the dog had a 30-degree layback, which is usually the case, you can imagine the position of the elbows. When this dog moves, his reach is well out in front. If this is your measure of correct movement or reach, then you will like this dog. However, the arc, or the length of time the support stays on the ground, will be no longer, so that nothing is gained, and the support for the body and back is lost. You will notice also that a portion of the cervical vertebrae or neck are covered, giving the illusion of a short neck.

In illustrations #1 and 2, the withers or tips of the thoracic vertebra are above the points of the shoulders or scapula. Although this is ideal, it is not always so. If the highest part of the withers is the point of the shoulders, with the tips of the vertebra below them, then it follows that the lower edge of the rib cage is also lower, so that our elbow may be closer to the rib cage. However, when this happens, our neck curves change, and the neck becomes more upright, loses its nice arch and becomes a ewe neck.

ALL of these problems are inherited and some can be seen in puppies at seven to eight weeks. A puppy at this age, that is steep in shoulder, short in leg, or with a short upper arm, will not change. Unfortunately, puppies with good bone lengths have been known to change as they grow, and sometimes do not return to normal. You must study your pedigrees, get your hands on as many dogs in that pedigree as is possible, and be honest with yourself if a problem persists in your bloodlines. •



#1 - Short upper arm or humerus.



#2 - Forward front.

Samoyed People

The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
George Fitzpatrick
SAM O'KHAN
Grandview, Washington

This interview was conducted in January 1984 at the home of George Fitzpatrick by Lyn Snyder Hoflin.

How did you get started?

We were looking for a dog and began to ask around. The people in the Richland Kennel Club recommended Peggy Rouse, and we went out to look at her dogs and bought one.

When the dog was six or seven months old, the Rouses were going over to Walla Walla to a sanctioned puppy show match. This was in 1958 or '59. They asked us to come along, so we took our puppy. His name was Zaysan of Krisland. Because he walked around as though he owned the place, and because of our age in dogs, we called him "the Khan." We won and beat the other dogs at that match. Years later, Peggy Rouse would come to the house (she was very active in the Richland Kennel Club) and shake her head and say, "I guess we sold the wrong dog."

He came in second, Reserve, his first show out. We went on and at the Everett show, he got his third major in that one year. From there on we were hooked on showing dogs. We made the attempt to do some breeding, and this is one way you can tell if you are reasonably conforming to the standards - in the show ring.

How did you get involved in breeding?

You have to realize that in the breeding I did the work, I delivered puppies, and all the things like this. But the real intensive study and picking the bitches was Frances' idea. First, we bought a very good bitch from Maple Valley; it was a very close relation to Chum. We were about ready to breed and we lost her to a brain tumor. At that time, Yurok was great. Jean Blank brought up two bitches and I can remember that they talked all night. Jean brought her granddaughter up with her for compa-



Am/Can Ch. Sam O'Khan's Muhuli Khan O' T'Shan.

ny on the show circuit with Yurok. They asked which one I liked, so I picked one, but Frances liked the other one, and that was Whitecliff's Polar Dawn. We bought Dawn. Before that, just to see what Khan would throw, we bred Kita. There was not much linebreeding involved, but we got some very nice dogs.

We bred Tsarito Chum and there we got the champions. We got Chingis Khan, Khyber Khan, Kubla Khan (although I think he was in the second litter) and Sali Sarai. We bred to Chum twice and the results were good both times, but you cannot duplicate the results of the first breeding. I believe you can make a champion out of a dog if you keep showing it, but what does his get do? Does the quality carry on through? Sam O'Khan's get has thrown many champions. There were other breedings. We went to Kris Kringle, who comes back through on Sibir Khan, who was by then with Carmalita Avery.

We had to keep the number of dogs down, but when you breed, you tend to keep your own breeding and show your breeding. We recognized that Dawn was a very good bitch, but here we got Tsari out of a breeding with Zaysan and Dawn. When we saw Tsari, we knew that we had what we were looking for. I always felt that if you are breeding you have to keep a dog of your breeding to see what you are doing. I felt we should then sell Dawn. Some people in the kennel club never forgave me for that. Carmalita Avery of Tulsa, Oklahoma bought Dawn. She was a very doggy person who showed Dawn and made her Top Producing Bitch one year. We raised Tsari and that was the right thing to do, because from Tsari came all these other Sam O'Khan champions. Carmalita was thrilled with Dawn.

We had first sold Sibir to a guy back in Michigan. Later, Carmalita wrote Frances and asked where she

could get a good male. We had none at the time, but we got a letter from a lawyer in Michigan who said the man who owned Sibir just died. He was handling the estate and the dog's papers made him aware that Sibir must be a very valuable dog. Did we know anybody who would like the dog? We contacted Carmalita and she bought the dog.

It is difficult when you raise dogs; you must realize that whether it is dogs or women, it is hard to have two in the same house. One will dominate, one will become broken in spirit and be cowed. Of this litter of all the top Khan's we had Sali Sarai. You could tell right off that Sali was the top bitch, but we noticed Tsari was beating her down. We didn't have the facilities to keep them apart that much. Joan Sheets called and wanted a bitch. With a broken heart, we decided to sell Sali Sarai, and on Christmas Day, she was shipped to Joan Sheets. At that time, we had Sali, Tsari, Khan, Shan and Temuchen.

You will note that all our names are Khans or Khanums. It is our understanding that the Samoyed people most likely originated in Ancient Persia, they were a lesser tribe, and were moved across all of Siberia, so they must have crossed Mongolia; all this time they kept their dogs. We picked the Chingis Khan family and we used that for the source of our names. Sibir is a river in Central Asia; Tian Shan is a mountain in Central Asia and a Chinaman there that Chingis Khan knew. We have no such names as "Snowball" or "Whitey" or names like this. It has always been well received, and many of the people who bought dogs that we sold stuck with the "Khan" idea. Pat Morehouse named her kennel Kubla Khan, and Kubla Khan was Chingis Khan's grandson. Then, when Muhuli was bred to the Watsons' dog, they named the dog Batu Khan. Batu was Chingis Khan's son. It has carried on from there.

Then we were at four dogs: Khan, Shan, Tsari and Tsarina. Tsarina was the only bitch that Tsari would ever tolerate. Tsari was getting old, even though at fifteen she still thought she was a pup. She accepted Tsarina without any problems, although Khan would never accept Shan, and that made things difficult. Shan did come

through it all right, because we managed to keep them apart. With Shan and Muhuli, it was also a battle. We averaged four dogs. When we went back to Wisconsin in 1971, we had Tsari, Tsarina and Shan. Shan rode with me to keep me company. I did train Shan in obedience and he got his CD without any problem. However, my experience with Samoyeds is that they are not very good high jumpers, and he would hit the boards too often.

While we were in Wisconsin, Frances bred Tsarina and Shan and produced Muhuli. In all our breeding experience up to that time, we never lost a pup. They averaged seven to nine puppies. But in this litter, they just didn't seem to eat well. We brought them in to the vet and he checked the mother's milk and said there was high acid.

We pulled the five of them through without any problems. Muhuli was my next choice. I kept Muhuli as my dog and we sold the rest.

As I said, at fifteen, Tsari was just like a pup, but right after that she came down with cancer. Even though she would eat a great deal, her whole body and muscle tone went, and at about fifteen and a half, she passed away. Shan lived to fourteen, and Zaysan died at ten. Muhuli is twelve now.

Are you going to get any more Samoyeds?

A Samoyed is a lot of work. To enjoy a Samoyed, he should have obedience and should be brushed a couple of times a week. I wouldn't have another Sammy pup unless I could plan to take it through obedience. As we are talking about these different dogs, in all our breeding, we were aware of hip dysplasia problems. If you start back in 1959, you'll find there was very little concern with that at the time, and I know of many breeders who were not x-raying their dogs. All of ours were x-rayed clear and the dogs that we bred had to be x-rayed clear or we would not breed them. When OFA came along, Sali Sarai and Chingis Khan were OFA SA-1 and SA-2. Shan is OFA, Tsarina is OFA, Muhuli is OFA. If you have bred dogs, you know that you don't hit 100 percent; you hope by judicious breeding, x-raying and so on, that you'll make out. You cut down on the num-

ber of dysplastic dogs, but I believe that you will still have some along the way, much to your sorrow. There isn't anything else you can do about it. We firmly believed in x-raying, but now I'm not sure that they know all the problems about it yet.

Do you have any idea how many litters you bred over the years?

There are two things: you would like to improve the breed and you feel obligated to have your dogs in good homes. A breeder worthy of the name should have those two things as his goals. The good homes are as important as anything you can get. We did not have a great many. You go back to Kita, the dam of Khan's first litter; the second litter was with Dawn. Tsari and Chum, twice; Tsari and Kris Kringle, once; Tsari and Chief, once. We did breed Sali Sarai once, then Tsarina and Shan, and those would be pretty close to the actual number of breedings we had. We are very proud of the homes that most of them went to.

Do you have any idea how many titled dogs you bred?

I have the list here. Better than 25, I'd say. Dawn turned out to be a top producing bitch back in 1964; Tsari was four times the top producing bitch. Our direct titles maybe aren't that high. Out of that one litter alone, Sali, Kubla Khan, Khyber Khan, Chingis Khan finished, and maybe someone else. We sold a bitch to North Starr and we got to meet them when we lived back in Wisconsin. We went to the Sammy specialty in Michigan, and North Starr's King's Ransom was there. He has many Bests in Show, and Ransom's mother, Sam O'Khan's Karelia of Khan, was out of that same litter. They got her and showed her to twelve points, when they decided to breed. They bred her and had King's Ransom and some other dogs that finished.

Ransom was a top winning dog who threw champions. Khan also threw champions. There is some substance to the line when you continue to breed champions; and I would say that the same thing has happened in the Kubla Khan line. I understand that Batu also has champions, and Muhuli, and Shan. We were on the right track, as things have proven down the line.

How would you describe the ideal Samoyed?

I disagree with some of the people I read about now. They are hollering about the height and so on. The standard is within reason, although I don't like a male under 22 inches. On up through 24 1/2 I have no problem with. The judge, if he is any good, goes by balance. If a dog is balanced, carries himself well, then I, myself, think the larger Sammy is more flashy. I prefer a 24-inch Sammy, if they move well. The movement is what really counts. Chingis Khan was likely 24 1/2 inches, and it never hurt him a heck of a lot! Most of our real successful winners, except Muhuli, were about 23 1/2 plus. Look at Yurok, Kubla Khan, Ransom ... they were all up there.

We had been in Samoyeds since 1958 or '59, and we always trimmed their whiskers and never saw any adverse reaction. None of our dogs ran into the wall! We also trimmed pads so they wouldn't bring in the dirt, or slip in the show ring. Of course, if you cut the hair in between the toes, you are going to get a splayed foot when you don't have it. We always trimmed the back hocks to keep them from looking ragged. I don't like the chalk blocks and that sort of thing; no faking of the dog.

Muhuli got his CD in three shows and we were starting his CDX. About that time, I lost Frances and Muhuli was keeping me company, so I didn't have the heart to be yanking him around that much.

How would you describe the ideal Samoyed temperament?

The Samoyed temperament is not completely outgoing. He is reserved with strangers, but very friendly around his own. He is not the light head that just goes and jumps all over every person. In other words, a reserved friendliness. With the children of their own family, they are pillows and companions without any ill temper. The temperament has a lot to do with the way the dog is brought up; a dog, as well as people, is a product of the environment. All our earlier dogs were brought up with kids and were very good with kids. In fact, Temuchen left me for eight kids! (laughter) Muhuli was never as outgoing with kids as the others, because he wasn't raised that way. I would not let kids wrestle with Muhuli like all the



Ch. Sam O'Khan's Kubla Khan.

other dogs. Timi would let them do anything, and if they got too rough, he wouldn't bite them, he would get up and walk away. The first Khan was the same way. They have to be around children to be their best, and have the opportunity to be around that type of behavior.

There are many cases where the dog has actually brought so much happiness, even if it didn't make much of an impression in the show ring. One of the real purposes of a dog is to be a member of the family. Our dogs were members of the family first, and show dogs second. Muhuli was there with me all the time after Frances died. He was my dog. Tsarina, his mother, was my wife's dog and stayed right by her bed when she was ill. She wouldn't let Muhuli or anybody go by. But after Frances died, Tsarina wouldn't even go into the bedroom. This is what makes the effort of having a dog worthwhile.

If you had it to do over again, would you?

Oh, yes. There is not much that I

would do differently with the success that we had. The Samoyeds were worth the effort, more so than any other dogs or cats. Too many just tolerate you, there is no doubt that the Samoyed has your interests at heart first.

I have the greatest respect for the Samoyed people who are trying to improve the breed. You get out of the dogs just what you put in, and you must have good stock to begin with. We picked Dawn, and Dawn clicked with Khan. Then Muhuli with at least eleven champions, so it wasn't all based on just one dog. Then we had no trouble with OFA and had no major faults, and very few minor ones. We never had a coarse dog. I have seen some mean Sammies, but this was due to their environment. Every dog that a neighbor of ours had ate up the mailman!

Thank you for such a nice interview.

You're welcome. Frances would have done a much better job. •

Centerfold

Ch. Tamberta of Artic Starr

June 27, 1963

Breeders: Lillian J. and D.B. Shepherd Owners: Ann C. Hamlin and Stanley F. Rolinski

Kobe's King Nikalaev of Encino
Tsar Peter of Okotsk
Jani's Alpine Starr

Arctic Lad
Cindy Samara Roe
Ray Lassie

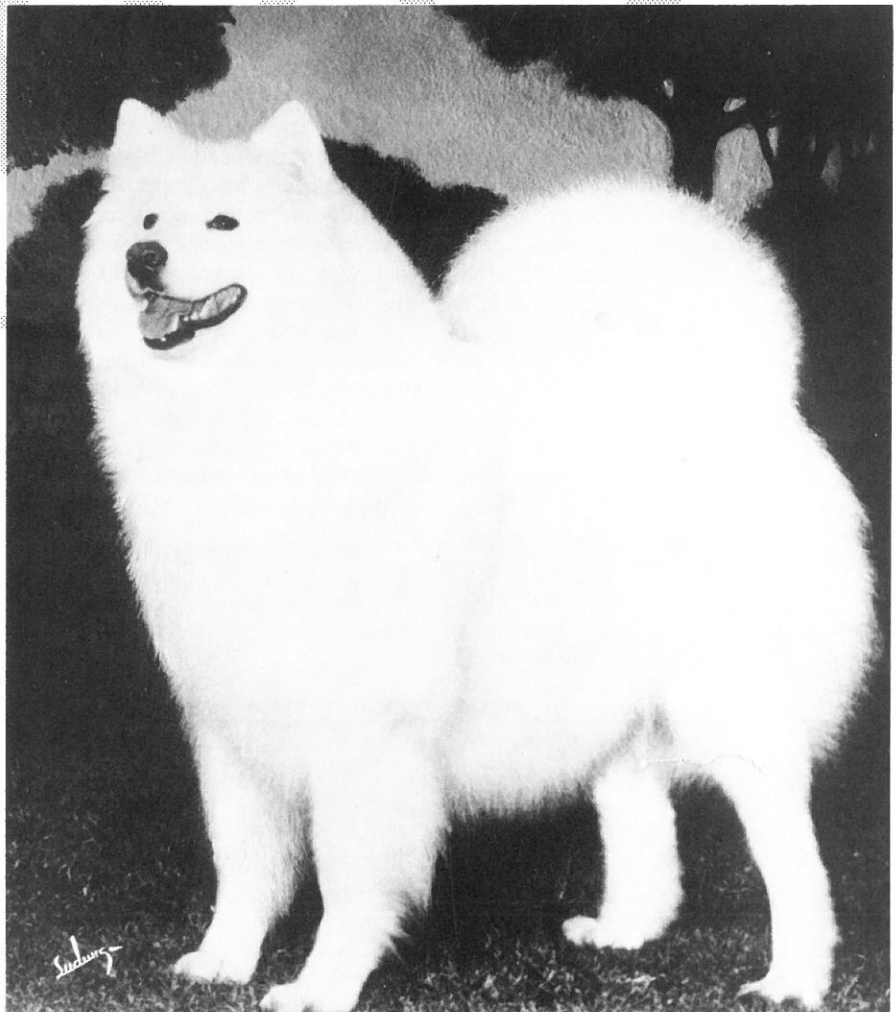
Int/Am/Mex Ch. Tamberta of Artic Starr (Tammy) was co-owned by Stanley Rolinski. Tammy came to us through Samoyed Rescue. I was supposed to clean her up and find her a home. She was in awful condition and we could not find anyone to take her. Peggy Borcharding wrote a lovely article about Tammy and it was published in the AKC Gazette several years ago. It was titled "Ella-by-the-Cinders" and was written right after she won the very rare International Championship title at the Olympics in Mexico City and Peggy wrote a "rags to riches" story that was just perfect. Tammy was in sad condition when we got her and Stan paid all her medical expenses, which were considerable. Tammy's story had a very happy ending because less than a year after we rescued her, she won her championship with four majors, a Group Four, a BOS at a specialty ... plus the coveted International title issued out of Thuin, Belgium. It made her the first Samoyed to win the title on this continent ... and she became a sort of canine Cinderella.

Tammy and Alta (Am/Mex/Can Ch. Alta of the Deep Powder Am. CDX, Can. CD, Mex. PC) did not get along, so after Tammy retired from the breed ring at age 8, she went to live with Stanley in Redondo Beach. She lived to be 13 1/2 and had a marvelous life bossing Stanley around.

Tamberta had three bouts with cancer. UC Davis treated her the first time. The operating room looked like something out of a Ben Casey television show. Three surgeons, three nurses, the anesthesiologist, three interns watching, and a whole amphitheater above looking down through a glass

dome over the operating table. The microphone was around the surgeon's neck and it was also on closed-circuit television. How's that for caring for an animal? She was opened from stem to stern, yet four days later she walked out of there on her own. She did not have a return of cancer for four years. When she died at 13 1/2, it was of can-

cer of the lungs. But between her first and final session with cancer, she had many years of carefree, wonderful living. She jogged with Stanley, played in the surf, flew in his plane, went camping, went on vacation ... and watched television from her own chair. She truly did go from rags to riches in every way in her lifetime. •



Beating a Dead Horse

*Jeanne Nonhof
Waldo, Wisconsin*

AFTER the article, "Does It Matter What You Call Your Dog?" I had a great deal of response. Many people are interested in dog names and Samoyed people are a clever bunch. I ran a little survey and we'll get to some of their responses in a future column. At the bottom of that survey, I asked the question, "Any ideals for an article you would like to see?"

I was really surprised that the overwhelming majority of answers said, "Sportsmanship." Remember that old saying, "The more things change, the more they stay the same"? This subject is almost like beating a dead horse, but perhaps if we all think about it a little, we can all profit.

It's hard to lose with your favorite Sammy. Some are harder to lose with than others. If you feel you really have a good one and the dog that went over yours wasn't as worthy, maybe you start to look for other reasons for your loss. It was politics, they knew the judge, the judge doesn't like the size of your dog, the judge doesn't know the standard, the judge got up on the wrong side of the bed, you weren't the first one in the ring, my dog had too much (not enough) coat for him, he won't put up a man (woman) – whatever! Everyone has their own theories and excuses. Perhaps you neglected to bring that good luck bottle of wine along.

I have heard some excuses that really cracked me up when someone's dog failed to achieve the top award of the day. My dog was (now get this one) "too typey." Imagine that! Can a dog be too typey? I think not. Off type, maybe. Overdone, maybe. But too typey? Never.

How about, "the ring was too small" and you look at it yourself and it is a veritable field. If that kind of ring is too small or dare I mention that perhaps the dog is too big to be agile and handy. Funny, I have never heard anyone say, "the ring was too big."

Then there's "There is a bitch in season somewhere here." I think I've used that one myself sometimes. But

think. Working dogs are expected to run on a team with an in-season bitch. You know at EVERY show you go to there is going to be a bitch in season. You've got to train your dog to keep his mind on his work, which in this case is showing.

There are excuses that are sometimes legitimate. "I couldn't get 'ears' at the right time." Really, the judge should only need to see "ears" once. Also, if a dog is young and giddy, he can sometimes throw a win away with both hands (paws). I have watched judges see through this silly stage to the very real quality the dog possesses and award him firsts on his merit. A blessing upon this kind of judge.

Answer these questions honestly to yourself. Was your dog on his very best behavior today? Was he feeling his best? Is he in good condition? Is his coat in full bloom? Does he closely adhere to the standard for the breed? Then, if you didn't win today, maybe next weekend. I have observed that enthusiasts who go to shows often generally are better sports for there is always another show. Those who get to fewer shows set a great deal of importance on each show.

But, you know, there are other areas than the breed ring where sportsmanship comes into this dog fancy. How about when somebody uses a different stud dog than the one you preferred? Did you condemn the puppies without a fair trial? Naughty – and

dumb, too. That dog may have something to offer that you need very badly.

When somebody buys a pup from a rival breeder, do you ignore that person? Not smart! After all, we are all pursuing the same goal, aren't we? The perfect Samoyed. Why shouldn't you welcome someone new to the wonderful madness that we call showing dogs. They could become your very best friends and some of their ideals might be just what you need to open up your mind to new possibilities.

Does "sportsmanship" include not snubbing obedience? You bet your Samoyed wool afghan it does. How about giving a little credit to those who work their dogs on sled or cart or backpack? Those very few that are into herding and tracking, let's give them their due respect. These are all legitimate uses of the Samoyed. That theory works in reverse, too. Those people who work their dogs should try the show ring to see how closely their dogs actually are to the standard before making remarks about other dogs like, "Oh, he's a show dog, therefore useless." If a dog is a GOOD show dog, he will also be a versatile working dog.

Good sportsmanship is courtesy, treating others the way you want to be treated, allowing others room to do their thing. •

Charms, Fetishes and Other Magic

*Don and Dot Hodges
Poynette, Wisconsin*

AS with any competitive endeavor, showing dogs sooner or later involves the development of little irrational quirks by most practitioners. Whether by coincidence, selective observation or whatever, one decides

that some object or ritual is a positive assist in the achievement of success. Over the years, we have acquired quite a bit of such "baggage." In fact, we probably started right out with a common example at our first show. We won the Working Group at a show on October 13, wearing arm band #13, having stayed in room 13 at a motel the night before. The number 13, con-

rary to common perception, has seemingly been very lucky for us. Number 7, on the other hand, is rotten!

We are sure anyone who has been in the ring more than a time or two already has several things they have to have or do in order to win. Everyone, of course, has a "show outfit" which, in addition to having pockets for bait, combs, etc., has a magical aura that helps him or her into the winner's circle. When we first started showing, Dot owned a dress and jacket combination that was ideal. Never mind that it was the most expensive article of clothing she had ever owned! It had pockets, class and "magic." She wore it for ten years and kept it hanging in

the closet even longer. It appears in numerous show photographs and is historically preserved in ads of our dogs from years past. I had a suit I wore to shows occasionally which she greatly disliked. She swore we never won anything when I wore it, and was astonished to discover I had it on in the photographs of our first Best in Show when they arrived in the mail. Of course some people MUST groom the dog with a particular tool, go in the ring with THE right squeaker and so on. And what about the various colors of nail polish used to distinguish small puppies – are you sure it is just coincidence that the red ones always turn out to be the feisty ones?

Frankly, I thought things were getting a little out of hand recently when we took a bottle of wine along on a circuit. We won a couple of shows and one evening I uncorked the wine and enjoyed a little while contemplating the next day's prospects. The next day, we lost, and the uncorked wine bottle became the reason. We had to have an unopened bottle of wine along in order to win. The solution was to get a new bottle of wine into the cooler! Next weekend, properly equipped, we finished our bitch with a five-point major! So simple when you know your charms! •

Centerfold

Ch. Silveracres Chief Polar Bear

April 22, 1967 – November 24, 1979

Breeders/Owners: Harold and Doris McLaughlin

Ch. Rokandi of Drayalene

Ch. Nachalnik of Drayalene
Drayalene's Clarisse

Ch. Omak II of Whitecliff

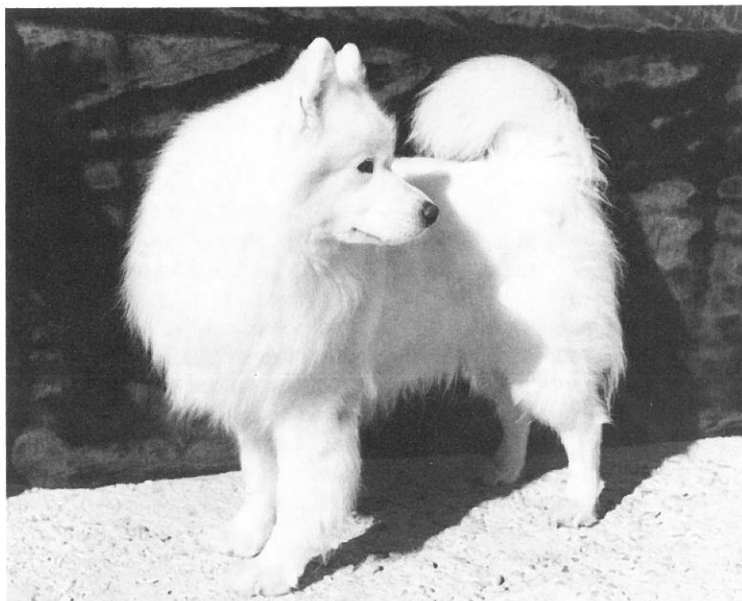
Ch. Cnejinka
Belkina of Kanin CD

KIP was sold to Beckeye Austin in California as an eight-week-old puppy. He was never shown in conformation during his life with her, but he did get two legs on his CD, both over 190. When Beckeye passed away, Kip was returned to Silveracres. He was 6 1/2 years of age, fat and needed time to accept his change of home. At 8 1/2 years of age, he started his show career. He completed his championship on his tenth birthday. He was the eighth champion for the Chief/Jinka combination. There was a total of twelve, and all twelve were OFA certified normal.

Kip was almost 23 inches tall and would weigh about 65 pounds, an "ideal" weight. He was pure white with no biscuit and carried the longer "glamour" type coat. His eyes were very dark and he still had a black nose when he passed away. His best point was his excellent reach and drive and good temperament with all other dogs.

Kip produced a total of 66 puppies with ten obtaining their AKC championship. Four of the ten went on to place well in the Working Group. Ch. Denka's Diamond Tiara CD has four

placings, Ch. Trailblazer Orion has four Group 2's, Ch. Windy Ridge Katka Natalya has a couple and Ch. Pookas Centurion of the Pines has a couple. •



Crate Training

*Don and Dot Hodges
Poynette, Wisconsin*

TRAINING and housebreaking puppies is a basic dog activity that many of us perform without thinking about it, but the new puppy owner, with little experience, may face serious difficulties that threaten the permanence of the puppy's new home. Over the years, we have adopted a policy of strongly encouraging the use of a crate as an aid in "civilizing" the new pet. Crate training has many advantages for the pet owner as well as the breeder/exhibitor and, while the latter learns quickly from observation at dog shows, often no one has explained the benefits to the pet owner. Sometimes a real selling job is required to overcome the attitude that "caging" a pet is somehow cruel. The results in ease of transition to the new home and subsequent trouble-free enjoyment of the new pet are well worth the effort, especially when you get feedback thanking you for the advice.

We explain to all our puppy buyers, before they come to take their puppy, the advantages of using a dog crate and recommend to them an article called "Why Crate Train Your Puppy?" which was first published in *Dog World* in May 1976 and subsequently reprinted in the December 1976 *Samoyed Club of America Bulletin*. The advantages we mention include aiding in housebreaking, since the crate confines the puppy to a relatively small space and inhibits elimination.

Crates keep the puppy out of trouble when it can't be supervised and saves lots of damage to furniture, carpets and so on. The crate is a place of safety when things are taking place that might lead to injury or loss — everything from chewed lamp cords to open doors. The crate is also a safe place for the puppy when traveling — helping to protect it in accidents and keeping it out of your way while you are driving. Crate training helps when your dog must be shipped or left at the vet for treatment. Generally, a crate becomes the dog's own sanctu-

ary or home — no matter where it is!

How exactly does one go about crate training an eight-week-old puppy? There are a number of procedures which aid greatly in the process. We try to get our puppies started ourselves before they leave the litter. We take the whole litter to training — socialization nights at our local kennel club. In the process, they get a 60-mile round trip crated in the van in addition to being introduced to a new place, strange people and dogs, and some leash experience. If possible, they get brief periods crated alone.

We recommend to the new owner that the puppy crate be lined with pine or cedar shavings (preferably an airline-type crate to keep the shavings confined) for the first couple of weeks unless someone is home all the time to see that the puppy goes outside frequently. Before ten to twelve weeks of age, puppies are a little young to go long periods or overnight without "accidents." The shavings keep them clean if they do mess in the crate.

They are encouraged to accept the confinement by feeding in the crate and by rewarding them with treats for going into the crate. They are allowed out of the crate only when

the owner can directly supervise their activity. Each time the puppy is removed from the crate, it is immediately taken outside to relieve itself.

Persistence and dedication for a few days to a week when they are old enough to really housebreak can provide nearly trouble-free enjoyment of the new pet the rest of its life. When the puppy is free, watch it and get it out often to avoid mistakes. Get it outside first thing in the a.m. — taking only time for such preparations as are necessary to avoid shocking the neighbors. Outside goes the puppy immediately after eating as well. When you plan to crate it, be sure it is well worn out and tired. Put it in the crate, and give it a tidbit. Soon it will go in willingly. The shavings can be removed when serious training begins, to break the cycle of eliminating in the crate if it has gotten used to that. Leave the door open when the puppy is free and often it will go into the crate voluntarily when it is tired.

We have had great success with this procedure ourselves and many of our puppy buyers report happily that crate training is the best thing we gave them next to the puppy itself. •

The Shape of Things to Come

Phoebe Faulmann

TIMES are changing, definitely many new things are happening with our breed. The Samoyed is no longer just a participant in the Working Group, but a worthy contender and an animal readily noticed in the BIS ring.

Now, more than ever before, our breed is making history both in the ring and before the public/pet fancy. Rarely anymore is it necessary for me to explain what a Sammy is or what it looks like. It seems the Samoyed has "arrived."

Many dedicated breeders have worked years to have our breed reach this point. We are all proud of the recognition. Unfortunately, as with most things, it is a double edged sword. I will try to explain. During the picture taking at many of the past few shows, I've had almost every judge go out of their way to sincerely comment on the quality of the breed today. It's true. Breeders' exhibitors and handlers have their "act" together better than ever before. It is now the exception to see poor quality or poorly groomed Sams in the ring. There was a time when an exhibitor with a Sam

always seemed to have been less than sincere in grooming their dog. Not these days. The Sams look their very best! It is a pleasure to compete with most exhibitors handling Sams, as they are usually very polite and concerned with their dog.

With our new found public recognition will inevitably come an increase in puppy sales, specifically pet pups. Our phone rings several times a week with someone looking for a Samoyed. Many are first time dog owners, some who have never even seen a Sam in the flesh. We could never supply the demand for puppies at the present rate, nor would we want to.

At this time, I think our breed and its breeders are in control. My thoughts may be getting ahead of themselves, but I'm concerned over the destiny of our breed should our claim to fame continue to rise at such

a rapid rate. I think of what it did to the Shepherd, Dobie and Poodle when those breeds became a favorite of the public's attention.

WITH notoriety of anything usually comes an increase in demand. Sometimes with an increase in demand there is a decrease in quality. Could you imagine a Sam in every home and one on every corner? From there we would have an increase in entries to a point where it would be a necessity to have handlers on our dogs just to get them noticed in the CLASSES. I'm not against handlers, but I rather like to entertain the thought that Sams are still a "breeder's breed." Not to mention I could never afford to hire handlers on a regular basis for the classes. Sams are not an easy breed to care for when compared to a Shepherd or

Dobie. If somehow the demand for pups should be supplied, even with conscientious screening, many people would quickly grow tired of the grooming, digging and shedding when the dogs grow up. Since they are not protectors, as is the Shepherd or Dobie, they would quickly be pushed from the family scheme, as they would serve no purpose. It is sad to see any dog abused, but to see our own breed fill the pounds and pet mills would be a stronger kind of hurt. Eventually, temperaments would be lost and children would be at risk. Recently in our area, a child was literally eaten by a Golden Retriever.

It might be years away and it might not happen at all, but our noble breed could be in jeopardy. It's up to the fancy of today to protect the legacy others worked so hard to give us.

Let's be careful out there! •

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