

Caveat Emptor II

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DAVE Moe's original "Caveat Emptor!" (see Fall 1977 issue of The Samoyed Quarterly) hit the nail on the head in itemizing expenses of owning and showing dogs. If, however, you feel the need of further punishing your expense account, may we suggest adding sled dog racing to your activities?

When we first became exposed to this disease, we had only one Samoyed (like most people, we thought one would be enough). Since we couldn't run a team with a single Sammy, we got into weight pulling competition. We were elated at the minimal trouble and expense involved: an \$8 harness, gas for a Saturday afternoon drive to the race site, a \$2 entry fee. Training equipment included a few worn-out tires and twenty feet of level ground; competition sled and weights were provided by the race giving club. Naive – not us!

As we have learned, owning one Samoyed necessitates owning another, and another ... finally we have enough dogs to start training a team. It was at about this time that we began to understand the reason mushers dressed so shabbily – they were flat broke! In showing, we as novices had started out with a minimum of equipment and added an item here and another there as we observed veteran show-goers unveil their clever devices. It all adds up, but doesn't seem to hurt too badly when we just have a small hole in our pocket through which show funds leak. But, we found in sled dog racing it was as if something ripped the pocket right off our britches! One has to emerge full-blown, so to speak, in order to have the necessities of sled dog racing!

The following is a list of equipment and costs to get one started in racing, in order of increasing cost. I wish someone had given us this list before we got started. We probably would have gone ahead anyway, but through trial and error without a list, we've spent a good deal more than is indicated! Keep in mind that this does not include minor details such as gas,

food, a roof over one's head. For a five-dog team:

Dog bag (duffle) U.S. Army donation	
Racing collars @ \$1	\$5.00
Poop scoop shovel	5.00
Polyethylene runners	10.00
Stake out chains @ \$3	15.00
Polyethylene 5 gallon water jug	20.00
Gangline and snaps	25.00
Car rack for sled/cart	30.00
Harnesses @ \$8	40.00
Dog boxes for travel (includes husband labor, wife supervision, medical cost for ensuing battle injuries and mental agony)	200.00
Sled	200.00
Training cart (you may start out with a bike, but you <i>will</i> end up with a cart!)	250.00
Clothes for two (of the human type: thermal everything, down-filled everything, good boots)	500.00
One pickup truck (which, if you have any sense at all, you will equip with 4-wheel drive)	6,500.00
4-wheel drive	1,000.00
TOTAL	\$8,800.00
	(Give or take a lot)

Our single largest cost is the expense of travel to training sites. Unless one is independently wealthy and owns enough land for about twenty miles of private road, one drives, and drives, and drives. We drive in July and August in search of a dirt road the paving crew hasn't beaten us to. We drive in November to get two five-mile stretches for variety three times a week. (Of course all this driving takes place in the predawn hours so it will be cold enough to run the dogs.) We drive in December to get a couple of seven-mile roads thrice weekly. By the time we drive to a race, it feels like a Sunday pleasure jaunt. Of course that is about all we can afford by now, being totally depleted of energy and cash.

Somehow we have to come up with motel fees. It is a constant mystery to me why races can't be held in some cute little mountain town that will sponsor our club. Unfortunately, the cute little mountain towns that want us have names like Vail and Aspen and we are a side attraction at

their winter carnivals. They also want our \$75 a night for a room. And, unlike the show circuit, when one installs a well-mannered dog and airline crate in the corner of the room, one leaves his team in the truck. Because those five white fluffy dogs, like Jekyll and Hyde, have been transformed from ladies and gentlemen into lunatics at the sight of their harnesses.

Since the dogs must "rough it," a dog box is necessary – a unit that slides into the bed of a truck and has as many compartments as necessary. Ever try to fit five large size plastic or wire crates in a pickup and have room to haul anything else? In a smaller wooden compartment, the dog can produce enough heat to offset sub-zero weather. A remodeled Winnebago would be great to house all of us, but unless they come in four-wheel drive, we'd have to race in City Park. Vans offer three options: If you are comfortably warm, the dogs are roasting. If *they* are comfy, you have icicles hanging off your nose. You will also find yourself scraping frost off the *inside* of your windows because of this heavy breathing quintet.

FOOD! This involves one of the great debates within the sled dog world, but to be brief: Since our dogs are burning up calories at a tremendous rate, mushers have to come up with some of the most fantastic concoctions ever devised to keep our dogs' weight and energy up. None of the Arf-Arf canned foods or off-season hourly parade to the Milkbone box, no sirree! Each driver has his own secret recipe which he swears is the winning edge, and which he is not about to share, so for every musher in existence, there is a different brew. Which, incidentally, pound for pound costs as much as the finest Porterhouse steak money can buy. Mushers, however, subsist on hot dogs and crockpot chili consumed in our \$75 a night rooms.

The rewards? If you have a *top* team, you might meet the expense of your gas for the weekend, if it's a purse race. Assuming you've trained the team enough to complete a given course, usually your reward for a \$5 entry fee is a 10¢ ribbon, a coronary

attack from running at 10,000-foot altitude, and maybe the satisfaction of beating the team that got you last week. This obviously doesn't balance out the debit side of the page. Just as obvious, however, is the fact that we keep on doing it, year after year, so somehow the returns are equalling the investment.

Seriously, try if you can to place a price on these returns: The thrill of adding a whole new dimension to your relationship with your Samoyeds because you've gotten into the inner

recesses of each others' minds. Because they respond with everything they've got when you ask it of them. There's a feeling that builds up in you that wants to burst into a yell of, "Look at my wonderful dogs!" The unsurpassed joy of slipping through a snowy wood on whispering runners, watching the waving white plumes of the dogs in front of you that you have trained to run as a unit, a unit as old as the love of man and dog.

The cup runneth over! •

exaggerations that some breeders are breeding for, only for the reason that this is what they like. These breeders rarely do consistent winning. If they show consistently, they may occasionally luck into a win. The smarter breeders of this lot will note the handful of judges who appreciate their unbalanced dogs and will follow them to the ends of the earth for those undeserved championships.

ONE very often made mistake in breeding that is happening is that of taking one exaggerated dog and breeding it to an oppositely exaggerated dog in hopes of getting the perfect blend. For example, one breeder has a bitch. The bitch is nineteen inches, fine bone, poor head, short coat, but she moves with perfection of detail both front and rear. The owner of this bitch finds the "perfect" mate. He is 24 inches, heavy bone, gorgeous head, and coat nearly dragging the ground. Of course, you must ignore the fact that he's slightly cowhocked, barreled front, and four-inch long legs. Need I say more?

In a recent SQ article, I saw where a prominent breeder-judge suggests that our standard could stand some correction on the subject of ear size. What purpose would it serve to allow for a larger ear by our standard? While it is true that nine out of ten Samoyeds have ears that are too large for our standard, is this any reason to change it? I say the correction should be made in the breeding programs of the breeders. The ear size stated in the standard is not small. To allow for a larger ear would give the appearance of an unbalanced and less attractive head. While ears are not that important, consideration should be given to even these more minute details before breeding.

What this article boils down to is this. Before the judges can learn what is correct to put up in the breed (and Group), they will first have to start seeing balanced Samoyeds enter the rings. When the balanced dogs are there, most judges do spot them as the more correct exhibit, and will go up more times than not. The good judges will respect this dog as a true representative of the breed. Maybe the reason some judges never put our breed up in the Group is that they just haven't found a good one.

The Standard

Ivan Lewis
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WHAT I would like to write about has been a subject of controversy for many years ... the Samoyed Standard. In my opinion, the standard we have abided by for many years is perfect in all respects, giving a true picture of what the perfect Samoyed should be. The description given is ideal for the sled, herding and show Samoyed. But still, one exhibitor thinks more emphasis should be given on coat. Another would have the size limit raised to 24 1/2 inches. We have all been in conversations where a fellow breeder comments, "I breed for a 24-inch dog with lots of leg. The rear has to be good, but I don't worry with the fronts." Another breeder comments, "Well, I have to have great big bones, big, broad bear heads, and top of standard size. I don't worry about movement because I only show under judges who like my 'type.'" Then another breeder will say, "I don't care about coat, bone, head, pigment, or any of that stuff. Give me a Sam that can move and I'm satisfied." I have heard all of these comments plus many more variations from old-time breeders and owners of top winners and producers.

You can look at the problem in two different lights. First, the breeder will say, "I have to breed for a Sam

that will win. The judges like my dogs the way they are. My dog has seven Group placements, so he is obviously a fine example of a working dog." So the reasoning behind this breeder is to give the judges what they want. But different judges want different things for sure. For instance, most German Shepherd breeder-judges will want to see a smooth, effortless gait and won't pay much attention to coat, pigment and tailset. On the other hand, the Pomeranian breeder-judge will look for the typey, heavy coated Sam. Head and expression will be most important. Then the typical terrier breeder-judge will immediately spot the Sam that is full of life. Perky animation is a must. You may be able to get by with a faulty front here, but the deadhead won't have a chance.

The other problem consists of the breeders that only breed for THEIR idea of the correct Samoyed. These breeders never consult the standard before breeding. One breeder I know ignores all aspects of the Samoyed except the head and coat. After years of inbreeding, this breeder has beautiful heads and coats, but the dogs have very poor movement, fine bone, poor substance and inconsistency in size. Another breeder who has bred for bigger and bigger bone now has dogs whose front and rear legs touch all the way down with no space in between.

There are, of course, many other

So next time you plan to breed a litter, don't just look at the few details you desire, take a good look at the whole dog.

BEFORE breeding for the true Samoyed of the standard, make sure your bitch is sound, balanced and a true representative of the Samoyed bitch. Anything less should not be bred. She should not be dominant for any major fault.

Once you have a bitch good enough for this breeding, consideration should be given to the bloodline. You must decide whether to inbreed, linebreed or outcross. There are many good books that will help in deciding which method to use.

Next we must find the perfect stud. Find a dog that will double up on your bitch's attributes and improve on her faults. It may not be possible to actually see the choices of sires you have narrowed down to, so you may have to rely on knowledgeable breeders that will give you their unbiased opinions and faults of the dogs. Any responsible stud owner should be more than happy to supply a movie of their dog if he is good, and is available at stud. But there are stud owners that will not allow movies to be seen or taken of their dogs. Unless you have the opportunity to see these dogs ... **STAY AWAY!**

But now let's say you have the opportunity to interview the stud dog in person. The following is a complete method of checking the faults and attributes of the dog. Make sure you have a copy of *The Illustrated Standard** to consult through the entire process. (*Available from SCA.) The instruments you will need are calipers and a tape measure.

First, stand away from the dog and walk around him. Notice the total picture. Notice size - medium is best (22 to 23 inches), as it is an exaggeration to be at the top or bottom of the standard. Notice length of body. Cobby and long backs should be avoided. The total look should be that of balance.

Now examine the dog starting with the head. Check the ears, teeth, pigment, eye color and shape, length of muzzle, overall head shape and expression. Check the neck and topline. Check the chest for depth. See that the thighs and shoulders are

well muscled. Don't forget, pictures can be deceiving, and a thick coat can give the impression of a muscular body, so the only way to be sure is the personal examination. Next, run your hand down between the front legs (between the elbows) to check the width of front structure. Check the shoulders and upper arm for correct length and angulation. Make sure he has both testicles. Next, check the bone size to eliminate fine or massive. The legs should be well feathered. The length of leg shouldn't be short nor excessively long. Check hocks and pasterns for weakness. Check the feet for proper hare foot. Pads should be medium-thick and well furred. Check the coat for length and texture. The undercoat should be thick and soft and should give the outer coat the proper standoff quality. Outer coat should be coarse with silver tips. Do not penalize the dog for cream or biscuit coloring as long as it enhances the appearance and appears with a shading quality. Last in the standing examination is the tailset.

Now the dog should be moved. Going away you should check for width of rear leg movement. Note any weak or cowhocks. Note any toeing in or out. Coming back you should note any wide or narrow movement.

Notice the elbows and the pastern action. Again note any toeing in or out. Next check the side view. Notice the head carriage and neck action. Notice the front end reach and rear drive and watch for any straight or stiff movement. Notice tail carriage. The Samoyed should be consistent and should single-track at all speeds except a walk or very slow trot. He should trot - not pace.

When making all notations, be sure not to confuse CORRECTNESS with PREFERENCE. You won't find a Sam that is correct in all areas, but there are a few that are good enough. He may not be the great winner that the dog up the road is, but if you want to breed for better, sounder dogs, show records are meaningless and should be disregarded. And if, after the examination is over, you haven't been bitten, snapped at, growled at, jumped on, or shied away from, you can rest assured that you have a dog with a suitable temperament.

As responsible breeders, we must take out that dusty copy of the Samoyed Standard, wipe off the cobwebs, and really breed for the correct dog described, or before long we won't have anything to work with. **THEN it will be TOO LATE.** •

Obedience Handling Tips

*Ann Hogue
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NOW first of all, I would have you know that I am a great supporter of the fine sport of obedience, and have been for a number of years. But even the most devoted obedience person will have to admit that there is one undeniable fact about exhibiting in obedience - you have to do an awful lot of waiting! You wait your turn to go on, you wait for sits and downs, you wait for run-offs, you wait for your score, you wait for trophies to be presented, and on and on and on. I have tried a number of different meth-

ods for coping with this situation, such as reading books and magazines, writing letters, doing my nails, etc. But the final result is inevitable; no matter what other amusements are available, I always end up watching the performances of other exhibitors. Novice, Open class, Utility - they are all fascinating. You would imagine, then, that over the past ten years I have done a goodly bit of spectating. And over the past several months I have begun to realize that over and over again, for reasons that should be so obvious as not even to be mentioned, exhibitors are losing points by simply throwing them away. Whether your dog consistently works at the just-barely-passing

170's level, or in the trophy range of the 190's, this is a sport in which every little half point is crucial. So let's face it, in obedience, you need all the help you can get. It is my opinion that obedience exhibitors can substantially improve their scores just by paying attention to three utterly obvious, but very important, details:

(1) **GIVE THE JUDGE A CHANCE.** In all the years I have been showing in and watching obedience, I have only seen one obedience judge who was a real authentic, genuine, card-carrying creep. (I haven't seen his name on a judging panel in years, so it is to be hoped that he has retired in some place suitable to his personality, like outer Siberia.) All the others are nice, concerned people who will do their best to help you if only you will let them. I remember a very nice judge in Colorado who, seeing that my dog and I were the very first ones to go on (at 8:30 a.m. yet), told me that since I couldn't discover the heeling pattern by watching others, he would show it to me before we started. Another judge gave us a second chance at the retrieve-over-the-high-jump because some rowdy kids were galloping around among the bleachers and might have distracted my dog. A judge may say, "If you can't hear me, just stop and I'll repeat the command"; but often I see exhibitors stumbling around helplessly because they couldn't hear and yet were embarrassed to stop altogether. When the judge says, "Any questions?" that is just what he means; if you are uncertain about something, ask him - he usually knows the rule book better than you do.

BUT my favorite example of an exhibitor's failing to take advantage of the help offered by the judge is a very sad story indeed. A friend of mine, whose very first registered dog, a Belgian Sheepdog, turned out to be a real whiz in obedience, was trying for the third and final leg on the CD degree; and the first two legs were earned with scores above 195. There is not an obedience exhibitor anywhere who would not like to win that very special prize - the Dog World Award, for finishing a degree in three consecutive trials with scores of 195 and up. This lady and her dog needed only to turn in one

more fine performance, and the Dog World Award was theirs. But I sat in the front row and watched them lose the award by one-half point (sigh) because they didn't take advantage of the judge's trying to help. A lot of people seem to think that when the judge says, "Are you ready?" that is the exhibitor's signal to look the judge straight in the eye, smile beguilingly, and say, "Yes, SIR!" Well, my friends, that is dead wrong; when the judge asks if you are ready, you *instantly* zap your gaze to your dog. If the little precious is sitting squarely by you, eyes front and ready to go, THEN you smile winningly at the judge and say, "Yes." But you are judged from the second you admit that you are ready to be judged; if Poochie is leaning against you, or otherwise sitting crooked; and when the judge asked that famous question, she never looked at her dog but said, "Yes," and the judge marked off a half point then and there. Her final score was 194 1/2, that one-half point shy of the Dog World Award. A happy postscript to this story, however, is that that same dog not only went on to a CDX degree, but later became a National Specialty winner and is now ranked as one of the top-winning Belgians in the country. (I sneakily mention this to reinforce my often declared belief that it is a very good thing to show your fine breed ring dog in obedience, too.) So pay attention, dear friends, to the nice obedience judge and let him help you out a little here and there.

(2) **GIVE THE DOG A CHANCE.** In the first place, have him well groomed and looking his best. He'll make a better impression on the judge, on the audience, and he'll feel better too (can you doubt this, when everybody knows that even your car runs just a little more smoothly right after it's been washed). Also, give a thought to his feelings; he's bound to be a little nervous, just like you are. So try to keep him from becoming overly excited. I recently saw a lady exhibitor whose Samoyed had just made a crooked sit on the figure eight exercise give him a huge yank as a correction. Now, it was obvious that the lady was nervous; and it was between exercises, so I guess the correction was permissible. But she got the old boy so shook up that he had a hard time settling down and lost some

points later due to his own nervousness. Just a quiet "Heel" and a little pat would have been better. And I am very happy to see more and more exhibitors using such good common sense on the sit and down exercises. It used to be the usual thing that when the judge said, "Exercise finished," after the "sit" exercise, each exhibitor would give the heel command, take a step forward, and then lavish praise upon his dog. But often the dogs would be so excited over all this process that it would be hard for them to settle down for the next part, the long down; and I have seen many dogs lose points on this exercise for whimpering, or squirming, and some would even blow it completely. How much smarter it is, I think, that after the "Finish" is given the exhibitor gives his dog a quiet pat and leaves him sitting where he is. Then, when the "Down your dogs" command comes, the dog is calm and ready to drop for the final exercise. More and more exhibitors have adopted this method, and it does work like a charm.

THE most obvious way, though, to give your dog a better chance, is **DON'T BE SO ABRUPT.** Don't turn so abruptly, don't stop so abruptly, and for heaven's sake, don't start out heeling at a dead run. Now, you mustn't misunderstand and think I mean for you to work slowly; our dogs are working dogs and need to step out smartly to look their best. But good grief! Most exhibitors' legs are a good bit longer than their dogs', and you have to allow for that. I saw a tall, leggy lady with a teenie little Sheltie make a very respectable score, but the reason they did was that the dog, thank heaven, was a lot smarter than his handler. This woman, on the "Heel" command, would stride out with a huge goose step which made the Sheltie run like mad to catch up; and when the judge would say "Halt," the woman would stop so suddenly that she looked like a pop-up duck in a shooting gallery. The Sheltie's momentum would carry him three or four steps beyond his stalled mistress, but whiz kid that he was, he would look over his shoulder, size up the situation, and carefully back up for a perfect sit every time.

When you start out on the heel, whether you use left foot or right,

make that first step just a shade shorter than the following ones – it'll give your dog a better chance to get himself moving at his best pace, which ought to be your consistent heeling speed. And when you hear, "Halt," you don't have to slam on your brakes; I usually count silently, "Halt ... two ... three," and by that time have given the dog a chance to stop at the same time I do. I have found I do much better, too, if I stop on the right foot, so that the final movement is the left coming up to join the right; that way, your dog can keep his eye on your right (the stopping place) and follow your left up to it. I do not mean that you should consciously slow down for those last steps, as that is technically giving your dog an added signal – a real no-no – but just remember to take an extra second so he'll stop as you do. Same thing on the turns; ladies, do you remember when your toddler was learning to walk and holding onto your hand? You didn't pivot madly on one heel and stride out rapidly in a new direction; since the child's legs were shorter than yours, you naturally took a few smaller steps in and around those turns so he could keep up with you. I think you'll find it works well with your dog, too, if instead of a pivot turn you make a series of short steps on that about-turn, and then the first step out in the new direction should be just a tad shorter than most, so the dog can get his body around you. (His wheel base is longer than yours, you know.) An added advantage of this technique is that for those of us who are not famous for coordination and grace (cough), the small-step-turn looks smoother and gives better balance. Keep in mind, then, that even a big hefty Samoyed has littler legs than yours, and he can use a little extra help in keeping up with you.

(3) GIVE YOURSELF A CHANCE. First of all, you can start out helping yourself before you even leave home by choosing appropriate clothes. It is so wonderful that we have so many nice fun matches for practice, and I am greatly tempted to appear at these fun shows in faded jeans and my Samoyed T-shirt. But I started in obedience in the old days in which there were a lot of judges who simply thought it inappropriate for ladies to wear slacks in the ring. It

matters not that lots of women look better in pants – in olden days, and I strongly suspect newer days too, a lot of judges think lady exhibitors ought to appear in a dress. So even at the smallest fun matches, who knows if the difference between a trophy and a plain green ribbon might be the way you dress? You and your dog are a team, and the two of you need to present a neat, attractive team appearance. And here's a trick you might want to try: Even though the dog is supposed to keep his eyes on your face, he can't help but notice your feet, which are considerably larger than his and more in his plane of vision than the rest of you. See if your very nicest bleach-white tennis shoes won't help him keep up with you; if he is using your feet as a guide for his own position, be sure he can't miss them! And this especially for the ladies: Be sure that whatever you choose to wear as an exhibitor is the same thing you wear as a trainer. I had to learn this the hard way; I had trained my dog all along wearing slacks, and then showed up for my very first obedience trial (a real one) in a dress. My dog and I did terribly, and the very kind lady judge took the time to tell me that one of the reasons was that every time we stopped, the dog had to lean way out around my skirt to see me. So give yourself and your dog a break, and don't spring a costume change on the dog at the crucial moment.

AN obvious thing, but one which must be pointed out, is: Stay calm. I know it's all very well for me to tell you his, especially since even after all this time I still walk into the ring a quivering wreck. But a wise obedience trainer long ago told me that a dog can smell fear in your breath, and that it's good to chew a piece of gum before you go in the ring. For all I know, that theory may be sheer nonsense, but I find that it does help. Whether it conceals my nerves from the dog or not, a stick of gum or a nice comforting peppermint before ring time seems to steady and soothe me a little – it's worth a try, anyway. Also, give yourself a break by eliminating as many surprises as you can; that is, watch carefully the exhibitors before you and note the heeling pattern and any little manner-

isms of the judge. For example, some judges like to walk around with you instead of staying in one spot; this is upsetting to some dogs, but it's a lot less disturbing to them if you are expecting it and don't let it bother you. Then, when it's time for you and the dog to go into the ring, you will be prepared for each step in the exercises for your class – he calls "Slow" here, and does an "About turn" here ... It pays to be ready.

WHICH brings me to a very valuable piece of advice I got from a judge just a few weeks ago, a tidbit plenty worthy of passing along to readers. My lady Samoyed and I were among the last to go on in a long line of entries in a local fun match. Having watched all our predecessors, I had done my own scoring and picked a lady with a very steady, fine-working German Shepherd as the one to win first place in the class. We did pretty well ourselves, and I was hoping we could place somewhere behind the Shepherd. I was astounded when the steward told me to stick close by, that my dog and dog No. 36 were to be in a run-off. (Now here you can forget all my wise words about staying calm; in this case, it's perfectly acceptable to PANIC!). I was still quaking from the shock when dog No. 36 appeared – yes, the German Shepherd. So, I decided, when things are this desperate, you just drop back ten years and punt! My dog and I walked quietly away from the ring, just getting our muscles working again after sitting for such a long time. When I stopped, she gave me a nice straight sit, to which I responded with a quiet "Good girl," and a soft pat – nothing exciting, but just to remind her that we still had some work to do. When we appeared at ringside again, we at least were both breathing normally and a little more relaxed. The lady with the Shepherd, though, had been just standing and waiting. Her dog was still yawning from having sat still so long; I thought, well, maybe we can't outperform you, but at least we've walked around a little and gotten the juices flowing again. To make a long story shorter, we won the run-off and got a first place trophy. The judge told me and the German Shepherd lady always to remember this: When you have a good-working dog

and you know you have turned in a good performance, be ready when the class is over in case you have to be in a run-off. Get your dog up and awake, walk him around a little, give him a few quiet commands and some reassurances. In short, let him know he may still be called on to do his best. Now concerning this, REMEMBER, practicing your dog anywhere on the premises of an obedience trial is absolutely FORBIDDEN! But I don't think any judge would object to your getting out of sight and sound of the

ring and doing a little quiet and unobtrusive heeling to warm your dog up. Don't make a big production of it, but just a little pre-ringtime activity will be reassuring to your dog and to you.

So, dear obedience friends, I hope the foregoing will be of some help to you. Keep in mind that there are three very important individuals who want you to do well: the judge, your dog, and you yourself. With three "good guys" like that pulling for you, how can you lose? •

Samoyed People

The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
Dick and Martha Beal
POLAR PRINCE

Mercer Island, Washington

This interview was taped at the Beal home in June 1978.

How did you first get started in Samoyeds?

Martha: When we moved here, the kids were little and we wanted a pet for the family. We just weren't sure what we wanted, but the architect who designed this house had a big, fluffy, white dog. I was looking in the paper and I saw an ad that said, "Fluffy, white Samoyed puppies." I had never heard the word before and had no idea what they were. We called and the lady happened to be Valerie Robbins. We wanted a pure-bred dog, and when it said, "Champion sire and dam," we were impressed. She brought out what turned out to be Peppy (Am/Can Ch. Saroma's Polar Prince). A fluffy little, adorable thing; she brought out two or three more, but he was a little bigger and a little fluffier and we said, "We'll take him."

I said, "Well, maybe we would show, but we don't know anything about it." She said there was a club and that they would show us how to show the dog, and she put us in touch with someone from the club.

From that time on, we felt a cer-

tain responsibility relating to the dog, but he was our pet. When he was about four months old, we called Valerie and said, "We'd like to bring him over so you can see how he's coming along." When we got there, there was another car there; it turned out to be Lila and John Weir, who owned Peppy's father. I know now they were there because they knew we were coming and they wanted to see Peppy. They had Happy, Peppy's father, in the car. We had never seen a male Samoyed. They got him out for us to look at him. This was Am/Can Ch. Tod-Acres Fang. He won the national stud dog trophy twice and sired two Best in Show winners, one of which was our Peppy and the other was Joli Knicka. We thought Happy was the most beautiful thing we had ever seen, and they said, "One day your dog will look like this." We just couldn't believe that, but they told us that he looked quite promising.

So we started going to club meetings, learned a little bit about how to show Peppy, and when he was about six months old, we took him to his first show. In the Puppy class, he was the only one, and he got a blue ribbon. (laughter) Then, when he was eight or nine months old, we took him to another show and there were two puppies in the class. When I got to the show and saw that he had competition, my stomach started jumping around. Dick, of course, handled him and they

went into the ring — he went second to a very fluffy, pretty dog, and I was just crushed! Peppy was not a fluffy, pretty dog and I can show you a picture to illustrate my point. When we came out of the ring, we saw Lila Weir, and she said, "Martha, that dog that beat you is going to beat you nine out of ten times today, but in a year, he won't beat you one time out of ten." That could have been the end of the dog show game for us but for those words of Lila's.

He was finished by the time he was 22 months old. He was a slow maturing dog and he won in hefty competition. I think we counted once and found that some eight or nine of the dogs that he beat in straight shows eventually got their championships.

Then there followed a year when he wasn't mature. We had Noatak of Silver Moon here who was the top winning Samoyed in the country. Peppy wasn't ready to beat Noatak at that time, or even give him real competition, because he was a slower maturing type.

Almost a year after he finished, we took him to a show where he was one of five or six specials; there was Noatak of Silver Moon, top winning Samoyed in the country, Joli Knicka, who had just taken a Best in Show, and there was a beautiful bitch who had just taken a Best in Show in Canada and was tied for top winning bitch in the country, and Peppy beat them all under Derek Rayne. Dick was the only owner-handler; well, I guess Cliff Cabe must have been in there, too, with Joli Knicka. But anyway, Peppy beat them all and that was the beginning of quite a year for him.

We realized we were competing with some very well-known dogs. At this point we had thought of getting a professional handler for Peppy for a number of reasons, not the least of which was that we knew we would be getting Noatak of Silver Moon head on and he was a beautiful dog and he was professionally handled. We did not want to hear ourselves saying that we lost because Peppy was owner-handled. We wanted it all even Steven. So we made a decision to get a professional handler for Peppy. It was a good decision in some ways, in other ways it was one we did regret.

Peppy was the only dog that we ever owned that was professionally

handled. He did go on to become the top winning Samoyed in the country that year, he did go on to a Best in Show and a couple of Group firsts; it was a great year. This was in 1964.

This was our baby – Peppy slept by our bed every night of his life and he was our pet first and foremost. After he won the award, we retired him in his prime and a lot of people didn't understand that. Dolly Ward asked me one time, "Why did you retire him when he was right at his peak?" And I'll tell you why we retired him – because it hurt too damn much to lose and it meant too much to win. The fun had gone out of it. I made up my mind that I didn't want to hear myself saying the kind of lousy things I heard other people saying when they lost; I wasn't sure I was a good enough sport to take it where Peppy was concerned, because I was totally involved emotionally with that dog. You might as well have put a collar around my son's neck and taken him in the ring and had some stranger judge him and the neighbor's boy and the one down the street and say which is the best little boy!

Dick: There is also another factor in it, and you'll have to blend these two together, and that is that we had three kids, and we were moving into a new house, and that cost money, and it cost money to have a handler, although we had a fantastic handler as far as our deals went. I say "deals" as far as what he charged and what he expected; he also was a family man. So I called him and said, "We've made a decision. So we do it again next year, what do we prove? We've done it once. And there was good reason to believe we'd do it again, but it would be strictly an ego trip." And he said, "Hey, I've seen people lose everything they've owned, I've seen marriages go down the drain, I've seen people eat bread in order to enter a dog. Your decision is smart." I couldn't see spending the money again when I knew what he could do. The handler said, "That is the smartest thing you've ever done."

Martha: I should make this point, and it is an important one: The dogs always were, and never became anything else but, a hobby for us. As Peppy became better known, it became very difficult to keep the thing in perspective. I was sitting up until



Am/Can Ch. Saroma's Polar Prince, "Peppy."

one and two in the morning with correspondence. So we retired him right at his peak. We brought him back once when he was seven years old and took the breed and second in the Group with him, owner-handled. Then we showed him once when he was ten years old at the National Specialty and, by golly, they cut a class of 27 specials down to five and he was still in there at ten years old! But those were the only two times we ever showed him again. He was only four years old when we retired him. I don't regret it, because I think it is important to stay the kind of person you like in this dog game. If you want to keep this a hobby and you want to keep it fun, the best advice I ever had relating to the emotional involvement with dogs came from Cliff Collins when we first started. He told us, "If you don't have a thick skin and a sense of humor, you aren't going to make it." And that's the truth! Why, my gosh, to hear other people talk, Peppy

belonged in the glue factory. There was nothing right about him. But I couldn't counter them, because, frankly, I didn't know the front end of a dog from the rear end of a dog at the time. All I knew was that Dick took him to the show, and we'd go and see all these beautiful things, and we'd say, "Oh, look at that one ... look at that one. Oh, we're not going to win today." But in the ring we'd go, and out we'd come with whatever there was to come out with! But we had no idea why, absolutely no idea why, for awhile. That's how we got started: we lucked into a good dog. Paid \$75 for him; just lucked into him seventeen years ago. We did have some good help from Lila and John Weir and Cliff and Nell Collins particularly. Those four people were awfully important to us in the beginning.

When did you get your second Samoyed?

That's when we began to learn a little something. The first bitch we

ever bred Peppy to was a very well-known top winning bitch. We had high hopes for the litter and we got a bitch puppy out of it. Peppy was at that point two and a half or three years old.

What bitch was this?

This was Ch. Kapegah Okanok of Nichi, Cliff and Nell Collin's bitch, the one that had gone Best in Show in Canada. That was the first Best in Show for a bitch in North America in eight or ten years.

We got a bitch from the breeding and we named her Tokha. When Tokha was old enough, she was a rather pretty bitch to our untutored eye and I think that most people would still say that she was a pretty bitch. We thought this dog show game was just easy pickin's; all you had to do was get your dog nice and clean and put on a sport coat and slacks and go to the show and you won! Especially if your name was Dick Beal! (laughter) This was the way it had been with Peppy, why shouldn't it be again? We had no idea that we weren't going to win with Tokha. Well, we didn't win with Tokha ... show after show after show. She did get a couple of Reserves, as I remember. "There's got to be something different about her, and let's try to figure out what it is." And that's the day we began to learn, and it was a never-ending learning process.

The funny thing about that bitch, she was bred twice, once to Noatak of Silver Moon and another time to Joli Nika. Out of the Joli Nika breeding came a dog named Polar Prince's Honey Bear. The dog never finished his championship, although I think he had ten or eleven points, but that dog sired nine or ten champions. He was never bred to what I would call a really top bitch, but he was a real producer. All of Donna Yocum's dogs that are descended from her Ch. Pepesan descended from him. He sired one litter that Donna had four champions out of, and almost all of the Tsiulikagta dogs now are descended from Pepesan and there are a great number of breeders involved in the country now with those bloodlines. Honey Bear lives on and dear old Tokah lives on through that Joli Knika/Tokah breeding.

Martha: Tokha had a lot of faults, but she had a lot of virtues, too. She was a nice looking bitch, she was not

gross in any way. She just wasn't a winner. She was exactly the kind of dog that I talk about when I say that we did not bother with dogs that in our judgement were not winners, dogs whose virtues did not substantially outweigh their faults.

Dick and I are small-time. We never kidded ourselves; we never wanted to be anything else. I never in all these years advertised in Dog World or other big national magazines.

I feel that you have a responsibility to the ignorant general public to produce dogs that are sound, at least in temperament and hopefully sound physically. If we think of the general pet buying public as a dumping ground for our puppies that are not going to be show quality, we will in the end be doing a very bad thing. Bad for the future of the breed, because once the general public sours on a breed, then you have nowhere to sell those puppies that you can't keep. I love the general pet buying public. Some of the happiest memories I have from our involvement with dogs have to do with the dogs that I sold for pets, people I got Christmas cards from six and seven years later telling me the delight that their dog had brought them through the years. Those are some of my biggest successes, and I mean that. That's how we got started!

What do you find to be a show dog?

Martha: The dog that is clearly a superior dog. He gives evidence of it when he is young. He takes a Reserve or two from the Puppy class, or he wins his championship very easily. Maybe you have to take some time out for him to mature, but his record demonstrates that he is a far better than average WINNER. There are winners that make decent champions and that is it; then there are dogs who can take breeds and be truly competitive in the Groups and once you've had a taste of that, it is very hard to settle for anything else. There are very few of those.

Based on years and years of experience with both winners and losers, we came to the point where we tried to define a show dog. The definition I finally settled on, which is simplistic but pretty much tells the story, is this: a dog which can win consistently in light of what you know his competi-

tion is likely to be, one whose virtues substantially outweigh his faults. I've seen some very good dogs in the hands of people who became discouraged because they were losing consistently to a great dog. It is important to know what is beating you. Just because you are not winning does not mean that you don't have a good dog. It may simply mean that you don't have the BEST dog. He may be the second best dog, BUT he may be a lot better than anything else that is around!

There is also the matter of timing, you may be showing your dog before he is really ready to win. Peppy was a slow maturing dog; certain other dogs that he was facing were earlier maturing dogs. We've had both kinds. Our Koryak, who was a Group winning dog, was a very early maturing dog. Believe it or not, Tiki (Am/Can/Bda Ch. Lulhaven Snowmist Ensign) took one Reserve after another to Kory. The reason simply was that Kory was six months older than Tiki, was being handled by a much more experienced handler (Dick); Sonny was learning with Tiki. After Kory finished, then Tiki won in straight shows with his three Group placements and the day came when Tiki was the great dog that he was. But timing is important, and when you are in the dog show game long enough, you get so you sense it. You get so you know when your dog is ready, if he is ever going to be; you also get to where you sense whether he can beat So-and-so's dog or not. If you are smart, you take all that information and you put it in your little mental computer and you decide - do we go to this show or don't we?

I don't worry so much if I am losing consistently to the same dog. I may have to face the fact that he is a better dog, or that my dog isn't quite ready and this one really is. It is when I'm losing to a lot of different dogs that I am more concerned.

We've had two top winning males, one was Peppy and one was our Koryak, who was a Group winner, and I really believe could have been a Best in Show winner had we continued to show him, but that is easy to say, but he was a winner.

Here we were, we had had Peppy who was a rangier, obviously more working type dog and very well known for his movement. Then we

come into the ring with "Mr. Fluff" personified, "dogonified," and he was about as opposite in type as you can get. People used to say to Dick, "Well, you and Martha don't know what type you like!" and Dick would turn around and say, "I know EXACTLY what type I like. I like the 'type' I can win with!" (laughter) And that is the way we felt about it. I've seen a lot of dogs that you couldn't name a major fault on, but you couldn't name a major virtue either.

People would come over to breed a bitch and see Kory and Peppy and they either liked one or the other. There was never any halfway between. There would be people who would see that beautiful thing that Kory was, and they just couldn't see Peppy for anything.

How many times was Kory used?

Five times.

And how many champions has he produced?

One. But a lot have descended from him. Kory was used very sparingly. He was bred to four bitches locally and then he was bred to one of Donna Yocum's bitches, and from that breeding a lot of champions have descended. Gail Mathews' Nordic dogs descend from Kory, a lot of Joanne Hibalinks'. For instance, the one who just went Best in Show from the classes a month or so ago is a descendent of Kory's. And the one that Don Hodges has now, Sunniglo. The type is very dominant. I can spot his head. I went back to the National Specialty in Wisconsin some years back and Gail Mathews was showing that Nordic litter. I didn't even need a catalog, I knew them right away.

I don't think there is anybody in the Sammy world who could deny that one of the greatest in the history of the breed was Stormy Weather of Betty Blue. And almost every top winning dog in the country in the last twenty years is a descendent of Stormy Weather's with the exception of some of Doris McLaughlin's dogs. And those of hers that are descended from Bear (Ch. Polar Star's Nika Frost) are descended from Stormy. Stormy Weather was one of those dogs that comes along once in a lifetime that when they history books are being written a hundred years from now, if there is any justice at all, it cannot be denied that he truly stamped the breed!

I would say that if you were to go through the last twenty years of Best in Show and Group winners you would find that something like 75 or 80 percent of them descended from Stormy Weather of Betty Blue. Yet there are different strains that have developed that are quite different in type. It is quite surprising, and I've seen the same thing with Peppy's descendents. I'm sure that Lila would tell you the same thing about Tod Acres Fang. There are some very strong dogs in Samoyed pedigrees, with Stormy Weather being one of them, if not the strongest one. Just like some people would say the same thing about Yurok of Whitecliff in California ... certain dogs have really marked the breed.

What is the relation of Stormy Weather to Peppy?

Grandfather on one side and great-grandfather on the other. Peppy is linebred Stormy Weather. Noatak of Silver Moon is linebred Stormy Weather. Joli Knika was a grandson. Tod Acres Fang is Peppy's father and Joli Knika's father; they were the two Best in Show winning sons of Tod Acres Fang. Stormy Weather of Betty Blue won the National Stud Dog Trophy, Tod Acres Fang won it, and Peppy won it twice. Peppy was a slightly larger, heavier boned dog than Stormy, but they were the same type.

Cliff Collins knew Stormy very well; his Peggy was a daughter of Stormy's. The only difference between Peppy and Peggy, they were out of champion show winners, but Peppy's father was Happy, Tod Acres Fang, who was a son of Stormy's, and Peggy's father was Stormy himself. Cliff and Nell Collins said that Peppy was probably more like Stormy than anything Stormy had sired.

Why did Tiki do more winning than Peppy?

For one thing, he was shown a lot more. Remember, we retired Peppy. Tiki was truly campaigned in the sense that some dogs are. His owner spared no expense. And Peppy never carried that great coat; Tiki carried that coat. His only "handicap" was that he was a smaller dog, but he was a good dog, so it didn't make any difference. If Peppy had been campaigned for a three- or four-year period all over the country ... I don't know. The thing that is important is what WAS. Peppy

beat what he had to beat at the time we were showing him.

Do you feel that they were both equally good dogs?

I would have to say that Tiki was a better dog overall because he proved it by his record. He wasn't the stud dog that Peppy was. Tiki is a very hard dog to fault, he really deserves his record; he did not have QUITE the front that Peppy had. I still say, and I think there are people who would agree with this, Peppy had one of the, if not the best, fronts I ever saw on a Samoyed.

How do you buy a good dog?

The first thing you do is try to learn as much about the breed as you can before you go shopping. I would also recommend going to some dog shows and seeing as many as you can in the breed. Then I would go to a reputable breeder ... I would say a person who has demonstrated over a period of time that they are producing more than the average winners.

I'll make another suggestion, you could talk to some professional handlers at dog shows. Find out from people who don't have any ax to grind within the breed itself. Or talk to people in kennel clubs who are involved in other breeds and they usually know who the people are in their area who do produce consistently competitive dogs. Then you go and meet that breeder and you have to, at some point, bring your own intelligence to bear. You have to size them up and you have to decide whether you think they know what they are talking about. Whether you think they are giving you a big snow job, or whether or not you like them. An awful lot of people seem totally unwilling to take any responsibility on themselves.

Somebody could come to me or to you for a show dog ... I always tried to sell people what they were buying from me. If they wanted a show dog, I tried to give them that. But sometimes I'd have to say there wasn't one in the litter good enough for them.

One bit of advice I give any breeder is NEVER sell your choice male or bitch ahead of time. We all try to breed great dogs. You mull over pedigrees and you do everything you can to make that perfect combination. But when all is said and done, the dog is either there or it isn't, and a GOOD DOG IS WHERE YOU FIND IT. It

may come out of a breeding for which you really didn't have high expectations. You must learn to spot a good puppy if you are going to succeed over a long period of time. You must, so you don't miss that great one.

Dick: Some people can't spot that dog. They dissect a puppy and pick it by parts.

Martha: They can fault it, but they can't see the total dog. I have said, and I believe this to be true, that at some point a buyer must assume some responsibility himself. I make no claims to be infallible. I've made mistakes, and if we were still in it, we'd continue to make mistakes. At some point, the buyer must assume some responsibility for his own judgement. Too many things are out of your control once the dog leaves you. Long before it was the common thing, my dogs always went with a written "money-back," not replacement, guarantee on disqualifying faults and hip dysplasia. The reason being that if I had bought a dog that was dysplastic, I'm not sure I'd want a replacement from the same kennel. Another reason was I might not have a replacement at a given time for a dog. I believe in spelling these things out ahead of time. People who bought from me knew that it was a money-back guarantee; they were risking a certain amount of time.

I want to talk some about what I see are the pitfalls in this dog game. I don't believe in tying a lot of strings on dogs. I've seen it lead to an awful lot of trouble in many cases. I don't believe basically in co-ownerships, although I'm involved in one right now; it is only the second one that I have ever been involved in. At the time when we bought our first dog, if Valerie Robbins had sought to impose a whole lot of conditions on us, we would have simply said, "Thanks, but no thanks." When I bought Valerie's puppy, he was not Valerie's dog anymore, he was my dog.

If you are going to stay in the dog game, you must keep some semblance of perspective. You neither want to impose yourself upon other people, nor do you constantly want to be imposed upon yourself. It is so easy to become totally absorbed by it, and if you allow this, other things are going to suffer. There will come a day when you will regret it. I'm talking to

the hobby breeder, the person who wants to do this for fun. I'm not talking to the people who do make a business of it; I see nothing wrong, incidentally, with making a business of breeding dogs as long as you keep it an honorable business.

The number one mistake that a lot of small-time people make is to get too many dogs. They feel that they must keep something out of every litter, because they have been told or feel that everything in the litter is show quality. There comes that day when they have too many dogs, and they cannot give the time and attention to the dogs, individually, that they really would like to. Their facilities are usually not adequate and they are making do. We've all been through it; we did it, I don't know anybody who hasn't done it, and it is a mistake.

If you want to be in the dog game and be successful, you have to make up your mind to that very fact: that is your goal and certain things have to go. And if you get yourself a backyard full of mediocre dogs, particularly males, there is no room for that great dog when you finally spot him or want him. It is very hard to stay competitive when you are a small-time breeder and don't have the kennel facilities.

I don't mean it is impossible to control it, but what I'm saying is DO THAT - control it! If you don't, you won't last long enough to be really successful. You can't learn enough in two years, three years or even five years to be really successful. You might be lucky, but it takes a long time to really have some idea of what you are doing. The fact is that by the time you finally know enough to be selective and make some right decisions, you may have gone stale, or you notice your kids are really not getting enough time and attention.

Be careful, be selective, be realistic about what you can handle in the number of dogs that you have. Another big pitfall people fall into is they have one good dog and the inbreeding starts. For every success I've seen I could name you a lot of failures. "Kennel blindness" is an old cliché, but it is an easy trap to fall into and it has spelled the end for an awful lot of people. Some of the recessive faults that are very damaging don't show up for a number of years, and by then you

are committed to the dog. We've run into PRA here in the Northwest, and that sometimes doesn't show up until five or six years old. And if you've done a lot of inbreeding, everything you've got can be involved. Our dogs are so closely related nationwide, they all descend from the same eight or ten dogs from England, and these damaging recessives can really be a disaster if you've based your breeding program on one dog. I do personally believe, even though I haven't done a lot of breeding myself, I've certainly watched a lot of it and been involved with a lot of it, I do believe in good outcrosses every fourth generation and preferably every third generation.

Another pitfall is to get involved in the politics of your local club. This has caused as much or more trouble than anything else I can think of. It's not only in our breed, it's just in dogs. By and large, you are competing with those very people who belong to your club, and it is very hard to keep personalities out of your dog dealings, but it is absolutely essential if you are going to succeed. You just cannot dislike a dog because you don't like its owners or vice versa. It is self-defeating; you just have to divorce the two. If you allow yourself to get involved in the squabbles that go on ... Now I'm not saying that you should not belong to and work for your local club; I think it is important that you do. You can learn a lot and you can contribute a lot, but somehow or other you must keep your perspective on the importance of your squabbles relating to the dogs. I have seen people that in any other sphere of activity are perfectly lovely people, and yet they will get into a club meeting and haggle with one another about who spent five dollars for this or that. Somehow or other you've got to remain a rational human being; if you don't, there will come a day when you just really can't stomach it anymore. Be polite, be considerate; every single fight you're in takes a little bit more out of you. The fights and the squabbles may lend some excitement, but in the end, they are destructive. We built a strong club here, and we really all got along fine, because most of us had been around long enough to realize that getting along in the end is so much more productive. That doesn't mean that occasionally there isn't some issue that is

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important enough to take a stand on, and there have been some of those, but it better be pretty important!

I'm mentioning some of these things because they are the things that tire people out. They are the reasons that a lot of people fall by the wayside.

The reason we finally quit was that we realized we would have to expand and change our life-style, sell this property, move somewhere else, in order to have enough dogs to stay competitive.

To really stay competitive you ought to have at least six dogs. You need something coming along all the time. Maybe one or even two are your pets and are there for good. I don't mean to just dump your dogs, but there are good homes to be found for three- and four-year-old dogs if they haven't turned out. You are either in it or you're not if you want to succeed. And if you define "succeed" as winning in the show ring, you simply have to have facilities for more than two or three dogs to stay competitive over a long period of time. You might stay competitive for eight or ten years with the same basic dogs.

I guess at some point you have to size up what you really want to be: Do you want to be a hobby breeder with two or three dogs and do the best you can, which is what we did, for as long as you can, and realizing that at some point you are going to be through? Or do you want to stay competitive over a long period of time and really involve yourself in a breeding program? And a breeding program isn't something you develop over two generations; I would say a minimum of four to get it established. To do justice to it like that and to have any hope of succeeding, you have to have the facilities. Try to provide yourself with a situation that is conducive to the goals that you have; you must define your goals at some point and then make moves that are appropriate towards furthering those goals.

Dogs are not enough for most people to make your whole life; I just don't advise that. I know some people who do make the dogs their whole life and that is fine for them, but I have a feeling that it isn't enough in the end. Before you commit your whole life to breeding dogs, before you change your whole life-style, you should have been in it at least five years and know that



Ch. Cherski's Polar Koryak, "Kory."

you really want to do it. Very few people stay in dogs more than five years, and the reason they don't is that most of them make the same mistakes! It is a hard game, and we elected, of course, to give it up.

Is there anything else that you would like to touch on?

I do hope that we will see the pendulum swinging back away from what I call the "overlarge" dogs. After five years of being out of it, I still prefer dogs within the standard. I think there is a great tendency on the part of judges to ignore the standard on that point. I think it is unfortunate because I don't think that nature intended the Samoyeds' metabolism to support the huge frames that it is being asked to support now. I think that the larger the dog gets, the odds go down for getting a dog that is really typical of the breed in all ways.

Can you give us some personal background on yourselves?

Dick and I have known one another since I was in the fourth grade. We both were graduated from the University of Kentucky. Dick works for

Alcoa Aluminum Company, and we've lived all over the country except in the Northeast. We've been here for seventeen years. We have three children.

Are you always honest?

Yes, I try to be. No, I'll temper that, some honesty is unnecessarily cruel. I know one area that we haven't touched on and I'd like to. That is who do you encourage to show their dog, and who do you not. You are faced with a hard question, how much do you tell the people that you think you know, allowing for the fact, of course, that you could be wrong? It is a great responsibility. You can begin and end with something nice. You can begin by saying, "My, he has a lovely coat ..." and end with "What a lovely disposition" or something. Begin and end with something nice, but put the truth in the middle. I don't know anything sadder than to see people weekend after weekend drive 150 miles and pay a \$10 entry fee, and spend four hours bathing and grooming a loser. It is a dog they love, it is their pet and usually was bought for a pet. I don't

think it is a favor to anybody who asks your opinion to hedge.

I just don't believe in encouraging people to show a mediocre dog or even a borderline dog. To me, a dog that is worth showing is one who has the potential to finish its championship with decent handling and proper care.

It is too expensive and it is too demoralizing to people who have a pet that they love to just get beaten weekend after weekend; I just can't do that. I still think people are more important than dogs.

So I still retain some interest. Dick is the one who is really through,

and that is too bad. He really is one of the best amateur handlers I have ever seen. He has a way with dogs, he can size up their faults well and he knows how to show them to the best advantage. Sometimes I miss it, when I go to a show and I see all the dogs. •

Centerfold

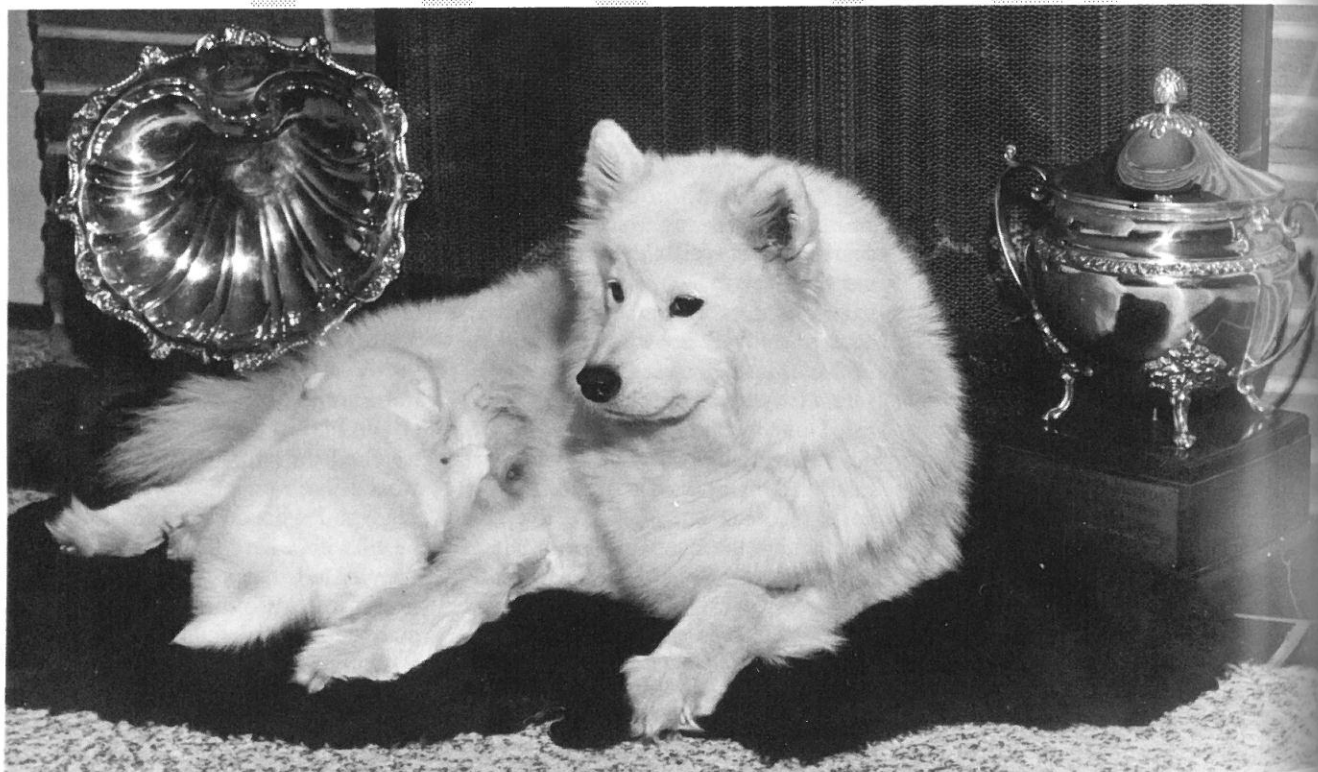
Ch. Silver Moon

January 23, 1959

Breeder: Juanita Arrivey Owners: Bob and Bonnie Bowles

Ch. Snow Cloud of Cedar Wood
The Arrivey's Jua-Cha
Minnechaduza

Ken-Dor's Sky Komish
Ken-Dor's Pat-Nak
Ken-Dor's Princess Kim



Princess produced only three litters in her lifetime, but what litters! From those three litters came six AKC champions, one Best in Show dog – Ch. Star Nika Altai of Silver Moon – and a top winning dog and top produc-

er – Ch. Noatak of Silver Moon. Princess was the top producing Samoyed bitch in 1963, 1964 and 1965.

She was shown for the first time in April 1961, where she took her first four-point major. She completed her championship at the Bremerton show

March 25, 1962.

Princess was a large Samoyed, standing 21 inches and weighing about 55 pounds when in show condition. From this one bitch with only three litters come the Silvermoon Samoyeds.

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Evaluating for Obedience

Barbara J. Skalka
Sterrett, Alabama

WHEN evaluating a new litter, breeders look for certain qualifications in the puppies that will place them in various categories. The experienced breeder with a very good "eye" can very often place a puppy in the "show or no-show" categories at a very young age. More often than not, breeders tend to place their pups in four categories: pet, brood bitch, possible show and positive show. The breeder that evaluates for the obedience prospect is a rare creature.

I want in this column to place another "bug in your bonnets." I am rather emphatic about the place of the Samoyed in the obedience ring. I really believe that the breed should be seen there more often. Breeders hold the primary responsibility for placing the potential obedience candidate in the new owner's home.

Although many people would be shocked, obedience trainers look for many of the same behavior traits that will make an outstanding show dog. First of all, the dog has to look good; physically, he has to be superior. Cowhocks are a no-no. Next, the dog has to have a very outgoing personality. He has to know that he is terrific within himself. Breeders often see this dog as the one in the litter that established himself early on as "top dog." This puppy can often have the potential of being a bully in the litter, but with a strong master will be ready, willing and able to please. The general rule to remember is that if the dog is constantly "off the wall," he is probably the best bet for obedience. As an obedience instructor of many breeds, I can attest to the fact that this type of dog is most often placed in a family that will come to an obedience school for help. The sweet, smart puppy has become a problem. This young dog quickly learns that he can be one step ahead of his owners in naughty pranks, and a vicious cycle of behavior begins. The dog begins to learn that he can do nothing right, and the end result in the dog's mind is that

even punishment is better than no attention at all. Primarily, it is the breeder's responsibility to place this dog in the right environment in the first place. Secondly, it is still the breeder's responsibility to counsel the new owners about being consistent from DAY 1 with their behavior requirements. Just because he is cute doesn't make the rotten behavior okay; when he is older, the very same "cute" thing will be obnoxious.

The first question usually asked about obedience training is when to start. It is my firm belief that a puppy should be allowed to be a puppy until he has matured sufficiently to be able to cope with the demands of actual training. This statement does not imply that no training should be done at all for the first year. Intrinsic in the development of any young puppy's sense of well-being is the absolute necessity of establishing exact limitations on his activities. In limiting the young dog to certain areas and certain activities, he learns quickly just what is expected of him. When the young dog is able to perform within a limited scope, and receives praise for his correct behavior, he becomes a "happy performer" readily. The stresses placed on the puppy during relocation, housebreaking and general growth and development are, in fact, very profound. We would never expect the same modifications in behavior as quickly from the human child as we do from the young dog. Therefore, it is of primary concern to the breeder that he remind the new owner of his responsibilities in the first most crucial months of the dog's life with him. It is of paramount importance that the new owner be reminded that there are only so many corrections that can be given in the total life of the dog before he is psychologically driven into the ground. The Samoyed has the unique characteristic to be able to bounce back, over and over again, even when severely punished. However, this lovely breed can have a breaking point, too.

When placing a show puppy who has demonstrated that he is also an excellent candidate for obedience, it is

important to remember that there is *no conflict* between the two sports. The exposure to the breed ring only enhances the obedience training. On the other hand, I can't think of anything more pleasurable than walking into the breed ring with an obedience dog that will stand on command, and will gait comfortably at any speed on a loose lead. I have always thought it rather appalling that handlers in the breed ring appear to do an awful lot of "jerking on the lead" while gaiting the dog. I have observed that this "jerking" usually is evident when the dog begins to gait too quickly, or too slowly. It is also evident at the turns in the ring, when the dog will at times begin to sidewind. Many novice trainers complain that the dog "always sits" when gaiting has stopped in the ring. By teaching the "stand" at the same time you are teaching the "heel," this problem can be eliminated from the start. The dog should, however, be given the command "stand" just before a halt in gaiting occurs ... this is because the sit must be automatic in the obedience ring. For both the handler and the dog this simple modification in routine should be very easy to execute.

USUALLY we begin to put our puppies in the ring at a very early age for breed competition. This fact is very beneficial to the obedience candidate because this early exposure gives him a tremendous amount of confidence when he finally begins to trial. It is always a pleasure to see a first timer in the obedience ring that heels with confidence and is not warily looking around at all of the observers outside the ring. This can be devastating to the novice handler and dog because attention is vitally necessary on the part of the dog if an exact heeling pattern is to be executed.

Conformation and obedience are complementary sports, and both should be encouraged by the breeder. Both sports are necessary to the Samoyed, if we are to continue to breed a working dog that can do it all.

Good heeling! •

Some Reflections

*Don and Dot Hodges
Poynette, Wisconsin*

EVERY once in a while we enjoy reminiscing about dogs and dog shows in the middle and late 1960's when we first entered the breed. That isn't too long ago in most fields of endeavor, but it seems to be about three generations of dog show fanciers in this sport. Perhaps a few observations about the changes we have seen, especially in the winning dogs, would be of interest. Our observations are primarily from the Midwest in the 60's, but in the 1970's, we were able to travel sufficiently to become acquainted with the fancy on both coasts.

The first and most striking change has been the tremendous growth in the sport of dogs. More shows and larger entries per show have changed the nature of the sport dramatically. One can see this easily by comparing the point scale over this time. It now takes nearly double the entry for a major in the Midwest. As a result, competition is keener — better dogs are required to win consistently, and grooming and handling skills need to be polished. This has had an effect on the attitudes and, to some extent, the enjoyment of the participants. When one can see these pressures develop, over time, it is easier to maintain perspective and accommodate the changes. Those who cannot accommodate tend to get less and less pleasure from dog shows and may eventually drop out.

In the mid-60's, matches were few and far between; puppies got their show experience in Puppy classes at licensed shows. It was also extremely rare for people to travel five or six hours to a show. I recall that at that time we were the only exhibitors from Wisconsin to travel the six to eight hours it took to reach shows in Michigan and Indiana. The fact that people travel more widely today has also had an important impact on the quality of competition.

Most interesting to us are the changes in the dogs exhibited over time. Many changes are cyclic, of course, reappearing from time to time. But others are more or less permanent, fortunately! That is what breeding for

improvement is all about. When we first began exhibiting, there were many poor rears, especially cowhocks. Fronts were mostly pinched, some were wide, and really good ones were extremely rare. At that time, fanciers favored the heavily built dogs with very heavy bone and abundant coat. Those that were doing most of the winning in the Midwest were middle of the standard (many definitely short-legged), but the push for larger Samoyeds was definitely on among breeders. Along with heavy bone and profuse coat came heads that were often quite large but not generally coarse. We may see coarse heads more often now than we did then. Movement was not emphasized at that time and judges and people in other breeds did not have high regard for our breed because of the many obvious structural flaws. A friend of ours in another breed, now a judge herself, related an incident that took place while she was stewarding. The judge finished one breed and, noting his next assignment was Samoyeds, said, "Twenty-four Samoyeds, eh? Damn things are so poor that if you can find one that can walk, you put it up!" While the breed still has its problems today, we think it has gained consider-

able respectability. The frequency of Group placements and Bests in Show attest to that.

The preference for size and coat seems to be a cyclic phenomenon. There are always devotees of bigger and more, but their numbers wax and wane. In the late 60's, they seemed to predominate, but a few years later, it was the middle-of-the-standard Sams with moderate coat that seemed to collect all the top honors. In fact, the top winners for many years have been Sams of this type.

Today dogs with flagrantly faulty structure are much less frequent in the ring. It is possible to occasionally find a good front, and rears are generally quite good. Perhaps we see poor rear angulation more frequently than in the 60's, but almost all the dogs in the ring move reasonably well going away. Weak and double jointed hocks seem to be less frequent now than in the 60's and early 70's. The winning of Ch. Lulhaven's Snow Mist Ensign in the early 1970's seemed to noticeably increase the amount of attention accorded the Samoyed in the Groups and seemed to break the emphasis on the larger dog — the record of top winners that followed him shows a series of dogs of intermediate size. •

Spin Your Own Sammy Wool

Twila Lee

FOR many years, as so many Samoyed owners saved every smidgen of our dogs' shedding, we had it in mind to "do something" with it, eventually, having seen garments made of the lovely white wool. The accumulated bags began to be somewhat of a problem, so while in Alabama, we approached a lady to spin the wool for us. When I explained that I wanted wool yarn out of dog hair, she looked at me like I was crazy and suggested I get my own spinning wheel. As a

result, we bought a 90-year-old spinning wheel, ancient and well worn carding brushes, and a supply of chewing gum. (If you have ever had the distressing dilemma of dog hair in your mouth while grooming, do try chewing gum to capture the hair.) Learning to spin, in my case, was self-taught. It was a most frustrating period of trial and error, but finally the drifting billows of wool, the carding procedure and the wheel were conquered. There is a special feeling of real achievement in creating a garment from the loose wool shed by your own dogs by using simple hand methods.

Equipment varies, of course, and available for the spinner today are carding machines, electric spinners, foot-powered antique wheels and the simplest hand spindles. In the following paragraphs, I hope to be able to describe for you the basic steps of yarn making.

The soft undercoat of the Samoyeds, combed out at the beginning of their shed, is the finest quality for sweaters, caps and light garments. Save the little rolls just as you slip them off the loaded comb and place loosely in a box or bag. (Pressing it down to save space mats the wool and makes it more tedious to card.) Toward the end of the shedding stage, when the longer and stronger guard hairs loosen, it is best to sort and box this quality separately. This coarser hair will give strength and body to run yarn and to woven fabrics. Long guard hairs from our dogs were used in our hooked rug for extra wear. If you plan to send your wool to a spinner ungraded, for example ordering sweater yarn, it will be most difficult to remove so much coarse hair, as the spinner works it on the carding brushes and you may be disappointed to find the sweater scratchy and heavy. Do sort the woolly undercoat from the outer hair as you groom. It takes so very little longer and your yarn quality will be greatly improved. Also, discard the shorter hair from the lower legs and top of the head. If these were incorporated into your yarn, it would necessarily weaken it.

RAW wool is worked "in the grease." That is, unwashed, as it is much easier to handle — and no one's Sammy is ever really dirty ... is it? The wool is combed extensively on two large, flat brushes called "hand cards." They consist of bent wires set in a slant on leather and mounted on a wood backing. Very much like your large slicker brushes. Personally, I have always preferred cotton cards to those designed for sheep wool. When the wool fibers have been separated, fluffed and straightened on the carding brushes, they are removed with a folding, rolling motion. This prepared long cylinder of wool, called a "rolag" or "batt," is now ready for spinning into yarn. Spinning proceeds much faster and yarn will be of uniform size and

strength if the carding has been properly done. A skilled spinner, however, can produce an excellent quality yarn from the little rolls just as they come from the comb. Beginners not wishing to invest in a spinning wheel might wish to try a hand spindle, but it is more difficult to master and much slower to work.

ON the very simplest type of spinning wheel (called a walking or American wheel), such as I use, the carded rolag is attached to the machine spindle, which has been wrapped with a strip of paper towel to form a tube. Corn husks were the original material used for this. One may pull out and twist a few strands of wool by hand and tie this thread around the paper core to get a start. Then the rolag is supported in the left hand, in the case of my wheel, stretching it slightly while the right hand turns the wheel. As the spindle is turned, the yarn drops off the tapered end and the twist enters the roll of fibers which is pulled away slowly as the wheel rotates. The length of yarn is then rolled up on the core and the operation repeats.

This yarn is called one-ply and can be used for some types of work as it is. For stronger yarn, two or more threads re-wound onto a cardboard tube (a stick or large spool could be used), keeping tension even. This, then, is plied on the wheel by reversing the direction of twisting.

A variety of yarns, fine, hard, bulky, looped, even a worsted yarn without nap (carded fibers removed from the brushes without being formed into a roll and spun as they lay lengthwise) may be produced. The tension applied as the roll is stretched, the density of its wool, amount of twist, and number of strands plied together dictate type of finished yarn.

I prefer to leave the wool its natural white for most garments — sometimes using a dyed yarn for trim or pattern. After the yarn is made and tied into skeins, it is washed by hand, as any fine wool, being generous with the soap, and hung to air dry. It does not shrink and does become softer and whiter with each washing. In the case of a sweater or knitted cap on which one wishes a long, fluffy nap, complete the garment and wash and when almost dry, brush thoroughly with a natural bristle type brush, repeating until desired length of nap is raised.

For those unfamiliar with knitting or crocheting, the knotted rug is a good beginner's project and will reward you with a useful article, utilizing even your first-made practice yarns. In fact, the unevenness will give a most interesting texture. Whether you may be interested in tapestry-type wall hangings, embroidery yarns, rugs, sweaters, or baby booties, I am sure you will be stimulated and justifiably proud of your creative efforts.

Do try it, and MUCH SUCCESS. •

Samoyed People

The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
Harold and Doris McLaughlin
SILVERACRES
Morrison, Colorado

This interview was taped at the McLaughlins' home in October 1978.

Tell us about your life before Samoyeds.

Harold: Life before Samoyeds? Well, we were married in 1948 and we

started in Samoyeds in 1952. I used to work in the oil patch in west Texas. We moved to Denver in '52 and then moved into the mountains in late '52. Bought out first place and we've been in the mountains ever since. There isn't much to tell about BEFORE Sams!

Doris: We decided we wanted a Sam and started watching the paper every day. A Sam came up for sale in the Denver Post; we paid \$35 for her and finished her championship in

about six shows.

Betty Morgan helped us fill out our entry. We had never gone to a dog show, even to see what was done. This "nothing" bitch did finish and she continued to take Best of Breed even when out-of-town male specials would come in. We never got a Group placement on her because we didn't know enough to go back for Group! We took breed and we went home! That was our first dog, Ch. Fancy of Critchell Creek.

We did start out luckily with a very nice girl, but we didn't realize how lucky we were and we got talked into a totally different bloodline. We would have saved a lot of years if we had known more and had stayed with what we had. She was a very well-bred bitch, as it turned out. She didn't have a champion sire and dam, but the pedigree behind her was very good. We doubled on Rex of White Way and Cleo. Some very good, old-time, early dogs.

We kept her until she passed away at fourteen years of age.

But then there was a gal who moved to town from out of state and she had better dogs than we had. We were still specializing Fancy and doing breeds regularly; in fact, I think she was only beaten for breed a couple of times. And then this gal, Donna Yocum, came to town with better dogs. And we fooled around about a year and lost and decided that we couldn't hack that! By this time, Fancy was ten years old. So we retired her and we went to Helene Spathold and said, "Hey, we need some better dogs! We're not doing so well."

In the meantime, Helene had helped me in my grooming and all, all by letter, because there was no one here to learn anything from. And, Helene said she would look around and see what she could come up with. Shortly thereafter, she called and said she had found us a foundation bitch. It was Jinka. Beckeye Austin owned her and she wasn't doing anything with her, she was ready to part with her. So we got in touch with Beckeye and this is where we got Jinka, Ch. Cnejinka, and she was our foundation bitch. We told Helene, "Now we have to have a male to go with her," so she came up with Chief sometime later.

Jinka was our foundation bitch.

Then we got Chief from Helene Spathold, and everything we have now is linebred or inbred on Chief with Jinka in the background.

Why was Chief, Ch. Nachalnik of Drayalene, such an extraordinary stud?

Doris: According to the standard, he was as near perfect as any dog I have ever seen. His one big fault was that he was not a "show dog." He did not enjoy the show ring and he was totally "dead." Trying to get his attention for the judge was a waste of time. Baiting him was impossible. He was totally devoted to Harold and me and he gave us his full attention. When I stepped back for the judge to see him, he turned his head and watched me. The judge could have thrown his keys or stood on his head, Chief would not have cared. He showed no animation at all to the judge. He had an extremely good temperament to live with, and even his puppies two generations away show this really sweet temperament, but he was such a totally "nonaggressive" dog that he didn't come across in the show ring.

Wasn't Chief an extraordinary stud in terms of producing clear puppies?

Doris: Hips? Yes, very. We had the first all-clear, OFA-certified litter of any breed. This was when OFA first started. He was produced extremely clear for us.

He was also very dominant for his head type. In fact, the first time I went out to California to a show I was really upset that people out there were saying that Chief was a "Drayalene freak." This really bothered me until they sat down and explained it. The Drayalene dogs usually had a very narrow distinctive head. Chief didn't have this and yet he was very dominant for his head. So in that sense, yes, he was not the usual Drayalene dog. However, if you go back and look at his littermates, his litterbrother, Argo, who was also a champion, had exactly the same type of head as Chief, and one of the litter sisters, Flicka, also had it. It was the identical head of his dam, whom I did get to see. Chief was very much a male Clarissa, his dam. You can still see this down several generations. It is not unusually for people to say, "I'm sure this comes from your kennel because it has a Chief-type head."

What are the characteristics of his

head?

Doris: Broad, very pretty, properly shaped muzzle, width of the skull between the ears, good eyeset, and the pretty expression. A very sweet expression.

When you got Chief, did you realize that you had an extraordinary dog?

Doris: No. Helene said at that time, "This is the puppy for you. He is the best that Rokandi has ever produced." He was a stud service puppy. When we went to the airport to get Jinka, she stepped out of the crate and we were both really pleased with her. When Chief stepped out of the crate, he had such a different head – it was more of a round head than anything we had ever owned. Harold was immediately taken with him, he really liked him. I was a little bit reserved about my feeling for him. He was just enough different that I wasn't sure this was exactly what I wanted. I was put off by his biscuit ears and five biscuit freckles. The rest of him was white. He hadn't had any biscuit before, and this totally different head! He was nine months old and came in by United Airlines. It took me a few days to decide, "Yeah, I really do like him." And it was his temperament, even then, that won me over, rather than the head. But now I think that is absolutely the correct head!

Did Helene have an extraordinary eye for the dog?

Doris: Yes. She was an AKC judge and so was her father, Layard Spathold. The Drayalene name comes from a combination of Helene and Layard Spathold. Both of them had a very good eye for the dog.

Chief was Helene's father's dog to start with, and this was why we were so slow in getting the dog. He was nine months old when we got him; we had sent our money to purchase the dog quite some time before that. But Helene's father was dying of terminal cancer and we could not have the dog until he actually passed away.

Why did you seek her advice? At that time, did you feel she had a greater knowledge of Samoyeds than you did?

Doris: I KNEW she did! Of the dogs she had, I particularly liked Sikandi – this was Chief's grandmother. I thought she was one of the nicest bitches I had ever seen pictures of. I

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never saw Rokandi or Sikandi, either one. They were doing some nice winning, and they were pretty dogs. They were sturdy, large dogs. By large, I mean Rokandi was a little over the standard, probably so was Sikandi, for a bitch. Chief was 23 1/2 inches, right at the top of the standard. They had good bone and were well-balanced, overall good dogs. I thought Helene had an exceptional eye. She had been very patient, trying to teach me how to groom and how to do all of these things by mail, which isn't easy when you have nothing to compare with.

Prior to getting into Samoyeds, hadn't you had some previous breeding experience with other animals?

Doris: Not before we got into the Sams. AFTER that we raised fox and running Quarter Horses. The fox we raised for pelt, and I found it rather distasteful to raise something that you were just raising for the pelt, to kill. We didn't stay in that too long. And we raised the racing Quarter Horses.

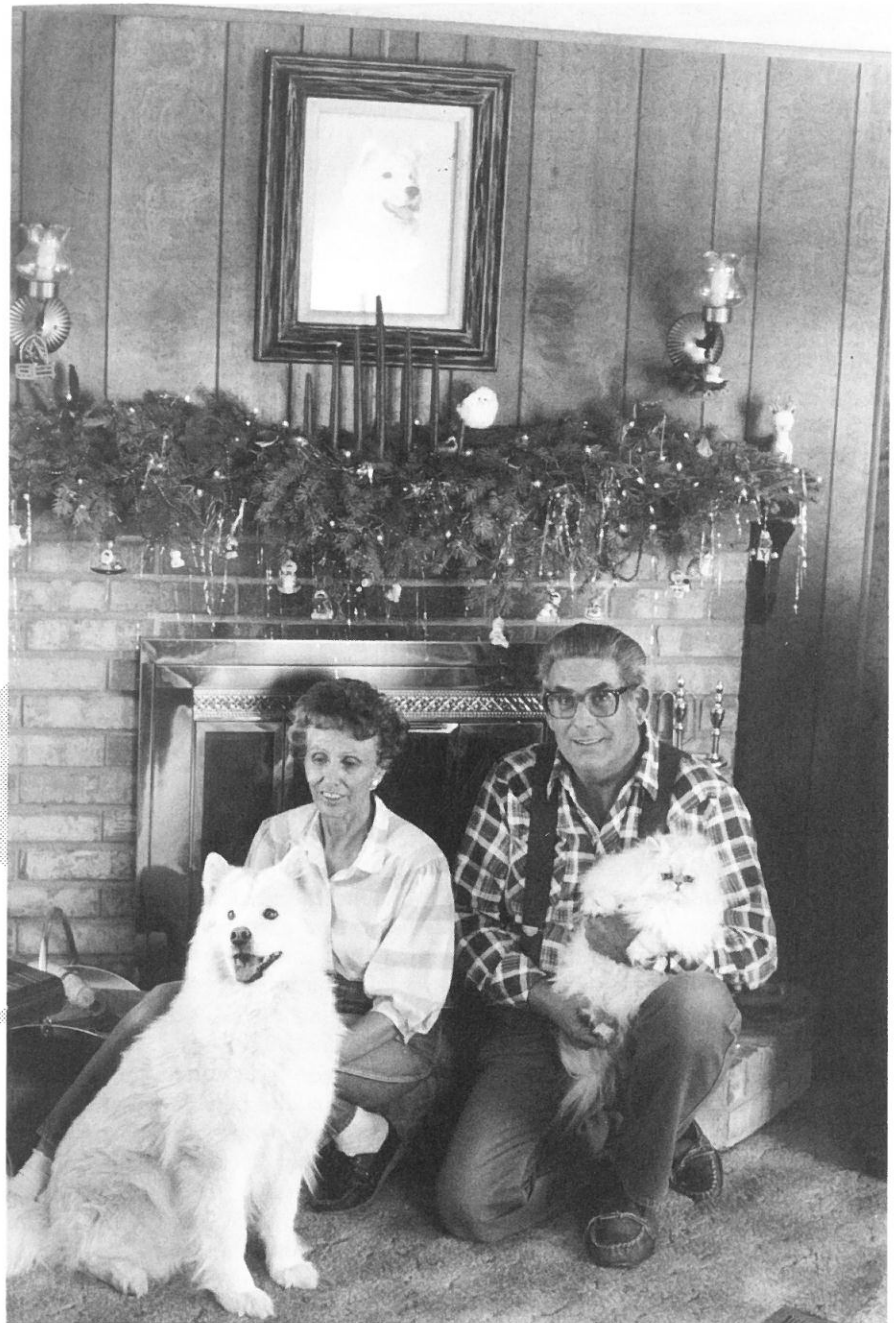
Harold: We had the horses for about five years, when we raised them. We kept a couple of them ten years.

What was your incentive to become involved in foxes and horses?

Harold: Our incentive was that we lived in the mountains and we wanted to make a living in the mountains. We didn't want to go to town and punch a time clock. So, we tried a variety of animals to make a living up here. Horses were one of those ventures. Horses were a lot of fun, but there was not much profit in them.

The simple fact is that no one can raise or produce animals unless the water they give them has sufficient trace minerals in it. In this particular area, and in our particular water well here, there are no trace minerals. Our water is distilled water; it makes excellent coffee, but it will not reproduce animals! It took us many years and many thousands of dollars to find this out.

But we were determined to make a living up here in the hills, and that is the reason we kept trying animal after animal. We kept the dogs through all those years, mainly because of Doris. We have a boarding kennel here and the boarding is the mainstay of the business. The water doesn't bother the board dogs because they are not here that long, and they are not here for reproduction. We have sufficient



water, it is just a matter of reproduction.

When did you put your kennel in?

Harold: This is the third kennel that we have had up here. Our first kennel we put in in '54 down on our first piece of property. Then, we put in a larger kennel in about '56. Then we bought this property in 1958 and put our first units in – and another unit a couple of years later. We are still small, we have only 40 kennels, plus other facilities.

After you got Chief, was your next litter when you bred him to Jinka?

Doris: That was our next breeding, yes. That was the litter that was our first all OFA-clear litter. That litter had Charm, who finished, and Dondi, who was owned by the Hays, who finished. Stormy did not finish. He was well started with a major and some minor points, but, unfortunately, he was lying under the car one day and his owner backed over him. It didn't kill him or break any bones, but he never moved correctly after that. He always turned one leg out badly, so he was not shown anymore. And then, Mona Lisa, who is probably one of my

biggest regrets in the dogs. She was Harold's favorite of the litter. We kept both girls and Charm was my favorite. Mona was probably a better bitch than Charm, and that is saying a lot for me, because Charm was ALWAYS my favorite. But Mona was one of those girls that was a super brood bitch; she really produced top quality puppies. When you breed a bitch, it is difficult to get her out and finish her. So we kept showing other dogs and finishing her kids rather than her; she never finished. She was major pointed, though. And then there was Polar in that litter, who was never shown. He was a big boy, well over standard.

Out of Chief and Jinka's puppies, twelve of them, all twelve got their OFA normal. There were five in the first litter, three in the next (this was where our water started catching us). All three of the second litter finished. They were Rogue, Tish and Chalinka. Chalinka is back in New York and one of the few Chief/Jinka kids still living; she is quite old now. The next litter was a litter of one, and this was Big John, owned by Joan Lueck. I believe the next litter was two, and the one after that was again one.

Was that your most successful mating, that of your original two dogs?

Doris: It was one of the best. But then we turned around and, using one of those girls, Mona Lisa, with Bear, (Ch. Polar Star's Nika Frost), one that we got in from the Northwest, we had a VERY successful breeding. This was an outcross, but it was one of our successful outcrosses. Even today we have one of Bear's sons, Tiger, and he is a champion.

How many champions has Chief sired?

Doris: Forty-two American champions. We just had a new Canadian champion finished, Chant, Shirley Marshall's. This gives Chief eleven Canadian and six Mexican champions. There are several other Chief kids that will finish; there are several of them around that just need a major. I have two that I should finish eventually.

Harold: He'll probably hit 50 AKC champions before his record is finished.

Have you had any extraordinary bitches?

Yes, Jinka was. We only had fifteen puppies out of Jinka - total - and out of that fifteen, ten of them are champions. Percentagewise, that is pretty darned good. I'm not sure whether the top-producing bitch in the breed has eleven or twelve champion get. For a long time, Jinka was top, and then she was tied with a couple of others. But Archangel is top now and I think she has eleven, so she has one more than Jinka. Of those other five of her puppies that didn't finish, Mona was pointed, Stormy was pointed, Knight was pointed and Gi Gi was pointed. The only one that Jinka produced for us that was not pointed was Polar ... and he never went into the show ring.

So all of your stock descends from those first two and you went out and brought in one other stud?

Doris: Bear.

Do you have anything else in the kennel from anywhere else?

We do now. We have Batu and his mother, Setathi, from Florence Watson, the St. Croix kennels. We had planned on using Batu with GoGo and one of GoGo's daughters, so when Florence decided to get out of dogs for health reasons, we were delighted to get Batu rather than paying stud fees. And, Setathi reminds me so much of my original dogs, Tish and Kelly, that we also have her.

We do have quite a bit of an outcross in GoGo. I co-own her with Joan Sheets, who is no longer active in dogs. When Joan went out, she had two bitches, both of whom I now have. That's GoGo, Ch. Frostfires Gladriel, and Jinni, Ch. Silveracres Jinni of Frostfire. When we got them, neither of them were champions. Jinni was pointed, but GoGo was not. GoGo is out of the Sam O'Khan dogs, the mother being Ch. Sam O'Khan's Sali Sarai and her sire being Ch. Kondako's Sun Dancer. Sun Dancer is a grandson of Chief, so it is not a total outcross.

What is your breeding philosophy with regards to inbreeding, linebreeding and outcrossing? What have you found to be most successful?

Doris: Well, we have found our inbreeding to be most successful. I was very concerned about inbreeding the first litter. This first inbreeding occurred because a friend wanted a puppy out of Chief and Charm. I real-

ly had reservations about this, but she really thought she wanted one. This was Jan Kauzlarich in California. (Charm was a Chief daughter.) So after much soul-searching, we said okay. We did the breeding and got three puppies out of it, two girls and one boy. The only one to finish was the boy. This was Am/Can Ch. Silveracres Winter Chief, "Teddy." Jan and Wally came out to pick their puppy and they ended up taking both girls. They took one for themselves, Chiefa, and the other one for Madeline Druse. Wally and Jan's was pointed, but she was never finished because she met a very untimely and strange death. She was a very happy, outgoing girl and just about everything that Wally and Jan have comes down from Chiefa. Well, that litter did turn out quite well, so we decided that it wasn't quite such a scary thing to inbreed, if you knew what you were inbreeding on. After that, we have done quite a lot of inbreeding, with just enough outcrossing here and there to bring in the things we want.

Mark and Melody are one of our more inbred litters. That, again, was a litter of three. Chief is their sire, their grandsire and their great-grandsire. Then Kathy Metter came along and she wanted a puppy "just like Mark." By this time, Chief was gone. We still had the mother, who was Jinni, and we said, "Okay, we'll do what we can for you." So we bred Mark back to his mother. This came out very well. We got three very nice puppies out of it, and they are now fifteen months old. That is probably the most inbreeding we have done.

We have seen close inbreeding done on Bear. We never inbred on Bear because he came in as an outcross dog. He was extremely pretty, one of the super glamorous type dogs. But we couldn't find out anything about him. Trying to get information out of the area was practically an impossibility. Therefore, not knowing what was in back of him, we were afraid to linebreed on him. John Roberts in Missouri has some extreme linebreeding and inbreeding on him and has come out very well. But, not knowing, we were afraid to take the chance.

As far as wildly outcrossing, we rarely ever do. We consider it a wild outcross if it is a grandson to a grand-

mother or something. To us, that is getting pretty far out.

Have you done any brother/sister breedings?

Doris: Half brother and sister, very often. Full brother/sister, no. We never felt that we would improve anything that way. You are not increasing your gene pool, you are just, genewise, breeding exactly what you already have.

So your inbreeding has been primarily daughter/father?

Doris: Yes. Half brother and half sister are very common. We do this for an awful lot of other people who have our stock and come back to breed here.

Have you ever had problems from inbreeding where you had to put puppies down?

Doris: From inbreeding, no, I don't think so. Are you talking malformed puppies, this sort of thing? No.

Some people say that over time you get decreasing size and decreasing fertility. Would you say that has been your experience?

Doris: No. Mark, who is from our very inbred litter, is 23 1/2 inches, just as his sire was. He weighs just about the same, too. He is a little bit rangier dog, but not much. He is, in fact, the nearest to Chief that we have ever bred. His puppies are extremely uniform. The dominance really shows in his get.

What advice would you give to other people in terms of inbreeding and linebreeding?

Doris: Know your bloodline. I don't think that you can ever judge one bloodline by another. I like to go out and look at other bloodlines when they have a new litter of puppies; but, as far as helping people grade, I would not do that again. I really learned this when one of the girls locally here had a Baerstone bitch that she shipped back and bred to a Sulu male who is basically Baerstone. And Lori said, "Come and help me grade my puppies." I said, "Sure, sounds like fun." Fortunately, she had already pretty much decided what she thought was pick, and this is the way she sold them. The one I considered to be pick of the litter turned out, as they grew up, to be, probably, third pick. These puppies developed very differently than mine; they have different faults

than mine have, and I was looking for the faults mine have in these. It doesn't work that way. Each bloodline is very different, they mature differently. So my only advice is to know your bloodline and know what you are doing in it.

What has been responsible for the success of Silveracres?

Doris: Trying to deal ethically with the people we sell puppies to. We do not hold strings on puppies, we will not buy a dog with strings. I almost didn't get Chief because Helene wanted to hold so many stud services on him. We have tried to keep our dealings clean and above board, sell sound puppies and do just a little bit more than just our half of it.

Harold: When we sell a dog, we sell it 100 percent, and if we buy a dog, we buy it 100 percent. There are no "breed-backs," no strings. That is what causes all your hard feelings in dog deals. We sell a dog and, of course, we hope they are going to show it, but if they don't, there is nothing we can do about it. By only making clean deals we feel that we have kept our name clean; it has gone a long way toward doing that, anyway. We feel that if you make any kind of deal where the purchaser has to give you back anything at a later point, you open up the possibility for hard feelings. Therefore, we make no deals whatsoever, with anybody, at any time, for any reason. When we sell a dog, it is 100 percent. We feel that this has saved us many problems with people.

"Deals" are really common in dogs. Do you feel that that REALLY hurts a lot of people?

Doris: Very much. I have seen people who were good friends when the deal was entered into, and a couple of years later, over these same deals, they don't even speak. I think this can be very bad.

We have had one bitch that we have taken a "stud service" puppy from. This was Saarinen Sabacoa. She was a Chief daughter, and the first time the people came up and wanted to breed her to one of our males, we bred her. They paid the stud fee. We couldn't get over how extremely pretty this bitch was. We watched the puppies grow up from that first breeding, watched the care the people gave. (Their name was McLaughlin, no kin.)

So, the next time they wanted to breed her ... well, they didn't actually come up to breed her. They talked about how they would like to breed her, but due to finances and so forth ... This was the only time we ever voluntarily bred a bitch for a puppy. This puppy was Kandi Bear, Ch. Silveracres Kandi Bear. We were very pleased with the litter, and every year thereafter we bred Coa for pick-of-the-litter puppy. That is where our Ellie is from, our Jinni came from, Ann Hogue's Caress came from, Mears' Cotton, Riesburgs' Saarina, and Ken Coors' Quito. It was a very successful breeding. But we watched these puppies grow up, the care the people gave, and entered into this very cautiously.

Then, I have leased bitches, but this was always with an AKC WRITTEN agreement. So far as deals of selling and getting a puppy back, we never do.

What other factors have been important in Silveracres' success?

Harold: Doris keeps in communication with a lot of people around the U.S. She has been in it a lot of years. She has been an officer of the Samoyed Club of America for many years. I think probably her communication with people all across the United States is a help.

Doris: This, and the fact that we live with our dogs. Our dogs are our life. The boarding kennel supports us. Ours are all house dogs; they get their socialization.

And the communication. I try to keep good relations with all of the people who have our dogs. I am a "record keeper." I know exactly how many bitches each of my boys has bred, their number of puppies, and I try to keep up with as many of the get as possible. I find the people I have dealt with are very good after the puppies are gone. They do send me a list of the new owners along with the dogs' registered names so I can watch this in the Gazette. Otherwise, you don't really know what your stud dogs are producing.

How many litters have you bred?

Doris: With eleven breeding age bitches right now, this year we have had five litters. One of them was a one-puppy litter. So that is not really overpopulating the world! We don't breed that much. I have no idea how many litters we have bred; I could go

out and count them up and figure it out that way.

Harold: A lot of years we have only put out three or four litters. Many years we haven't put out ten dogs. When we were having those small litters with that water problem, a two- or three-puppy litter was more common than anything else. So there have been a lot of years when Silveracres hasn't put out ten or fifteen dogs all year.

Doris: Then when you figure you keep some of those ...

Would you estimate 100 or 200 litters?

Doris: In the 23 or 24 years, probably. That is a lot of years. Of course, the first years we weren't putting out a litter a year even. I did count up and we have produced 52 champions.

Those are dogs bred here?

Doris: Yes, bred here. Dogs where we are the breeder. That doesn't count the ones we have finished of other people's breedings - like Chief, Tiger and these.

At this time, we have seventeen dogs. Twelve of them are champions. A couple of others are started.

How important has advertising been in the success of Silveracres?

Doris: I think it has been very important. We use a negative sell type advertising. And Harold's photography, of course, has helped a lot. We never go to a specialty or anything like that that we don't get comments on Harold's pictures, particularly his puppy pictures. We run an ad every time whether we have a puppy to sell or not; that is not the idea, you are selling the name.

Harold: There is an old saying that "a picture is worth a thousand words." I photographed dog shows for seven years; I quit in 1973. I have some pretty good equipment. I do very little of it anymore; it is just for our own use. I do believe that a good picture is a good sales tool, and having been in the sales field for some time, I believe in selling the "sizzle" rather than the "steak"! It has paid off for us. As Doris said, we use a "negative sell." I believe in selling an idea rather than a product. If we run a puppy picture, it speaks for itself, and if we run one of the boys, without all the words, he is "at stud." It is just a type of advertising that I believe does better for us, and builds a better image for us than putting a thousand words with every

picture. I believe that most people look at pictures rather than read all this stuff anyway. At least I do! Just basically, good pictures do help give your kennel a good name, especially when you have a registered kennel name, such as we do. Several books have used my pictures. "This is Your Samoyed" has my photography on the front and back covers, and twelve other pictures in the book. The newest one out, by Jan Kauzlarich, has Chief on the front. Advertising like that you can't buy, either. That is nationwide advertising that will sell dogs for you from now on. We like good clean advertising, low-key. Negative sell.

If you were going to go out and buy a puppy for show or for breeding, would you rely more on what you saw in that puppy or in the pedigree?

Doris: The pedigree. I would rather have a lesser quality puppy with a good pedigree than I would a super puppy with a poor pedigree, and by "lesser quality," I still mean show quality. I am as interested in breeding as I am in showing. The super puppy will do very well in the show ring, but when it comes to producing, it's going to produce that pedigree.

Of those 52 champions, how many have been pointed or finished by you?

Doris: Maybe fifteen. It's just a guess.

How important has really good handling been to the success of Silveracres?

Doris: Not that important.

Harold: A good dog's really more important than good handling. Of course, today's competition is really tougher. There are many more dogs than there were twenty years ago. It's a different ball game.

Doris: Grooming is so much more important now than it was. When we first started, I didn't know how to groom. We bathed the dogs, we brushed them - sort of - and we took them to the show ring. At that time, I thought having a freshly bathed dog was really important, and I can remember taking damp dogs into the show ring. Get up the morning of the show and give the dog a bath so she would be spotlessly white. That doesn't do much for having a really fluffy coat. I almost didn't do any trimming. (We still don't trim whiskers.)

I have to breed better dogs because I'm a lousy groomer. I do a

fine job when it comes to bathing and brushing, but I don't do very well with the scissors. I trim my hocks and clean up the feet and that's all I do.

What makes a puppy pet quality rather than show quality?

Doris: Several things. You can have straight shoulders, straight stifles, a bad bite, a bad tailset, or, occasionally, you can have a double-hook tail. We do have tight tails in our line, and recently we put a puppy out as a pet that was super in every way except for his tail. This dog could probably be finished with a knowledgeable, experienced person, but we put him out as a pet.

Can you tell temperament?

Doris: Yes. You can tell hereditary temperament by six weeks of age. Your environment plays a big part in temperament and you just hope that the new owners will continue socializing the puppy and do all of the things which are important in keeping a good temperament.

You can tell the aggressive and the shy puppies. I prefer to have one right in the middle. I do not want an aggressive puppy, although an aggressive puppy probably does better in the show ring if properly handled. They are harder to live with, however. On the other hand, I do not want a shy puppy. We haven't had a hereditary shy puppy for many years, not since our second bitch.

You were, before AKC changed its designations, a licensed all breed handler. Tell us about your handling.

Doris: I handled a lot of breeds - at least two or three times. The reason I got my all breed license was to cut down on the paperwork. The paperwork with the limited license was just too much. I found that I had better rapport with some breeds and enjoyed handling them more than other breeds. I like to go to the shows and enjoy them; it's not a job for me, it's an enjoyment.

Harold, tell us about the dog show photography business.

Harold: Well, most of my work was in Canada. It gets a little expensive, particularly if it's color. You see, I broke color photography in Canada for dog shows. Black and white was cheap and is still cheap when compared to color.

If black and white was so much more economical, why did you go to



Silveracres Kennel in Morrison, Colorado. Left to right: Ch. Silveracres Karell, Silveracres Karavella, Ch. Frostfire's Galadriel, Ch. Silveracres Elegance, Ch. Silveracres Jinni of Frostfire, Ch. Silveracres Samba, Ch. Silveracres Kantishna, Ch. Silveracres Charm, Ch. Silveracres Kandi Bear.

color?

Harold: To get the business. And once the people got color, black and white didn't do anything for them. They still use black and white for advertising, but most people prefer color. But what I ran into was the losses on the color.

How long were you a photographer?

Harold: Seven years. I had just enough shows to starve to death. It took 40 shows to make it a profitable business, and I had 15 at the most. I would have made forty shows in 1973, the year that I quit. It was just a matter of economics. I wasn't making enough out of the photography, so I gave it up.

Back to dogs, what's the best dog you ever bred?

Doris: My favorite dog was Charm, Ch. Silveracres Charm. Better dogs we've bred. I think the one that's

out right now, Silveracres Holiday Belle, may be every bit as good as Charm. She just turned two years old and she has tremendous potential. We've bred some very nice boys. Mark is an exceptional boy, so is Billy. I personally like to show the girls, so I tend more to think the girls are better. Overall, I think we have bred better bitches than we have dogs.

Is that characteristic of your line?

Doris: Yes, I think it is. For better bitches. Now, Bear, Ch. Polar Star's Nika Frost, produced better boys than he did bitches. But Chief and his line produced better girls.

Harold: I liked Charm better than Rogue. I liked Charm's gait very well. I wasn't too fond of her head, but she had a real gait on her. She moved the truest I've ever seen a dog move.

Doris: She got Best Opposite Sex as a veteran at two different specialties.

Is there anything else you would

like to comment on?

Doris: I think we're seeing an extremely different type of head in the ring today. You can walk in some rings and see two different dogs where the only thing the dogs have in common is their color. They're just different in type. I think we're losing our typiness.

Do you think there should be a height disqualification?

Doris: No. I think a disqualification would cause the breed to lose too many really good dogs. I would just like to see the breeders watch the sizes a little closer and try to get them a little smaller. We have attempted to breed ours down, we were getting too big. Our dogs are closer to a medium size now than they were ten years ago.

What advice would you give to someone just starting out in Samoyeds who wants to become a breeder?

Doris: Get the best dog you possi-

bly can to start with, particularly with the bitch. Everybody always wants to start with the male because they're bigger and prettier, more impressive. Then they want to get a bitch later. Get the bitch first, because you can breed to any dog in the United States. Good bitches are hard to come by and you want the best.

How does a novice select a good bitch?

Doris: Determine what you really want this bitch for. Do you want her to be a show dog? A show dog and a brood bitch? If you want her to be just a show dog, then you're after top winning records, you don't care what the dog is going to produce. Your best bet, then, is to get one about a year old that you can look at and see what it's going to be. Somebody else already put that first work into it. Expect to pay more for it.

If you want a show dog AND a producing dog, by all means watch your pedigree. Go for top producing dogs behind the bitch as well as the bitch herself. You can take a flier out of a poor pedigree and come up with a winner if that's what you want to do, and a lot of people do, and your pedigree isn't that important to you. But if you want a producer, buy by pedigree.

How did you get involved with The Samoyed Quarterly?

Doris: I had been a member of SCA for many years and I had this idea that the bulletin should be sent to judges and should be open for subscriptions. There are too many people who own Sams who are not members of SCA and who had nothing they could subscribe to about the breed. For one reason or another, they were not or could not be members of SCA. There are a lot of people who own dogs with ILP numbers and those who just don't want to join a club for their publication. This was brought up to the people who ran the bulletin and was rejected. I've been handling Don Hoflin's Borzoi for some years, and when he got The Borzoi Quarterly, I suggested that perhaps the Samoyed people could use a publication like The Borzoi Quarterly. Don thought it over for awhile and thought, "Why not?" So, The Samoyed Quarterly was started. It is sent to the judges and it is available by subscription. There is plenty of room in the breed for the club bulletin and a good breed magazine.

Have the dogs had much of an effect on your life-style?

Doris: Yes, they have. Before we got the dogs, we had a very nice apartment. We both worked in town and were drawing a good salary. We didn't have hair all over the carpet,

hair all over us, and we didn't have much fun, I don't think.

So you think it has all been worth it?

Doris: Absolutely, it's all been worth it. I wouldn't change it at all.

Centerfold

Ch. Maur-Mik's Kim

Whelped November 28, 1964

Breeder: Paul LaGale Owners: Mr. and Mrs. Jack Aldred

Ch. Noatak of Silver Moon
Ch. Karasea's Silver Kim
Kamchatka's Princess Tamara

Ken-Dor's Nikatinka
Tinika
Ken-Dor's Kelowna



KIM left a strong mark on the Samoyed breed. He ranks amonth the all time top producers, having sired at least eighteen AKC champions. His progeny include multiple Best in Show

winner Ch. North Starr King's Ransom, and Best in Show and multiple Group placing Ch. Bopper El-Toro of Baerstone. His own show career included a Best in Show at Grand Rapids Kennel Club. •

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Responsibilities of the Buyer

Lewis Hoehn
Valparaiso, Indiana

THREE hundred, four hundred or five hundred dollars for a show quality Samoyed? Yes, even today this represents a sizeable investment for a puppy, whether for show or a purebred pet.

The buyer in today's marketplace has a tough decision as to where and from whom to purchase a puppy. We have all heard of the stories and yes, most true, of irresponsible breeders (I use the word "breeders" mildly as there are no true "breeders") who have taken the buyer. It is therefore understandable that the buyer wants a guarantee for HD, PRA, etc. ...

However, the buyer has a responsibility to the breeder which is most times overlooked, ignored or not even considered by the buyer. You as the buyer must remember that any conscientious breeder has the welfare of the puppies as their prime concern. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating," is an old saying that applies to the breeding of show dogs. After all, the quality of the breeding can only be realized by the placement of these show quality pups in show homes. But we breeders have experienced selling top show stock to people who guarantee verbally that this pup will be shown only to have this pup live its entire life in the backyard and never see a dog show let alone be entered in one. Isn't this letting the breeder down? How about the buyer who purchases a puppy bitch only to find out later that the owner let her be bred at her first season, maybe not on purpose, but there is no excuse for this to happen. This can greatly hinder the development of the bitch. Is this fair to the breeder? Any top breeder will provide a recommendation as to the diet for the puppy when the buyer takes the pup. But all too often the buyer becomes an instant expert in the nutritional requirements of the pup only to see the pup at a later date either grossly overweight or on the verge of malnutrition. Again, here is a show prospect who is being denied the opportunity to develop to its maximum. Is this doing the breeder an

injustice? Or how about a puppy bitch which is sold with a puppy back arrangement and the breeder selects the stud, only to have the owners, against the breeder's recommendation, go and breed on their own. Don't forget the breeder has a definite breeding program and this type of cooperation on the part of the buyer can set the breeder's plan back a generation or two. Isn't this doing a disservice to the breeder?

Obviously, there are a million and one more examples which could be stated, but the above should be sufficient to make the point that every puppy buyer has a RESPONSIBILITY beyond just taking care of the puppy. Just as you the buyer are looking for the best puppy you can obtain for your dollar, so, too, is the breeder looking for the best buyer of the puppy who can provide the maximum, whatever that may be for each breeder.

When looking for a puppy, state

your requirements accurately and honestly, and if any part of the agreement may present a future problem, say so at the time. The breeder (and now I'm talking about the conscientious breeder, not one who breeds just to sell puppies, and yes, these people exist everywhere, even within the parent club) has put a great deal of time and expense into deciding who the parents will be, as well as the expense and time of caring for the litter. Regardless of what you, the buyer, pay for a pup, a breeder, as defined above, will see that you get your money's worth and then some. If something should happen to the pup, and this can happen to anyone, you can rest assured the breeder will deal with you both fairly and promptly.

Just remember this is a two-way street regarding responsibilities. The most appropriate ending would probably be "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." •

Inbreeding

Patricia M. McNab
Zion, Illinois

WHY inbreed? What may we expect from inbreeding? How does one go about choosing a stud for such a program? How would one design such a program?

Recently I was asked to analyze a proposed plan for an inbreeding program. The whys and wherefores of such a program, and possible benefits and hazards, make fascinating consideration. There have been entire kennels which have done nothing *but* inbreed, and many others who would never consider such a thing.

My inquirer had searched in vain for a book dealing with this topic. I recommended Pfaffenberger's "New Knowledge of Dog Behavior," which is, on the surface, a story of the devel-

opment of Guide Dogs for the Blind. I regard it as a treatise on breeding. It describes how Pfaffenberger's group went about developing strains of German Shepherd Dogs, beginning with litters in which perhaps one individual might complete training as an acceptable Guide Dog, and ending with litters in which every single dog and bitch - nine or twelve individuals in a litter - successfully completed training as Guide Dogs.

He did it by selecting two studs who had extremely high personal performance factors, and inbred and linebred their descendants to the individual foundation studs, and crossed their inbred progeny back and forth to keep the concentration of inbreeding from falling too heavily on one particular stud. They even determined the most successful factor of inbred coefficient for their purposes - around 40 percent

as I recall. Strangely enough, they produced entirely functional dogs, without degeneration or defects, as well.

The Pfaffenberger et al discoveries on the psychological development of puppies, early conditioning, performance tests, correct and incorrect times for weaning, removing from the litter, socializing, etc., etc., are things every breeder should learn.

Why do we inbreed?

Inbreeding fixes type, not only physical type, but as Pfaffenberger proved, mental and performance qualities as well. There is almost always diversity of type within a strain. By inbreeding, one can select the type we want to breed, which, when coupled with equal emphasis on balanced construction and temperament, should result in a superior dog closely resembling the ideal breed standard.

Inbreeding can insure dominance of a particular dog or strain or type.

Inbreeding, carefully and selectively done, can insure that the essence ... the best of a line is passed on and expressed in every one of its descendants.

Inbreeding will, however, often reduce size during the time that degeneration of stock is taking place ... while undesirable recessives are emerging and being culled. There will then (sometimes quite soon if the line has previously been carefully watched and culled and no undesirables bred from) come a turnabout when the undesirables have been eliminated, and the stock becomes larger, stronger, sturdier and more vigorous.

Inbreeding can reduce size of litters, if there exists in the strain already a tendency to infertility ... small litters ... concentrating on this factor by inbreeding will enhance it. However, whelping characteristics and fertility are hereditary, and a bitch whelping small litters, if bred to a stud from a prolific fertile strain and large litter, will produce pups whose fertility will be improved over that of the dam. Judicious selection can improve breeding characteristics.

LITTERS could also be decreased in size because of lowered viability of fetuses which might be afflicted in utero with lethal defects and do not live to be born, during the time of inbreeding

when there are such defects remaining in the strain. One would not expect there to be much of this in a carefully well-bred line.

Inbreeding is possibly the only way we have of forcing to the surface and to the light of day all undesirable recessives brought into the strain from the 30-odd various dogs in the first, second, third and fourth generations back in a given pedigree. Undesirable recessives include cleft palate, Poodle coat (in non-Poodles), umbilical hernia, entropion, wry mouth, malocclusion, short legs, gigantism, or deformation or malfunction of some organ, such as of the pancreas, leading to later pancreatic bowel attack, or inability to properly metabolize sugar, leading to hypoglycemia, cataract or outright diabetes. Thus flushed out, forced to surface and emerge, many undesirable factors can be eliminated by culling afflicted individuals, and ceasing to breed those who produce them. The clear unaffected inbreds in such litters, however, must be used to produce the next inbred and further purified, stabilized and improved generation.

Measures which can achieve such spectacular results are not of an occasional or isolated inbreeding of previous linebred, or even outcrossed, dogs. Such a program must be of successive generations of first, half brother to half sister, then mother-son or father-daughter, culminating with brother to sister, the acid test. Inbreeding of such intensity in two to three generation depth can be depended upon, not only to weed out the defectives and carriers of defects, but to assure the purity of the balance of those resulting from such inbreeding. Ultimately, what you see is what you get ... the phenotype reflects the genotype.

It is assumed that one would not go to this much trouble merely to weed out any unknown undesirables. One inbreeds from a foundation of KNOWN, not unknown qualities a dog or bitch carries, and the individuals themselves chosen for inbreeding must be superior in all particulars:

They must, themselves, idealize the standard ... what we want to achieve in our breeding;

They must have proven dominant for their own type, whether linebred or outcrossed;

They must have produced uni-

form type among most of their get or produce;

Their get and produce must have proven to be excellent sires and dams, with very high quality production records;

Those of their get or produce who have been campaigned should have done well in the ring;

They should have produced no faults which we are not prepared to live with or deal with if we can't eliminate them.

The individuals chosen to use in inbreeding are good breeding studs and free whelping bitches.

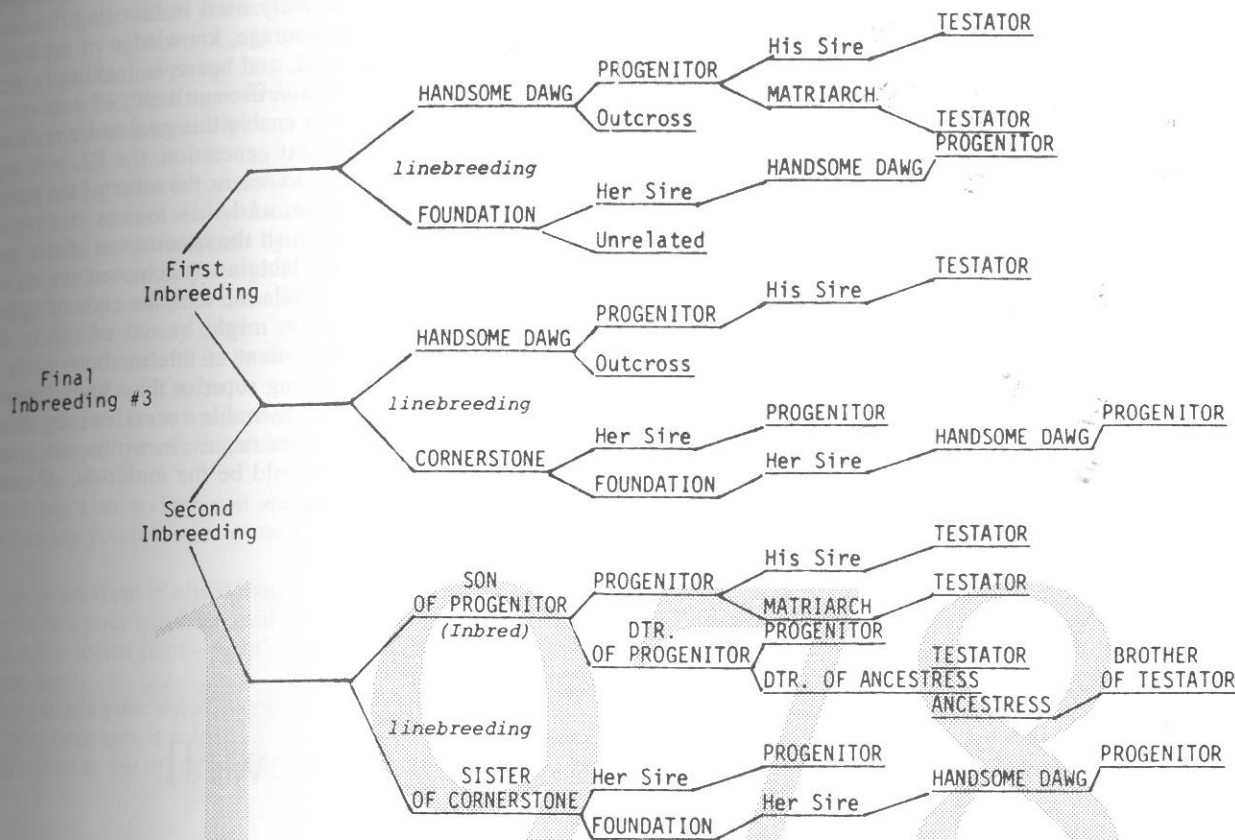
The temperament is sound ... sweet natured, intelligent, free of shyness or aggressiveness, and NOT HYPER!

ONCE the inbreeding program has accomplished its purposes, you STOP inbreeding. Once you have inbred so that your dogs are uniform, your type is dominant, and you are absolutely certain of the genetic makeup of your dogs, then it has served its purpose. You do not inbreed as a general program, forever and ever. This is where breeders have gotten it in the neck. A little of a good thing is great! Too much, keep it up too long, and you are in it too far to back out.

A continual program of this kind, with little regard to the appearance of the individual dogs - in order to have a particular famous dog appearing multitudes of times in a pedigree - can be the death of a line. Suppose this is done, and then later there emerges some mutation - a new problem - or some intolerable fault. Everything you have done for ten or more years could be wiped out because you have so thoroughly saturated your pedigrees with this one dog. Sometimes this happens, either toward the end of the particular dog's life or something emerges in his first inbreds. The owner is the first to see this, and often just keeps quiet and keeps on going with the same breedings, in it too far to back out. Eventually there will be a massive problem, with 400 or 500 kids of the old dog, and many people linebreeding and maybe inbreeding on them, spreading it further abroad.

Perhaps there is nothing there, and perhaps there will never be anything there, but we can't forget that 30

ILLUSTRATION OF PLANNED PROGRAM OF INBREEDING, SHOWING BOTH BACKGROUND AND PROJECTION



years ago hip dysplasia was unknown, and ten years ago PRA was not known in the breed, and several other breeds have recently been found to have hitherto unrealized hereditary conditions.

Our purpose for inbreeding is to create a high percentage of physically perfect, true-breeding, typical, outstanding representatives of the breed. While we must be aware that undesirable recessives can emerge, we must not concentrate on those, and lose sight of a most desirable and laudable goal.

Let us examine a hypothetical breeding program, based on the famous non-Samoyed Handsome Dawg. Although he is a beautiful dog, he does not conform entirely to our list of characteristics belonging to an ideal stud. Life is not ideal, and we do not have an ideal situation to hand. No, we chose Handsome Dawg for the good and sufficient reason that he is the grandfather of our bitch, Foundation. As a matter of fact, he has produced a varied type, never had produced a dog as good as he is himself,

nor do he and his other champion litterbrothers taken together have many champion kids. Not an ideal situation, but we must begin at the point we find ourselves, hoping to improve on it.

Our bitch Foundation has a daughter, Cornerstone, whose paternal grandsire, the top dog Progenitor, complies with all of our guidelines for known qualities on which safely to begin a program of inbreeding. He, Progenitor, is the sire of Handsome Dawg.

EXAMINING the pedigree of Handsome Dawg, it appears that the side of his pedigree that is most distinguished, the best known for high production of uniform type, of champions, and all of the other characteristics, is the side of Progenitor. And examining Progenitor, the success of his siring would appear from pictures and pedigrees to be from his dam, his mirror image, Matriarch, and her great-coated sire Testator. In fact, Testator is the grandsire of Progenitor on his sire's side as well, so

his sire and dam are half brother and sister – a double on Testator. Both Testator and Progenitor's sire sport big coats. You see the famous breeding formula at work ... the perfect breeding, when the sire of the dam is the grandsire of the sire, concentrating on the bitch side of the pedigree. The reverse formula would concentrate on the sire's side.

It would appear, then, that a good selection for the second stud, a la Pfaffenberger, would be a descendant of Testator, possibly multiply descended through Progenitor, whose proven dominance and compliance with all of the guidelines was so well documented.

Of all of the 100 plus champions sired by Progenitor, the owner himself had stated that of all of them, the most successful were descended from the bitch Ancestress. Ancestress was never herself bred to Progenitor, but she was bred to his grandsire Testator, producing two particularly excellent bitches, each of whom was bred to Progenitor. The top male Son of Pro-

genitor, is a son of Progenitor out of Progenitor's daughter, whose dam is one of the bitches of Ancestress bred to Testator. Ancestress herself was sired by Testator's brother.

Thus, we have found a male, Sonof Progenitor, whose background has already had some successful linebreeding and inbreeding. This will help balance the outcross half of Handsome Dawg's pedigree and the dogs in Foundation and Cornerstone's pedigree in whom we have no interest. You will be able to see both this background information and the future-reaching proposed breedings based on this background in the illustration.

The owner of Foundation and Cornerstone had determined to breed both bitches to Handsome Dawg. Both of these would be linebreedings. The inbreeding program would not begin until the best dog and bitch from the breedings to Handsome Dawg were bred to each other. That has been indicated as Inbreeding #1 on the illustration - half brother to half sister from the same sire, and mother/daughter dams.

At the same time, a sister to Cornerstone would be bred to Sonof Progenitor, if facilities were equal to this, and would enable the individuals to grow up in the same general age range, and their maturation to be compared and graded against each other at every point in time. Only the best from each of these litters is to be used in carrying on the program.

The best of the result of Handsome Dawg and Cornerstone would then be bred to the best from Sonof Progenitor and Cornerstone's Sister. This has been indicated as Inbreeding #2 on the illustration. Handsome and Sonof P are half brothers, and the dams are full sisters.

Finally, you breed the result of the double Handsome Dawg inbreeding (#1) to the best of the double Cornerstone Sister inbreeding (#2), to each other.

BECAUSE the interrelationships have been kept deliberately tight on the dam's sides, it would probably not be necessary to go to the length of a brother-sister breeding as a final step, although certainly it could be done.

At the point of inbreeding #3, or

at any time prior to that, having set our type, achieved uniformity among all individuals in all litters, weeded out recessives, and stabilized and fixed good temperament, intelligence, and showmanship, and achieved truebreeding superior dogs, we STOP INBREEDING. There are several possibilities among the above dogs which we have produced along the way, for excellent linebreedings. Further, if we were so lucky as to find a responsible breeder who had done a comparable amount of study, and work with another line, perhaps distantly related to ours, or to another top dog, we could cross our two inbred strains. We would expect to achieve from this the expression of the classic formula, "The F1 cross to two inbred strains results in a hybrid (F1) superior

to either." This is the way superior strains of hybrid corn are developed. It is rarely used in breeding, because both courage, knowledge of the background, and space is lacking to perform a sufficient depth of concentration to enable this goal to be realized. The next generation, the F2, will segregate to one or the other of the parent strains, and this makes it easy to reestablish the dominance of our particular laboriously achieved strain.

While the ultimate ends of such a program might be out of reach, the achievement of intermediate goals in producing superior dogs and eliminating undesirable recessives, by these and other means, is within the grasp, and should be the ambition, of every breeder. •

The Last Farewell

*Ann Hogue
Houston, Texas*

ALL of us want to treat our Samoyeds with loving care, respect, and kindness. After all, for the lifetime of devotion that our dogs give us, we certainly owe them these things; and I want to pass along to you what I think is the best example of a person's tenderness and humane feelings for his dog.

I know of a lady who has raised fine dogs for a number of years. Naturally, over this period of time, she has lost several of her dogs due to illness, injury, or just plain old age. And in cases in which it becomes necessary for the veterinarian to put a dog down, this lady remains with her dog, talking to him and comforting him until he goes to sleep. Imagine the courage it would take to stay and watch your beloved pet doze off for this final nap! But at least the last thing the dog remembers is his owner's voice; he knows that he is not alone, and he can be comforted by his owner's presence until he loses consciousness.

Now please forgive, dear reader,

my bringing up such a heartrending subject. (I sincerely hope that all our Sams live to a ripe old age, and that they pass away quietly in their sleep, in the middle of a happy dream.) And I am NOT recommending that everyone do as this lady does in remaining with the dog until the last. In the first place, most veterinarians (according to my own informal survey) would not allow it. And also, it would be too shattering an experience for many people to be able to take.

But the dictionary says that to be KIND means, among other things, "...to be loving, affectionate, sympathetic, and merciful." In my opinion, the manner of this lady's last farewell to her dogs represents the ULTIMATE kindness. The following is a tribute to her, and others like her, who give this final measure of devotion.

Oh, there you are, Beloved One!
This long, long day is nearly done;
I feared you would not come in time.
This weariness is great, and I'm
So grateful for your presence here.
Remembered voice, and touch so dear
Bring back a thousand happy days
We shared in oh, so many ways.

We ran
I shared
Our head
blend
If only I
But new
My love

You're
I hope th
How all
I slept b
And gre
But now
You mus
It's only
Beside y
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The dyin
It's leavi

My eyes
But there
The voice
you say
Oh, well,
So very b
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Then one
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response,
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of lawsuits
Ms. B
a lovely S
until seve
emotional
between th
messy fight
Every
years, and
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We ran and played in sun and rain;
I shared your joy, your fear, your pain.
Our hearts, our minds just seemed to
blend;

If only it would never end ...
But never mind, don't grieve for me.
My love is yours, eternally.

You're crying now; it pains me so –
I hope that you will always know
How all my heart was yours by right,
I slept beside your bed at night,
And greeted you at your front door –
But now I cannot, any more.
You must not think I hate to die;
It's only that I want to lie
Beside your chair on winter eves,
And walk with you through autumn
leaves.

The dying's not so bad, you see –
It's leaving you that worries me.

My eyes are dim; it's hard to see,
But there's your hand; to comfort me.
The voice seems faint – what's that
you say?

Oh, well, it's your voice, anyway.
So very long ago, it seems,
You talked to me of hopes and

dreams.

I'd let you know as best I could
That I always understood.
So now who'll listen when you're sad,
And share the good times and the bad?
But I believe it must be true,
In some fine place I'll wait for you.
Oh, yes, you'll find me, waiting there,
And once again we'll be a pair.
What fun we'll have – just me
and you –
For love like ours, so deep and true,
Can't end this way; it cannot be.
So promise you won't grieve for me.

I look up now and see your face;
I'm glad you're with me in this place.
And there I see our doctor friend.
So this is where it all must end –
At least for now; life goes so fast,
But love like ours will always last.
This drowsiness – I feel such peace;
First struggle, then the sweet release
From pain and care and fears and
noise –
And left behind, remembered joys.
A last tail wag, so you will know –
Good-bye, dear friend, I love you so.

first step has been completed – you have screened the person with whom you are doing business, and you are ready to enter an agreement.

FREQUENTLY people have the attitude that *written* agreements are only necessary to insure against dishonesty. Far from it, written agreements can't help much if the other party is dishonest (unless you want to pursue the matter all the way to court), but they do serve a very important function if properly executed – they spell out the exact responsibilities of each party to the agreement in any and all circumstances that might arise, so that each party knows exactly what he is required to provide. If done properly, contracts leave no room for misunderstandings and disputes. Written contracts should not be limited to those people you don't know well – they are just as important when dealing with your best friend, especially if you cherish that friendship. Let us get down to some specifics. We dwell here on the puppy guarantee; in a later column, we will discuss lease and stud agreements and co-ownerships.

What is contained in a good puppy guarantee? A puppy guarantee should answer each of the following questions:

(1) Exactly what is and what is not covered by the guarantee? This should be a very *specific* list.

(2) Who determines whether the covered conditions are present in the dog, and what proof is required? Since the presence or absence of most conditions covered by puppy guarantees is to some degree a matter of opinion, one must specify an authority whose opinion will be accepted for purposes of the guarantee. For example, we recently learned of a dispute over a hip dysplasia guarantee that arose because the contract did not stipulate whose diagnosis of HD would be accepted – the buyer's veterinarian, the seller's veterinarian, OFA, a vet college, or who? If the guarantee covers "hereditary defects," make sure it stipulates whose diagnosis of the condition will be accepted, and who will determine whether it is indeed hereditary (this is so important because many conditions can be either hereditary or environmentally caused). Does the guarantee cover show quality? Show quality is strongly affected by environment and

The Trouble with Contracts

Don and Dot Hodges
Poynette, Wisconsin

MR. A buys a puppy from a "reputable breeder," receives a guarantee, and happily goes on his way. Then one day he makes a claim under the provisions of the guarantee, becomes dissatisfied with the breeder's response, accusations and counter-accusations are exchanged, and threats of lawsuits ensue.

Ms. B and Ms. C agree to co-own a lovely Samoyed. All goes smoothly until several years later a strongly emotional disagreement erupts between the co-owners, leading to a messy fight over the dog.

Everyone in dogs for a number of years, and unfortunately some newcomers also, know of such disagreeable instances, even though they are

the exception rather than the rule. From our viewpoint, the saddest aspect of these disputes is that most could have been avoided or at least settled in an amiable manner if only a very *well thought out, specific and comprehensively written* agreement covering the business relationship had been drafted at the outset.

While parties to such disputes will usually tell you the real problem is a lack of good faith on the part of the other party, in fact, from the viewpoint of an impartial observer, most such disagreements arise because of a genuine difference of opinion. People normally enter an agreement in good faith – they are not trying to take the other fellow to the cleaners. Nevertheless, since an agreement is only as good as the parties to it, it pays to evaluate carefully the individuals with whom you do business. Let us assume the

is a *highly* subjective matter in all but the most extreme instances – if you don't think so, watch Samoyed judging at a number of two-show weekends; chances are good you will see some instances where last place dogs at some shows come in first at others. So if you enter a contract guaranteeing show quality or other subjective aspects of the dog's conformation, make sure the contract specifies *who* will determine the presence or absence of such quality.

(3) At what point in time shall the presence of a condition covered by the guarantee be determined? For example, will a finding of HD based on a six-month X-ray be accepted, or is there some minimum and/or maximum age for the X-ray? If orchidism is covered, at what age will the absence of testicles be considered final for purposes of the guarantee? If show quality is guaranteed, at what age will such quality be determined? Dogs *do* change over time, so carefully consider the appropriateness of maximum and/or minimum ages for each condition covered by the contract.

(4) Are there any conditions which void the guarantee? Consider two examples: If the dog is transferred to a new owner, does the guarantee also transfer? If the dog is bred before a claim is made, does this void the agreement? All conditions that void a guarantee must be made explicit.

(5) Are there any additional conditions the dog owner must meet before a claim will be honored? For example, is he required to return the dog or may he keep it? Is he required to spay or castrate (or vasectomize) a

dog to collect on some provisions of the guarantee? *All* conditions the dog owner must meet to collect on a claim should be clearly stated.

(6) Does the guarantee provide for a refund or a replacement? If a refund, how much? If a replacement, what age, quality, sex, etc., and who selects the replacement? Breeders interested more in the well-being of their puppies than the money they receive from a sale are well advised to provide for refunds rather than replacements – then there is no obligation to place a second puppy in a home that has turned out badly despite efforts to screen buyers.

TO digress briefly, we have been very successful in getting our puppy buyers (both pet and show) to x-ray their dogs for HD and many people have expressed an interest in knowing our formula. Since our success in this area partially depends on the nature of the puppy guarantee, let us mention here the elements we think are most responsible. (i) We offer refunds rather than replacements. A satisfied pet buyer doesn't want another dog, so a replacement won't motivate him to x-ray – a refund policy that lets him keep his beloved pet will. (ii) We establish a deadline for x-raying the dog – long enough to permit a valid determination of the presence or absence of HD by current OFA standards, but short enough to eliminate constant procrastination. (iii) We try to keep in contact with our puppy buyers (at the very least by inquiries sent in our annual Christmas cards). The buyer then appreciates our concern

about his puppy sufficiently to cooperate on having his dog checked. (iv) We remind each buyer about the deadline for the guarantee several months in advance, and point out the advantages of having his dog checked. This almost always motivates those who forgot the contract provisions. Show buyers usually do not need prodding, but the dedicated breeder needs good statistics on all his produce, not just the show quality puppies. This same approach can be effective in enlisting buyer cooperation in checking for *any* hereditary problem covered by the guarantee.

In conclusion, we believe every conscientious breeder recognizes two obligations when he sells a dog: (a) to the dog – the breeder is obligated to place him in a good home; (b) to the buyer – the breeder is obligated to provide a dog he can enjoy and take pride in. In their haste to sell dogs, breeders sometimes forget part (a), but even more often breeders forget part (b) when they have a less than satisfactory dog to place. Every breeder should accept the responsibility of trying to match dog and owner to satisfy both parts (a) and (b). A breeder must be ready to buy a dog back if the match proves poor – an unwanted dog in the hands of a dissatisfied buyer is *not* in a good environment. Rather than complain that the owner's dissatisfaction arises from nothing covered in the guarantee (if that be the case), the breeder should remember the motto "the customer is always right" and offer to buy the dog back at its original purchase price. By so doing, he meets both obligations (a) and (b). •

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