



P.L. Wredding

# **THE SAMOYED QUARTERLY**

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## Samoyed People

The Samoyed Quarterly  
Talks with  
**Joyce Johnson and Ken Eiler**  
**ALADDIN**  
Kirkland, Washington

*This interview was conducted at the home of Joyce Johnson and Ken Eiler in June of 1995 by Barb Matson.*

*How long have you been in dogs and how did you get started?*

Joyce: I got my very first Samoyed in 1964.

*You started in Samoyeds?*

Joyce: When I was a kid I had a Pomeranian and my dad also bought me a Pom when I was pregnant with my youngest child. My sister showed Great Danes in California and was always writing to me and telling me how much fun it was, so I thought, "I can do that. I can show this Pomeranian," so I called somebody and they put me in touch with a lady in Samoyeds. She said, "Come to the Seattle show and see what it's all about." So, that's what I did. When I got to the show I looked at all these Pomeranians and said, "I don't think I like this. Let's go take a look at the Samoyeds and thank the lady for being so kind." I walked over there and saw this enormous area - it was a bench show - and all these Samoyeds sitting on this royal blue terry cloth and I said, "Wow, these are gorgeous. I love these dogs." It was just instant ...

*Love at first sight?*

Joyce: Absolutely! So we started checking them out and the lady was really kind. She was my mentor, for sure. That was Nell Collins. She put us in touch with a person who had puppies and we, eventually, decided on a litter that wasn't born yet. Our first Samoyed came home in May of 1964.

*Where did you get that first one from?*

Joyce: Martha and Dick Beal, Polar Prince Samoyeds.

*What made you decide to show and breed, just the influence from your sister?*

Joyce: I guess. It seemed like fun and then, after seeing all the dogs on the bench and talking

with Nell Collins a lot and learning about it, I thought it sounded like a lot of fun and we could at least try it.

The first time we ever showed that puppy we went to a fun match down in the arboretum off Lake Washington. It was a

just about everything there was to win that day and we thought, "Man, this is fun." That's all it takes and we were kind of hooked. Unfortunately, that dog turned out to be not only dysplastic, but double-jointed. We had him x-rayed when he was two



really pretty setting. We didn't know what we were doing. Nell had us get the dog all ready and she showed me how to do the feet and proper brushing and so on. Then we walked into the ring with this puppy and we won. Then we had to go back into the ring again and we won. We won

and we cried all the way home from the vet. Then we had to make a really hard decision: Are we going to show dogs or are we going to just have a pet. Before he got to that age we noticed the double joints. We didn't know what they were, but we knew there was something wrong. Nell

had a female that she was going to use for breeding, but she really didn't need it on her property, so she put that dog in our name - we co-owned it - and we brought it out to our house to help exercise our dog, so it was kind of like okay, we now have another one. The next thing you know we were trying to figure out what kind of breedings to do and that kind of thing. I think then was just about when people were really getting involved with the orthopedic foundation. A lot of people were saying, "Oh, you don't need to x-ray," and other people were saying, "Oh, yes you do," so we were kind of on the ground floor of that in Samoyeds, in the Northwest.

*How many litters have you bred?*

Joyce: I don't really know, to tell you the honest truth. We've been doing this for 31 years now, and I don't think I've had 30 litters.

*Less than an average of one a year, then?*

Joyce: Oh, yes. My first litter was in 1966 and I think the next one was in 1968, so we didn't rush out and have tons of puppies. I never have and I never will, because I only breed when I want something for myself. That doesn't mean that I will always end up keeping something out of the litter, because I could find that at six or seven months it's just not going to work out.

*Would you have any idea how many champions have come out of litters you've bred?*

Joyce: Probably an average of about two per litter.

*What would you say has been the best dog that you've owned or bred?*

Joyce: This one that's laying on the floor over here. Her name is Ch. Aladdins Silver Flying Jade and her father was a great champion, too. He was ranked between three and six in the nation five years in a row and this dog was consistently number two for four years and, for a bitch, I think that's pretty good. I think she's better than her father, movement-wise. Other than that they're pretty much alike, temperament-wise. There's not a lot of difference between them. They're very much of a type and

temperament. They're both very macho dogs, but they're not aggressive. Neither one of them really stand up and say, "Here I am."

*Have they been your biggest winners?*

Joyce: Yes, basically. We had several dogs that came out of him. His name is Aladdin's Dominator and we called him Nate. Jade was the next to the last litter and she's going to be eight. In the last litter there were two dogs that should have finished their championships, but one got very sick and the other one my girlfriend owns and I never could get her to get that dog in the ring. I think out of every litter that Nate had there were champions and, of the ones that we kept, we had some really nice winners. I think there were two or three that placed consistently in the Top Ten while we were showing them, and his grandkids the same way. So, we've had a lot of dogs over the years that have kept me going.

*Would you say that pedigrees in this breed can be trusted as to accuracy?*

Joyce: As far as mine are concerned, yes. I've had several that have been sent to me by AKC and, compared to what the breeder has given me, they've been consistent.

*How have you used inbreeding, linebreeding and outcrossing and when should each be used?*

Joyce: Nell Collins told me, years ago, that the optimum breeding is when the sire of the dam is the grandsire of the sire. I've kind of used that as a rule of thumb, one way or the other, but I also feel that you have to bring in new blood and I've tried to bring in something new maybe every three generations. As far as inbreeding is concerned, I've done it. I don't think I've ever gotten anything great doing it. I've had cases where I've wanted to do it and haven't had the chance to do it. I really do like linebreeding. I think if you do too much inbreeding - father/daughter and that kind of thing - it leads you to a dead end. You definitely have to go out and bring in some new blood. You can get the gene pool too condensed and then you can run into big problems.

*How often have you done outcrossing?*

Joyce: My second breeding was an outcross. That produced our foundation bitch. Her name

was Aladdin's Silver Snow Shadow. Then we bred back into our own bloodlines for a while. Then we picked up a bitch from California and bred that one and that's behind some of my old stock that's around now. Then we bred into some more Northwest dogs. There's a lot of Northwest all over the country. It left here in the 60s, maybe on into the 70s and went into the Midwest so, if you wanted to, you could do really loose linebreedings with a lot of dogs. Jade's a product of a really loose linebreeding to the Midwest. A lot of the really nice dogs that left here ended up producing some really nice dogs in the Midwest so that you can kind of go back to that. I couldn't tell you how often I have done outcrossing. Just, every so often we brought in another bitch into our bloodlines and then bred something from that back to our older stock.

*Who or what has influenced your breeding the most?*

Joyce: Nell Collins got me started in the interest of bloodlines and pedigrees. Probably for the first fifteen years in breeding, I could sit down and name every dog in every pedigree of dogs I owned and some dogs in other people's pedigrees, too. I certainly knew more about the dogs than I did about the people who owned them. I could remember the people by their dogs. I started reading about genetics and found that I knew absolutely zip about it and just listening to people talk about this and that I came to some conclusions. A lot of people say that if a dog is too big you breed it to small, and if a dog has round eyes you breed it to slant, etc. It doesn't work that way, because you can't breed extremes. You have to try to stay fairly consistent in what you breed. You can't clear problems up by finding a dog that doesn't have it and breeding opposites. It doesn't work that way, as recessives have a way of coming out to get you.

*So you just have the one dog right now?*

Joyce: No, I have six. Jade's my oldest dog.

*What's the most that you've ever kept?*

Joyce: Thirteen. Part of those would be Akitas.

*How did you come up with your kennel name Aladdin?*

Joyce: That was the name of our very first dog. His name was



*Ch. Aladdin's Silver Snow Shadow. This was our foundation bitch one year after winning Best of Winners at the SCA National Specialty.*

Polar Prince's Aladdin. I don't know how we came up with the Aladdin, but we decided that we'd keep that as our kennel name. It lends itself to our slogan which is "where wishes come true."

*How do you name your litters? Do you have a scheme?*

Joyce: No, I don't. I don't name all the dogs in the litters, for one thing. Everybody's able to name their own animal. The dogs that I keep, I try to give them a "name to live up to." I think that started with one year ago. We had three little kids and we kept plugging away at the dogs, but we didn't have a lot of time. After several years of not having many champions, just going here and there, we had one male that looked really promising, so I named him Aladdin's Vindicator, assuming he was going to vindicate all the time and effort we put in on this while trying to raise three children. I guess that's how it came about that they came up with a name to live up to or one that meant something to me. When Nate came he stood out in the litter and I could tell by looking at him that he was going to be very special, so I named him Aladdin's

Dominator, and he definitely dominated, especially in the Northwest, for six years. Between the time he was two and eight he was right up there. The first time we put him in the Open class he took a five-point major in California. We'd only shown him in Bred-by before that. Then we didn't show him for a long time - he was out of coat. We brought him out the next summer at a state specialty and he won both days, took both majors there, so we had three majors and finished the next weekend on a single point. That was a very small show around here. Then we didn't do anything because, in those days, you had to wait until you had your certificate in hand before you could go into the specials class. The certificate came in November and we entered him three weekends in a row and he took Group II all three weekends. He'd been out of the ring that year until August and from August through early December he was probably shown in six shows and he was the number three Samoyed. So he definitely lived up to his name.

*You were saying a while ago that when you have litters word gets around without your having to advertise the*

puppies. I'm wondering what distinguishes your line. What do people think of when they think of your line?

Ken: It's the look of the dog. It's what I like to see in a Sammy. I think it's a very distinctive dog. What do you call it?

Joyce: I call it presence, pizzazz.

Ken: It's more than that. It's the style, the presence, the way it's shaped, the hair. The overall type that I like. There are a few more out here of that type, but I think they just stand right out in the ring. It's what I think of as a Sammy.

How would you rate type, temperament and soundness in order of importance?

Ken: I think soundness is very important, but along with that I like to have type.

Joyce: Temperament, to me, is extremely important. Getting back to breeding Nate, at one point we took him back East and he stayed with a breeder for about three or four months and was used as a stud a few times. It's really interesting that people called me and told me what wonderful temperament he produced and I said, "What do you mean?" They said, "His temperament is just so wonderful." I said, "They're all supposed to be that way." They said, "Well, they're not all like that here." I said, "You're kidding me. I thought all Samoyeds were like that." It never dawned on me that there was a temperament problem. You see a little aggressiveness here - males make eye contact and that sort of thing, but I thought that most Sams were always as sweet as Nate. I think that all of them, type, temperament and soundness, are extremely important, and if the package doesn't include all of them, it's really not a Samoyed.

What would you say is your long-range goal in breeding dogs? What lies ahead for you?

Joyce: I've thought about it off-and-on over the last few years that I could give this up at just about any time.

Ken: I was going to say two dogs, maybe three, that fit inside the motor home and bye-bye.

Joyce: You know what happens, you do a breeding and along comes this puppy, so back to the ring you go. I have to show you who we won with last weekend and then maybe you'll get a better idea of what Ken's talking about - that overall look



A Hondo Lane at nine months in February, 1986, pictured with judge Arlene Davis. First Award of Merit, 1987 National.

that we like. You see that and you have to do something with it. I only breed when I want something for myself. Jade had her first litter when she was six years old. It just seemed like you have a dog like her that has done so well, and you just have to do something. So you do a breeding and you do the best you can. Then you see something there that you think is just really beautiful, so you have to go out and do it again and it just snowballs. I had the opportunity to get a nice young male from the Midwest, so I brought in some new blood again. It goes back to the same thing. I can tie it up very loosely back in the fourth or fifth generation, but he's the type of dog I like so I brought him out here

and he now lives in our kennel and we did another breeding and out of that we had four puppies and three of them were show quality. Believe me, I'm not one of those people who believes that you can get a whole litter of show quality puppies. I hear it all the time and I think, "Yeah, you can probably do that. If you have enough money and enough time you can probably finish just about anything." But when more than one true show quality puppy comes out of a litter, I think you're really lucky. Sure enough, we got a nice bitch out of that. One of the brothers I sold to a lady who's never shown before in her life and she's just having a ball. She walked into the ring her first time and put points on him,

so let her carry on when I retire.

Ken: She took Best of Winners. She said, "Oh, this is easy. That's two points. Let's see, seven more shows and I'm all done." It doesn't quite work that way.

Joyce: It's flattering to me to know that I was able to pick her a good dog.

With my next question, I'm going to challenge you to describe that type in a little more detail. Regarding conformation, how would you describe the ideal dog of this breed?

Joyce: I like them to have the old-time coat pattern. I want them to have a rough, a cape and a saddle. I want them to have a dark eye. I want them to have a pleasing head, a nice wedge. I don't want them to be too long in

the back, even in bitches. I like them to have an overall squared-off appearance. A lot of dogs are getting a long back. A lot of them are getting the coat pattern that just graduates ever so slightly. You just don't see much difference from the neck to the tail. It's more an "old bitch" coat, I guess you would say. I like to see them with a nice tailset, a nice earset and a nice neck.

*What are you looking for in a nice earset and a nice tailset?*

Joyce: One that comes over the back and doesn't drop down too far when it comes over. I don't want a snap tail, I want it to lay down flat, and I don't want it to be loose and not come out of the rear end too low. You see a lot of that. I think a lot of the dogs are lacking in neck. Their ears look almost like they're jammed on their shoulders. I think a lot of the dogs have too tall an ear and too long a muzzle, not enough stop. I think that some of them are too narrow between the eyes. Like I said, I think you need a nice wedge-shape head. That will put the ears on properly.

*Is there anything about the standard that you would like to see changed or clarified?*

Joyce: I'd like to see bitches a little bit bigger. Every time it's come up for a vote I've voted them a little bit bigger. I've had small bitches, I've had big bitches and I just like the bigger bitches a little bit better, height-wise. I think they fit in a little bit better.

*How would you describe the temperament of this breed?*

Joyce: Loving, but stubborn. Pushy, definitely pushy. Very jealous. They want all the attention all the time.

*Do you think most judging is fair?*

Joyce: That's a hard question.

Ken: I've said many times that I would really prefer to see a panel, independent judging, add up the points. I think there's too much politics, too much favoritism, and I think the handler is being judged more than the dog is being judged.

Joyce: It would be nice if we could all handle our dogs as well as professional handlers do.

*Have you always handled your own dogs?*

Joyce: No, I have a professional handler and I do it, myself, too. I can't go to all the shows. I have a business that I work Tuesday through Saturday and I can



Ch. Kipper Sunny Peteron, "Sunny," being groomed before going Best of Breed, September, 1994.

only squeeze out so many Saturdays a year that I can campaign. With the shows on the weekends only, or during the week somewhere else where you have to drive a long way, you end up having to have a handler if you're going to special something. It just doesn't make sense, otherwise.

*Should champions be speacled?*

Joyce: That's the most fun. I don't know that it's an absolute necessity. No, I don't think they need to be speacled. I don't think Groups are necessary. I don't think Best in Show is necessary, but that's where the most fun is. That's what I enjoy the most. I enjoy specializing far more than just class dogs.

*What does making the Top Ten or Twenty mean?*

Joyce: I don't know, really. It's just something else to brag about. You have to face it, this whole thing is just an ego trip, period. Really, when you get

right down to it. I enjoy knowing, though, that I can produce a dog that can go out and win, because I can do it myself. Lord knows, I haven't been in the ring with the consistency that my ex-husband was. He was the handler, and he was a good handler. I got the privilege of training the puppies. I'm an okay handler. I get by, but as far as being a good handler, I appreciate my professional handler. If we could all handle as well as the professional handlers, I wonder if the politics would be there. But, like everything else, it's whether you have the talent to do it or not.

*Ken, you seemed to imply, earlier, that having a big-name handler helps to win.*

Ken: I think it helps quite a bit.

*Is that because of the skill of the handler or the reputation of the handler?*

Ken: Some of it's the skill of

the handler, what he can get out of the dog, but I think there's also a large tendency to look first at the big names, and I've seen a lot of people do very well with their dogs and a handler have a dog that's not according to standard - it has a lot of obvious faults - and that dog will win. So, I think there is a lot of tendency to be politically correct when we're choosing the dogs that we're going to choose, which is going to get us the next job, maybe. I don't know if that's the reason, but there is a tendency to pull out the good handlers.

*Any suggestions on how that might be curtailed?*

Ken: The only thing I can think of is two or three doing the judging or a judge being monitored by other judges. Something that makes the judge really know the standards, really look at the dog and do the picks on the dog, not the handler.

Would you rather show under a breeder-judge or an all breed judge?

Joyce: All breed judge.

Ken: Because a breeder-judge will look at what he wants to see. If you don't have that judge's style or type of dog, you're not going to win.

Joyce: I've lost, obviously, under some breeder-judges that knew the ranking of my dog and didn't want to add to the points. I also, at one time, lost because my handler might get some points toward being the top handler when the judge's son was in the vying for that and she knew she had not done right. I don't hang around to talk to judges. I either win or I lose. I don't go up and ask them what they like or didn't like about my dog or any of that kind of stuff. But, when a judge makes a comment to the outside people in your area that, "Maybe I should leave now before I get hung ..." I could care less. I pay my money, do my thing and when I win I'm happy, when I lose I say congratulations to the winner and I go home. I thought that was a rather odd comment coming out of this particular judge. I don't think a lot of the people around here cared whether I won or lost. It was just the circumstances.

How much does advertising influence the judges?

Joyce: More than it should, I believe. A lot of judges like to see their pictures in the magazines. Some judges do, some judges don't. A lot of judges throw the magazines away. I know some judges that do that.

How popular is this breed?

Joyce: I don't really know. I get a lot of calls for puppies. It's a lovely breed to own, but it takes care. I groom for a living and I see the ones that don't get a lot of care, sometimes, and there's no good excuse for it. I find a lot of people think they are harder to care for than they are, so when they get them they don't do a lot with them, they take them to a professional groomer or they just let them sit. If they love the breed, they'll learn to take care of them. It's not hard, but it scares me when I think of them getting too popular, for that reason. Yesterday, I had to cut one down. I don't like doing that.

Would you like to see them more or less popular than they are now or do you think they're at a comfortable place?

Joyce: I haven't really



Ch. Aladdin's Dominator, "Nate."

thought about it. I really don't have an answer for that question.

How do you train puppies and at what age?

Joyce: The puppies I'm going to keep, the first thing I train them to do is to learn the word "cookie." (laughter) I probably start that when they're about five weeks old, and they get their first taste of having a choke chain on at about that age. As soon as they've had shots and we're going to a show, they go with us. They go to every place we're having a show, as far as we're concerned. When they've had enough shots that I feel comfortable about it, they get to walk around the show grounds. We took one with us in April, when he was about two months old, and Ken had him on a leash by the end of the first day and he was trotting all over the

place. He was having a great time. He'd already had a couple of parvo shots and distemper shots. We just keep exposing them to the show areas and, about a month or month and a half before we're going to show them, we take them to handling class once a week.

Ken: We keep it fun for them. We don't push them. We keep doing things to make it fun for them, so we just kind of work them into it. It becomes a way of life. It's enough fun for them that when they get out in the yard, they head for the motor home, they want to go. So we can turn them loose and they're right in the door. When we get home we turn them loose and they're right to the kennel. We don't teach them that, they want to go. They look forward to it.

Do you attend fun matches?

Ken: We do that occasionally.

Joyce: There aren't as many now as there used to be. We used to get a lot more training in that kind of atmosphere.

Ken: Usually it's about three nights training in a handling class before the show and that's about it.

How important is training to winning in conformation?

Joyce: It's very important. Like I said, if we could all handle our dogs as well as the handlers, we might have a better chance at winning, because you could have a very good dog, but if you can't show it off, the judge is never going to know it. I think a good example of that is last week. There was quite a nice class of males and we picked the two or

three dogs it could be, including our dog, and sure enough, those were the dogs that placed. They went one, two, three. The Reserve Dog that day was handled by a gal who is no longer a professional handler, she was at one time, and since then had gone on to have her own dogs in a couple of different breeds. The next day the owner said, I'm going to do it. We lost him that day. We just never did find that dog. He just got lost in the woodwork. So, the handling makes a lot of difference, and learning to do it and teaching your dog. I've had dogs that, no matter what I do, they just don't do things right. Then you have the one that likes to show and wants to show. That's what we have right now and he just commands the ring. He's only eighteen months old, and it was between him and one of the top dogs in the country for Best of Breed both days.

Ken: He's very much like Jade was. Jade would get in that ring and with her presence and her type she'd just say, "Judge, don't you even think about anybody else." (laughter) And she would win, consistently. This dog is going to be very similar, we hope, because he has that same presence, that same show.

*Have you had any experience with obedience training?*

Joyce: I haven't. My dogs have had obedience titles. None that I have here right now. I have a very close friend and she was really into obedience. She taught obedience. When my dogs would finish their conformation championships, she'd take them and do a little work with them and within three shows she'd have their obedience titles on them. Unfortunately now for me, because we co-owned those dogs and they now have their CDs and CDXs, I would have to go into something like Open B rather than any of the Novice classes or, at least Novice B. I'm not sure, but I know one thing, I can't start at the very beginning if I did it myself, and I'd think, "Whoa, that's not fair." Even if my dogs haven't done it, because I've owned dogs that have obedience titles, I can't enter in the real Novice classes. I don't think that's fair, because I have never been in the ring. I'm the novice. I don't have time for obedience. In fact, we were watching agility last weekend and I was saying, "Boy, I bet Jade would just love

that. She's a finished champion, we're not showing her anymore except maybe now and again in the Veteran class." I thought, "That's great. She would just love it, but when would we have the time to do it?" And you need obedience for that. Before you can do agility you need your basic obedience. It's just the time. We both work from early in the morning until late at night and I have Sundays and Mondays off unless I take a Saturday off to go to a dog show. I work with dogs all day long. To come home and work in the yard with a dog, no, I don't think so. That's why we do the painless training at the dog shows with the puppies. You put them on a leash and let them take you to the dog show. Then, when they're old enough, you can take them to the dog show.

*How intelligent would you say this breed is, compared with others?*

Joyce: Too intelligent for our good. They're very smart. I've always considered them a dog that you teach, you don't train. They have to have a reason to do what they're doing. If they don't think the reason is good enough, they're going to object. So you have to make them want to do what it is you want them to do. If you're trying to teach them something and they don't want to learn, you have to make it uncomfortable for them. For example, if they're running improperly, if they're banging into you, if it's your fault and you're always into them, they're

not going to learn. But, if you make it their fault, that they've done something stupid, they're not going to do it again. They don't like to look dumb. They don't like to be shown up as stupid.

*Is it ever appropriate to take a dog anywhere off-leash?*

Joyce: I don't think so. The obedience ring at the dog show is fine. In your own yard, if you can trust them not to leave your property while you're outside. I can take Jade out in the front yard, if I'm watching her. But I'm close on watching her, because they're a hunting dog, for one thing. They like to hunt. I just don't think any dog should be off-leash. I know there's a big to-do about it around here. In different parks they want off-leash areas, but I don't know. Who is going to trust the other dog? I've had Akitas and Samoyeds and I know the Samoyed can take the other dog and do more damage but, in the long run, I think the Samoyed would be dead. So, you're walking in the park and somebody comes along and their dog decides to take exception to the way your dog looks at it and the next thing you know, you have a dead dog on your hands. Who's going to be able to break it up? I've personally had to break up a fight or two between a Samoyed and an Akita. It was not a fun experience. I see these dogs at dog shows all the time that get into little scuffles and little tiffs, so what are you going to

do with the novice person that has a little pet with him and he goes to the park and turns it loose and somebody else comes along with a big pet and turns it loose? I have a friend who raises Malamutes and she used to walk her Malamute all the time and I saw her scream one time as a lady opened her door and her Poodle came out and they weren't paying attention to it and the stupid little Poodle ran into the jaws of death. It just ran up and challenged the Malamute and the Malamute said fine. That can happen in these parks, too. It just frightens me to see dogs running at me off-lead.

*Do you think shy or aggressive dogs can be corrected by training?*

Joyce: I think shy dogs can be worked with up to a point. I guess, having to do it every day myself, I can see that if I have a problem with a dog that consistently comes to me for grooming, I can generally work it out. If I don't see them often enough, I can't. It depends on the breed. There are some breeds that I don't think you can change. I can think of one breed in particular, that I have worked with over the years and if they hate you, they hate you. If they don't like it they don't like it, and they're never going to like it. Specifically, cutting nails, I can start with a puppy and if they hate it, ten years from now they're going to hate it. You cannot talk them out of it. It's the same with pulling the hair out of their ears. Things that they have to live with. You



Ch. Sorcerers Omen, ranked herding dog, and Ch. Pinehill's Pride of Aladdin, "Pixie."

would think that they would learn after many months of having it done that it's not going to kill them. They just won't get it through their heads and they'll come at you and want to kill you. So, I don't know. I wonder sometimes. I've had dogs that are aggressive or fear biters. If I can have them every week for six months I can work them out of it.

I have had dogs that I have done consistently that have been afraid and aggressive. For example, I've had Cocker Spaniels that have moved to another area and the owners come back to me after six months because they were not able to get the dog groomed. I'm still the only one that can do them, but I CAN do them, and that's because I keep working with them and tell them that they're okay, whereas, with Terrier types, I don't care how many years, how many times you do it, they're not ever going to get over it.

Ken: We had a conversation the other day and this came up, and it was hard for me to understand that this was inbred. I think possibly if you had the dog at an early age, you could teach it who's boss and what is acceptable and what is not. Possibly, I don't know for sure, you could put an end to it right there, but I think after they reach a certain age, you have a dog that's got what it's got, and you've have a problem.

Like with our Akitas, if they decided they're going to be aggressive, you put them down on their back the first time they try it. That's it, you don't see that behavior any more. You teach them very early how to act with other people. I think that at that age if you were to allow them to be aggressive, then they have established the way they are going to be for the rest of their life. I don't know this for sure, but it's just my suspicion. Once a dog is aggressive, I don't know if you are going to get it out of them. It would be a very long process every day and you might be able to.

Joyce: I think certain bloodlines do evidence aggression. I've seen it over the years. I've seen brothers that were aggressive and they've been bred to different bitches and produce aggressive dogs.

If you got a puppy at an early age from an aggressive bloodline and you worked with that puppy, you might teach the puppy not to

be aggressive and then go from there. The problem is that the dogs are bred; they have litters; some of them go to pet homes. Ten years later somebody says, "Oh, yeah, I had a dog out of that bloodline and it was so aggressive I had to lock it in the bedroom." I'll say, "Who was it out of?" and they'll tell me. I'll say, "Oh," and it happened to be out of a bloodline I know to have produced aggressive dogs. So you're not breeding one dog if you're going to breed a litter. If you do have evidence of aggression in the father or mother, then what happens with all the puppies? They have to go someplace. It bothers me when I see that because they all can't go to homes with experienced owners.

*Do you feel a breed should do what it was bred for?*

Joyce: (laughter) If you're asking me if I'm going to the Arc-

tic on a sled, no way!

*Have your dogs been involved with any kind of work?*

Joyce: Yes, as a matter of fact. I didn't do it though. I had a dog years ago named Sorcerer's Omen. The gal who bred him had taken him to a national herding contest and they weren't going to let her in. This was many years ago. She finally stood up and said, "You have to let me in, this is a herding dog." I think he came out number five or seven at the nationals and the next year he was number three. So, I didn't do it, but one of my dogs did. In fact, we had a major flood in the Monroe Valley one year, and that dog went out and rescued cows from several farms.

*Do you have an opinion, then, on whether breeds should be able to do what they were bred for?*

Joyce: I don't know that they should have to do it, but I think

that it's in them. I think that they're going to do it if they're given a chance.

Ken: Last weekend our club had a Samoyed Olympics and one of the events we had was herding. There were a few dogs that had herded before, but we had 32 or 33 entries. Most of those dogs had never done this before and the people who went in with them, their owners, had never done this before. Just a couple minutes with the instructor in there and they let those dogs go and they immediately did show herding instinct. They knew what to do and they did very well. I must say, there were one or two who thought the lambs were dinner and they went after it, but they learned very quickly that wasn't acceptable. So, I think it's built in. It's a matter of instinct, and allowed to do it, they fall into it very, very



Ch. Aladdin's Flying Jade

quickly - in just a matter of minutes.

Joyce: I think they herd faster than they sled. They love the cold weather and they love the sled, but I think the herding is far more ingrained in their genes than the sled pulling.

Ken: There's a lot of training involved in the sled pulling, because they have to learn the commands and what it is they're suppose to be doing.

Joyce: I don't know. I've had Sammies on a sled and put them with a trained Malamute and I put three of my Samis on and two of the three pulled. The other one said, "This is cool, I'll just walk. Everybody else is doing the work, I'll just follow." She didn't put any weight into it. The others got right down into their chest and pulled.

Ken: But they weren't the lead dog, right?

Joyce: Well, no. You wouldn't turn a Sammy loose on the sheep without ...

Ken: But they pull. And you can really see when they go to the ring. They know they're going to the ring and they really go.

Joyce: My dogs love to show. They'll pull you up to the ring.

*To what extent are your breedings natural or controlled? How much do you actually participate, physically, in the mating?*

Joyce: As natural as possible. I'm the only one I know that could breed Akitas. Everyone else had a horrid time with it. Mine just decided they were going to do it when I put the pair together. As far as the Samoyeds are concerned, I'M RIGHT THERE, but I like them to be as uncontrolled as possible. It works for me.

Ken: It depends very much on the stud dog himself.

Joyce: I'm not going to let the bitch tear the dog apart. If it's an unknown female, I'm right there until I see how it's going to be and then I just let them go out and I watch them. If they need help turning I do that for them. I tell them they can't go wondering off, so they don't drag each other around, and generally, if I tell my dogs they have to stand there and stay, they do. I don't like the idea of having to squat down beside them. Some dogs, if you do that, they don't want to breed and other dogs get to the point they won't breed unless you do. They say, "If you're not going to



*Ch. Aladdin's Solitary Man, Dominator grandson. He finished from Bred-by with five majors and was sold to the East Coast and attained eleven championships.*

help then I'm not going to do it at all." I'd kind of like it in the middle, where you can help if they need it and don't have to if they don't.

*What's a fair stud fee?*

Joyce: It depends on the part of the country. I don't even have a clue what it is in other places in the States. I know, pretty much, what it is around here and what I charge. I place my stud service high enough that if people want to breed, fine. If they don't, that's fine with me, too. They have to stop and make a real decision whether they're going to do this and what they're going to do. I want to know what they're going to do with their puppies, I want to know why they want to breed in the first place. I'm talking about the average person that calls up and says, "I want to have

a litter of puppies." I want to know why. If I decide that it sounds like it's going to be okay for them to do a breeding, my stud service is high enough that they have to put a measure of thought into it, because I really don't care whether I use my dogs at stud or not.

*Should the fee vary according to the dog's title?*

Joyce: I think so, to some degree. Basically, though, I think the only time you need to make it less expensive is if the dog's not proven and hasn't been used. You put a lot of effort into getting that title and they're going to use it as an advertising tool.

*What type of fault would keep you from breeding to a dog?*

Joyce: First of all, it's going to have to have its eyes checked and its hips have to be okay. I

don't want to be breeding my dog to something that's really bad in the front or very cowhocked or something like that because, by George, if you're using your stud dog, whatever happens is going to be all his fault, regardless. It takes two to make puppies, but it only takes one to make faults and it's always the stud dog.

*How many litters should a bitch have?*

Joyce: Five is probably about enough.

*What would be the youngest and the oldest you would breed her?*

Joyce: They should have their OFA at two years of age before they're bred, unless there is some particular reason not to, and then on a screen only. For example, if you want to breed a young bitch to a dog that you know is not going to be around

much longer. I wanted to breed Jade to a Nate grandson very much and he was about thirteen. I was not able to get the breeding. She was already OFA'd, but if she hadn't been, I would have done it on a screen because I knew he wasn't going to be around much longer. Under some circumstances, the latest is about eight or nine. Like with Jade, we didn't have her first litter until she was over six. There are extenuating circumstances for various things, but between two and seven years is the best age.

*Do you help your bitches whelp?*

Joyce: Oh, yes. Absolutely. I'm right there from the time that they even think they're going to have babies until they're over, and then some.

*How much help do you normally give?*

Joyce: I want to be there with them when they have them. One thing I like to do, after they're born, is make sure that the placenta is taken care of. I want to know if it has come or not; I like to keep count of that. I like to rub the puppies down so that I get the circulation going really good. I like to mark them and weigh them.

Ken: Clean their lungs out. Once in a while we give them artificial respiration.

*Do you supplement feed very young puppies?*

Joyce: Ordinarily, no. We did have one bitch that had an awful time. She had three litters and out of three litters we got two living pups. Both of those puppies had to be supplemented. We never did figure out what caused it, but it was like fading puppy syndrome. The first litter, we didn't know that was the case, we just knew they were dying. Every day I'd come home from work and there would be another dead puppy. The first little puppy was at his birth weight for ten days. So I just had to supplement. The next litter came along and we thought everything was fine, and they ended up dying of septicemia, so I thought, that's it, I'm never going to do this again. I ended up talking to my vet about it and she said, "If you can get them here, I can keep them alive," so I said, "Okay, I'll try it one more time," and I did. With the third litter we took the bitch over to the vet and she took 40 cc's of blood from the jugular and whipped it into a serum and put it in the puppies; all but one died. I

ended up supplementing there, too. I said that was it.

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

Joyce: I start the procedure. They start eating at about three weeks.

*What do you give them?*

Joyce: I start them on raw meat. Then, when they get used to the idea of eating and chewing, I grind kibble for them. When the puppies hit about five weeks, I start letting mom stay away from them more, so that we don't run into mastitis.

*At what ages do you evaluate for pet and show quality and what do you look for?*

Joyce: I start evaluating at about five weeks and generally by seven weeks I make my choices. I know people are going to say, "Oh, my God! That's so young," but I've done that for years and it works for me. I've been really lucky at it. I look for style. I look for who's got the "show me" attitude, who picks up his head and stands foursquare and says, "Here I am, here I am." Those are the ones that I start looking at. Then it's outside, up and down, back and forth, sideways. I want to see them coming and going. I want to see reach and drive on the side and I want to see all that combined with that style.

*What should a potential show puppy sell for?*

Joyce: That, again, is another thing like where do you live in the country. I really can't tell you what the prices should be. I can tell you what I charge for mine, but that wouldn't make a whole lot of difference to somebody who's back in New York or in Florida or somewhere.

*At what age should a puppy be placed in their new home?*

Joyce: I like to place them at seven weeks.

*Do you ever sell on terms, or is it always cash only?*

Joyce: I've sold on terms. I really don't like selling show quality dogs to people. People want the perfect dog. I see it far too often. It's a disposable society we live in. If it isn't quite perfect, we get rid of it. That's why I say, I only breed when I want something for myself. That's maybe one or two puppies that I'm going to keep. The rest of them can go to pet homes, as far as I'm concerned. I think they're better off. Take Jade's sister, a beautiful dog, was sold for show on terms.

They paid the required amount of money down. I was to either get a puppy out of the first litter, or they were to pay me the balance. That was after her hips were cleared and eyes checked and she could be bred. Somewhere along the line they decided this dog was too straight stilled and they spayed her. I didn't get the balance, I didn't get a puppy and I really had no choice, that was it. I could have said, "Where's the rest of my money?" but it was like one of those things where you say, "Forget it." I was more upset that the dog was spayed and they placed her in another home. But she ended up in a wonderful home, she's in obedience and the gal that has her loves her to death, so that's fine. I'm happy.

I remember, two or three years ago, I sold a puppy back East for show and they had it for less than a year. They had show dogs before and she wanted my particular bloodlines. The dog grew up too big, too fast for her, and she didn't clamp down on it and tended to leave this dog to its own devices in the house and it tore things up, so guess what, I got the dog back. I got a letter in the mail that said I'm sending your dog back at such-and-such a time. I looked at this dog and thought, "This is a nice dog." Fortunately, I had somebody else that wanted one and it went to a show home within two weeks. That was two years ago and it's still there. It just drives you crazy. You place a dog in a show home and they wait until the dog is at its ugliest stage to make their evaluations. Ken was talking about a dog in our kennel three or four months ago that he couldn't figure out why I was keeping it. Now he's won the last five shows in a row. You place a dog in a pet home and it's there for life. At least most of mine are. In fact, out of our last litter we sold another puppy to some people who already have had three dogs from me. They just got old and died. They had two at one time and one at another time. The first one died and they came back to me and took two away with them. Those dogs got old and died and they came back to me again. I know the dog's going to have a wonderful home.

*What do you feed your adult dogs?*

Joyce: Kasco Mini Chunk. It's a no-soy product. That and raw meat or canned Pedigree

*Do you feed any vitamin or mineral supplements?*

Joyce: No.

*How much grooming do you do on a regular basis and, also, what do you do to prepare them for shows?*

Joyce: On a regular basis, the ones that I'm showing get bathed every week that they are going to be at a show. The ones that aren't being shown get bathed when their coats start to fall out. They get brushed periodically. They're easy-care coats.

*Do you have favorite grooming products or tools that you use?*

Joyce: If we're working on a show coat that's in good shape, I like to use a nice, rectangular pin brush. I like to use a Universal slicker for their legs and their ears. I like a really wide tooth comb to be able to go through all the coat. That's about it. If they're coming out of coat, I love one of those rakes. I can't remember the name of them. They're fairly expensive, but they do a really good job of taking out all the dead undercoat in a hurry. I use a product called Number 1 All Systems Blue Shampoo. I use that, and if I'm showing a dog regularly I'll use that one week and in between I'll use a product called Crown Royal Biovite. It has a really good conditioning. It lightens and brings luster to a white coat - it doesn't whiten like a blue shampoo - and puts a lot of conditioning into it. That way I don't have to use spray conditioners and all that stuff. The Number 1 All Systems Blue tends to dry the coat but I like it for white, so I just balance the two that way.

*How much exercise do your dogs get and what type?*

Joyce: They get a lot of exercise. They're in large runs, they're there all day long, and they keep each other going. The runs are twelve by thirty-six and eight by thirty-six, so they run back and forth all day. I don't have to do much in the way of exercising them because we live next door to a boys' and girls' club and there are little kids over on the other side of the fence in the afternoon, so it keeps those dogs going all the time. Unfortunately, one other thing that it causes is that we need to debark them, because they want to go play with those kids and I think my neighbors would object to having six dogs barking at top speed all afternoon. I do have a trotter, if I'm specializing a dog and

I don't think it's getting enough exercise or I want them to learn to extend the trot, I can do that by putting them on the trotter. Generally what I do is about fifteen minutes, three times a week and I work them up to a maximum of about six miles an hour. I never put them on until they're about a year old, when they're fully grown and pretty well developed. Then I just put them on easy until they've gone through full maturity as far as their hips are concerned.

*Could you describe a little bit more about what your facilities here are like?*

Joyce: Just your average small kennel owner. I have a garage with two four-by-eight runs and then I have a big backyard with five eight-by-thirty-six-foot exercise areas.

*Do all of the dogs come in the house at various times? Do they sleep in the house?*

Joyce: Oh, yes! They prefer to sleep outside. There're always two sleeping in the garage at night and generally there's one sleeping in the house, they get rotated so everybody gets their in-house time. That's why I don't like to have too many dogs, so they can all get special attention. I think they all need special attention.

I just placed a very nice champion Samoyed who doesn't like to show. We finished his championship very quickly, between seven months and a year and a half, with a big, huge normal coat blow in between at about a year of age. Then we watched him mature and he just got nicer and nicer, but when we took him out to show him as a special he just said, "I don't care." He wanted me to show him and he was such a powerful dog I couldn't keep up with him really well. I have a bad knee and it's really difficult to keep up with a really powerful dog that wants to get out and run. I placed him with a handler for a little while and he just didn't care. He was okay, but he wasn't wonderful, and if you're going to special you have to be wonderful. So I said, "Hey, you know what? I'm going to find this dog a good home." I did. I found this dog a wonderful home. It's one of those things I had to learn a long time ago, that I'm not the only one in the world that can love a Samoyed, and there are places where the dog can have much

more special attention than he would get here if he wasn't being shown.

*Do you put males and females in together?*

Joyce: I can and I do, unless I'm worried about seasons or something like that. Right now, I'm lucky enough that I don't have to have anybody in with anybody. I like it better that way if I'm showing, because they tend to pull tails and chew roughs and generally grub. However, I have another problem. Our kennels are wood chips on dirt. We want to cement our kennel. I really don't like cement, I don't like gravel. I really like the wood chips, but they like to dig holes and put the wood chips UNDER the dirt. Therefore, it's not accomplishing what I want and I'm tired of having the dirt show up more and more. It's hard to groom them and keep them really white.

*So you put cement down and then the wood chips on top of that?*

Joyce: Yes, however we will probably use wood shavings because the dogs like to curl up and sleep in them. During the day they can still get their exercise without getting filthy.

Ken: They exercise each other, too, because there's only a wire between them.

*What advice would you give to breeders who are just starting out?*

Joyce: Patience, for one thing. Learn all you can.

Ken: Find a good mentor.

Joyce: Yes, somebody you trust, that you can talk to and get good ideas from. Do a lot of reading. Learn bloodlines. Learn what dogs were there, what they were, what they looked like. Talk to somebody who has been around for a long time. That's what I did and I could put picture pedigrees together for years, when I could get the pictures.

*Should they go to kennels with big winners to purchase a pup?*

Joyce: There has to be some reason the dog was a big winner

and it doesn't hurt to at least check it out. I see so many times, people who cannot produce a winner, selling show quality dogs to people. They show up at these shows with this God-awful dog and they have no clue what they've bought and they think they're going to show it because Joe Blow said it was show quality, and you feel really bad for those people. You think, "I wish they would have called me. Maybe I could have found them something decent." You don't want to discourage these people, but you know they're never going to do anything, so what do you do? Then about that time, some friend of mine will come up and say, "So-and-so wants you to evaluate their dog," and I really hate to do that. I do very little of that, if I can help it. Mostly, I just look them right in the eye and say, "Do you really want to hear what I have to say? You might not like it so you're going to have to make your mind up. Do you



Aladdin pups JJ and Calli.

really want me to tell you what I see in your dog?" That's before I even see the dog. I don't want to see the dog. I want them to know that I haven't seen the dog, because I don't want them to think I've seen the dog and I hate it already. I just want them to know that if they really want my opinion I'll tell them the truth, but I really prefer not to.

What kennels do you consider the best today?

Joyce: The best? I don't keep up with that a whole lot. I sure know Kipperic and Tarahill have produced some nice dogs. As far as big kennels are concerned, they're about the only ones that I know, that I've seen a lot of consistent winners come out of. I'm sure there are quite a few others that just don't come to mind right now.

Would you recommend that new owners join a local club, a national breed club and/or an all breed club? What would be the best priorities there?

Joyce: I honestly think an all breed club would be the thing to join, because you're not fighting the personality conflicts and the jealousies and things like that. I think you can learn a lot about all dogs and just generally, about how dog shows work, how kennel clubs work, how the AKC works, by belonging to an all breed club. I think you can have a lot of friendships without the jealousies and politics and things like that.

I think our breed club is fine. It's one that is not particularly show-oriented and a lot of people think, "That's terrible. They don't know anything about shows." But those people can have some real camaraderie with other people and they can learn a lot from each other. They can learn about herding, they can learn about sledding, they can learn about agility, they can learn about the breed and that's good. There are enough show people to keep a balance - 1996 was our year to host the National Speciality.

You can learn a lot through the national club's publication. It's an excellent publication, but I don't think you're going to get the one-on-one that you need.

Do you think that there's more that the national club could do to educate new members?

Joyce: Well, they've been trying it for years. There was a committee that was supposed to be putting out some learning

materials. I remember talking to somebody about it back in 1987. I was asking because at the time I was going to be doing a judges' seminar and I wanted to know what publications and learning tools that the club had then and somebody said, "Oh, we're still working on it." I said, "Well, send it to me when you get it," and I've never seen anything since then. I don't know if the committee's still going or what. Yes, I think the club could do a lot more to educate people than it does.

You talked about the competitiveness and the jealousies. Has it always been that way or is that something that is more recent?

Joyce: I think it's always been that way. When I got my first dog and joined our local club

there was some big-time fighting going on. I have not seen that since, not quite as bad anyway, so I'm assuming it's pretty much as it's always been.

What do you think of the AKC video in this breed?

Joyce: I liked the slide show better. I think it was much more representative of what the Samoyed is. I don't think the video shows the true type of the dog.

Ken: When I saw that video I was very disappointed. It was not my idea of what a Sammy should look like. I didn't like the movement, I didn't like the type of dog. I was much more impressed by the stills, because I think it showed the classic Samoyed. I think there's a change taking place. I think

we're coming out with a new type of dog. I think the reason for it is because that is the majority of the dogs out there now. The majority of the dogs don't have the type, they don't have the personality. They're a dog; they're not a Sammy any more. So I was really disappointed when I saw the video.

Would you agree, Joyce, that there's kind of a new type?

Joyce: Yes, unfortunately. I don't think it's everywhere, but I think there were some bloodlines across the country and they were bred so much that they did start changing the overall look of the dog. They got into the more longbodied, leggier, without being compact, and the plush coat rather than the old-time, stand-off coats.



Aladdin's Chief Achiever, at nine months, and Joyce.



Sonny x Melody pup at seven weeks old, first bath. "Bath? Let me outta here!"



"Well, I'm still alive!"



"Something tells me the WORST is still to come!"



"What's she doin' to my foot?"

And that's what you see in the video?

Joyce: You see a lot of that in the video, more than I think you should. I don't think that the whole country is covered with that, but in various parts of the country, you'll see more than oth-

ers. There actually is a large variance in type. You can put ten dogs out in the ring and you'll have ten different types.

Earlier, you mentioned the importance of movement, so I was hoping you would say, "Oh yes, the video is so good because you can see the movement

demonstrated."

Ken: I did not see good movement demonstrated, as I recall. It's been a long time now, but that's one of things I picked up on, too. I was disappointed. I don't think there was a representative collection of GOOD Sam-

mies in that movie.

Joyce: I don't think it had to be a good collection of all good Sammies, either. I think there should have been a variety of good to bad and various type. You were supposed to show all the good things and all the bad

things. Unfortunately, I thought it was a conglomerate of mediocre dogs, that were not exactly type oriented, and I was just really disappointed in it, that's all. If they had done a video with the dogs that they had used originally in the slide presentation, I think they would have done just fine. I think they could have come up with bad movement, good movement, in-between movement, instead of just all in-between. (laughter)

*Do you feel that there is adequate literature available in the breed, not only magazines, but also books?*

Joyce: There are quite a few books out. I have a few.

*Are there particular books, that stick out in your mind, that you would recommend to someone who wants to learn?*

Joyce: The Wards book is pretty good. There's another one here, *The Samoyed*, by Anna Kay Nicholas. She has a lot of pictures in there - that's kind of nice. She has a whole section of colored photos that I think is nice. She interviewed different kennels. She talked to all different people about their kennels. I've got one on New Zealand. I like to read them from different countries, too.

*How do you find that the foreign dogs compare with the American dogs?*

Joyce: I don't think they're as sound, the ones I've seen. When you're talking foreign, you're basically talking Australia, New Zealand and England and basically they're more concerned with the head and coat and movement isn't one of the big things. I mean, there have been some nice movers that have come out of there, here and there, but overall from what I've seen they're more concerned with head and coat. They never trim their feet or hocks, so it's hard to tell about their movement anyway.

*At this point, I would like to ask each of you to give me a brief biography of yourself; where you were born, grew up, went to school and what you have done for a living. Just a little story of your life.*

Joyce: Mine's very uneventful. I was born and raised in the Seattle area and went to school, got married at an extremely early age and had three boys. They're all grown up and all have children of their own. Eventually, after all my kids were raised, after having dogs for a few years, I went into all breed grooming and after a couple of years bought the

business and have been doing that ever since. I've owned my own business now, since 1978.

*I believe you said that's in a mall. What mall is that?*

Joyce: It's in a mall called Kingsgate Plaza. It used to be in the big one down here at Totem Lake. More facilities and easier access where I am now. I've been doing that since 1978. I had two shops at one time and decided that was at least one too many. Right now, I'm beginning to think one is too many. I'm ready to retire any time I can afford it.

*Were your sons into dogs?*

Joyce: My oldest son did very well and the youngest one did until he was kind of discouraged. He was doing well until he got too much criticism.

*Have they remained interested?*

Joyce: The oldest one would except that he was renting a house and he couldn't have any dogs with him. He was living with me for awhile after he got remarried and was really interested in my Akitas and wanted to show them. In fact, he had been showing one, but he couldn't take anything with him, so he quit doing that. Now, he has a new baby, so I think he's kind of busy with that. The middle boy was an okay handler, except that he always set the dog up like a terrier and everybody laughed. The poor thing, always being yanked up and down by his tail. That wasn't his big thing. He was more into baseball and was an extremely good baseball player. He could have been professional, but he decided he wasn't big enough so he went on to become a biology teacher and a coach. He lives down in Arizona. The youngest one got too much criticism and ended up saying, "I'm not going to do this." So, nobody's in dogs. They all like them, but nobody has them. If anything ever happens to me, Ken gets to parcel them out to the kids. (laughter)

*Would you really give them away, or would you keep them all yourself?*

Ken: That's hard to say. There are some I would keep, for sure, but it's too many to handle by myself.

*How about the story of your life?*

Ken: I was born during the war. I'm a foreigner, I was born down in Oregon on the way to Seattle.

My dad was in Seattle getting a job. He had just gotten out of the military about two weeks

before the war broke out. So Mom traveled up here by herself and I was born on the way. At a young age I got into electronics, and eventually, that led me into getting a degree in electronics, and I went to work for Boeing. I spent most of my working career with Boeing in research and development and a lot of unique types of electronic development, both software and hardware. I spent about thirteen years of my life in search and rescue in this area, so I've done a lot of hiking and climbing and enjoying the outdoors. I was in communications and very interested in airplanes, because I was a pilot myself. In the process I had five children. After 23 years, we decided to call that marriage quits. Shortly after, I met Joyce and now I've fallen in love with dogs.

*You had never had dogs before?*

Ken: No, because my first wife would not have them in the house.

*How did you feel about dogs?*

Ken: I kind of picked up that same idea, so I didn't have dogs either, but I've got used to it and by the time I met Joyce, it was one of those things, no problem. Besides that, the Sammies are nice to have in the house. They're cuddly. They keep you warm. My children got involved a little bit. They tried Junior Handling a little bit and decided they didn't like that. They liked to show the trained dog. They still like the dogs and they still work with them, but they do not show at all.

Joyce: That's a little tough because they only visit periodically. They don't get to live with us.

Ken: They don't get consistent usage and exposure.

*How have the dogs affected your lifestyle?*

Joyce: After 30 years they're part of it. We had dogs before that, we just didn't have real show dogs. They affect your life a lot. It comes to the point where your whole social life is geared around your dogs, so when you're not at a dog show all your friends are, so if you don't go to the dog show that weekend you're not going to socialize on that weekend. It gets a little confining that way, it really does. You don't really realize it's happened to you until you don't show for a while and you find out you don't know who to call on the weekend if you want to do

something, or who to invite over for dinner. It's like, "What happened." Then you realize that all your friends are in the same place that you were the weekend before. It's a shock to the system when you start thinking about it that way.

There are times when you think it would be easier without the dogs. You have to start thinking about the well-being of the dogs if you're going away for the weekend. When you have five, six or seven of them you're not going to be taking them to a kennel. If you want to go to the theater, do you feed them early or after the show? I worry about bloat. If it's too hot, you don't want to feed them in the heat. I've never had bloat and I don't want it, so I don't want to feed them when it's hot and then let them have a lot of water and exercise. I've seen that happen and people do get in trouble. It does affect your life; it certainly affects wearing black dresses out to dinner.

*Anything you would add to that?*

Ken: Not particularly, other than the fact that we always have our weekends scheduled. We live by the show calendar. But, I enjoy it. We both like to travel and it gives us an opportunity to get out and see different parts of the country, like Westminster, Bermuda, Denver, we've been around the country, and it's been because of the dogs that we get there, so it gives an opportunity to travel and look. In fact, we took our first "non-dog" vacation last winter. We went to Hawaii. Because of the quarantine, we couldn't bring dogs. We spent three weeks there.

*Did you suffer dog withdrawal?*

Ken: No, we didn't have time.

Joyce: Besides that, we were on a cruise. I don't think I would have wanted to figure out how to get the dog on and off the ship. There were a couple of times it was really interesting getting on and off that ship. You didn't just walk down the gangplank at all ports. Especially those where you needed a launch to get to shore.

*Do you have any favorite stories about the dogs that you might share?*

Ken: As we all know, Sammies think, they figure things out. I'll never forget an instance about a year ago when we had Chief at a private water resort where we go occasionally. There is a two-

foot bulkhead at the waterline. We were slowly walking along the bulkhead with Chief on a 25-foot flexi lead. The ducks were swimming in the water trying to keep their distance from the dog. Chief kept sneaking up to the ducks trying to keep as low a profile as possible. Every time the ducks would see the dog, they moved further away from the bulkhead. The dog would hide, look, cock its head, listen intently. The ducks would come closer. Chief would crawl to the edge of the bulkhead. Again the ducks would swim beyond harms reach.

Finally after repeating this pattern several times Chief slowly moved away from the waterline about twenty feet, turned, put it in high gear and came "hell-bent for election," directly for the water's edge. When he reached the bulkhead he launched himself, fully extended from toe to toe. A beautiful arch - aerodynamically perfect - similar to a ski jumper just after leaving the ramp. Time seemed to be frozen as we and about twenty other people in the area watched in awe. Chief had only one goal in mind. Not once during his flight did he flinch, hesitate, or waver from his vision of fresh duck for dinner.

Then suddenly time seemed to quickly move ahead again as Chief came in full contact with the water surface, fully extended, at the end of the flexi lead, objective missed. Chief turned around with a quizzical look that we all understood very clearly. He just said, "Where did I go wrong?"

Ken: There was the time that Jade was at the ring and got off the grooming table when the handler had left. Jade got loose and went right to the rings and searched out her handler. She knows exactly where to go.

Tell about Jade in Bermuda in the waves.

Joyce: When you said, "Turn her loose?" She'd never seen the ocean before and I took her down to the beach. One of the giant waves came crashing over the shore on the rocks. She saw that thing coming and she thought she'd been had. She just turned tail and ran as fast as she could go. After she got accustomed to the idea, she'd come up and look and she'd watch it. She knew when that giant one was going to come, how I don't know, and she'd turn and run. I'd say they're VERY smart.



Aladdin's Ms Madison.

Ken and I hadn't been together all that long, at that point, and we kind of used that as a real get-away together. He'd heard me talking about single tracking, etc., so we took her down on the beach and I showed him exactly what single tracking was. So he said, "Turn her loose, she'll come back." I said, "No, she won't." He said, "Well, So-and-so's dogs always came back." I said, "This dog will not come back." He said, "Oh, sure she will," so I turned her loose and she started chasing these ...

What was that she'd chase?

Ken: Seaweed that would come up, and foam.

Joyce: She'd see that and it would look like foam and she'd start chasing that and of course, it

would be swept back out. Then another wave would come and she'd see some more. I had to run flat out chasing her to get her back, because I kept calling her and she'd keep seeing this stuff and she thought it was alive. I realize that the island is only about 21 miles long, but that is 42 miles if you go all the way around.

Ken: We'd get her back eventually. You'd go one way and I'd go the other way.

Joyce: She wouldn't come back. She's very self-confident. She has no fear of anything. I mean, she figures she can take care of herself. She's pretty obedient, but if she thinks she's hunting, that might be something else again.

What have been the greatest benefits to being in dogs?

Joyce: I think there are quite a few when you stop to think about it. I've met a lot of nice people all over the country. There is always something to do, something to think about. Jade was a great solace during my divorce, let me tell you. Dogs are great for healing. It's kind of hard to be sad when you have something as pretty as that sitting there, wanting all your love and attention. They're a lot of company. There are mornings when you have puppies and you have to do this and you have to do that and you go, "Oh, no." But, they'll get you out of yourself. I think that's probably why they do so well at convalescent cen-



Ch. Kipperic Sunny Peteron being groomed before going BOB September 1994.



Jade at four months of age.

ters. You get out and do things. I think a lot of dog people are healthier. You see a lot of retired people at dog shows and they do really well. You see retired people other places and they don't do so hot. I think it keeps you young, keeps you going. It gives you something to think about, something to plan; to do breedings and shows.

Ken: I think Joyce already touched on it. It gets you out, gets you moving. You have reason to leave the friendly environment of the house. You can go out and do things. I think doing is important because it keeps you active. Otherwise, you become a couch potato. With dogs, you're not going to become a couch potato, if you do things with your dogs. We have a kennel next door - a man has his Sammy there - and for some reason he cannot have him at home, so he's here every single day with that Sammy to take him out, to exercise him, to play with him. He takes him out for a couple of hours and then he brings him back until the next day. For him, it keeps him doing things; he has an interest.

*How about the drawbacks to being in dogs?*

Joyce: Some of the same things. You have to find people

to take care of your dogs when you want to go. There's a responsibility with dogs, just like there is with kids. You have to take care of them. They need that care and they need that attention. As far as dog showing is concerned, I suppose the pettiness that's involved in the show ring is a drawback. After all these years, I don't really pay too much attention to it. I just go and do my own thing and have my own friends. I have more friends in other breeds than I do in Sammies. I think many people are like that. I don't know for sure,



Ch. Aladdins Coronet of Willtwa, "Renea," learning groom table manners at four months old.

but I've had so many consistent winners over the last fifteen years, I guess, that they don't want to see me coming. I have a lot of Sammy friends in different parts of the country, but I don't have that many Sammy friends in this area. But, that's okay. We have more Sammy friends that aren't in the competitive show ring that do other things - obedience, agility, that kind of thing - that aren't constantly worried about the points every weekend. I'm at the point now that when I go to a show I want to win, but if I don't it's not a big deal. It's nothing to get upset about.

Ken: Just another dog show.

Joyce: Just another dog show, exactly. A lot of the people that are out there in this area, now, haven't been doing it for the number of years that I have and still are extremely competitive. Don't get me wrong that I don't want to win because I do, and I don't make the entry and send the money in thinking I'm not going to win, but it's nothing to get uptight about, either. A lot of it's just being able to go and associate with people and have a good time.

*What would you say that the dogs have taught you, if anything?*

Joyce: Compassion. I certainly get that from the ones at work. I've learned a lot of patience - a lot more patience

than I had twenty years ago, when my kids were little. I should have had them now. That's what they've taught me, patience and compassion. I try not to be too hard on people or dogs.

Ken: Patience.

Joyce: Patience, as he leaves here in his suit and they jump all over him. (laughter) Mud balls.

*Is there anything that we haven't talked about that you would like to discuss?*

Joyce: I'd like to see people try to get along a little more than they do, sometimes, and not be quite as competitive as they are; be a little kinder all over the country. You see a dog-eat-dog world, I guess. It would be kind of nice to see people really, truly care about their dogs. Sometimes I think all they care about is their wins and not as much about the dogs.

*Anything that you would like to add, Ken?*

Ken: We just got back from the '95 National. We were both very pleased to see type returning to the breed, and many of these typey dogs could move beautifully. It shows these things can go in the same package.

Joyce: We are really looking forward to seeing all the Sams at the '96 National here in Puyallup, Washington in October. •