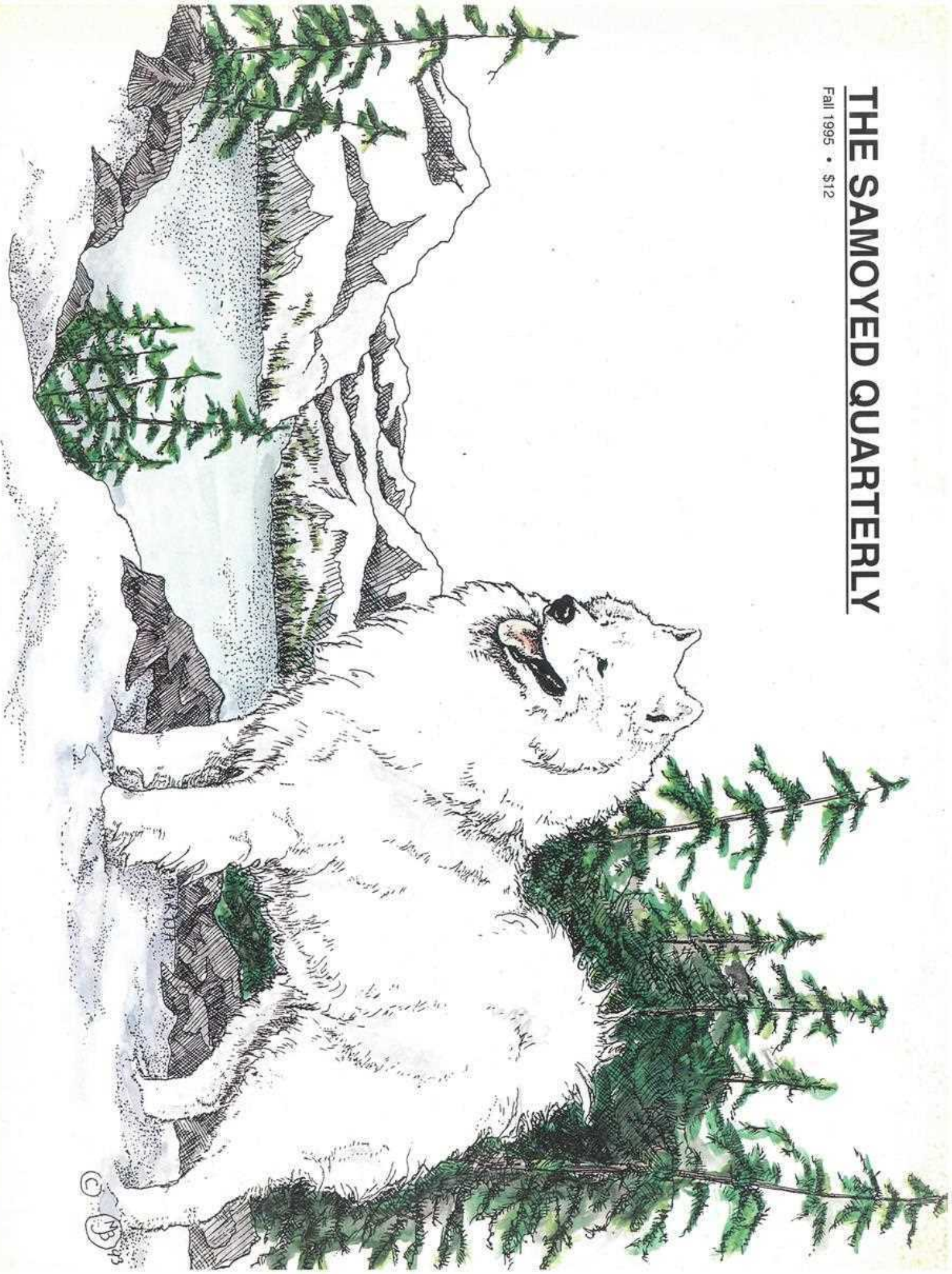


# THE SAMOYED QUARTERLY

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## Samoyed People

The Samoyed Quarterly  
Talks With  
**Pat Morehouse**  
KUBLA KHAN  
Sepulveda, California

### Part II

*This interview was conducted at the home of Pat Morehouse in May of 1994 by Stacy O'Rourke.*

*Did you do much obedience training?*

Very little. Poor Khan got away with murder. He was naturally very obedient and easy to live with. He didn't need to be told what to do. He was always obedient and didn't need obedience training. I know a dog that was the top obedience dog in the nation who was just horrendous. They had to put him through umpteen courses to get him to behave himself enough to finish him in the ring. Khan did very well and would obey. He would sit and stay. I had him trained for the ring. I would pat his chest if



*Ch. Kubla Khan's Dancing Dame, "Prissy."*

I wanted him to bark or wag his tail for animation. If I wanted him to just stand, I had another signal, and he would stand perfectly still for as long as ten minutes. We could go out to lunch and come back. (laughter) He would stand there, wagging his tail, looking happy.

*A true show dog! Did you show at all in obedience?*

No, not really. My daughter entered him once without training him and without telling me. He didn't do the down and stay very well.

*When do you begin to train your puppies?*

You should start right at the beginning with a lot of handling. If you ever have to tube-feed or bottle-raise your puppies, you will find those dogs are the best socialized because they are handled by people constantly. The more handling early on you can do, the better it is, and the more people interaction they have, the better. If you have a shy puppy, it is best to get that puppy sold off by about seven weeks to the right home. Seven-and-a-half or eight weeks is when I would try to have what I called a "soft puppy" in a nice situation, but not earlier. You have to look at the people's personalities and home situation too. Don't sell a big Alpha male to quiet, retiring or passive old ladies.

*Do you attend fun matches or training classes?*

I have lately. However, last Sunday I helped SCLA with a canine good citizen test, and I plan to train Tigger in obedience.

*How intelligent are Sams compared with other breeds?*

They are pretty smart. I think they are smarter than the Chow Chow. They are a lot easier to train. Chow Chows are very stubborn. Intelligence, to me, is how well the dogs will work with you. Sams are anxious to please. They are not as smart as a Collie or anxious to please. Someone was having trouble training their puppy, and I took it home with me to work with it. I had Star the Collie here, and she was watching me train the puppy. She barked and barked because she wanted to come and help me. I put the puppy away and let her out and she did it all perfectly the first time. She had been watching. She was so smart! Star never had obedience training, but she was brilliant. Some Sammies are smarter than others. But, it's important to remember if a dog's native intelligence isn't worked with at the correct time, he will not reach his full potential, just as with children.

*Do handlers help a dog win?*

Oh, yes! A really good handler is a big help. Some of the great handlers I've had



*Ch. Tuffy Kubla Khan Royal Image, "Toughy."*

were Sylvia Rodwell, Brian Phillips, Tony Chavez, Carol Cheesman, Ray Brenlee and Lisa La Guire. They can also ruin a dog. I had a handler who killed one of my dogs. It was a dog I had taken back. The person who had him also had Dobermans, and she was into these choke chains with the pinch collars, and also the shock business. She said, "All he does when I take him to a show is lie upside down and stick his feet up into the air." That was Toughy. Poor Toughy! I worked and worked with him. We got him all trained and finished very nicely, going Best of Breed over specials. He was looking really nice and I was going to send him to the National with a handler. I told the handler and his wife that they couldn't tighten up on his collar and that he would panic if they yanked the choke collar. He panicked because he had been choked by his former owner. The handler had this hot walker they used for horses and I told the handler not to put Toughy on that, but he must have forgotten to tell his wife. Even with horses, you always watch them on a hot walker. She went off to do her washing and left him. He panicked and broke his neck. It killed him. I was so angry! I'll never forget how sad I felt taking him to the pet cemetery. No one used those people to show Sams for a very long time after that, and I think he got out of handling for a while. But a good handler, such as Brian Phillips or Sylvia Rodwell, is a big plus.

*Do you have any advice for owners who would like to handle their own dogs?*

Take a good class and be sure it is someone who knows what he/she is doing. It's important to find someone who has had

success with other people. It should not be someone whose system of training comes down so hard on the dog that they take all the life out of the dog. The dog should enjoy a good training class that is firm, but kind, and absolutely consistent. The little dogs don't know what you are saying. Going on and on with heel, heel, heel, sit, sit, sit, gets you nowhere. You need someone who knows what they are doing. You have to look to see which handlers are doing a good job. Before I hired Ray Brinlee and other handlers, I watched them at a lot of shows. You watch to see how they are doing and you also ask other people, and see if your dog has a good rapport with the person. Are the dogs happy and well cared for?

*And you have done some sledding with your dogs?*

Yes. We did a lot of sledding with Khan, but for fun mostly. We ran some races in Idylwild and Big Bear when he was younger. He worked best in the wheel position. We used to go to Big Bear around Lincoln's birthday. He loved to go. We used to practice on the wheeled sled out on the desert. We did this with him after he was two to develop him, and later on with the other dogs. The puppies couldn't pull, but when they were around nine months, we could put them on point. I'm no sledding expert. We only did it to develop them and to see if they would work and how they did with it. We weren't conditioning for any real races.

*Should a breed do what it was bred for?*

Oh, yes. It is the purpose of the dog. It shouldn't turn into some giant fluff ball.

*When you did a breeding, was it natural or controlled?*

Someone should ALWAYS be there. The bitch should be ready and comfortable. You need to be available and keep watch on



*Kubla Khan Teddy Bear, Khan's smallest inbred son at six months.*



*Ch. Khan at school when he was nine or ten years old. He adored the kids.*

her and be there handy in case there are problems, particularly if it is her first mating. Usually, the bitch is not your own and you should watch the female. She may turn on the male, and the male is utterly helpless. You have to at least hold her collar so she can't turn on him or run off. You have to certify on an AKC registration that you were there and supervised this breeding, for that reason also, as well as safety. The stud will develop confidence and trust in you, making the breeding easier. Following the breeding a dish of ice cream each for sire and dam will give them energy and reinforce positive response in your stud.

*What is a fair stud fee?*

Usually the price of a puppy. I haven't charged a stud fee for ages, so I don't know what the going rate is right now. We had stud service on some of our males, but the only one I really promoted was Khan. To be at public stud, a dog should be pretty free of genetic problems and all major problems. The stud should have at least a good or an excellent hip rating and clear eye check. Also, they should not be producing problems. As your dog is used, if you see it is producing serious undesirable faults, I wouldn't have it at public stud. Mind you, no animal is free of faults.

*What faults would keep you from breeding a dog?*

Major faults, like things that are wrong with his structure that would interfere with his lifestyle, his movement. I would not use a dog that had a nasty temperament. A dog with poor quality would be another reason I would not breed to it. To be used at stud, a dog should be of fairly high quality. If a dog has more than one major problem, then you should look elsewhere. A stud dog should be your chance to upgrade and you

should look for something that is as free of problems as possible that would help develop your line. The dog's background should be strong and as free of problems as possible. You don't want to take a step backwards. Even if you save a stud fee, you will lose money and time in the long run if you breed to something that will pull you down.

*Should a breeder always consider the pedigrees?*

Oh, yes! You live and learn. One time, we bred to another breeder's dog that was very pretty. It didn't have a very good pedigree and it produced nine nice pets. He sired this litter out of my Princess, and in her previous litter with Mister she had produced three out of three straight champions. This other stud was very dominant for yuck. That dog produced one champion out of many, many breedings. He should not have been a stud. A dog may not be a close linebreeding to your bitch, but it should have good producing dogs up close in its pedigree.

*How many litters should a bitch have?*

I don't think they should be used more than once a year, and I don't like to use them before they are two years old. The most I have ever bred a bitch is four times. One woman at a specialty was bragging that her bitch had produced 35 puppies and the litters weren't that big. She seemed to always be in whelp. I don't think people are really impressed with that sort of thing.

*What is the oldest you would breed a bitch?*

The oldest I ever bred mine was seven. I know people who have bred them older than that and it has worked out. We gave stud service to one bitch that had just turned nine. They had been out with her before. She'd had a litter of three or four that had done very well. She herself looked

like a puppy. She was in terrific condition and very well cared for. She lived on a ranch in the Midwest. We gave her stud service and she was fine. I thought she would be okay and she was. I wouldn't want more than four litters out of any one bitch, because I doubt you would need more than that out of one bloodline.

If a bitch has irregular seasons and is difficult to breed, it is probably best to forget it. It seems to be a very strong hereditary thing. I read of one person back East who had C-sections with almost every litter. It's time to change if that's happening. Something has to change. That's not right. This is a natural breed. Maybe one or two C-sections. The only one we had was with Sali Ann, and she was seven years old. She was a little chubby and she had nine puppies. Right at the end, she got tired and one was not coming through, so she had the C-section. Her previous litters hadn't been a problem. If they are older, you will have a uterus that isn't as strong, or if they are not in as good condition you might have to have a C-section, but ordinarily they shouldn't need C-sections. It's a very natural breed.

*Do you help the bitches whelp?*

Yes. You should be there to watch in case you are needed, but don't interfere if you are not needed. You should keep track of the placentas. Some people believe in giving antibiotics right after the puppies are born, but unless there is a real problem, you are only killing the good bacteria. If antibiotics are given, also give acidopholis to combat killing all good bacteria.

*Do you supplement feed very young puppies?*

Yes. You have to help them out. If very weak, pups should be tube-fed, but only while needed. I like goat's milk and would start the puppies at about three weeks on that as a supplement. I found diluted goat's milk to be far better than Esbilac, which is a chemical feast. The puppies don't do nearly as well on that as they do on goat's milk. I would start with diluted, warm goat's milk, to which I would gradually begin to add Gerber's rice cereal. I would make a big pizza pan of mush and the puppies would swim around in it and then lick each other off. The puppies need this frequently, every three or four hours. Later, I would buy the Gerber's strained liver and gradually add that into the mush. When they were a little older, I would give them double LEAN hamburger instead of



*Nine-week-old puppy bitch by Ch. Khan x Ch. Lei Juana Cayenne of Vibusmum.*



*Ch. Orions Tara of Khubla Khan, Khan granddaughter.*

the liver. When they were old enough, I would give them kibble I had soaked very well, replacing the rice cereal. I would put it into the blender and mix it with the goat's milk and cereal. As they got older, at five or six weeks, I would remove the rice cereal from their meal gradually.

Some people don't continue to help their puppies out and the puppies get very thin. I was so disappointed in one person I co-owned puppies with. She didn't help the mother out by supplementing the dogs, and it wasn't working. Two of the puppies were almost dead when I took them. One puppy was only four pounds at about seven weeks. When I put my finger in its mouth, I could tell it was hungry, because it would suck so hard on my finger. I went out and got it some of the strained liver, cereal and goat's milk and started the puppy on that. The puppy survived, but it was damaged. I didn't sell that puppy. I just gave it to a friend and said I hoped it would turn out, and was later told he had problems, though was very sweet. I thought he would, because that puppy did not have a good beginning. A good beginning is very important. One of the bitch puppies was quite small, also. All this woman did was throw kibble in there for the puppies to eat. She did not soften it, and she did not do any of the in-between things. It's a lot of work and trouble, but if you want healthy puppies, you have to do it. This woman, and the woman who had trained her, always lost a lot of young puppies. I had

bred Icy to one of the dogs belonging to the woman who had trained this woman, before I knew what I know now, and I was unhappy with the puppies' care.

I have never had scrawny puppies. My puppies always looked plump and happy. People will pay good prices in this area. We are in what I call the "golden triangle" between Brentwood, Beverly Hills and Sherman Oaks, and many of these people drive up in their Mercedes. The maid cooks for the dogs, and even if the dogs don't get shown, they have a pretty neat home life. We'd like to move in with them. (laughter) The puppies look nice and nobody quibbles about paying a very good price, show dog or not, because they look nice and they are healthy, with a nice temperament.

If puppies are weak, I would start right at the beginning with tube-feeding diluted goat's milk. If the puppies weren't nursing, or if they came out very small at four or five ounces, and I thought they were okay otherwise, I would start tube-feeding them. But they have to get the mother's colostrum. I would hold them on the mother to make sure they got some of that at the beginning. I would only tube-feed if they needed it.

*So, you tube-fed them instead of using a bottle?*

Bottle feeding takes too long and it takes too much out of a weak puppy. A weak puppy will not suck well enough. Tube-feeding is much better. Get someone to show you how to do it. It's really not hard to do. The clue when to stop tube-feeding is if the puppy is strongly objecting and knocking the tube out. Then it doesn't need tube-feeding. If a puppy is very active and strong, you don't need to tube-feed it. Let nature tell you. It's the same thing with breeding bitches. If it is too hard to get them bred, Mother Nature knows best, and they probably weren't meant to be bred. Listen to Mother Nature; virility, fertility and reproduction are very important and persist through the generations.

*Did you normally wean them yourself or let the bitch do it?*

The bitch does it pretty well. She starts doing it. I just put her in with them twice a day when I start decreasing the time, and she will tend to decrease her time with them herself. Then, I give them the food and it all goes together. The bitch will start doing it naturally. You follow the bitch's lead, usually, unless you have a problem of some kind.

*At what age do you evaluate puppies for pet and show quality?*

You have to do it on an ongoing basis. You look when they are first born. You can tell something about their structure then. You may think you have the most fabulous dog in the world, but it can all fall apart at any time. At five weeks you look again,



*Burans Farrah Khan Delight, a Khan granddaughter.*

and you can see how little tails are carried over their backs. Often, the first one out of the litterbox is the best one because it shows agility and confidence. But you can't begin saying you have a show dog, or even possibly a show dog, until they get to around six or seven weeks, when you start seeing a little more. The dogs I am pretty sure are pets, I let go at eight weeks, though I can be mistaken. I like to keep the ones I think are show quality until they are about nine weeks old. I can tell much more at nine weeks. If they are to be shipped, I like to keep them until they are thirteen weeks old, when they have a more complete set of shots and they have had a certain amount of training, such as crate training. At that age, the dog is not as cute, but you are more sure at that age that you are sending an actual show prospect.

*Do you cull?*

If you mean by cull, put them down, I would only do that if I thought they would not make good pets, and lead a pain-free useful life. If I think there is a hitch in their get-along, I will take them in and x-ray them to see if there is anything wrong at that time. If there isn't anything structurally wrong with them, and they're healthy, I will sell them as pets without papers. They say

if you breed long enough, you can come up with anything. I once had a little puppy that was just adorable and probably had the nicest temperament in the litter. It had a fleck of color in its eye. I took it to the eye specialist and they said it was just a happenstance. I have forgotten what the vet called it, but he said it wasn't anything that should occur again in any breeding, and it didn't. He said he would not breed that particular dog, so I sold that dog without papers to a young couple. She trained him and he turned out to be a marvelous pet. He would always have his eyesight and his health, but he just couldn't be bred and had to be neutered. That was our agreement.

When dogs would come back to me, I would always x-ray them first. If the dog's eyes were okay and its hips checked out, then it would still make somebody a good pet and I would place it. Once I had a monarchid, but the pet people didn't care. He still made a nice pet. There is no reason to put a puppy down if it's healthy and has a good personality. Those dogs cost me more by the time I am through with the whole thing. If a dog looks as if it might be dysplastic with a weak rear, it should be screened before you let it go; or if it looks like it has some other problem, have it

checked out. I haven't encountered too many problems in almost 30 years, but everyone encounters some of one kind or another if they breed enough. Some of my biggest champions are what we called retreats.

*What should a show puppy sell for?*

I don't really know what they are going for now, but it is probably around \$500. That's what I paid for my last one, but that was a few years ago and it may have gone up since then. It was a nice show puppy.

*Do you always have a spay/neuter agreement when you sell pet puppies?*

Yes. They have a choice. If the puppy doesn't pass its eye check and/or OFA, they either have to give it back to me or neuter it and they will get their money back, or I will give them a replacement. Different people have different agreements. There are conditions in which these are part of any sales agreement.

*When you sold puppies, were they sold on terms or strictly cash only?*

Most puppies were sold outright. It's simpler that way, but the breeder has less control. Once in a while I would sell them on terms to somebody I knew, but I usually found it best to sell them outright. It involves fewer problems that way. They have four months to save the money. They

need money for other things, too, such as the vet, a crate, food and so forth. If someone would call and say they didn't have the money, there are always the nice little animals at the pound that need a good home. There are many second home Sams. Our first Sam, Ch. Zoe, was one such and did very well by us.

*Did you get puppies back when you sold a bitch?*

I did that on occasion. Sometimes it doesn't work out. To my mind, a breeder always has to be ready to take the dog back if necessary. But, there are some people who I have worked with very nicely over the years with never a problem. Myra Price and I co-owned a number of dogs. I bred the dogs, she showed them, and I just co-owned them. It's better to sell the dog and that's it. Some people make a regular pyramid empire out of the whole thing.

*What do you feed your dogs?*

A good, basic kibble is best. I've used different kibbles over the years. Right now, I like Nature's Recipe Lamb and Rice maintenance diet. It works with my dogs very nicely. My little bitch had a skin problem and Nature's Recipe really helped that problem. I believe she had an allergy to something in the first kibble. They put all kinds of stuff into dog foods nowadays, but I

think Nature's Recipe has tried to be very careful about what they put into their food. I've also used Nutra Max and Science Diet. The dogs do very nicely on Nature's Recipe and keep a nice weight.

*How important is diet in raising Sams?*

It's important to feed dogs well. If dogs are not fed well, they will get sick. Sams can eat almost anything. They will eat each other's food if one isn't quick enough and a dog may be left standing there hungry. They should each be fed separately.

*Do you feed any supplements?*

I fed supplements to the bitches towards the end of their pregnancies and when they were nursing. When I was showing Khan, I used to give him coat supplements, but I think it's important not to over do it. If you give them a good basic diet, exercise and grooming and a basic supplement, that should be enough. It's very hot here in the summer, so they don't need too much protein at that time. In the wintertime, if it is cold, I will add Pedigree canned food or cottage cheese to their kibble. They enjoy that. I'd often add tomato juice, wheat germ and vitamin E. You don't want to overdo calcium or protein. If I am cooking a chicken, I will throw some tidbits into their food. The dogs are always happy if I cook a chicken or turkey because they get part of it. The kitties and the doggies share chicken or turkey with me. They also like fruits and vegetables. When I bring in oranges, Tigger will pick up an orange, carry it to his crate and chew it up.

*When showing this breed, how much grooming should be done?*

They should be washed. The trouble with a white dog is, if it is dirty, it certainly doesn't look good. There is no shortcut to a bath. You can use talcum powder and other things, but it won't look the same. Some dogs have coats that tend to shed dirt. Princess wouldn't need a bath more than twice a year, because she never seemed to get dirty. This was when she was at home. If I brushed her, she stayed very clean. Other dogs could be pig pens. For showing, they should be very clean. A good coat that's clean is all that's needed. Sometimes the dog's feet will get grubby in some indoor buildings, so if you are showing, you can use some powder or chalk and brush just their feet to clean them.

Sammies should not be sculpted and scissored. They are not Bichon Frises. One of Khan's daughters, a champion bitch, was sent to Arizona with a handler who handled Bichons; she came back looking something like a Bichon Frise, and we all howled. She was sculpted and scissored. She looked funny! When you put your hands on these dogs, you can tell what's there. They may look like they have a nice tuck up, but it isn't there. It was created by sculpting.

*Do you have any favorite grooming products?*



Pat's first champion, Icelandic Princess Zoe, shown winning Winners Bitch at SCLA Specialty.

I like the Tomlin shampoos. They are very nice for a dog's skin. Those are probably my favorites. Judy Mears used to sell a number of good coat conditioners. It had a golden knob on top, but I can't remember the name because I haven't used it for years. Usually, all I use is shampoo. But I've seen breeders using a can of spray starch in a paper bag.

*Then, you don't believe in scissoring?*

Their feet and hocks need to be trimmed, but they are not really supposed to be trimmed anywhere else. The whiskers are supposed to be left alone. The standard now requires that the whiskers should not be trimmed. The Samoyed is not supposed to be scissored. As I said, it is supposed to be a natural breed. The feet should also be clean. One handler told me he used a polish they used for horse shows on their feet if he was going on a circuit, but I've never tried it myself. He would spray the paws and this kept the feet from attracting dirt. When I was on a circuit, what worked best for me was to take a hot, steamy towel and put it on the dog's back and rub it down. That took off the dirt. I would then use the towel to rub the dirt from the dog's feet and put a little chalk or talcum powder on the dog's feet and brush it out. That would take any dirt off that they picked up walking around.

*How do you kennel your dogs?*

They have kennels in back and I also have crates. They are in crates at night, and that probably saved them during the earthquake. We're one mile from the epicenter of the Northridge quake. At least they were safe while everything was falling down and flying about. They lucked out that way and were not injured.

*Do you keep your male and female together?*

Yes. They are in different crates, of



*Ch. Crista's Kubla Khan Ice Flash.*

course, but they go out in the yard together unless she's in season. I have different kennels, but I don't use them all. The kennel had to be redone. I've always run my dogs together. They also have to get along with the cats.

*Are your dogs altered?*

I've spayed bitches when past the time of breeding; it's said to be healthier. Males should be neutered for health reasons or those who are not being used for breeding. The time has passed when I want to have any more litters, so they're my pets now. Roxane's about five years old, and that's a little too old to have her first litter. I don't like to have a first litter after four years of age.

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

Think twice before you do it. First of all, think about what your purpose is. Do you want a puppy? Do you want to make money? What is the purpose you have for breeding? Do you want great show dogs? If you are thinking of making money, think twice, because there are many things that can go wrong. My first litter cost me a fortune and all I got was a dog that had a lot of problems and didn't live very long. I spent a lot of money on veterinarians. Some pups lived to about four weeks and I spent endless time and money on them. I was never going to have another litter after that one. Sometimes you make money on a litter, but mostly you spend money. It is not a big money-making venture at all. People today are too unsettled, and you end up with dogs back or having to refund money. My

daughter and I figured it up. When you consider the time you spend and the money you spend at the vet's, food, advertising, you would be far ahead if you took a job at Taco Bell. (laughter)

If it is a nice puppy you want, you should look around for someone who has a reputation for producing good dogs and see if they have the kind of dog you want and whether or not they will stand behind the dogs they sell. For the first time, if you want a show dog, you would be better off buying a good puppy from a reputable breeder. You will have a better chance that way of having a show dog. If this bitch is a really nice show dog, then later you go about choosing a nice stud dog, which should be done very carefully, making sure the dog has the right lines. Then, you cross your fingers and hope for the best. It is also nice if the stud dog owner is someone who will aid you and will help you sell the puppies. It is best if the stud dog is not too far away the first time, so you don't have to ship your bitch. If the breeder will help you sell the puppies locally and help you train, place and show them, so much the better. Listen to the breeder, and listen to the person you got your bitch from. They will know things about breeding those lines that you don't. They may be able to tell you who to breed your bitch to.

If you just want a nice pet puppy, you can probably call someone who has a nice litter in the area and buy yourself a nice pet. You would go to see the litter and see what the parents look like, and if they look healthy and how they behave. You should



*Ch. Sam O'Khans Kubla Khan.*

look for temperament and health. The dogs should be outgoing and friendly and healthy.

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

Maybe. It just depends. It is even better to go to the kennels that have the big producers. When you want a show puppy. Some dogs are great winners, but they don't produce worth a hoot. You are not buying the dog, but what it produces. Also consider whether or not the stud has produced well with your type and lines. If not, it doesn't mean they won't. It's just a further guarantee if they have. You are dealing with odds here.

*What kennels do you consider to be the best today?*

Oh, I'm not getting into that! (laughter)

*Would you recommend they join a local breed club, the national club or an all breed club?*

Definitely, all three; especially the breed clubs, the local and national. You don't want to get so involved with clubs, however, that you don't get around to doing anything with the dog.

*Is the parent club doing enough to educate judges and new members?*

I haven't been tuned in to it that much lately, but I think they are attempting to do their best. They are working on seminars and so forth.

*Is there an AKC video on Sams?*

Yes. I thought it was quite a good video.

*Is there enough literature available on Sams?*

There are quite a few books on Sams. The more books you read, the better, because they all have a different point of view. The Wards have a book that is an overall book that most people read. There are some older Australian books that are pretty good. I was looking for a book as a Christmas present, and I came across the AKC book that had one picture of a Samoyed in it and it was Khan. Of course, I had to buy that book! It is the same picture that was on the cover of the AKC *Gazette*. I have an old English book. I have the Wards' first book and Brierly's Book, as well as Hoflin's encyclopedia. There are also a number of good basic books. To study movement, there are books by Lyons and Rachel Page Elliott; and for breeding, *The Art of Breeding Better Dogs*.

*Why did you move here?*

To have more room for the horses and the dogs. I was originally in West Hollywood, where everybody had noisy parties, but nobody wanted to hear a dog bark, so we moved to the valley in order to have horses and dogs. There was more room here. This is a little agricultural enclave on the other side.

*Have you lived in this general area all your life?*

I was born in Los Angeles, grew up in

Lake Arrowhead, then moved back to the LA area at fourteen years of age.

*Is your daughter married?*

No, and I'm not a grandmother. I only have four-legged grandchildren. I have two horses, eight kitty cats and two dogs. One of the cats lives with my daughter, who has moved out, since the earthquake. Lynn moved nearer to her job after the earthquake, taking one of the cats with her.

*And you were a teacher?*

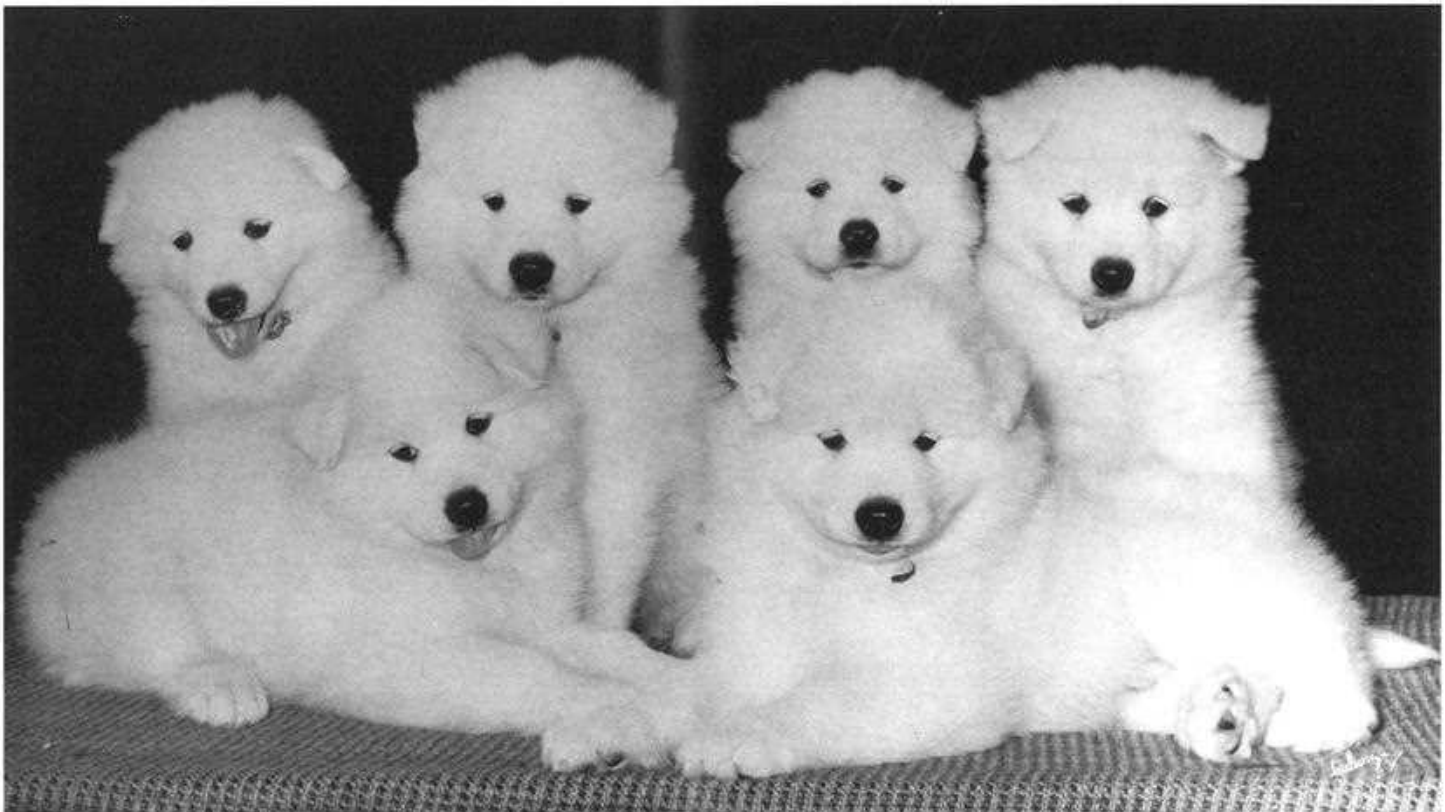
Yes. I'm retired and substitute part-time now; I teach any grade. When I was teaching full-time, I had different grades at different times, all elementary. I also taught Amnesty, English as a second language, to adults. I have credentials as a reading specialist for general elementary education and adult education. I've just received my probationary judge's license.

*How have the dogs affected your lifestyle?*

I've met a lot of interesting people and traveled a lot. I traveled quite a bit before, but even more since showing dogs. I know somebody in just about every city because of the dogs.

*What have been the benefits of being in dogs?*

You always have cute little friends to talk to, and they always agree with you as long as you open the refrigerator on time. (laughter) They always like whatever you do, as long as you feed them on time. Also, people on my street have been burglarized, but the dogs seem to be a good deterrent.



*Litter from Khan's daughter Capella bred to Noatak.*

*What have been the drawbacks to being in dogs?*

You are tied down. You have the animals to think about and be concerned about. Sometimes there is white hair drifting around. In the case of horses, there may be a sprig of hay attached to something. But when I get calls from people telling me their boyfriend or husband wants them to get rid of their beloved dog I tell them the dog will always love you. Can you say the same about a boyfriend?

*Has it all been worth it?*

Sure. I enjoy animals and always have. My daughter has always enjoyed animals, too. She wanted to be a horse trainer, but she found she could not make enough money doing that. Now, loving books, she manages a book store. I'd like to mention that we had a Best in Show saddle-bred mare that won the Del Mar Horse Show. But we sold her because of her temperament. She put my daughter in the hospital. The horse was a danger. Only the trainer could show her. My daughter was riding her and ended up in Scripts Hospital. The horse was a very good specimen, however, so we sold her.

*Have we talked about most of the things you wanted to talk about?*

Yes. We covered everything, I think. I mentioned I hope the standard stays as it is. I was talking with Dolly Ward and she mentioned they are going to be admitting the American Eskimo to AKC. She was hoping, and I would agree with her, that Sams would stay a distinctive breed and that judges would not get that confused and think of it as a smaller edition of the Samoyed.

*It is interesting that many of your champions were dogs that had been returned to you.*

Yes! When I was living in West Hollywood, I didn't have the room to keep a lot of dogs and I would sell most of them when I had litters. When one came back, I would say, "Goody! I am so happy you came back," because it would look really nice and I knew I could finish it - a diamond in the rough. Very often a dog was returned due to the circumstances of the people. Maybe their marriage had broken up or they were moving into an apartment or the dog was in poor condition or untrained. Sometimes they'd come back more than once and I would have to find another home. That's what you have to figure on when you breed dogs. You are not just selling something at a dime store. They are living creatures that should be able to depend on you to find them another home if something unexpected happens. There was a puppy Bobbie Smith had bred. They had moved back to Arkansas. The puppy was advertised in the paper. The sire was one of the Wards', so I notified them about it. It turned out to be a very nice dog that the Wards ultimately sold to

someone in Scandinavia, and he became a very important dog there. I helped save him, which pleased me. I have no idea how many, but I have saved a lot of dogs by finding them good homes. That's what you are supposed to do, and I think most breeders do that.

One time, I found the prettiest little Rottweiler bitch wandering in a busy intersection. It was just a puppy. I was on my way home, so I put her in the car and ran an ad in the newspaper. I didn't say what her markings were, but just put "Rottweiler." I let the people who called describe her. It was a puppy bitch these people had just purchased. Their fence was not secure enough for her. They were so happy to get her back. My daughter was hoping and hoping that she wouldn't find a home, because she had fallen in love with her and wanted to keep her.

You might be interested in the story of Naja's rescue; it was heartwarming because so many people helped. Naja was a Sam

bitch owned by old-time breeder Helen King, who died in a freeway accident. Naja was badly injured, with no owner to help her. I was instrumental in finding and rescuing her from the pound. Then we took her to West Los Angeles Veterinarian Medical Group. They had the most comprehensive animal medical facility this side of Davis Veterinary Hospital in northern California. So many people contributed to the giant bill. Samoyed Rescue of Northern California, led by Gail Speaker, sent a \$500 check right away. Helen's local Antelope Valley KC sent another \$500. Major contributions also came from Samoyed Club of Southern California, led by Barbara Mathe and Jeff Bennett. Many other friends also helped. Naja recovered and lived an active life until almost sixteen years of age, in the home of Lloyd Bristol, a longtime friend of Helen's.

*Thank you!* •

*Pat Morehouse is now an AKC provisional judge.*

## The Shape of the Breed

Dolly Ward  
Calabasas, California

**D**iscovery - after 53 years in the Samoyed breed, it is pronounced Sammy-Ed, the way Roger Caras says it at Westminster each year at Group time. Glad the shape of the breed is doing better than are some clubs. In collecting materials for the book update, I'm finding some gorgeous Samoyeds that I do not even own! Some are from Scotland and England. If they keep their length of leg, with the amount of inbreeding and linebreeding they have to do, then they are successful for Samoyed type. Generally, heads are beautiful, as is amount of coat, though not always correct TYPE of coat. Of course, we cannot see them gait in pictures, but we can do a certain amount of predicting gait by seeing the stance in static balance.

Breeders the world over have this constant problem of getting all the pretties with all the powerful movement through anatomy and muscle tone. I discovered a new thought for trying to describe the most perfect earset on a Sammy. The standard states the following about ears: "Strong and thick, erect, triangular and slightly rounded at the tips. Should not be large or pointed, nor should they be small and 'bear-eared.' Ears should conform to head size and the size of the dog. They should be set well apart, but be within the border of the outer edge of the head. They should

be mobile and well-covered inside with hair. Hair full and stand-off before the ears. Length of ear should be the same measurement as the distance from inner base of ear to outer corner of eye."

Notice the hooded ear of the Akita, Shiba Inu, Alaskan Malamute, Siberian Husky and even the Norwegian Elkhound - ears that turn forward as though beckoning. They are set quite as described above, but IN ADDITION, their ears are slightly cupped facing forward. If ears are slightly cupped facing forward, it is a feature which enhances greatly the soft, beautiful expression of the Samoyed's face, and profile of the head. Have you seen that, Annie, or CAN WE TALK?

Think about it. You may come up with a better description than I have given here, and I would appreciate hearing it. I am NOT promoting the changing of the standard at all, but I believe I have never heard this characteristic described or discussed ever in the past 53 years we have experience in this breed. (Yes, that is 53 in the SAMOYED breed specifically, for those of you who do not know me.)

Attention: Those announcers on the PA and show chairmen - please remember to pronounce Sammy-Ed correctly, as two boys' names, SAMMY and ED (not Edd Bivin), or just say SAMMY (without the "oy") when I am in earshot. Okay? A fellow judge, J.D. Jones, knows about pronunciation, I understand. •