

WESTERN KENNEL WORLD

SEPTEMBER

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1947

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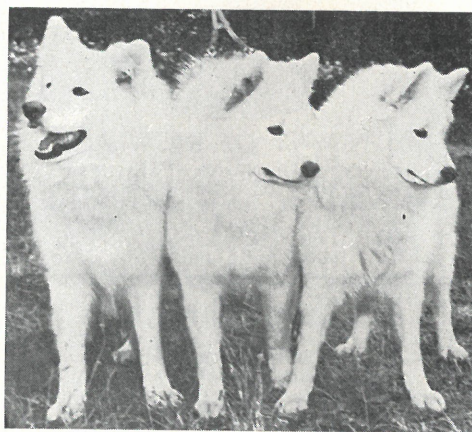


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SAMOYEDES

By Vera Lawrence

Folks: we were in error in reproducing in the July issue of W. K. W. the item written by Lady Kitty Ritson for the Bulletin of the Eastern Division of the Samoyed Club of America, before first checking on the absolute authenticity of the statements made by her. May we present here some absolute facts taken from the files of the parent Club, the Samoyed Club of America. For one thing, Lady Kitty Ritson was NOT the first English judge to judge our breed here in America. The first was J. Willoughby Mitchell of London, who judged the 1923 Westminster show, and created a big fuss—to such an extent that Will Halley, the finest English columnist on the breed, condemned Mitchell's view, and accepted Mr. Smirnow's.

Shortly, we shall give you the entire item taken from the Samoyed Club of America files—an item appearing in the scrapbook of one of our veteran American authorities on the breed, Miss Elizabeth Hudson, who brought to America the great Ch. Storm Cloud from Miss Thomson Glover's kennels in England.

Then, we must correct the statement made by the Eastern Bulletin's editor that Mr. Morgan Wing was the Club's first president. The first president of the Sam Club of America, as we have stated in an earlier issue of W. K. W. was Mr. Louis Smirnow.

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Ivanhoff of Snowland at Five Years of Age. Mrs. A. L. Westcott, breeder owner.

most of them are the surest proof that Mr. Mitchell is mistaken. I noticed that Mr. Smirnow refers to the New York "winners dog" Billy Boy of Yurak, as a flatcoated dog of good character—and perhaps it is that flat coat which led to Mr. Mitchell's criticism. Such a coat is faulty, but it by no means indicates a collie influence. Our own standard—that of the Samoyed Association—which I have sent Mr. Smirnow (note—it is identical with that of the Samoyed Club of America)—gives the coat ideal as follows: "The body should be well covered with a thick close soft and short undercoat with harsh hair growing through it, forming the undercoat which should stand straight away from the body and be quite free from curl."

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as "really one branch of the great Spitz breed, which includes Elkhounds, Finnish Spitz, Keeshonden, Malamutes, Greenland dogs and Chows"—has aroused the ire of lovers of our breed, including Mrs. Catharine Quereaux, chairman of publicity—who writes: "In America where the hated Spitz is forbidden by statutes in many states, the above does not sit well. Nor does it sit well among those who know the breed." In her scrapbook, there appears an article also by Will Halley, under date of April 27, 1934. Mr. Halley writes: "The Lady Kitty Ritson told me that when she was at the show held last month in the Lapp country she saw a number of Lapp Spitz, which she describes as 'practically Samoyed, only smaller.' Just as the proverbial Irishman revels in a fight, so does the proverbial Scot delight in an argument, and I have no doubt that when Lady Kitty made the following remark, she knew that it would make me rear right up in the air. This is the remark: 'All we have done to the Samoyed is to make him bigger. I don't believe (and the authorities up there in Lapland don't believe) that the Samoyed is specially a product of the Russian nomad tribes. The Samoyed is really a bigger Lapp Spitz. What people at home don't realize is that the Spitz dog knows no boundaries and flits across the page of history with his master from Norway to the confines of Russia.'"

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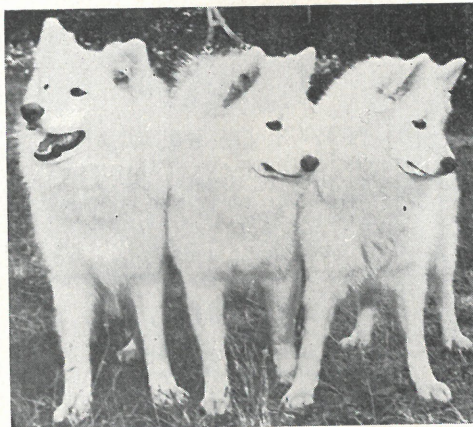
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first few years of the 'nineties,' to the very beginning of Samoyeds in this country (England), and I say emphatically that Samoyed size has not altered in the very least during all that period. Then, too, in my travels as a young man, I saw the genuine Spitz in various countries, and no one who really knew the two breeds, could possibly say that they were one and the same. The true Samoyed (I am not writing of white dogs and dogs which have not been white, that have been paraded as Samoyeds) is radically and fundamentally different from the Spitz. The Samoyed is a product of the Samoyed people, and this is corroborated by every traveler and explorer who has gone in to the matter deeply and intimately. I have given the details in this column at various times in the past, so I need not take up space by repeating them here. I know quite well that the Spitz is a widely distributed dog—I mean the dog which we know as the Spitz, and not simply those hundred-and-one supposed varieties of the Spitz which the theorists have got hold of as the loudest buzzing bee in their bonnets. "Then again when the Lapps, along with their reindeer, were at the Lapp village at the Glasgow exhibition of 1911, and white dogs were in that village at the same time, I overheard quite a number of very learned disquisitions by occasional members of the visiting public on what those Lapp dogs were and all their origin and history! The joke was much too good to be spoiled by my telling the truth. Those supposed Lapp dogs were Samoyeds from the Kilburn-Scott's kennels, and one of their picturesque accompaniments was the sledge of the Jackson-Harmsworth Antarctic Expedition. I got to know some of these Lapp people fairly well and had many happy and interesting chats in their igloos. The Lapps, especially the children were quite crazy about the Samoyeds, but the Samoyeds were not the dogs of the Lapp country—about that, the Lapps were very explicit."

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SOME LATE NEWS SENT TO US

BY MRS. QUÉREAU

News that we hate to report, tells of the passing of Ivanoff of Snowland in April, 1947. Ivanoff was born 11-3-'40. The son of Taz out of Nona. Bred and owned by Mrs. A. L. Westcott of England—he was the winner of many splendid awards, including four firsts, and best dog at the British Samoyed Club Open Victory Show in London on Oct. 27, 1945.



Ch. Saryvna of Snowland
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Ward, owners

Ivanoff was the sire of Mrs. Lucille Miller's Irish and now American Champion Snowland Stara, and Dr. William Ivens' Ch. Martingate Snowland Taz, half-brothers. Another son, by Vyazma of Kobe, named Snowland Leo, was shipped to Norway in November, 1946. This pup, shown for the first time at Oslo International Championship Show, May, 1947, was given the International Championship certificate and challenge certificate of the Norwegian Kennel Club—their highest award.

His second show appearance was at Stockholm International show, June 7. Again he won the International certificate and the Swedish

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Kennel Club Champion certificate. Leo is described as a tall dog with big bone, a good front, dark eyes and very black points. His next show will probably be Copenhagen, Denmark—the sons of Ivanhoff get around. Ivanhoff's passing is a great loss to our breed and to his grieving owner, Mrs. Westcott.

The accompanying picture was kindly sent us by Mrs. Westcott some months ago. Another picture which graces our pages this month shows Robert H. and Dolly Ward's Champion Saryvna of Snowland, daughter of Ch. Siberian Nansen of Farningham of Snowland out of Dol of Snowland. Saryvna was bred by Ernest Kavanal at Merion, Penn.

Saryvna was best of breed at the recent Pasadena show, June 8, in competition with 41 other Sams—(47 entered, 5 absentees)—under Judge Walt of Pasadena. This win was followed by another best of breed at Harbor Cities show, June 23, in an entry of 15, with Christian Knudsen of New Jersey, judging. Saryvna, known as "Toggles" to her folks, is full of personality, and bears a smile that would win the heart of anyone. Her nose is flecked with biscuit freckles, and she carries other biscuit spots elsewhere in her coat. From various show reports, we note that of Toggles' family, born November 1, 1946, sired by Ch. Starchak, C. D.—all but one have gone to new homes and are making good for themselves in the show ring. One of her daughters—Starchak's Weotuma, owned by the Wards—was winners bitch, with 3 points best of winners and best opposite sex at the Santa Barbara show, July 27, under Judge Mervin Rosenbaum of San Francisco.

Friends of Nell Phillips (Mrs. F. C. Phillips) second vice president of our Pacific Coast division of the Sam Club of America will be glad to hear that she has returned to her home in Lemon Cove, Calif., following a serious operation—Folks how about sending her a cheery line?

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