

THE SAMOYED QUARTERLY

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Samoyed people

The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
Lynette Hansen
POLAR MIST
Bend, Oregon

Part II

This interview was conducted at the home of Lynette Hansen on July 8, 1989 by Katie LeCour.

How fair is judging?

Basically, there are good judges and bad judges just like anything in all walks of life. There are good doctors and bad doctors. The same with judges. When you start getting into Group things it isn't quite as fair. That is where all the politics enter in. Just like when John started out with Pepper, he put in a lot of time beating his head against the wall because they didn't know who he was so they were not going to look at his dog. They want you to pay your dues, they want you to be a recognizable person. That is not fair. I know some breeds, fortunately not Sammies in this area anyway, but there are breeds like German Shepherds where you might as well forget it unless you have a known handler on the dog. To me that

doesn't make sense. The judges should be judging the dogs. They won't look at the dog unless it is some known handler, a recognizable face on the dog, and that is not right. All men should have to wear the same clothes and all women wear the same clothes and wear a mask. (laughter) Identical masks, then the judges would have to judge the dogs. That is the only way you would get around it.

As far as the breed level, most judges are basically judging what they like or what they think is right. On the breed level some of them aren't very knowledgeable and they might not know your breed and some of them can care less. You pick up that attitude a lot of times. Some of them just go with a recognizable face because they really don't know the difference or they don't care.

How can judging be improved?

(laughter) Other than all dressing alike and wearing the same mask? It would be really neat, it has been discussed before, if a judge had to give a reason. This would take a lot longer but I have read they do this in other countries. In Europe somewhere they have to say they place this dog first because ... and name the qualities and the reasons. That would be a good thing. If the judge had to stand behind his decisions verbally it might make him think why he is putting up such and such dog.

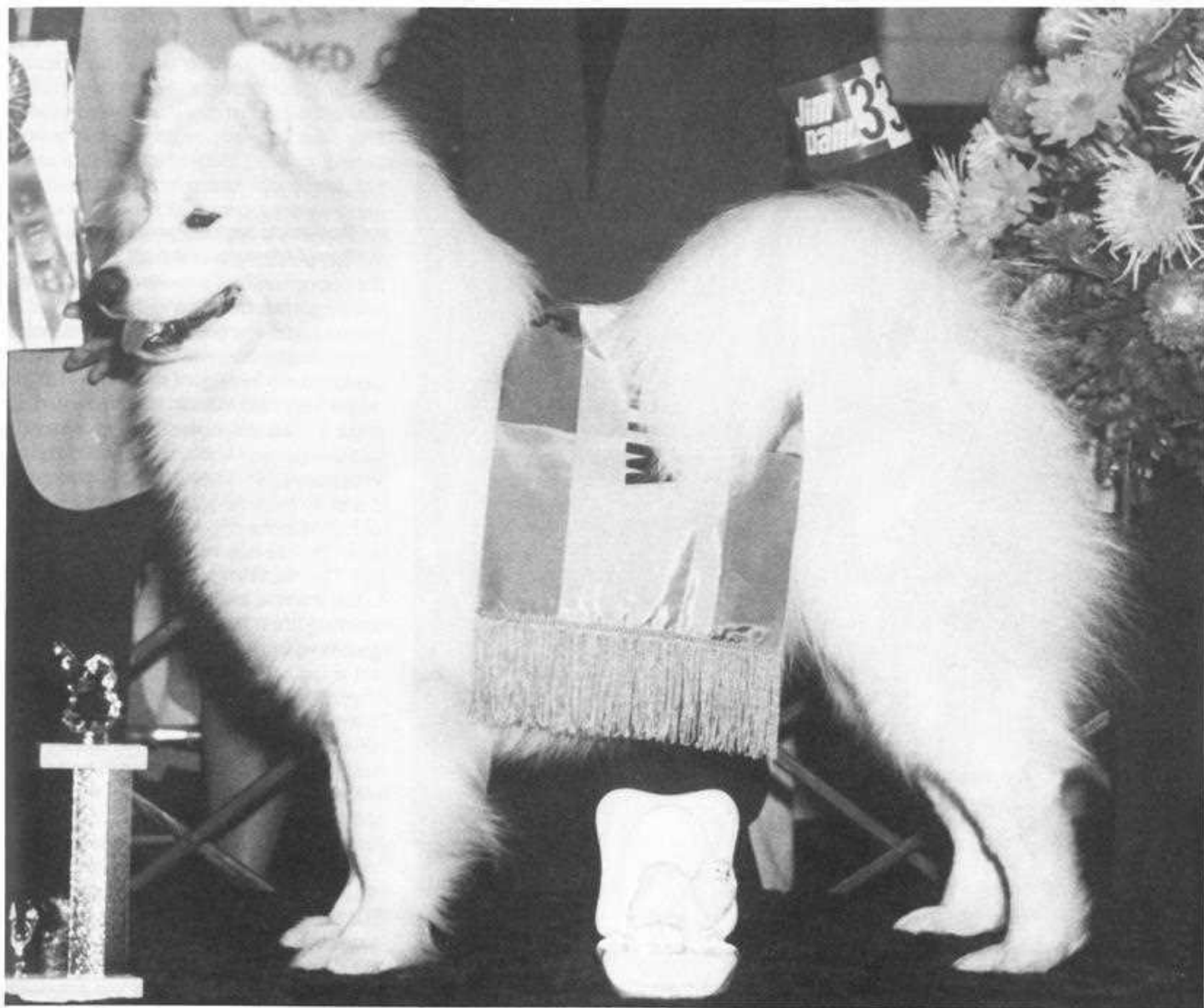
Other than that I don't really know how it could be improved. They have done the videos so judges can learn. If a judge is really serious about judging, he/she will try to study the breeds they are going to judge.

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

I like to show under breeder-judges. A lot of people don't, but I really do because they have the best knowledge of the breed. I have always liked to show under breeder-judges. There are some good all-arounders, too, that I really like to show under. I have no objection to breeder-judges, a lot of people do. Where you get into problems with a breeder-judge is that for years and years they have had a certain type of dog, that is what they like. They wouldn't have been breeding it and going with that type of dog if they didn't like it. Maybe they were really movement nuts and the dog has to be a good moving dog, maybe has a certain look to it but is a good mover. People who show under them may bring a totally different type of dog than this judge is known to like, then they get dumped and they think that guy is no good. He only puts up his own stuff or stuff related to his. There is no way in God's green earth that this person is going to know every dog that came down from his line, every person who has some-



Lynette and Ch. Polar Mist Spring Break.



Am/Can Ch. Polar Mist Dr. Pepper.

thing that goes back to that line. There is no way they could recognize those dogs. Say they had a stud dog and they bred to this dog and they have an offspring or a grand-offspring. This judge is not going to know these people unless they happen to live in the exact same area.

A lot of times breeder-judges end up picking dogs that go back to their lines. Of course, everybody screams "Politics, he is putting up his own stuff." I really don't think that is the case. He is putting up the type he likes.

Does advertising influence judging or the judges?

In a way I don't think it does, but when you get into the Groups, the politics and all that it probably does. In one way it does and

in one way it doesn't. On the breed level I don't think it really does, but when you get into the "big time" I am sure a lot of judges see the advertising on big winners and it sticks in their mind that they have seen this dog. I suppose if you advertised enough and blasted the media enough over and over, it is bound to have some effect. I have never personally been involved in it, never having really got into campaigning a dog and specializing. I don't have a lot of expertise in that area. Since everybody does it so much I am sure it must have some effect, especially for the dogs that are out and winning a lot.

Do you always show your own dogs?

Yes, pretty much. A handler put majors

on my first bitch, Nikki. Back in those days I had small children and I just showed in a very limited area, like Portland, Salem, within a two hour drive pretty much. I stayed pretty close to home in the early days. I didn't branch out and travel very far. I remember trying to find majors was very difficult at that time. Of course, I was in a very limited area as far as my going to shows. I did send Nikki out with a handler. He went on a circuit where there were majors and he was able to pick up her two majors and finish her.

Pepper was finished in the East. Kit (Ain't She Foxy) was shown in the East. It was funny because I had gotten Kit's Canadian championship. It seemed she was never in coat at the times of all the big shows which would pull majors. I sent her back



Spring at 9 months.

East to Betty Arnold to be shown. She was in coat when we had virtually no shows, nothing. There was a circuit back East and Betty Arnold took her on it. She finished within a week. She had no points. A week later she was a champion. In fact, in that week, believe it or not, because they were big shows she took Breed wins over a lot of specials; it made her the number six top winning bitch for that year because of the ones she took.

We had moved to Montana, we were building the kennels and the house, there were no shows coming up and I wanted to get Nishka finished. She had ten points and both majors. I sent her back to John Ronald and he was going to show her. This is the bitch that ended up with both her majors and twelve Reserves. Unbeknownst to us, when we had gone down to get another load from Oregon to move up to Montana, we had left my son there with the dogs to take care of them. He put Nishka with my original male, Nanuck, in some outside runs we built

and he bred her. I didn't know she was bred. My son didn't tell me. I sent her off to be shown by John and here was this pregnant bitch. Of course, he wasn't feeding her for being pregnant. She kept getting thinner and her stomach kept getting bigger. John took her to the vet who said he thought she was in whelp. So she came home and whelped a litter. That was one of the reasons she never finished. When she came home I got involved with everything else and other dogs and I never did make another push to finish her.

Those are the only times I have ever had somebody else show my dogs. I have done all the rest myself. I have shown a lot of dogs I have either bred and sold, or dogs that have been sired by one of my studs. I have finished dogs for people. I do like to show in the classes.

How do you train your puppies and at what age do you begin?

A lot of people make a big mistake doing this, but when I sell a puppy I try to

give the buyers information how I have done it. What works for me. I like to make it fun for the puppies. I like to let the puppies be puppies, not perfect miniature adults. This is where a lot of people make a big mistake, they want this puppy to stand/stack in a perfect stance. They stack them up and if the puppy moves a foot they get irritated and they are too hard with them. You may end up with a five-month-old puppy that is trained perfectly and stands perfectly but the puppy may not show for you and if it is showing it has been worked and worked. I know people who get out and work puppies every single day, do the show routine. Sammies are intelligent dogs and they get bored very fast. Once they know it, they know it. You don't have to keep repeating and doing it over and over again. This burns your puppy out. They get totally bored with it and by the time you really want this dog competitive he has lost it. He could care less. He has been worked to death.

The main thing I do with my puppies is teach them to bait. I don't get into hand stacking at all. Maybe I do it a little bit on the grooming table. When I am grooming I will set a leg or something and tell them in a happy fun voice how good they are. I teach them to bait. I usually do it with another dog or two. I do it in the kitchen. I figure that is the best place to teach a dog to bait. They always like to hang around in the kitchen with you when you are cooking. Lots of times, if you have an older dog that baits well, they try to copy him. I always try to make it fun and happy, with a fun voice and lots of praise. I teach them to walk right into a stack and to bait into a stack. I like to touch the dog as little as possible. As they get a little older and have learned to set themselves up and stack, then I will start picking up an elbow and setting a foot, briefly setting them up. Then reward and praise them. I don't make it work and I don't do a lot of repetition.

On the leash I talk to them and praise them. Tell them what a good boy or good girl they are and lots of fun stuff. Sometimes when they are young and in the ring they are a little wild and jump around a little bit but I don't come down hard on them. I want them to have a fun time and think it is a fun thing. That is basically how I do it. I don't feel I need to set my dogs up or stack them.

If you have a dog with correct structure and it is a show quality dog, it should walk right into a natural stack. If it is not built right to do that and the only way you can get it to look right is to stack it up, that dog should not be in the show ring. I get a lot of compliments and comments from people in other breeds who watch me show the dogs. They

say "You look like you are having fun, the dogs are having fun. I love to watch you show. Your dogs show so well for you. I like it that you are not touching your dogs all the time." Everyone is hanging onto their necks and setting their legs and mine are standing there naturally and looking good. It works for me from the comments I have had from people.

At what age do you start baiting your puppies and actually handling for this show training?

If I am going to keep a puppy, I like to raise them in the house. My dogs are versatile, I guess you would say. They can be kennel dogs or they can be house dogs. I always want that close association with the dogs. I want it to be housebroken and able to live in a house. I don't like to sell a dog to somebody who wants strictly an outside dog. I tell them if they want an outside dog they don't want a Sammy. Even though I have a kennel and a kennel set up, the dogs can either be in or out. I like to have them in. I have a puppy I am raising in every day. If I have picked a puppy out at ten or twelve weeks, then I start bringing it in and working with it slowly.

Do you do some training with the puppies you sell before they go?

I don't do a whole lot of training. The thing I am most concerned about is socializing them properly. It depends on the size of the litter. Last winter I had a litter of two so they were crate trained and leash trained. A lot of times the puppies aren't leash trained when they go. I like to handle each one every day, play with each one, bring them in the house, take them in the yard. They have outside runs so they get in different situations. I do lots of playing with them. It depends at what age they go, but sometimes I get them started on leash work. Really not too much baiting or anything like that. Maybe I will take little pieces of cheese or dog food and get them to take it out of my hand so they start associating your hand with a goodie, a treat.

How did you come up with your kennel name?

It was when I was very new in dogs. The first male I bought was from the Polar Prince line and his name was Polar Nanuck. Then the male I had gotten was a Misty Way male. I had those names so I tried to go with the kind of theme I already had and came up with Polar Mist. It was nothing real earth-shattering. If I had been in it a little longer, it probably wouldn't have been the name I would have picked. I probably would have tried to pick a name a little more unique, but it was just a combination.

Have you done any work other

than conformation and obedience such as herding or sled dog working with your Sammies?

No, I really haven't. Once I even bought some harness and a book on lead-dog training and worked with one of my dogs on that. I have always had it in the back of my mind that I would like to do some harness work. Several people have bought dogs from me that are on sled teams and do very well. I have never done it myself. It is something I have always thought of doing, and it would be fun to do but I just never seem to find the time. I guess that is the biggest problem, or where I have lived I didn't know anyone who did it or I didn't have any help. If I had somebody I could go to and get some help and try it, plus the time, I might be able to.

Are your breedings natural or controlled?

My breedings are mostly controlled. I just don't put two dogs out and let them go for it. In fact, when I have a young male, if it's his first breeding, I spend a lot of time working him. I want that male to know that I am part of the process. If you had a real cooperative bitch and put a young male out with her and let him breed her, and you

weren't present, I don't know if you had to work with one later on if there would be a problem. I try to get them to learn right from the start that I am a presence who is going to be there.

There are a lot of bitches that have to be held. I have read articles where people say if dogs don't breed naturally without being held they shouldn't be bred. I don't go along with that at all. For one thing, 99.9 percent of the bitches are shipped in or brought in, they are without their owner, they are in a strange situation, they have some big guy trying to jump their bones. It can be a frightening or scary situation for the bitch, especially if it is a virgin bitch. A lot of times they do have to be held. I have held a lot of bitches, a lot of my own bitches. I have had to muzzle some of them. If I had to do a breeding totally by myself without any assistance, I have tied the bitch to a post or something where I can hang onto the back end and muzzle them so they don't bite if they get scared.

When I start off with a young male I am right there. If I have to hold the bitch I encourage them and talk to them. I always talk them into it, telling them that it is okay. I had a dog that if there was a bitch for



Am/Can Ch. Polar Mist Ice Vixen.

breeding he wouldn't even think of going in there. He would always come get me. I definitely want to be there and make sure nobody gets injured in any way, either of the dogs. I always help even if I have a totally cooperative bitch. At least I stay right there with them.

Are your males available at stud to outside bitches?

Yes.

Have you ever refused stud service on a bitch and if so, why?

Yes. I didn't have that happen too much in Montana because where I lived people just didn't come around with dogs. Usually the way I handle it now, I try to do it nicely. I don't want to seem arrogant or above other people because I remember when I was a novice I didn't know any different. I don't want to put people or their dogs down. I usually put so many stipulations or requirements on it that they wouldn't even dream of doing it. I tell them I have to see them and if the dog is not of the quality, I just try to tell them in a nice way that I don't really think they should breed the bitch and give them some reason why.

I had somebody approach me a while back with a bitch. She had a nice pedigree and bloodline. She was okay. I didn't think the owner in the situation was very good. I just didn't want to have my dogs involved with that particular person. I looked at her bitch and said, "The pedigrees really don't complement each other." I kind of pushed her back on the breeder of her bitch. I told her, "You should really consult with your breeder and she can give you some advice on who would be the best to go to with your bitch." I really didn't want to be involved with that particular situation.

I have had some nice dogs and bitches with good pedigrees, but I have certain requirements I want them to meet. A lot of people aren't willing to meet those requirements and that is fine. I don't care.

What are some of your requirements?

I want the hips and eyes checked. The dog has to be of good quality and pedigree with no major faults. Another requirement I have is that any offspring from one of my studs is sold on contracts where pets cannot be used for breeding, spay/neuter agreements. Anything sold to a novice person or to the general public, a possible show potential or something like this sold to a new person, I want the dog sold on contract that they cannot use the dog for breeding without going back to the breeder and getting approval, stud or bitch approval from the breeder.

There are some breeders who are sell-

ing good dogs without any kind of guidelines or contracts. The buyers aren't going back to the breeder. They decide their bitch is a year old, having her first season so they are trying to find a dog to breed her to. They have a good quality dog with a good pedigree and they are breeding it to a know-nothing dog. Then they turn around and sell the puppies very cheaply, other people are getting them and it has just turned into a vicious circle. It all goes back to the original breeder who didn't think to put conditions on the puppies they sold.

I came back to Oregon and found some of the bloodline I started with in undesirable situations in the hands of backyard breeders. Other breeders in the area have sold dogs in the same way. Now they have their bloodlines or combinations of bloodlines going back to some really good dogs being bred indiscriminately and sold very cheaply. What they are doing is cutting the throat of the good breeder who is trying to breed a good Sam. I don't care if nobody uses my stud dogs if they aren't going to do it right.

How many litters do you think a

bitch should have in her lifetime?

It depends upon the bitch. Some are easy breeders. If the dog has problems whelping and things of that nature it should be limited and well thought out. If she has no problems, if she whelps easily, five litters is all right. A lot of my bitches have around five litters. It also depends on the size of the litters. Sometimes they only have one or two puppies, then maybe you could breed them six times or so, depending on the situation. That works out about right.

Do you wean the puppies yourself or let the bitch take care of it?

Years ago I used to wean the puppies myself. I don't like doing that. I have found I just prefer to let the mother do it themselves. It works out much better. I used to say when they were six weeks old it was time to take the mother away. I would have upset mothers and upset puppies. It just didn't work. I let the mother totally do it on her own, although I do start feeding them by four weeks of age. I have had bitches nursing her puppies until they were shipped at ten and eleven weeks old. I have had other



Am/Can Ch. Polar Mist Ain't She Foxy.

mothers that wanted to wean them at four or five weeks old. I just let mom do it. Moms are happier, puppies are happier. It just makes a better situation. There is one thing my bitches do that I really don't like, when they start weaning their puppies they regurgitate their food for them. I guess they have some pretty strong instincts, but every one of my girls do that.

What about when a bitch whelps, are you there and do you help them?

Yes. I am always there just in case there is a problem. Lots of times they tend to have them at night. I sleep right there with them. I am up with them all night if need be. I have a whelping room now that is under the stairway in the basement. I used to sit down there on the floor, but now I have a whelping box in one of the dens downstairs with a hide-a-bed in it so I can get them right there. At night I can lie down and have them beside me and rest in-between. I have had lots of puppies born totally in the sac, which hasn't broken. A lot of times, if they come close together or mom is busy with one puppy, I have seen bitches have a puppy come out in the sac and they weren't really aware that the puppy was there. She was busy working on another puppy. If I hadn't been there to get the puppy out, it would have died. I am sure most of the time I really don't need to be there and they would do just fine without me, but I get real nervous about whelping and I really like to be there in case something should happen and they need help or assistance. I have had stuck puppies before and just about everything that can happen, I've been through, so I do like to be there.

At what age do you evaluate your puppies for pet or show quality?

I really evaluate them all along. I have read where some people say they can evaluate them from birth, but I sure can't. I can tell if it is a nice-looking puppy, a healthy puppy or has some nice features surely, but I can't pick the pick of the litter or the best puppies of the litter. I have had some runts and puny, skinny puppies turn out to be the best puppies that came out of that particular litter.

It always gets me when people say they cull litters because some puppies are small or puny (skinny or long). I have had a lot of experiences where those puny, runty-looking puppies turned out to be fabulous dogs. Kohoutek was one. He was one of the small puppies in the litter.

One of Minx's puppies was very little and small. He was pretty, but I sold him as a pet because the people wanted a small male. Minx is a smaller bitch and Breaker tends to sire percentages on the small side.



Am/Can Ch. Polar Mist Naughty Angel.

I figured with the combination inbreed he would be a small one. That dog turned out to be the biggest dog in the litter as an adult. I don't judge them when they are born, no.

I don't mark my puppies, I don't color code them, I don't do any of those things. By the time the puppies are five weeks old, I pretty much know every puppy in that litter. I recognize them all. I just watch them as a whole in the litter together and individually. You usually can't see a whole lot on going and coming type movement until they are getting around eight weeks old. I like to pick somewhere around eight weeks and I definitely like to keep them until they are ten weeks old. I have changed my mind more than once between eight and ten weeks on what puppies I like the best. I feel ten weeks is a good age to make up my mind, and what I like or pick isn't necessarily someone else's preference either. More than once another breeder will pick a different pup.

When you sell an adult bitch, do

you have an agreement about getting puppies back?

I have not done that a lot, no. On a couple of occasions, if I form a co-ownership and I want a puppy and they want a puppy, or I get first choice or they do, or we split the litter or something like that. I do agreements like that quite often.

On your co-ownerships, do you sell the dogs or bitches for less money?

Yes, I have. I sell them for maybe half the price of what I would normally sell the dog for. In fact, I have just sold two puppies under co-ownerships.

Do you have anything in your contracts about taking puppies or adult dogs back if the people cannot keep it for some reason?

Yes. In fact, I have in my contract that I have first option to take the dog whether it is for sale or to be given away. Unfortunately, there have been people who have



Am/Can Ch. Polar Mist Ain't She Sassy.

not contacted me and sold the dog or, in a couple of cases, given the dog to somebody. They have given the dog into situations or to people I would not want the dog to be in and I have gotten very upset about it. I started adding in my contract specifically that "if they don't comply with all the aspects of the contract all guarantees are null and void." I have also started adding "and leaves buyer open to collection of punitive damages and all legal fees." I have just put that in to help prevent my dogs from ending up in undesirable situations. You can scare people a little bit if they don't follow the contract they could monetarily end up with a problem, maybe making them think twice about not doing the right thing.

I definitely try to get the dog back if I can and place it in an acceptable home, although I can probably count on one hand the times this has happened, where the dog

didn't turn out or they needed to place it for personal reasons.

Do you have guarantees in your contracts about hips, eyes and that sort of thing?

Yes. If I sell a dog as show quality I guarantee it as show quality. If the dog doesn't turn out, I like to see the dog, have a knowledgeable person see the dog, or have a video taken of the dog to make sure that the dog indeed has a problem, and, of course, you get vet or OFA reports on the hips and eyes to go by. I do like to see the dog raised up until it is two because some dogs go through some pretty awful stages, some really funny growing stages. I won't accept a dog back because somebody isn't winning with the dog and it is going through a funny stage. I know some terrible stages my dogs have gone through. At that point I would have given them away, too. They

turned out to be outstanding dogs.

Another thing that is hard is environmental conditions. I have known of people who have raised dogs on slick floors. I really preach against it and tell them to watch it. A lot of people don't even realize it. I have known dogs that ended up being hocky, and come to find out they were raised strictly on a tile or linoleum floor. That is a gray area if you have a show dog that is raised that way. I do guarantee the quality, the hips and the eyes.

Do you have replacements or do you refund their money?

My policy is to give a replacement dog. I have, because of a couple bad situations in the past, put a clause in my contract "replacement or a cash refund of half of what was paid for the dog." I put in "seller's option." This way if, later on down the road, I find it was a home that was really undesir-

able and the dog didn't turn out I can give them some cash back, but my policy is to give them a replacement. I will give a replacement unless I feel it is a situation I don't want to see another dog in. That gives me an out to pay them off. If they want to keep the dog, they can. With a lot of people it is their pet, they want to keep the dog. If they spay or neuter the dog they definitely can keep it and they will get a replacement.

What do you feed your dogs?

I feed Iams, and I have also been trying Lick Your Chops, an all-natural food.

Do you use any supplements?

I use wheat germ oil and vitamin C. I have gone to using an ester type of C supplement.

Any special extra things when the bitch is in whelp?

They go on Eukanuba at that time. I don't believe in giving dogs the real hot-dog foods like Eukanuba unless they are in a stress situation, they are showing, they need to be built up, if they have gotten down in weight for some reason, they have been sick, they are nursing or in whelp. Then I like to give them the Eukanuba, but for everyday use a good maintenance food is sufficient. I have known too many people whose dogs have started having skin problems and all types of different problems, come to find out they are on this real hot-dog food. They are lying around the house; those foods were developed for dogs in stress situations. They shouldn't be fed that sort of food unless they are in a situation where they need something extra.

Do you condition your dogs?

I really don't have to road work and do that sort of thing. We have always had a lot of acreage. We have 50 acres here. We had 40 acres in Montana. We fence in some acreage for the dogs. They are only in the kennel at night unless it is stormy. They are out all day long from early in the morning until dark. There are several dogs in each outside run. When they are out there together they have a half acre or so of trees and woods. They run, they play, they wrestle, they chase squirrels, they dig, so they stay in really good muscled condition. I also hike with my dogs a lot. I take one or two, sometimes three or four, and I do anywhere from six- to twelve-mile hikes with them through the summer.

When you show the Sammies, how much grooming should be done?

They need to be thoroughly combed, brushed and bathed. A good scrubbing. I like to shampoo them up twice, sometimes if you have a real dirty dog you have to go for three times, usually twice is sufficient. Thoroughly brush and comb them out. The

only trimming I do is around the hocks and the feet area to neaten them up. Other than that, that is it, comb, brush and bathe.

Do you spend extra time at the show doing a little extra grooming?

Yes, I get them all done at home and I try to get to the show an hour or two before I go in the ring and thoroughly go over everybody again.

Please explain how you kennel your dogs and what your set up is like.

very seldom. They just automatically tend to go to the end of the run and go in the gravel area. I like to keep the dogs on decking. It is so much better and healthier for them. It can be washed and disinfected. The gravel can be washed and disinfected. I don't like to see my dogs on concrete. I know what it is like if I stand on concrete all day. It is real harsh on their coats, the coats tend to get stained easier. It is hard on their structure standing on concrete all the time. I like the



Am/Can Ch. Pepsi Kola of Polar Mist.

The kennel runs are decking with gravel at the end of their runs. There is wire down on the ground with gravel on top of it so the dogs can't dig. When the dogs are in the kennel, they lie up on the decking. When they have to go to the bathroom they go down in the gravel and go to the bathroom. Even the puppies do that. Occasionally somebody goes on the decking, but it is

wood decking for them to be kenneled on.

Is there any particular kind of wood that you use for the decking out here?

We have used cedar. It depends on what area of the country you live in. People tend to think of Oregon as rainy. In the valley it is very wet. That is where I grew up and where I started in Sammies. We had cedar

decking there. In Montana where it was drier we had larch decking. It is a very dry climate here and you wouldn't have to use cedar. You get the decking up off the ground so it isn't collecting moisture. You treat it with a sealer. The kennel is entirely covered with a roof. The dogs have four-foot wide runs. They have their houses which are like box areas. You go down the aisle in the center of the decking and you can open the doors into the enclosed sleeping area and there is a door at the other end into the kennel run and gravel area.

Is this basically all outdoors for the dogs or do they have some way to come indoors?

All their runs are covered, there is a roof over the whole thing. Their houses are totally enclosed except for the opening into the run. The sides of the kennel are open.

Do you have your grooming area out by the kennel?

We do all breed grooming here at the boarding kennel, so I have a huge grooming room with all kinds of driers and tables. All the equipment is down there, so all the dogs go down to the grooming room to be groomed. I have a raised tub with a good spray nozzle on it. I just hook the dogs to the wall and wash away.

You operate a boarding and grooming kennel here?

Yes.

Do you find any problems with diseases others might bring in to your own dogs?

There is a much higher risk, yes, even though the kennels are totally separate and quite a way apart, you still can't avoid viruses from your shoes and clothes even though you try to dip feet, you don't always do it. When I have puppies I am much more careful. I have a Purex dip outside the kennel and a spray bottle. I try to be much more conscientious.

One of my litters got hit with parvo last summer. The last time I had puppies that had parvo was in 1980. I am sure it was because of the boarding kennel. The pups had been vaccinated for parvo but they still got it. Last month I had some corona in here. I had a litter and fortunately the puppies were only five weeks old, they had symptoms but they were only 24 hour symptoms. We had some diarrhea and vomiting. Then three of my adults, one after the other, had diarrhea. One of my bitches had a very high fever, like 105 1/2, and terrible diarrhea. The vet said, "Let's test this. By the time we find out what the results are they are probably going to be all over with it." That was the case, but it was corona.

The dogs had all been vaccinated within

the last six months for corona. The funny thing is that two of the bitches that got it have had corona in the past, but there is more than one strain of corona just like there is more than one strain of parvo. Even though they had been vaccinated, they did get it. It was funny because two of the bitches were my older bitches who had had corona and one was a young bitch. Nobody else in the kennel, other than the five-week-old puppies, got it and I have younger dogs in there, so it was funny how it worked.

We do have dogs that come into the boarding kennel and even though they are all vaccinated, we get some with suspicious diarrhea at times. I feel it is corona, unfortunately, the vets around here, unless you request it, don't automatically vaccinate for corona. There has been corona in a portion of dogs that have come into the kennel. There have been some bouts of kennel cough this winter in the boarding kennel. None of my dogs got it, I vaccinate for boratella. As a precaution they get the extra kennel cough vaccine. I do feel that having the boarding kennel does increase the risk to my own dogs, but as my vet says, my dogs are building up all these immunities as well. In the long run they are going to be ahead for having these immunities.

Do you require the dogs you board to have all vaccinations current?

Yes. We have gone around with the vets in this town because they do not vaccinate for boratella or corona. I have called the different vets and talked to them about it. I really wish they would do it. People come from out of town to board and they have all that stuff because they are required to and the vets do it, but in this town for some reason they don't do it.

What advice would you give to other breeders or people who are just starting out in Samoyeds?

I would tell them if they are just starting new and going to buy their first puppy, do not go out and buy the first dog that comes along or that they see. It is almost impossible to look at a Sammy litter and resist a puppy, they are so cute. They should do their homework. Read Sammy books, read the standard, read the history of the breed. Be sure this is the type of dog they want, for one thing. In the boarding kennel we see so many people buy on impulse. They buy a breed that is totally unsuitable for them, for their life-style, because it appeals to them. People should always research the breed thoroughly, make sure it is the breed they want. Then don't go out and buy the first one that comes along. Write or contact several breeders, go to some dog shows, look at the

different ones and ask questions, lots of questions. See if they can find somebody who is willing to talk and work with them. A lot of people will buy a puppy and the breeder doesn't have anything to do with them afterwards, so they are kind of lost and don't have any help. They should try to find a breeder or somebody who is willing to work with them and give them some guidance, information and help.

And remember you usually get what you pay for. If you try to cut corners to save \$100 or \$200 and end up with a mediocre dog, it will cost you a lot more in the long run to finish that dog. The initial cost is slight compared to what you will end up putting into the dog.

Somebody starting out, if they are going to get a foundation, a beginning dog, they need to get the best dog they can find. Structure is probably the most important thing. You can always add pretties, coat and things like that but you should always find a structurally sound dog. That is the most important thing. Just go from there.

Would you recommend a local breed club, national breed club and/or an all breed club?

Yes, definitely. You can learn a lot. All breed clubs are nice because there isn't so much competitiveness. You get into a breed club and sometimes there are lots of jealousies going on. It is an unfortunate part of showing dogs. It gets into people's egos and competitiveness. Some people can deal with that very well and others can't deal with it at all. They shouldn't really be in the dog game if they can't deal with it.

All breed clubs can be fun because everybody has a different breed and you can learn from each other. A lot of times people in other breeds are willing to help you where sometimes in your own breed people aren't willing to help you. They don't want to see you be competition. I know I ran into that myself when I started. (laughter) Everything was a big secret. The grooming was a big secret and this was a big secret. You just had to learn by trial and error. It was very difficult. If you can get somebody to advise you, it is good because it is hard to get started, know what to do and how to do it unless there is some help from somewhere.

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

I am sure there is a lot more they could do. It is difficult. SCA works very slowly. A board gets in and decides to work on something, lots of times it is never completed or a new board comes in and they don't carry through with things that have been started,



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things are dropped. I have seen that happen a lot. Of course, a club is only as good as its members and if you have people who are willing to work that always helps.

The last I heard I was the chairman of the committee for the Register of Merit. That was something that was started here a few years ago. My understanding of the Register of Merit is that the dogs receive this award for producing. If they have produced five champions they have earned a Register of Merit or something of that sort. They were

trying to put too much into it when they did it before. Then a new board came in and they never proceeded with it. That was another thing that was dropped.

There are so many breeds that have this, most of them do and why the Sammy doesn't, I don't know except they never carried through with getting it. It is a good thing to have because I am asked all the time "How many Registers of Merit do your dogs have?" "None, we don't have that." There are lots of dogs and bitches that don't

get the recognition, that have produced fabulously, and because of the way it is set up the recognition is top stud dog or top brood bitch. Maybe that dog's offspring didn't happen to all become champions the same year so it didn't track up enough points.

The way the SCA does it is they add the points the dog has won, not only do you get 25 points for a finished champion, but if they won a major, a Breed, a Group placement or Best in Show, they get points for all of those. So you can take a dog that might have only

produced two champions that year but they did a lot of big winning, they can actually end up being top brood bitch or top stud dog because their two offspring have more points than the dog that produced five champions. That is the way it works with SCA. There are a lot of dogs that don't get the recognition. They aren't top stud dog or top brood bitch but they definitely have produced a lot of champions that have done some nice winning and have been a credit to the breed and there is no recognition for them.

Is that what this committee is going to do, research the different dogs?

Right. What we want to do is present a program, figure out how many champions the dog has to produce to receive a Register of Merit. Say for every five champions they have produced they have received a Register of Merit. So if they have a dog who has produced fifteen champions, they have three Registers of Merit. It is a cognition for top producers. Like I said, sometimes you have a top producer who has never received a top anything. This gives them the recognition that they are a top producer.

How long have you lived in your present location?

It will be three years this summer.

Why did you move back to Oregon from Montana?

For one thing Montana is a huge state. It is not very populated and the distances are extreme to everywhere. I was spending at least half of my life in the car. The economy was very bad in that area. In fact, people were leaving the area because the economy was doing so poorly. We felt we needed to be somewhere a little closer to civilization where we could do better economically and I could be closer to my dog stuff. (laughter)

I had started a boarding kennel in Montana. My dad was living here for a while, I came to visit him in Bend and I really liked the area. I did not want to go back to the valley because I cannot stand the climate over there. It rains all the time or 90 percent of the time. After living in Montana with the drier climate, we got used to that and we really liked the climate here as well because it was even drier. We checked this area out and I had a girlfriend who was the manager of the humane society in this area. I talked to her about a boarding kennel here. She said they needed a good one desperately, all there was was an old boarding kennel that wasn't very good. It didn't have a very good reputation and they could use a really good one, so that is what we decided to do - come here and put in a well-run clean

operation. That is how we ended up down here.

How many children do you have and are they living at home?

I have two children, and no, they are not living at home, thank God. (laughter) I have a son and a daughter. My son is 24 and my daughter was 22 yesterday. They are both off on their own.

Were they ever involved with the dogs or are they?

Not really, they did a little bit. I had a 4-H class for years and they were in 4-H with the dogs. It was a dog 4-H. They went to shows with me at times. They did a little bit but they had no real interest there. Both the kids at times had things happen that might have gotten them enthused had they been inclined that way. Many times, since I did this totally by myself, I would take a dog and a bitch to show and more than once I had Winners Dog and Winners Bitch. I would be frantically trying to find somebody and lots of times I would grab one of my kids to take one of the dogs in. I would give them the one I didn't want to win. I would take the one in that I wanted to go Best of Winners because there were more points or something. More times than not, the kid won with the one I didn't want to win. So they beat mom and they would feel really good about that. If anything would have gotten them enthused it would have been a couple of nice wins like that where they felt good about beating mom, but neither one of them are very much interested in it. No, they are not into dogs.

You are married now?

Yes.

What about your husband, is he involved in the dogs at all?

He is the pooper scooper, chief kennel boy for the boarding kennel and builder. He used to be a contract builder, so we built our houses and kennels. He has always built the kennels. He never really had anything to do with the dogs at all. He would build my kennels for me but that was the extent of it. He never wanted his name on the papers, nothing whatsoever.

I started in the grooming business as a way to support my dogs, to pay for showing my dogs, having the Sammies. Otherwise there was no way I would have been able to do it, so I went to grooming school, learned to groom and started a grooming business. When we moved to Montana I continued with the grooming business and I was getting requests all the time (there were no boarding kennels at all in the area) if I would board dogs, so he built me a boarding kennel and I started boarding and grooming.

Anyway, I turned my little business into

such a success that all he does now is take care of the boarding kennel. He no longer builds houses except our own. He has built all the kennels. We are putting up a second kennel building right now for the boarding business. It has turned out to be such a success that we have to expand. We have only been open two years.

Do you board both dogs and cats?

Yes, we have a cattery and all breed grooming. I no longer have to do the grooming, we have a full-time groomer now. Before I was the chief groomer.

Do you have extra kennel help?

Yes. We have a couple of gals who work part-time. They come in and help out at the kennel.

Are you and your husband able to get away together?

Yes, at times. Not a lot. He never has been interested, he is proud of the dogs and the things they have done and that I have done with the dogs, but he has never had any interest in dog shows. He has gone a couple of times with me, but he finds them quite boring. I guess unless you are involved with it, it is kind of boring once you have seen the dogs. There is not a whole lot to do there because the dogs are all doing the same thing over and over. He really has no interest in that. He loves animals. He was raised on a farm, a dairy. He has always had a dog. He has a nice way with them. You have to love animals and have a feel for them to run a boarding kennel. You just couldn't do it otherwise, it is a lot of work and the dogs know, too. The dogs will feel comfortable with you and respond to you, you have to be able to like animals and understand them.

How have the dogs affected your life-style? Any benefits or drawbacks of having dogs that you have seen over the years?

The drawbacks are sad things that happen, dogs dying, losing puppies for various reasons. You feel so helpless. I had one litter that I lost to herpes virus. Of course, until they were all dead, we didn't know what it was. That was a real sad thing to see healthy, thriving puppies die one at a time, each day a new one. There have been some real heartaches. Watching a nine- or ten-week-old puppy die with parvo.

Benefits - I have enjoyed the dogs thoroughly. They have been a lot of fun. We wouldn't be in the business we are in today if it hadn't been for the dogs, they started the whole thing. It just kind of snowballed, built up. The vehicles you drive, the cars are because of the dogs. The clothes you buy are because of the dogs. I have gotten to see all over the country, different states,

going to Nationals and meeting lots of people. I have gotten to see lots of sightseeing things people make special trips to see just because they are around an area where a dog show is. I have met lots of nice people and formed some nice, close friendships. Those are a lot of the pluses.

Do you have any other hobbies or interests outside the dogs?

I like to ski. I like to cross-country ski. I do both. I prefer to cross-country ski. This country is wonderful for it. We have all these mountains and hundreds of miles of trails.

The winter here is great. Being where the high desert meets the mountains, we hardly get any snow here at the house. We get a little bit on the ground. You can drive ten miles and you are in six feet of snow. So it is close and lots of fun. They maintain the trails, this is a big recreation area, tourist area. There are lakes, rivers, water falls, mountains and they maintain the trails very well, so there are lots of recreation things to do. I have always loved the outdoors and I like to do a lot of outdoor things. In the summer I do a lot of high mountain hiking. I

enjoy doing those things.

The dogs can fit right in.

Right. The dogs get to go. Not all the time. I take the dogs cross-country skiing but there are areas where the dogs aren't allowed and there are areas where the dogs are allowed. One thing about taking the dogs, they have a tendency, especially when you are going downhill, to run in front of you right in the ski trail. It is fun to take them out in the snow, though at times I don't want to bother with them because they get in the way. They do like to run in the trail and they



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screw up the ski trail. I enjoy hiking with them, they love to go, they chase squirrels and race up and down the trail. They have a good time. Of course, I only take dogs that behave and come when I call them. I have had some dogs that would take off chasing a squirrel or a deer and you wouldn't see them for hours, so I take dogs that are very obedient and respond when you tell them something.

Is there anything that we haven't covered or any issues that you would like to address?

I think we have talked about everything.

Do you have any pet peeves?

One of my pet peeves is some of the competitiveness with the people. Some of the back-stabbing that is done, rumors. The rumors I hear sometimes are things I have personal knowledge of and I know the true facts, it just blows my mind some of the things people come up with. It is usually a dog that is a known dog, a dog that is winning or a dog that is producing, any little thing that comes along whether it is a dysplastic offspring or something, it is blown so totally out of proportion. People don't look at the whole picture. If it is So-and-so's champion down the street that no one has ever heard of and it produced a dysplastic dog, nobody would ever know or hear about, but if it is a known dog the whole country hears about it. Then all of a sudden this poor dog has a reputation of siring all these dysplastic dogs. Nobody looks at the whole picture of how many dogs this dog has produced. What is the percentage? A lot of times, the rumor just boils down to plain jealousy. A competitor started it or people don't like the owner of the dog. It all goes back to jealousy. You know you are on top when there are all these rumors going around about you or your dogs, you have slept with the judges or your dog has produced everything under the sun. It is crazy.

A lot of people get along. We are real fortunate here in the Northwest. Most everybody in this area pretty much respects each other. We have one gal in particular who is pretty widely known as a back-stabber. She is real nice to your face and says terrible things behind your back about you and/or your dogs to the next person. I don't like that sort of thing.

Is she a Sammy person?

Yes, but the majority of people congratulate each other. Maybe you don't particularly like that person's dogs, but most people are pretty nice and supportive. There are always a few who can't stand it. We all take our turns. Not everybody can win all the time. Some people win one day and some the other day. That is the way it is. Every-

body needs to accept that and really shouldn't be in it if it bothers them and affects them so badly that they have to turn vicious and nasty and try to hurt other people.

I have known people who have been

person needs help and it is nice to get to know somebody in your area. It is a wonder this guy will even go back to another dog show. The person was very rude to him, very abrupt and then totally criticized his clothes,



Polar Mist Jet Set'r.

totally driven out of dogs because of this. Who needs this? I know of a novice person who just recently went to his very first dog show. I told him of a breeder in the area, his dog was a grandson of this person's dog. I told him to introduce himself and tell them he had a descendant of their dog. A novice

the way he showed the dog, etc. This was his first dog show! There is a way to tell people things to give them help and advice without criticizing them. He called me up and was really upset. He said, "I don't need to be talked to that way."

Breeders and people who have been

around a while need to be a little more considerate and try to help new people. Maybe they have caught you at a bad time and you are busy trying to get into the ring, tell them you would love to talk, but come see you when you are finished.

Another thing I don't like is judges who are rude and abrupt to exhibitors. I know of novice people who don't even care to show a dog again because of the ill treatment they have received from a brusque judge. Some of the judges look like they hate what they are doing. They have a scowl on their face and they are real short with you. I know of an incident, a friend of mine was there, where the judge had two of his novice exhibitors in tears. He was so abrupt with them and upset them so much, they came out of the ring crying. Judges, if they are going to judge, should act as though they like what they are doing or they like the dogs instead

of being short and crabby.

I also don't like judges who can't see past the front of their entry, the first dogs in line. I have been at the back of the line before when the judge sends you around to watch the gaiting and he turns with the front half and he has never seen you. More than once I have been in that situation. You feel like shouting, "Hey, remember us back here, you are not even looking at us, you never have looked at us."

I have watched judges watching down and backs and never look at the dog down and back, they are gazing into the next ring, they are somewhere else. It is not cheap to show a dog. There are entry fees and lots of times you are traveling, staying overnight. It is an expensive hobby and you put too much time into getting that dog ready to go into the ring to have a judge who doesn't even look at your dog or give you the consid-

eration or the time to really evaluate your dog because he is disinterested, he doesn't care or he already has his mind made up he is going to put up So-and-so because he knows him. Judges need to pay a little bit more attention to their entry and their exhibitors and try to make people feel they are getting their money's worth. That is another thing that really bothers me when you go to all the expense and work and then not to even be looked at and ill treatment of exhibitors, especially new people by both judges and established breeders.

Is there anything else that you would like to add?

I could probably think of things all day long if I thought long enough. I really can't think of anything right off hand.

Thank you for the interview. I appreciate your letting me come out and I enjoyed it. •

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