

Back to the Basics

*R.H. Ward
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THE world was to become highly organized, technical and robotized in George Orwell's "1984." Have we achieved this? Not quite! However, we seem to be approaching it rather rapidly.

Now in the dog game, we put pedigrees on computers, enter dog shows by computer and create morasses of detail.

To quote the old U.S. Army's "Infantry Drill Regulations," now obsolete by printing, but not by principle, the first line was QUIBBLING OVER MINUTIAE IS FAILURE TO GRASP THE WHOLE.

The plethora of breed standards, revisions, seminars and question making to inform exhibitors, breeders and judges, as to just what a dog is, misses the basic plan.

The basic plan of nature of 90 percent of our breeds of dog is very simple and the thread of it can be seen in all of the breed standards. Try reading breed standards and omit the name of the breed. The similarities are:

Length of leg described as 50 to 55 percent of height at the withers; height at the withers approximates length of body; ribs well sprung, giving more ample space for heart and lungs; well ribbed up with strong, slightly arched, compact loin; shoulder well laid back for good extension; hocks well let down (usually one-third as high as hip height); head, stop not too pronounced and divided equally, i.e., distance from nose to stop equal to stop to occiput; head in parallel planes, that is muzzle and top of skull are parallel; back level; withers highest point of back; well-rounded croup sloping at approximately 30 percent; line from withers to front legs and feet a vertical line; teeth, scissors bite or level; tail an extension of the spine, neither up nor down; coat, neither harsh nor too soft, must be weather resisting and double with soft undercoat and harsher guard hair; stifle well bent and a line extending it will intersect the ground at a 45-degree angle; eyes, dark for preference; almond-

shaped eyes (only the Shetland Sheepdog Standard properly states EYE RIMS ALMOND SHAPED - all eyes are round); pigment, dark, flesh-colored eyes and lips a fault; temperament, reserved but friendly; feet, thick and hard, not splayed or thin; pasterns springy and firm, slightly let down; ears, thick, strong, attached high on the head with the inner attachment on a level of the skull.

Items of structure that occur, but are not in the standards:

Length of the head approximates the length of the neck; length of the head equals distance from withers to hip and length of the head equals distance from withers to upper thigh or mid-gaskin.

A great item that occurs in one standard ... The Standard Schnauzer - viewed from the side, a line extended on the line of the neck through the line of the stifle is straight ... author noted that when this line is straight, the animal has enough neck to move properly and also exudes style.

Conclusions: To be able to breed, select and/or judge dogs, and we are really all judges every time we look at dogs, one must know these basics.

You do not learn these basics by observing only your own dogs. You

must watch and study other breeds with which you are competing. I read the entire AKC Book of Breed Standards once a year, and have been reading standards for over 30 years and still find items which were not apparent the first 20 or 30 times. For example, we all know that on a Samoyed a line from the nose through both corners of the eye to the outer base of the ear creates much of the Samoyed expression, but did you ever think what this same structure does to other breeds? It makes 90 percent of them proper just as it does to our Samoyeds. The wider or narrower the skull, the more change one gets on expression. The Saint Bernard, the Whippet and the Great Dane have the same alignment, but different expressions.

So you see along with "kennel blindness," "breed blindness" occurs with greater frequency.

To avoid misunderstanding with the other ten or fifteen percent of the breeds which do not fit this in total let us state that created or manufactured breeds such as some Toys, some Terriers, some Hounds and some Working/Herding have been altered in leg, body length and even to single coats by breeders' whims, but not by Mother Nature. •

The Neglected Dog

Toenails, Ears and Teeth

*Don and Dot Hodges
Poynette, Wisconsin*

MENTION the neglected dog and we conjure up visions of matted, emaciated creatures with sorrowful eyes. Most of us try to maintain our dogs in prime condition with proper nutrition, exercise and grooming. Successful breeding and exhibiting require such care. However, many of us acquire more dogs over time

than we have resources to care for. Eventually certain chores are let slide for later and later. Some people simply never think of these items and some simply cannot perform them. We refer to toenails, ears and teeth - always bad in the truly neglected dog but too often in need of care even in the otherwise well-maintained dog.

Fortunately, Sams do not have serious problems with ears like some flop-eared breeds, but they can become infected with mites or develop problems secondary to accumulation of oil, wax and dirt. These problems

are most likely in warm, humid weather. It doesn't take much to check the ears periodically and swab them out with tissue or washcloth. If infections of mites or bacteria develop, your vet can provide you with medications that will eliminate them, but they must be applied diligently. Don't be afraid to use soap and water in the ear canal when bathing. With the upright ear and open canal, your dog will shake out the water and air circulation is adequate to dry it. This may not be advisable for dogs with drop ears.

Problems with toenails and teeth are more prevalent, and although conditions must usually be chronic to cause lasting damage, it is easy to allow these conditions to develop. Toenails in most domestic dogs must be trimmed back, whereas wild canids usually keep them worn down through normal activity over rugged terrain. If the nails are allowed to grow out for long periods, the toes may be twisted and distorted, the foot splayed and the pastern pushed back. In our experience, many people either cannot control their dogs sufficiently to trim their nails or cannot bring themselves to do an adequate job because of fear of drawing a little blood or causing some discomfort. There are a couple of types of nail trimmers that can be used, but your dog probably won't like either one. Even if you don't hit the quick, the toe is easily compressed or pinched. We prefer an electric grinder and, so far, we get less resistance to care of the nails. It may take a little longer at first, but it produces a better job. The grinding wheel leaves a smoother surface and it can be controlled to remove excess nail in small amounts. Be careful or you may lose some of your own nail or even a little skin! After you both get used to it, the job will go much faster.

THE dog's teeth are probably the most neglected of these three areas. Fortunately, the dog's mouth is very clean and not as subject to problems as the primate mouth. Most of the problem can be traced to the commercial diet. While this may be an excellent way to feed your dog, it results in hard plaque forming on the flat surfaces of the teeth. If this material is not removed periodically with some kind of scraper or a session with a good hard bone or chew toy, the

gums begin to show signs of irritation and eventually your dog has a human problem – periodontal disease. The gums recede and the teeth loosen and decay results from formation of crevices where food may collect. Dogs kept primarily as house pets may fare better than kennel dogs simply because they get more chew toys or bones. We might emphasize that there are a number of judges who notice and disapprove of uncleaned teeth. Dental

scrapers are available through some supply catalogs or you can get them at local dental supply houses. If you are the boss and not your dog, you shouldn't have any more trouble with this job than any other grooming job. If he's the boss, we make no guarantees!

Check your dog's toenails, ears and teeth. Is he really the picture of health, or a neglected dog? •

Hindlimb Assembly

Betty McHugh
Oshawa, Ontario

THIS article deals with the hindlimb assembly. The principle functions of this assembly are propulsion of the dog and support.

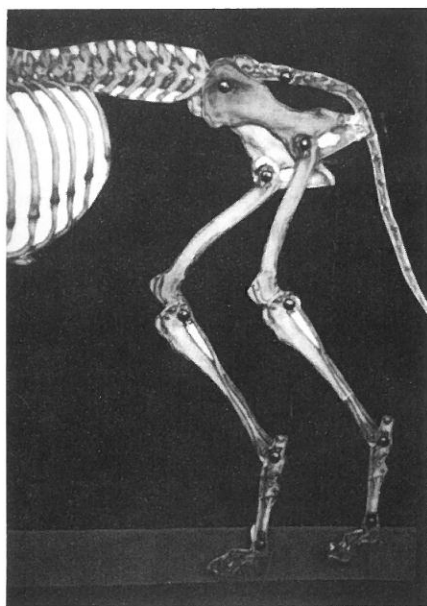
Let's start with a quick review of the ideal structure of the hindlimb assembly. The pelvis should be the same length as the scapula and humerus, and the most efficient angle for maximum propulsion is at 30 degrees to the horizontal. The femur meets the pelvis at an angle of 90 degrees if all is perfect and is the same length as the pelvis, scapula and humerus. The fibula and tibia meet the femur at an angle of 90 degrees, and if our dogs possess an ideal front, should be one-third longer than the length of the femur. The tarsus, or hock joint, forms an angle of 125 degrees with the fibula-tibia in the ideal and the metatarsus or hock is at an angle of 90 degrees to the ground when our dog finds his static balance. The length of the hock from the tip to the ground is the same or a little less than the length of the pelvis, but NEVER more.

The pelvis provides a base for the movement of the hindlimbs, protection and support for the organs contained in the pelvis and is the birth canal. When the angle of the pelvis is at 30 degrees, the head of the femur rest in the recessed acetabulum, with the weight bearing surface supported by

the thickened border of the ilium. When the hind leg is extended, the forward thrust is transmitted also through the thickened ridge of the ilium. IF the angle is altered as illustrated in the photograph, then the direction of forces is changed and may come at an area not as well suited for weight-bearing. This is true when the pelvis is flat, or at an angle of twenty degrees.

You will note that the picture illustrates two different problems, which would not be present in one animal. This was taken this way, so that you could compare two conditions and the problems that they cause in a more simplified manner.

In the foreground is shown the FLAT pelvis, which, as mentioned before, is at an angle of twenty degrees to the horizontal. In this position, the overall length of the dog is longer, when measured from the sternum to the pin bone (the most posterior part of the dog, except the tail). The dog is longer because of the position of the pelvis, and because the flattening of the pelvis causes the lumbar area to also flatten and become longer in length. You will note, also, that the dog stands with the legs behind the body. When this dog moves, the hindlimb assembly will function in a position to the rear of the dog rather than under him. Quite often the carry through behind this dog is mistaken for good rear movement or drive. The arc of the hindlimb which must be in time with the forelimb opposite diago-



nal will not be any greater than with a normal pelvis (30 degrees), just in a different position. The head of the femur will function, as mentioned before, on an area of the acetabulum that is relatively shallow, and the force of the propulsion will be carried to the flattened lumbar area, which will not have the flexibility needed for the most efficient movement. The column of support is well behind the dog, leaving a large part of the back unsupported. In Dachshunds, this is responsible for the cause of back problems. This type of pelvis has a definite predisposition to hip dysplasia. Puppies have been known to go through a stage starting at about three months, when a normal pelvis becomes flat. This sometimes corrects in the adult. An indication that the puppy is in this stage of growth is the sudden appearance of a "pot belly." This is caused by the change in the lumbar area, and the sagging of the loin muscles and is often thought to be caused by worms. This seems to be related to the type of Samoyed that is of the short-legged family, and this puppy is a candidate for hip problems. However, I have known this type of dog to be certified clear of hip dysplasia as an adult, but he would never be classified as an excellent. This is a problem that is **DEFINITELY IN OUR BREED.**

ANOTHER condition illustrated is the steep pelvis, which is at an angle of 35 to 45 degrees. You will notice that the dog is physi-

cally shorter because of the angle of the pelvis, and because this causes the lumbar area to become arched. Thus we have our short-back syndrome. This dog stands with legs well up under his body and the angle of the hock is always less than 90 degrees to the ground. When this dog moves, the movement will be well under the body, but as before, will not change the distance of the arc nor increase his driving power. Quite the contrary will be the case. In this position, the hindlimbs will certainly interfere with the front limbs. This dog will be forced to move on an angle to avoid interference with front limbs. This is called side wheeling and will cause a loss of efficiency. The direction of force will be up into the air instead of along the vertebrae column. Because of this, this type of dog would not be a

good candidate for a working sled dog or an obedience dog that would be required to jump. This is not a problem generally seen in the Samoyed, and it is also not usually a candidate for hip dysplasia. The breeds where the steep pelvis is commonly found (sighthounds for one) usually have a pelvis that is shorter than the scapula, humerus and femur.

The angle of the croup, determined by the slope of the sacral and first four coccygeal vertebrae, determines the tailset only, and has nothing to do with movement.

Any reduction in the size of the pelvis, through breeding practices, must be discouraged because this will cause serious problems with whelping and increase the number of cesarean sections. •

Divergent Types

*Jeanne Nonhof
Waldo, Wisconsin*

THE following is an unpublished column I wrote at the start of '84. Upon review, it is pretty close, but I have been forced to make a few changes.

Here I go – out on the limb again. I'm definitely not the ultimate authority, but I have been around for longer than I care to reiterate, and here are some of my observations from this year (1983) as compared to ten to twenty years ago.

Some of our dogs, seemingly bred to run on teams, are doing well in the show ring. Some of the Sams bred for the show ring are doing well in weight pulls and on the trail. While there are divergent types, unless someone goes off with tunnel vision and sees the Samoyed as a one-purpose dog rather than the all-around fellow that he is, the breed remains within the written standard.

Breeders are very conscious of hip dysplasia, eye problems and dwarfism in their breedings. I predict (1984) that dwarfism will be controlled shortly, thanks mainly to get-

ting it in the open and the research done by true Sam fans in cooperation with the University of Pennsylvania. (1985 – I was wrong! There are still those sweeping this problem under the rug and breeding known carriers. May they roast forever.)

If we can all be conscious of type and structure instead of breeding to our friend's dog or to the big winner of the day, we can indeed build the better Samoyed. At the last large shows I attended with the time to really watch, even in the specials ring I had a very hard time finding a single-tracking rear. That's bad enough, but fronts were the real problem. Fronts coming at you have been a problem in his breed for as long as I can remember, but I seem to recall more good moving rear ends ten years ago than we're seeing now. Profile movement is vastly improved, but type has frequently gone down the tubes in achieving this.

Samoyed rears should not move like Malamute rears and vice versa. The breeds have different purposes, the Samoyed being an "all purpose" dog and the Mal being a freight puller. The Samoyed did whatever he had to

do to survive in the arctic, which is why he is a medium-sized dog, neither too big nor too small. Mals' rears can move wide. Samoyeds must have a tendency to single-track "according to our standard" ... if anyone is reading it lately. Shouldn't we all pull it out and sit down for an hour or so to study it?

As to type, we seem to be having a problem holding type while breeding in good movement. Round eyes and small squinty eyes are a problem. We're seeing a few bite problems – more than in the past, I think, and a few with weak underjaws. Also large ears which flop when the dog moves, many set incorrectly on the side of the head. We're seeing all kinds of pastern problems (down and floppy mainly) and some flat feet. Also, some wonderfully thick, tight hairy feet.

Type seems to be all over the map. Note please that a Samoyed is never racy. That was put in the standard for a reason. NO shelly Sams, please, with miles of leg and no body depth.

We seem to be seeing a number of dogs lately who are "long in the loin" area. This is an area where our standard is very specific. WE are going to have to watch that very carefully.

Sometimes we're seeing artificial-colored noses in the show ring and Samoyeds with "plucked" ears. C'mon, Sammies are supposed to have fuzzy ears. We're seeing sculptured coats and necks created with the thinning shears. Judges are going to have to be more astute concerning all of these things. Samoyeds are not to be penalized for "snow noses."

Legs are to be 55 percent of height and our standard calls for a body just off square. Bitches are allowed to be a bit longer, but here again, let's not take it to the extreme. Some are beginning to look like freight trains. What seems to be firm in our present-day Sams? Well, I haven't seen a Sam in the ring which looked like it should be in a different breed ring. I have seen some outside of the shows who looked like white German Shepherds.

COATS seem to be in good shape – some getting a little Afghan-like, though. I'm a bit sorry to see the biscuit gradually disappearing. I prefer my own dogs to be white, but biscuit does add character and I don't mind seeing it in other people's Sams. It is all in what you get

used to. The freckles on the muzzle can be intriguing.

Generally, pigment is pretty decent, toplines are not bad as a rule, although dogs who are high in the rear seem to be appearing with more regularity than before. Large but not oversized bone seems to be the norm. Size continues to be at both extremes and it will probably ever be thus. The only way to stabilize this would be disqualifications at both ends of the size requirements as the Siberian Husky people have done. However, I kind of like the variety and don't really want to

see my Sammies like peas in a pod or a line-up of tin soldiers.

What seems to me to be great cause for celebration is that the Sammies I have seen in the last year or so seem to be smiling in their hearts. We seem to be seeing less of the temperament problems of four or five years ago. Hurrah for everybody!

So, while certain features of the Samoyed may have their ups and downs, this ancient breed is what he is and will always tend to move back to the norm no matter what fad breeders follow. •

Samoyed People

The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
Dorothy and Maxie Moore
SNOWDEN
Benton, Arkansas

This interview was conducted at the home of Dot and Maxie Moore in July 1985 by Brenda Abbott.

How did you get started in Samoyeds?

Dot: Well, our first Sammy was a little female that a serviceman brought back from England. We bought the little female and named her Samoa. We kept her about nine months and someone stole her out of our backyard. We didn't have papers on her, but she was a purebred Sammy. After we lost her, we started looking for a Samoyed, but at that time there were almost none anywhere in the area. All of this must have been around 1960 because we got our first registered Sammy in 1962. We bought "Samo" when he was nine weeks old.

Maxie: Samo went Breed over three champions at this second show under Marie Myers. She loved to make little noises and her favorite saying was, "You get the tail up; I'll get the ears up!" She would make these little noises and Samo would just come unglued.

Dot: This dog, our first registered Samoyed, was Ch. Samo Silver-Glo of

Snowden. His dam was Star of the North II and his sire was Tico. We called him Samo, and put a kennel name of "Snowden" on him, although we weren't planning on breeding or showing. We had never been to a dog show when we got him, so we started out. We showed him 37 times during his life and he went Best of Breed 34 times, and I believe he had 7 Group placements, including firsts.

Did you breed from this dog?

Dot: Yes, when Samo was almost a year old, I decided I would like to have a female. Samo was strictly Maxie's dog.

I cried the entire 25 miles home from the airport because she was so ugly, and I was so disappointed. I was expecting a beautiful pup such as Samo had been. She was so ugly that I made no pictures of her until she was eighteen months old, and then she just blossomed. She turned into a very beautiful Sammy, who had five Bests of Breed and two Group placings. She would have had more, except that we were showing Samo at the same time, and Samo would go Best of Breed, and Zanna, Best of Opposite. She won her Bests of Breed and Group wins when we would leave Samo at home.

Her name was Ch. Misti Zanna of Snowden. Her sire was Ch. Elkenglo's Dash O'Silver. Her dam was Arka Nishia of Arbee. Those two

dogs were our foundation stock.

Do you know how many litters you have bred?

Dot: No, not without checking the records, but I would say no more than twenty.

Do you have any idea how many champions you bred?

Dot: No, but I have personally finished 27. That is a total for Sammies and Chows, but we have probably bred that many more which have been finished by other people who bought them.

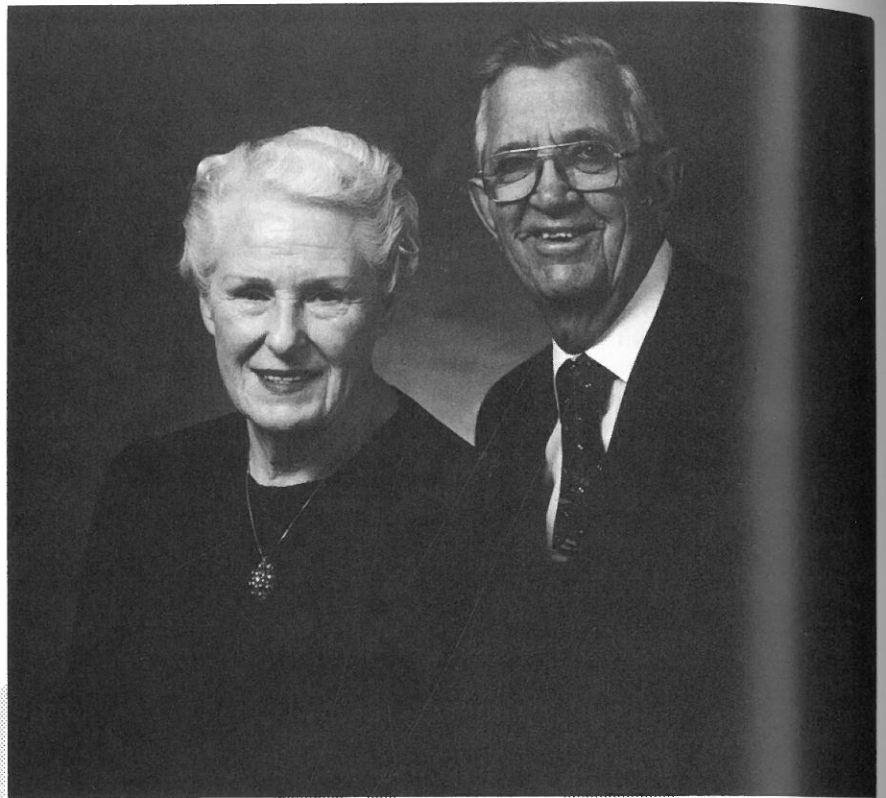
Which dog do you consider to have been your biggest winner?

Dot: I guess Samo was the Sammy winner, although the dog that we got from Shirley Curzon did probably about as much winning. We got Dandi in 1969 and he did a lot of winning, including Group placings. He also was the number two stud dog in 1978; this was Ch. Ker-Lu's Snowden Dandi, who was out of Am/Can Ch. Ker-Lu's Sunniray of Kobe and Hillhead's Tami. He had five champions finish that year, although I didn't write it up or send it in. I'm not a person who does things like that, and I have never really advertised our dogs. One lady who bred her bitch to him had three champions out of her one litter, and she was the one who wrote this up and sent it in.

Could you tell me about the dogs you have imported from England?

Dot: We imported two dogs from England and two from Canada. Then we have bought several others that other people imported. Eng/Am Ch. Fairvilla White Imp was the first one that we imported. She was the most beautiful Sammy female I have ever seen, and I don't say that just because I owned her. Ch. Fairvilla White Imp was an English champion and had six English Challenge Certificates when I bought her. Her sire was Eng. Ch. Lealsam's Snowgleem and her dam was Eng. Ch. Silver Imp of Sword Dale. Another dog we imported was Samovar Krystyna and we still have her. Her sire was Eng. Ch. Grenadier of Crensa, England's top winning dog in all breeds. He had over 40 CC's. Her dam is English Ch. Snowcryst Fair Madonna, who finished her title at Crufts.

Then we had Ch. Star of Kobe that we bought from her importer, Dr. Waller. Her sire was Eng. Ch. Sunny



Max and Dot Moore, 50th anniversary picture.

Star of Kobe, her dam, Silver Snowflake. Then we bought Sworddale Silver Citrine, bred by Mrs. Ross out of Sworddale Snow Lion and Sworddale Silver Rosanna. About a year ago, we acquired Novaskaya Silva Starblaze, better known as "Frosty." His sire is Novaskaya Silva King, his dam, Novaskaya Silva Starinda.

How did you get interested in importing these dogs?

Dot: Well, I just actually like the English type of Sammy very much. I had lost Zanna and was looking for another female to replace her. I have an English friend who is a judge and I wrote to her saying I was looking for a good female and if she ran across one to let me know. She wrote that she had found one that was for sale, but hadn't asked the price or anything. That was up to me and the owner. I got on the phone and called and we agreed on a price and the date to ship. I still have her daughter, her granddaughter and her great-granddaughter today. Her daughter is Ch. Fairvilla White Imp of Snowden, her daughter is Ch. Snowden's Sweet Little Sheba, and then her daughter is Snowden's

One in a Million, and she has five points on her championship.

What did you call the first imported bitch?

Dot: We called her "Big Sally" (laughter) and the daughter we call "Little Sally"! They were calling her "Sally" when we brought her over, and then after she had puppies, we had a little Sally. We only had her a year and a week and we lost her with an infected uterus. After she had the pups, she died when they were only four weeks old. That litter was sired by Ch. Ker-Lu's Snowden Dandi. We kept Ch. Fairvilla White Imp of Snowden out of that litter and we bred her to Snowden Kristis Dash'O Dandi. They produced Ch. Snowden's Miss Personality and Ch. Snowden's Sweet Little Sheba. We bred Sheba to Novaskaya Khan Lafay, an English dog brought back to the States by Lt. Col. Larry Townsend when he returned from a tour of duty in England.

Everything I have is English bloodline; I have used some American lines like the Drayalene, but they are all gone today. Everything that I have now is entirely English bloodlines.



Ch. Fairvilla White Imp of Snowden, "Little Sally."

Maxie: We actually started out with the Drayalene line and then went to the English.

Dot: Yes, we did breed Zanna once to Ch. Shaloon of Drayalene; we had five or six puppies in that litter. Then I took one of their daughters to Canada and bred to Am/Can Ch. Sunniray of Kobe, but I didn't get any puppies. Another English dog that we have is Ker-Lu's Snowlad of Whitewisp. His mother was bred in England and then shipped over here to whelp the litter. He only needs a major to finish.

Has your breeding program been based on linebreeding, inbreeding or outcrossing?

Dot: I don't like to do inbreeding. I do a little linebreeding, but it is

marginal.

Do you, then, primarily outcross?

Dot: No, as long as I stay within the English bloodlines ... I am doing linebreeding, but not like half brother and half sister or anything like that. I tend to do uncle to niece, but not close linebreeding. I think in inbreeding you run too great a risk of getting bad dogs. To me, your chances are better for that than for getting your exceptionally good dogs, which once in awhile you can get. When you outcross, you really don't know what you are going to get. You just throw it all in the bag and hope for the best.

Have you ever trained for obedience with your Samoyeds?

Dot: Yes, Maxie put Samo through to his CD. We worked Zanna

and she could have gotten hers, but I never did put her through. Then I had Ch. Snowden's Miss Personality, who was a granddaughter of Ch. Fairvilla White Imp, and we lost her last year to cancer of the kidney. I had put her through obedience and she was tops in her class; we never went for the CD, but she could have easily. She was one of the sweetest dogs I have ever had.

Have you had a favorite dog in all these years?

Dot: yes, Old Mamma Zanna, Big Sally and Little Sally, and then Percy. Percy was my dream.

Describe her for me.

Dot: She was a little larger than most people like. When she went into the show ring, the judges either put her Best of Winners or at the tail of the line. There was no in between. If they liked a big, beautiful dog, they put her up. I finished her with a five-point major by going Best of Winners over 46 Sammies, but if the judge didn't like her ... She had a tremendous coat and just sparkled in the ring. She moved so well you just didn't feel her on the lead. She just seemed to float around the ring, and you never had to move a foot, because when she stood, she would walk into a perfect stance. Big Sally was like that also; you never moved a foot. We were Huntsville, Alabama once and I was showing Big Sally. The judge worked me, and worked me and worked me! I thought this thing was probably rigged; he must have been supposed to put up somebody else and I showed up and he was waiting for me to make a mistake. He finally gave me Winners Bitch and Best of Winners, and I guess it was five or six years later that some woman who lived in Huntsville recognized me. I was at a Malamute specialty with some friends, and she asked me if I had shown this Sammy in Huntsville several years ago when the judge worked me and worked me. I said, "Yes," and she said, "Have you ever wondered why?" I said I certainly had and she said, "Well, I was talking to that judge later and your dog made a lasting impression on both of us. He said he had never seen a dog move that well, and he just couldn't get enough of watching her move." I said, "Well, I'll tell you what, he just about wore this old lady out!" (laughter) She was a joy to show and all you

had to do was get into the ring with her and hang onto the lead.

What advice would you give someone today who would like to get into the breed and begin showing?

Dot: To wait and buy a good dog. Don't just decide you want a Sammy and go buy the first one you can get, which is what many people do, and then they regret it. Then, train your dog with love. I think whether you get a male or a female is up to the individual, because, to me, it doesn't make a bit of difference. The only consideration would be that someone should have the facilities for taking care of a female in season. To learn to handle a dog, I would advise that someone go to shows and watch professional handlers and then join a club with conformation classes. Attend those and talk to people who handle their own dogs. It can be done. You see better dogs put up over yours occasionally, but

that is not hard to take. I usually feel the other dog deserved the win because of the way my dog acted, or the other fellow outhandled me.

Have you ever considered judging?

Dot: I do judge at fun matches occasionally, but I would much rather show my dogs than judge. I'll never go out to really judge. I have judged the Working, Non-Sporting and now Herding Groups at matches, but I really don't like to judge. I would rather show my dog, and if they can get anyone else to judge, I prefer that.

What litter, overall, do you consider to be your best?

Dot: I would say Fairvilla White Imp bred to Dandi. I kept two out of the litter and finished both of them. Then I suppose the other best litter would be Samo and Zanna, because we had four finish out of one litter. I finished one whole litter of Chows, and

also have a Best in Show on a Chow.

Are there any special highlights or big moments in your life with your dogs?

Dot: Yes, several. The first, of course, was when we finished our first champions, Samo, then almost as great with Zanna, because she was so ugly as a pup, and we had given up all hopes for her. Then to see her go on to be a Group winner was thrilling. All of my Group wins have been fun, and especially my Best in Show. Our most recent honor was to receive the Arkansas Kennel Club's annual award for outstanding achievement and service with dogs. It can be awarded to anyone in Arkansas, not just a club member. When we received the award in 1984, it came as a total surprise, and we feel very honored to have been awarded this recognition.

Thank you very much.

You're welcome. •

Be Prepared When You Race!

*Jack and Amelia Price
Commack, New York*

MIDDLE distance racing (50 miles or so) usually takes the fat off ex-handlers real fast, but in my particular case, my dogs lost the weight from hauling my chubby carcass around. Driving dogs in middle distance races requires the use of a dog sled. All mid-distance races are on snow.

When at all possible, borrow the sled from some friend you don't mind losing (any dog show person would do fine). It is best to be a "full bed" sled, sprint sleds can be used, but full beds are more comfortable, and with all the necessary gear you must carry, it still has ample room to carry a dog if one goes down on you. With the sled, you should also borrow a full-sized dog (equipment) bag. This we will fill with assorted goodies and gear to take with us when we trek into the wilderness.

Dogs should have their regular

diet during and prior to the race. At Lewis Run, a friend of mine made a great concoction of assorted vitamins, minerals and nutrients designed to get the most out of his dogs during the race. It was very successful. It sure got the most out of his dogs! His dogs had one of the worst cases of the "hibijibis" I have ever seen. Feed your dogs consistently before, during, and after the race to avoid this problem. Most race rules call for X amount of food for dogs to be carried as emergency rations for the duration of the race. If you feed your dogs a combination of dry and moist foods, prepare to take just the dry food on the race. The moist food is too messy, and unless you get lost for a few days, you won't need to feed the dogs.

Emergency rations for the driver is let to the driver's own personal tastes. They usually check, so it is smart to carry something that has real nutritional value. I carry a wine skin filled with Taylor Cream Sherry in moderate temperatures and B & B when something more potent is need-

ed. Some drivers carry fruit juices, etc. I find these freeze too fast! If I get real thirsty, I can always eat snow - the dogs do. Trail mix and granola bars are my favorite fast energy foods and they are edible when frozen.

Frozen feet are absolutely the pits. Extra boots and socks are usually a requirement, as well as an extra parka, a sleeping bag, snowshoes and gloves. An ax and water-protected matches are part of the needed equipment. In most races, dog boots are strongly suggested. A first aid kit, head lamp (with extra bulb and batteries) and FLARES fill my bag the rest of the way. I carry a pocket knife, lighter and race area map in my vest pocket. Last year at Lewis Run they required each driver to carry one extra harness in addition to the above. I have never carried "duct tape" before, but next year I will. It can be used to repair your sled or a friend's sled on the trail. God forbid! If need be, it can be used to repair ripped clothing as well as other gear you carry. Middle or long distance racing may be romantic to

some people, however, this is a serious, sometimes bone breaking, or life-threatening sport. There is no room in this sport for people with ill-trained

dogs. There is no room for people who are ill-equipped. People do get lost out there, folks! •

SHORT fibula or tibia is straight in stifle. It gives the appearance of a Chow rear and in the extreme, the dog APPEARS to have a double jointed hock.

Illustrated is a dog that is between one and two years. As a puppy at nine to twelve months, he could hardly walk. The veterinarian diagnosed the problem as bad feet. At this period in a dog's life, his front becomes straighter. If he has very poor angulation to begin with, then the change will be more dramatic, and he will, as a result of this change, become taller. At this time, suddenly your beautiful puppy has ELBOWS as he comes at you, and has lost his bend of stifle.

Our boy (pictured) had no fib-tib to spare, and all his angles in the hindlimb assembly were wide open at the best of times. When he entered this stage, he had to stand on his tiptoes, with the large back pad entirely off the ground. His owners considered putting him down, as he was semi-crippled. AS he matured, and angulation returned to the forelimb assembly (32 to 33 degrees at best), his height

More Hindlimb Assembly

Betty McHugh
Oshawa, Ontario

LET'S continue with problems that we find in the hindlimb assembly. Through many years of observation and teaching, I have found that people learn about their dogs in very predictable stages. When we first become interested in Samoyeds, as show dogs and/or breeding stock, all we are conscious of is the head, coat and tail. These are the most obvious. Next comes the topline and then the hindlimb assembly. I don't really think in this stage people generally know what they are looking at, but they think that they do. Last is the forelimb assembly, because it is the most invisible and therefore the hardest to understand. Unfortunately, it is the most IMPORTANT area of the dog, and governs to a great extreme what we find in the neck, topline and hindlimb assembly.

Two issues ago, I started to deal with the variations of the hindlimb assembly. These both involved the pelvis, and indicated changes which occur from deviations. Now, we will deal with two more deviations which happen below the pelvis.

First is the long femur or thigh. This happens almost entirely because of the wish of the breeder and/or owner to have "better rear angulation." By choosing a dog with a femur that is longer than the other long bones (scapula, humerus, pelvis), we have a better bend of stifle. Unfortunately, most dogs, long in femur, move with hocks parallel, which has been called "close in rear." IF the femur is extremely long, one inch or more over the measurement of the other long bones, we may be headed for patella

problems. Although this is thought of being a problem only happening to Toy breeds, I know of two bloodlines in Siberian Huskies with slipped patellas. One is a well-known racing line, and the other a well-known show line. Both exhibit long femurs. I have yet to hear of the problems in Samoyeds, but the long femurs appear in most bloodlines and are one of the most difficult problems to breed out.

The other problem (illustrated) is so common in our breed, that I don't know if we can ever shake it. The



reduced and the hindlimb assembly lowered until he could stand on the entire paw. He still has almost no drive because all angles are still open, and he has nothing to push with. He will in time become arthritic, because Mother Nature did not intend that the bones of his back legs articulate in this manner. However, at the time of this picture, he was functional. This is a more common problem in Shetland

Sheepdogs. This is a balance between forelimb and hindlimb assemblies. AS the dog moves away from you, too much fib-tib will cause the dog to HOCK, and so will too little.

As you thumb through our breed magazines, I am sure that you will see dogs that resemble my illustration. Unless you want to end with this problem, stay away from their bloodlines.

(within reason) should be secondary to the overall dog.

Also, Samoyed owners for the most part are movement orientated, and when grading litters, one probably overlooks size in the face of what constitutes a "good" moving puppy. When a breeder has bred several years for just the right blend of moving parts to produce the movement she is after, you can't expect her to sacrifice the pup because he might be larger or smaller than what is "average" or "winning."

More and more as I watch the classes from ringside, I find myself less concerned with the size of the exhibits and more interested with type, movement and soundness. Who cares if the average-size dog wins if he looks like a Malamute, moves like a Chow and is as sound as a Chihuahua? One could probably control size by breeding to a dog like this, but I hate to think of the subsequent outcome if this happened repeatedly.

I began my breeding program with two bitches, one nineteen inches, the other nineteen and a half inches (both produced medium-to-large for me) and during their entire championship campaign, it seemed I always heard, "She's nice but so tiny." That's when I got hung up on big. I finally came to the realization (after several BIG losers) that it's not what you got but how you use it. Now I'm satisfied to have a sound, typey dog, no matter what size.

After one has been around for a time, you tend to see a dog in the overall picture. After putting in even more time, you begin to look at the other dogs with the aspect in mind of what you do like about him and what he can offer you, realizing the faults but not dwelling on them. It is the novice who picks out the dog's faults before his virtues. Remember, it is far easier to pick apart a faulty dog than to find one that is proper and know WHY he is proper.

Seriously, I don't feel that BIGGER or SMALLER is better, but if the best dog in the ring does happen to be the biggest (or smallest), then it is the best. Size is not the key. Correct type, movement and disposition should be the deciding factor before complaining that our rings are full of Pyrenees or Pomeranians. •

A Question of Size

Phoebe Faulmann

A thought struck me recently while I was waiting my turn in the ring and overheard other exhibitors trying to remember some of the past exhibits in the area. Of the common faults a dog or bitch can possess, size seems to be one of the most openly talked about in the presence of the owner. How often do you hear, "Yes, I remember him, he was the cowhocked one you finished last spring" or "Gee, who are you showing today? Yes, I remember her, she's the one with the terrible front." Although hardly anyone comes out with the previous statements, it's not so rare to hear, "Sure, I remember her, you mean you actually finished her? She was so tiny." During the entire conversation, you are trying to explain that the bitch was actually nineteen inches and was the best moving dog you have had to date, displaying proper front and rear angulation, strong topline, etc. But all the party bothered to remember about your dog was her "size." Almost implying that to be nineteen inches was a fate worse than having only three legs. Another instance. You are standing in the puppy Sweeps with your eleven-and-a-half-month-old puppy dog and the owner of the six-month-old boy in front of you turns and asks, "Where did you get the Shetland pony?" That person never bothered to notice that your "pony" just happened to be the most impressive pup in the ring, who, by the way, later went on

to win the Sweeps. Not because he was bigger than the other boys, but because he was better than them.

Although I'm not in favor of raising or lowering our height standard, I do think we should reevaluate this size thing. It is disheartening to see a lovely 18 1/2-inch or 23-inch bitch with perfect type, movement and style dumped to a 21-inch bitch with a stilted gait, no type, and a lack of overall quality simply because the judge put a heavier penalty on being large or small than on being a poor mover with no overall type.

Sometimes you are deemed a "winner" in spite of your dog's deviation from the height standard by some well-meaning judge who just happens to think that soundness and type supersede the size criterion. After all, the standard does put more emphasis on soundness than height. And he read his standard. So you win with your dog that is somewhat larger or smaller than the norm. Just hang around and watch the swarm of folks upon the judge for making that choice.

It's true that we don't have a size disqualification in our breed, and I, personally, don't believe that any of the reputable breeders are TRYING to breed oversized or undersized Sams any more than any of us are trying to breed dysplastics. But because there is great variation in size among our breed, there are sometimes cases where some of the better specimens happen to be larger or smaller than the standard calls for. I feel that if the type, soundness and quality is apparent, then size

Centerfold

Gimli Mithril Cotton CD

December 21, 1972 – October 31, 1984

Breeder: Wayland Luck Owners: Tim and Frances Trojan

Snow Flicka of Ala-Cryss
De-Jon of Ala-Cryss
Tofty

Taradown's Rasputin
Luck's Tatricia
Margaret's Buz Buz

WHEN our thirteen-year-old Lassie died of cancer the day after Tim's seventeenth birthday, Tim went to the Encyclopedia Britannica and decided a Samoyed "was what we should have next." Eddie said, "No more dogs, it hurts too much to lose them," and I said nothing. Two weeks later we just happened to see this little Samoyed bitch for sale. Eddie said, "NO," Tim said, "Please." I'm not sure what I said, but on the way home there was a little white fluffy puppy lying with its head in Eddie's lap!

Strictly novices we took this bundle of fluff home, not even realizing that a three-month-old Sammie puppy should weigh more than five pounds. She was officially christened Gimli Mithril Cotton which, translated from the works of J.R.R. Tolkien means "Dwarf of truesilver who is a cottage dweller."

Gimli's first breeding in 1974 was to Crystal Snow, which produced Ch. Conan Mithril CD, who was first in the Veteran Dog class at the 1982 SCA National Specialty, and Gimli's Snow Shadow CD. Shortly thereafter we learned of serious genetic problems in the sire's background and no pups from the litter were ever used for breeding.

Two years later, with Gimli now both OFA and CERF certified, we decided to breed her again, this time for a show litter. Ch. Moonlighters Ima Bark Star was chosen to be her mate. This litter produced Ch. Mithril's Star of Earendil CD, Ch. Mithril's Star of Kheled-zaram, Ch. Mithrils Icicle of Gim-Star, and Ch. Mithril's North Star CD, TDI, the first Samoyed to be registered with Therapy Dogs International. In 1978 we repeated the Bark-Gimli breeding. Two of the litter were shown; Mithril Moonlite Ban-Sidhe and Ch. Desertsno's Mithril Star CD, RWD at the 1982 GMSF Specialty and



BOW at the 1983 Manitoba Samoyed Specialty. Gimli became very ill with this litter and we nearly lost her, thus we decided not to breed her again.

The Gimli sons and daughters have produced well. Her grand-pups have amassed the following records: Six U.S. champions, seven others pointed, four Canadian champions, three others pointed, one has his South African championship, another was only one CC away from his when he died unexpectedly. She is the granddam of the 1981 GMSF WD-BOW, 1982 GMSF BOS, 1983 SCA Specialty Best Puppy, 1984 SCA Specialty Grand Sweepstakes Winner, 1983 Manitoba Samoyed Specialty WB, 1984 Manito-

ba Samoyed Specialty WB, 1984 Manitoba Specialty Best Puppy, and 1983 Top Winning Sledge Puppy in South Africa. She is the granddam of five Group winners and placers, puppy and/or adult in three different countries. Many of these are young dogs, just beginning their careers. And there is every indication that the next generations will do as well or better.

Gimli, at 45 pounds, 20" was a small bitch when the norm seemed much larger, so she was shown only a few times. She thoroughly enjoyed conformation and when we took her out in the Veteran Bitch Class at the 1982 GMSF Specialty, she showed like a puppy, delighting us by placing second

in a class which contained several nice champion bitches.

Obedience was definitely not her favorite pasttime. Enroute to her CD title she managed to flunk everything at least twice, and embarrass us at least once. Examples: the day at Cudahy when she stood in the middle of the ring with the judge and watched ME do the off-lead heeling all by myself. Or the day at Lacrosse when in 95-degree muggy weather following a rain, she had just flunked the off-lead heeling. As the judge was telling Tim that she had lost too many points, Gimli spotted a mud puddle in the middle of the ring and proceeded to cool off by running over and lying in it – no lagging on that exercise.

Rarely ill, always bright and happy; our hearts were heavy in September 1984 when we discovered a mammary tumor. Surgery was per-

formed on two occasions, but to no avail. On October 31 Gimli made her last trip back into the woods to chase the squirrels away, then to the vet where Eddie and I both held her as she went into her final sleep. A special show of respect came from our vet, when instead of a bill for his final service, we received a note of condolence thanking us for the privilege of allowing him to treat her.

GIMLI had been the special dog of Eddie's mom, who lived with us for thirteen years. Gimli died six weeks after we discovered her cancer. Eddie's mom became ill the week after Gimli's death and six weeks later, she also died of cancer.

Our fairy princess, is gone, but her spirit lives on and we see it in that special sparkle so inherent in her get. •

Notes by Frankie Trojan

Since the original article the Gimli descendents have continued to excel in conformation, working and companionship. At least 40 AKC champion Sams now trace their ancestry back to the original Gimli breedings, with another 40+ being pointed, including Ch. Kolinka's Mischevious Molly, Am/Can Ch. Mithril's Free To Be Me Am/Can CD, CDX., futurity winners and placers, and Sams who are doing well in sledding, herding, weight pulling and as therapy dogs. She has fifteen CKC champion get, with another ten or more pointed. A grandson, Mithril's Americ of Caebryn, is a BIS winner who has championships in South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. His son Shane has the enviable record of 27 BOB's resulting in thirteen BIS and Top Working Dog in Zimbabwe for 1990 and 1991. Our pride in our Gimli continues with each generation.

Size, Side Gait and Working Ability

*Don and Dot Hodges
Poynette, Wisconsin*

JUDGES and exhibitors of Sams seem to have embarked on a new cycle of emphasis on "bigger." Time was that nearly everyone thought that a Sam had to be big in order to be impressive enough to command attention in the Group ring. That notion lost favor after "Tiki," Ch. Lulhaven's Snow Mist Ensign, and a string of moderate sized dogs became the top winning and BIS dogs in the seventies. Now it seems they must be big enough to "run faster than anything else in the ring." This, in turn, seems to derive from the belief that to be a good sled dog a Sam must have "leg" as well as angulation on both ends and "leg," in application, comes out taller. Generalized, this "movement" (pardon the pun) appears to have taken the form in the ring of "bigger" + "more leg" + "run as fast as you can" = "great mover" and, therefore, "great sled dog." QED. In short, the emphasis on size seems to

derive from the supposed relation to working ability.

We are still of the opinion that the standard describes a proper size for Sams and that includes THE COMPLETE RANGE of 19 to 21 inches for females and 21 to 23 1/2 inches for males, not just the top of it. We hasten to remind you that there is also a phrase about penalties for deviations. Just for the record, we are not in favor of a size disqualification. Implicit in all the push to have "working dogs" (which is in itself admirable) is the idea that competing in sled races is the ultimate yardstick of a Sam's working ability and therefore worth. BALDERDASH or epithet of your own choosing! The Samoyed is not and never was a racer! Call him a sled dog, perhaps, or a herding dog or hunter, probably someone's parka, pillow or bed cover, but not much of a racer compared to some. He is not supposed to work like a Malamute and he is not supposed to be built for racing like a Siberian. He is somewhere between those breeds – an arctic utility

dog. Use him for a variety of tasks. It is probable that a good racer could be developed from completely within the breed – it is there as one extreme but it is not "typical" of the breed.

The push for "working dogs" has been translated into a total preoccupation with side gait in the ring. Now side gait is an important element in assessing a dog's movement, but it is not the ONLY one. It appears that what many people regard as good side gait is in reality a dog with far more angulation in the rear than the front. Just as often "great side gait" is nothing more than jazzy temperament (dog or handler or, God forbid, both!). Such a dog can be very impressive from the side if you don't look at all the parts, but he is usually pounding his front into the ground, his pasterns get broken down very early, and he is either sidwinding or not converging properly in the front or rear. Almost all of these photos of "great side gait" and "flying trots" published in Samoyed ads document dogs that are padding or exhibiting front-to-rear

interference. As for good side gait, dogs of any size can have it! The principle element is balance front to rear – front and rear stride must be the same. Dogs with really good side gait have a balanced ground-covering stride; that is to say, they will be well angulated as well as matched front to rear. However, even dogs with moderate angulation can move very well from the side if they are balanced.

Good movement, not just good side gait, is the ideal, and this includes all the things you have heard before – angulation front and rear, balance, proportion, etc. If the dog is put together right, his side gait will be good and so will his movement coming and going. Standing still, he will be longer than he is tall (males five percent longer than tall, females slightly longer). And if he is not put together right, his side gait will show

it as well as his coming and going if you look closely. A good dog can be evaluated at a moderate gait; there is no need to zip around the ring 90 mph to prove he is good. However, if he is wrong, it may be easier to fool the crowd at that speed! At least you might succeed in distracting the judge from his purpose, which is to evaluate your dog's overall quality. If you can mimic the funny people in the German Shepherd ring, the only thing you are proving is that you are younger (leaner? meaner!) than we are.

The purpose of this tirade, please forgive us, is to remind you that, Barry Goldwater notwithstanding, extremism is a vice, not a virtue! Into the pot with the missionaries! Breed for, exhibit, and JUDGE the WHOLE Samoyed. He is more than just tall, long-legged side gait. •

Borzoi and Greyhound must have harelike feet" which are "well knuckled up." The Saluki needs a "well-arched foot" which is "not catlike." The Malamute has a "snowshoe type" foot with toes "well-arched." And in the Elkhound description is the word which I believe to be the most descriptive ... "feet slightly oval."

Visually, I believe we can see the difference between a round foot and an oval foot by comparing an aerial view of a circle and an egg (particularly a goose egg). These are the two basic bases for all these "well-arched" toes to fit on ... the difference between a longer foot and a shorter foot. Our standard calls for this base to be harelike or more like the egg, the longer base.

WHEN I got to this point, I stopped to ask ... what difference does it make? A foot is a foot, and the dog is going to be using the BOTTOMS of the feet, not the TOPS. But, then again, nature is a very good selector, and native dog types – coyotes, wolves, foxes – all have hare-type feet, while the cat family are the ones who have the cat-type feet. So what is the basic difference in the performance of these two types of animals?

Dogs, generally, cover a lot of ground on a day-to-day basis. Wolves, and occasionally coyotes, hunt in packs and run down their prey. Foxes are more solitary but still rely on their ability to run down prey when needed. They need to be able to make quick movements from side to side and need a foot that will fit anywhere in any type terrain.

A cat has somewhat the same needs. While it needs speed, certainly, it does rely on its stealth and cunning, and its ability to sneak up on prey. A cat also can hunt from above, jumping down on its prey and holding it with its claws. The retractable claws also allow the cat to climb, and here is where the foot has a different purpose. The cat uses its claws for catching, securing, and containing prey, and also for climbing. The claw must be pulled inside the foot perimeter in order for the cat to move and do so quickly. The cat foot really does double duty, serving as a base for the cat to get around on, as well as being a container for the claws.

When is a Hare Foot a Cat Foot?

*Darlu Littledeer
Lander, Wyoming*

LATELY I have spent some time learning more about Samoyeds by doing a little research and by reading. As I have reread old Samoyed Quarterlies, I have noticed in interviews that some breeders who have done fairly well in Samoyeds have made the statement that the foot for a Samoyed to have is a cat-footed one.

Well, I don't profess to have the world's greatest memory, but I did remember reading that a Sam should have a hare foot, so I got out my standard again, and reread under feet. There it was ... FEET – large, long, flattish; slightly spread but not splayed; (hare foot); toes arched; pads thick, tough; hair between toes (Dog Standards Illustrated, Updated through February 1, 1977).

I thought maybe I should find out what hare-footed really means, and cat-footed too, while I was at it. Dog Standards Illustrated (can we call it DSI?) says of cat-footed: "short,

round, compact, highly arched foot." My Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary of the English Language (the twenty-pound version) calls cat foot a "stubby foot." DSI refers to hare foot as a "long, close-toed, narrow foot." Webster's says it is a "foot resembling that of a hare, slender and extending forward."

Common to the descriptions of almost all purebred dog feet is the term "toes well-arched." Perhaps folks who shy away from the hare foot are afraid of splay feet or flat feet (even though the Samoyed description calls for the feet to be flattish ...). However, I think the difference in feet is one of basic shape. Standards for the Lab, English Setter, Gordon and Irish Setters, Brittany Spaniel, Vizsla and Weimaraner call for smaller feet with "well-arched toes." The Vizsla Standard particularly calls for "catlike" feet. Afghans, Basenjis, Coonhounds, Dachshunds and Foxhounds also have "toes well-arched," but the Coonhound and Foxhound also have "catlike" feet included in their description. Coursing hounds such as the

Then, the two types of feet – hare foot and cat foot – are alike in some ways. They do allow for maneuverability in all types of terrain, must hold up to great bursts of speed, and must be durable. However, the dog uses more running in its hunting behavior, while the cat uses more stalking and stealth. The cat also must have a foot that can hold claws, and allow for these claws to be released on a moment's notice.

How does all this relate to our modern-day Samoyed! After all, the Samoyed doesn't hunt anything to survive, doesn't hunt anything for PEOPLE who hunt to survive, and quite often the "things" it does hunt are those we would not necessarily desire it to hunt (the neighbor's cat, unsuspecting deer, skunks and porcupines). But here, I feel, is the crux of the issue: The Samoyed dog is just like an antique. You fiddle with it and change it, and it just isn't worth as much. Any antique buff will know this. "Restoring" jobs on antiques are very tricky, and many restored antiques are not as valuable as they would be if left alone.

When the writers of the original standard took the time and effort to set up guidelines for us all as breeders and fanciers of this beautiful working animal, they did not do so lightheartedly. This must mean that the standard creators did not sit down and question whether or not this foot or that foot looked good on a wooden floor on a rubber mat, but instead they looked at how the Samoyed actually WAS. And this is now what we should CONTINUE to do.

When the Samoyed Standard says hare foot, I believe we have a duty to uphold here. We have a duty to breed and select for hare feet, and the best possible hare feet to fit the standard that we can. Regardless of whether the Samoyed ran on sled teams or herded reindeer or pulled barges, the foot still played a very important function, and was a certain shape after years and years of performance. We should not treat the foot as a matter of personal preference. To do so is to take the emphasis for the very heart of the Samoyed purpose and to place it on ourselves ... what we find easy to produce, or what we visually prefer. I would say here, if we visually prefer a cat foot, then let's breed Coonhounds,

Foxhounds, or Vizslas. Or cats.

As long as the standard was created for a Samoyed with a hare foot, then I think hare foot it should be. A

hare foot is NOT a cat foot. To continue to breed cat-footed Samoyeds is to continue a disservice to the breed.

Don't Be Down in the Mouth

*Dolly Ward
Calabasas, California*

WHAT shape is the mouth in? What is the shape of the mouth? What does the shape of the teeth tell us?

What do you think a judge is looking for when the "bite" of a dog is examined in the show ring?

While the obvious answer is teeth, there are really many more aspects that can be determined at this moment of examination.

Remembering that there is no disqualification on teeth in the Samoyed Breed Standard, the scissors bite is specified with the level bite being acceptable. The scissors bite is described as, when the lower incisors fit snugly up to the rear surface of the upper incisors and touching all surfaces. The level bite, which was in the Samoyed Breed Standard description from 1909 to 1957, is when the upper and lower incisors meet and touch evenly end to end. This type of occlusion creates an even greater depth of muzzle and a blunter appearance to the head and muzzle formation. The level bite is still quite prevalent in our breed.

Numerous breed standards call for a disqualification for both overshot and undershot bites. The overshot bite is when the upper incisors protrude forward over the lower incisors and they do not touch each other. This is described as a shark mouth and creates a "pointy" formation or a snipey muzzle lacks strength.

Thank goodness, poor bites are very rare in the Samoyed breed, as it certainly is a genetic problem and not easy to suppress without a great campaign and disqualification in the breed standard.

As a judge, I must count teeth in

those breeds which declare a disqualification for missing teeth. Note: all dogs should have 42 teeth for full dentition, 22 lower and 20 upper. While we do not count Sammy teeth, we do observe something about their care.

In examining the mouth of a dog, the judge learns much about the dog's temperament, personality and training of the exhibit. If they attempt to bite you, they certainly do not have the proper attitude; if they shy away, they do not have the friendly but conservative temperament. Sams should not have a distrustful spirit.

This quick mouth examination discloses the black lips, pigment, tight flews, lack of coarseness and the "Samoyed Smile."

Thumbing through "The Complete Dog Book," official publication of the AKC, one does not find a specific section upon the care of teeth for dogs. The coat, shedding, baths, nails, eyes and ears are all covered, each subject with a paragraph or two, but TEETH are not mentioned.

We were pleased to find an article by Dr. Peter Emily in a new publication, "Dog News," specifically covering diseases of the mouth, bite problems and related information on dogs' teeth. We bring it to your attention as it is rarely discussed.

DR. Emily says the most common ailment is some degree of gum disease which is due to lack of routine maintenance. Daily brushing probably is not realistic, but weekly brushing with a soft toothbrush will help keep down the deposits of plaque before it becomes a hard coating of calculus. For teeth that are broken from fence fighting (we know Sammies do not do this) or chewing rocks (Sammies may do this), the veterinarian skilled in animal dentistry should be contacted.

Oral problems may be detected by frequent inspections, watching for bleeding gums, bad breath, or excessive drooling.

A good habit for those young puppies would be to begin training them for mouth, gums and teeth inspection so they do not develop mouth shyness, or worse, decaying teeth in need of veterinarian care, surgery or perhaps root canal therapy. Owners may buy a dental tool to scrape the plaque or calcified mucinous substance that forms daily on the

teeth. Your pet will appreciate your help and you will have a well cared for veteran one day.

Dr. Peter Emily is a faculty affiliate of the Veterinary School of Medicine of Colorado State University and is an AKC judge of Boxers, Dobes, Great Danes and Rottweilers.

This whole structure of the teeth and mouth is important as a general condition, and most important for its effect upon structure of the muzzle and shape of the head and the typical Samoyed expression. •

"Z" on his side.

Dog names Audrey Lycan wishes she had thought of include "Sleigh Lad," "Truly Scrumptious," "King's Ransom," "Razz Ma Tazz." She tells the following story of how her "Drano" (Ch. Winterway's Mr. Wonderful) got his name. "He was one of a litter of eleven. We were new to the area, used a vet which was referred. Five were born alive, slowly. We were constantly in touch with the vet. Three more were born dead. The vet says come in at eight a.m. Human exhausted. Vet gave IV's - X-rays, says at least three more and gives oxitocin. Human goes to friends for nap as dam is in good hands! I came back at 11:45 to find office locked. I break in and take bitch and five puppies (who are in an incubator) for a hamburger and milk and wait for vet. HE drives up at 2:30 after giving a speech to Lions Club lunch. Tells me two more were born dead. Tells me maybe other whelped while was gone and slipped in open drain. We rush to look! NO puppy, but bitch contracting. Puppy whelped screaming, thus Drano. Needless to say, we have switched vets."

Brenda Abbott says her favorite Samoyed name is Ch. Kondako's Dancing Bear, and she wishes she had thought of Silveracres Theme Song herself. Her Kriskella's Run for the Roses is called "Derby" because they waited all through Derby Day for the litter to be born. Brenda also says if she can't pronounce a name, she won't remember it.

KAREN McFarlane has a number of favorite names - Post Toasties, Fresh As A Daisy, Spark of Bark, Ice Breaker, Ima Bark Star. Her "Ticket" has a story behind her. At three weeks, she was very sick. "I thought she had died at two a.m. Got Bob up and was too upset to dispose of pup so asked him to do it. He went into the pup room and called back, 'Which one, Karen ... the one sitting up?' So, of course, she already has her 'Ticket to Heaven.'" She also says dog names are extremely important. They must fit the dog and make an impression when people here the name.

Helga Gruber has handwriting which makes me truly envious. I can actually read every letter on her reply

What's in a Name?

Jeanne Nonhof
Waldo, Wisconsin

DOG people in general and Samoyed people in particular put a lot of thought into their dogs' names. A dog's name is very important. He will wear it for, hopefully, twelve to fifteen years. There are a number of things to take into consideration when naming a dog, i.e., making it conform to the AKC's 25-letter limit, indicating its parentage or breed, or maybe calling attention to some special characteristic of the dog.

Peg Gormley has a Sammy named "Miel," which is lovely and means honey in French, almost everyone calls her "meow" and wants to know why she named her Sam after a cat noise. A name Peg really likes that really fits the dogs was Adamant James, the BIS winning Springer. That reminds me of a Springer I knew called Maverick - very fitting for that independent fellow. Peg says Afghan people use desert names, ballets and symphonies. One gal in Cincinnati named her dogs after commercial products, like "Hefty 2 Ply," "4 Ply," etc. Another uses perfumes and a third uses comic strip characters such as "Superman," "Batman," etc. And I know a Samoyed breeder who had what she called her "toilet paper litter" sired by White Cloud, she named them Northern, Charmin, etc.

Marilyn Gitelson has some real winners on her list of favorite names. Regarding "Marzipan," which is an exquisite blend of sugar and nuts, the name was even more fitting because she wanted to use both Mark and Panda (sire and dam) in the name. Beautiful!

Marilyn says Lionel Burymore's feet were so big at three months he could bury more than anyone else - still can. Beau Zeau was such a character as a pup that Bozo fit him fine. In fact, Dave Richardson saw him in the ring before he knew his name and said, "Who is that clown?" "Nuf said!"

One name which has a novel reason is Ch. Star-Rea's Gallant Guy. Guy was Joan Rea's maiden name, and when she got to her "G" litter, she vowed there was going to be a male named "Guy." She's very happy with him.

Helen Feinberg's favorite name is "Borodino Has No Spots." She always wanted a dog named Spot. So did I, and that's how Ch. M's In the Spotlight came about. But, along with Helen, I think there is a story behind Borodino's name, and I think Rowena Evans knows it. C'mon, Rowena, let us in on that one, will you? Speaking of Spots, there was the top winning Wire Fox Terrier called "Spot On" who had a big spot on his show side. And when you think of markings and names, the Old English top winner, Ch. Zanzibar Zorro, had a big black

to the "names" survey. Her favorite Sammy name is Shebaska's Exquisite Antique, and she generally has a hard time deciding on call names, but easy going with registered names. "Antique's name came about because she is out of her dam's final litter and on both sides of her pedigree she is close up on early stock. She's exquisite in type and conformation." Helga also says, "Ch. Shebaska's Diamond Dazzler CD (yes, he has silver tips), Ch. Snow 'N Shows Style of Shebaska (definitely lives up to her name - 'Style') and CH. Shebaska's Gem Print - a gem print is the equal to a diamond as a fingerprint to a person. He is a grandson of Diamond Dazzler. Gem Print's call name is 'Wahoo' and he can speak his own name." There aren't many dogs who can do that.

EVE Rittberg's favorite Sammy name is Alever's Four on the Floor. Other names she likes are Classy Chassis and Camshaft. Eve's husband is an auto mechanic who loves Chevies. Ch. Alever's Chevy Chase-rr's name has an intriguing metamorphosis. Chaser's mom's real name is Ch. M's Ima Firecracker CD because she was whelped on July 4th. Her call name is Chevy because of her husband's undying love for Chevies. They say Chevies are built to last and they feel their foundation bitch is just living up to her name and just keeps truckin'. OF course, Chaser chased his mom, so the name Chevy Chase-rr came to be.

Eve likes to see names follow themes - like "Ima" usually means Bark brothers and sisters and some of the kids, and the Jak genes are very clever also.

As you might guess, Bill Stanfield came up with some real dandies. His favorite Sam name is Kalmarli's Sauce Piquant. He has always wanted a dog named "Familiarity" and a bitch

named "Contempt." The result: you guessed it! He also admires the name "Hots Hit."

Doris McLaughlin says she "had a perfect name for Connie Richardson for one of Anybody's Girl's puppies." However, Connie had already placed them before Doris got around to telling her. "It should have been 'Nobody.'" The ad possibilities are unlimited ('Nobody is perfect as everyone knows!') I had one of the pups by Ima Bark Star out of Busybody, "Ima Somebody," but nobody else liked it, I guess.

Doris had two Sams named Melody and Mark (Themesong and Trademark). "Themesong, of course, is a melody running through the song. We used this as Chief was her sire, grandsire and great grandsire ... that is running through the pedigree. Trademark is her litterbrother, and if something is that much used, it certainly should be a trademark." Doris also says, "If I had any idea as a puppy that 'Soap Suds' was going to be such a big, klutzy puppy, he would have been named Silveracre Spruce Goose." Her favorite name is Silveracres Custom Maid by Jinni. It was to be Jinni's last litter, as she was getting on in years, and Doris kept telling Jinni that if she would just give her one little girl like herself, only all white (Jinni was cream with biscuit ears) with darker eyes and a black nose, Doris would be most happy. So Jinni did. Now that was Custom Maid.

I really tapped the mother lode when I asked Kathy Sevcik about dog names. Her favorite name (now get this one, folks) is Ch. Fuzzball's Fuss 'N Mucker. You have to be careful how you say it. It is a fictitious name which she uses in articles and when discussing a dog where the dog's name is not the important thing. She figures nobody could ever name a dog that, so she's not maligning anybody

or setting herself up for a lawsuit.

Her favorite real name is Ch. Kondako's Kennebunk (I wish they'd call her Bunky). Ch. North Starr's Heir Line (wonderful multiple puns). Then she likes what the Richardsons have done with Chs. Dancing Bear, Sun Dancer, Rising Sun and Sundance Kid.

ANOTHER favorite name is Solitaire's E.S.P. of Ghostrider (Spree). "I wanted to call her Esprit because it took real spirit for her to get through the first couple of weeks of life. Unfortunately, putting Solitaire at the beginning for Bob and Betty Arnold's kennel and Ghostrider at the end for us, we only had a couple of letters, so we shorted it to E.S.P. The funny thing is that she is the most intuitive bitch. Most people think that it is short for the extrasensory perception she obviously possesses."

Kathy chose themes for her litters. Her Archangel litter was Raphael and Gabriel. The Broadway Boys were Puttin on the Ritz, Sunshine Boy, Pal Joey and Wiz. Her "C" litter will be Cowboys, and she is going to find a "Ragtime Cowboy" and a "Gun-smoke" in that litter. She has been waiting to use this one, which gets my vote, "Ghostriders In the Sky," who they'll call Grits. And as an afterthought, she mentions "High Noon," and they'll call him Cooper.

Ah, I saved this one for last because it is the one that really cracked me up. Marie Greene of Sugarplum Sams has two names reserved for her next two pups. She had decided to name one pup "Euripides" after the ancient Greek scholar and playwright. And then she is going to name a littermate "Eiripidos." Sound it out, it's worth it. Euripides and Eiripidos. Don't you just love it?

What you call your dog matters. •

Centerfold

Am/Can/Bda Ch. Karalot's Jak Frost O'Westwind

July 15, 1976 – December 24, 1983

Breeders: Joanne and Eugene Hilbelink Owner: Timothy Malueg

Ch. Samtara's Suga Dandi
Ch. Karalot's Hotshot of Windsong
Ch. Nordic's Kameo of Windsong

Ch. Moonlighter's Hallmark
Ch. Karalot's Kit N' Kaboodle
Ch. Tsiulikagta's Moya

JAK was born on July 15, 1976 into a litter of three males. Both his sire and dam were owned by Joanne Hilbelink, but Hotshot is now owned by Karen McFarlane of FrostyAcres.

On Jak's breeding record he was used very little. Many people liked Jak, so they used his sire to hopefully produce something like Jak, which is the way it should be. Thirty-two percent of his get are champions, with another thirty-one percent of the total remaining get pointed and well on their way to championships. Of Jak's total get, thirty percent are just now a year old. Jak has six multi Group placing sons, three Best Puppy in Show winning sons (in Canada) and four specialty winning get. One went WD-BOW at the Canadian National Specialty. Two of his sons have been named Top Winning Male Samoyed, Top Winning Samoyed in the Greater Milwaukee Samoyed Fanciers.

Jak was my first show dog. He was shwon in Open six times. He completed his championship with four majors, all BOS's and twice BOB over specials. He finished with a Best in Show from the classes at twenty months of age. He completed his Canadian championship with four BOB's and a Group I and II from the classes. Jak completed his American, Canadian and Bermuda championships in eighteen months – all owner-handled.

Jak was a show dog, every inch of him and he loved the ring. He would bark at me or the judge to feed him. At one show Roy Ayers (the judge), who likes to bait the dogs himself, was coming down the line in the Group ring. Jak remembered him from the breed rign where he had offered Jak some bait. Jak stepped out of line and started to show for the judge. Roy stopped and baited him and Jak



showed even harder. The judge waved his bait up and down for expression and Jak jumped up on Roy and barked. We both laughed. Roy gave Jak some bait and moved on. As he looked back, Jak was standing out in the ring with his ears up and his tail wagging. Jak went second in the Group that day.

Another funny little story is when Jak and I were in Bermuda. I was waiting to go into the ring with Jak when I noticed this lady (a tourist). She came slowly walking up to us, glancing at us and then her catalog. After making a full circle around us, she said, "Is that Jak Frost?" I said, "Yes," and she got SO excited. She called her husband over and they started taking photos and asking questions. She and her husband were from California and they were excited to see Jak in person!

Jak, as "my dog and my buddy" was so much – he was never the dog who got into trouble, except for unrolling toilet paper and pulling tissues out of the box! At shows he could be trusted on his table all day, often he would sleep there. He stayed in "his" yard and never left. Car rides

and stopping for ice cream were some of the things Jak loved. In December of 1983, a few days before Christmas, the weather turned bitterly cold, minus 60 degrees with the wind chill. I brought the kennel in for the nights. Jak stayed in my room at night. When I would wake Jak would have his head resting on my bed so his smiling face and sparkling eyes were the first things I would see the last days of his life. Jak died of bloat on Christmas Eve, 1983.

In the life Jak and I shared I was never really ready for anything he did. He finished so fast and with such large wins that I never got to enjoy them. He produced so well with so few. I felt I was in a speeding car with the G-force pulling me back. Then he died so fast with no warning, just like everything else in his life. It's like he knew he must hurry for he had so little time. I am thankful that I have Jak's first son, Am/Can Ch. Windsong's Jak-Pot O'Pomirish and his last son, Ch. Westwind's Jump'n Jak O'Norwood. •

Notes by Timothy Malueg.

Fault Finding

*Elizabeth Lockman
Evergreen, Colorado*

THIS article will start with the topic of fault-finding in and outside of the ring. Many people do it and almost always to their disadvantage.

Fault-judging is looking for something, anything, you don't like about a dog. So let's go into the ring, you the reader come into my imaginary ring with me. Mark your judge's book with the time you start, let your first class in, check off those present, set your book down and walk into the middle of the ring and look at your class. If you are a person who can only see negative points, you are in big trouble for a number of reasons. To visually pick apart each dog before they even get around the ring would be a time-consuming, mixed up jumble of segmented pieces never pertaining to the whole. AKC and the judging schedule will allow you 20 to 25 dogs per hour, imagine all the faults you would have to remember about each dog, try and pick your placings and still stay on time! Now it's time to send them around the ring, looking, of course, for something you don't like, spending precious time missing the good dog only to find the bad. It's time to examine each dog individually and move them through a pattern. Let's not forget those faults you've already tacked up against the dogs to begin with, so mentally add these up plus the faults you find on individual examination and movement. Boy, talk about confusing, if you judge like this, you're in real trouble. Not to mention the exhibitors who have spent countless hours whelping, training, grooming and traveling just to show under you. In effect, you are short changing them, yourself and most importantly, the breed you're judging. I also feel that this type of judging in many respects gives the most common specimens the wins and the mediocre judges a safe rock to crawl under.

Now let's wipe the slate clean and start again. Go back into the ring (with a large attitude adjustment), get your paperwork out of the way, rub

your hands together and let's find a really good dog. Take a look at your class individually, going down the line, and now look at the whole. What do you like, what fits the standard, what is correct type? I believe I'm quoting verbatim Derek Rayne, who said, "On a moonlight night with the dog on top of the hill, seeing only the outline, could you recognize the breed?" The fun has just started, the joy or reward of judging is the adventure, quest and discovery of a really good dog. Move the class around, examine them individually, go through the pattern, above all keep your concentration, and guess what, it's pretty easy, because the good ones, despite what minor faults they may possess, stand out like a neon sign.

FAULT-FINDING is not exclusive to judges. Let us step back out of the ring and become a fault-finding breeder/exhibitor. There is a cliché that these specimens of the human race sprout their wings around the fourth or fifth year of dog showing. Realize, too, that this happens to everyone, for it is imperative in the learning process to recognize faults in conformation, movement and structure. As time goes on, hopefully the fault-finder sheds this attitude and starts appreciating our dogs for what they really are and what they can be. I know of a breeder, Mrs. Ultimate Authority - Breeder Blabber Mouth, who has never developed beyond this stage, who implants her body outside the ring and proceeds to tell the United States, Canada and Mexico and the rest of the world every dog's faults as it moves in the individual gaiting pattern while in the ring. Perhaps this breeder's neophytes find this helpful for they are still learning what faults are, but if you want to be successful in any breeding or showing program, you must be able to see the whole dog.

Fault-finding is so insidious that it will ruin your breeding program and prevent you from having top winning dogs. This can work a couple of ways: you fault every dog that you could use that you do not own or you

fault or penalize your own dogs to the extent of not using them when you should have. Some people have said to me, "How could you go to that stud dog?" (because of a particular fault) unable to see how much that dog has to offer the breed. Or how about the comment, "I would never use Ch. Sam-A-Cutey because he is out of Ch. Sam-A-Handsome!" Does it ever occur to these people that these dogs had dams and they too played a major role in the genetic makeup of a pup? Another classic comment is often, "I would never use Ch. Sam-A-Luv because I cannot stand his owners." If you can't get past personalities no matter who owns or shows the dog and appreciate a good or outstanding specimen, go back to the class with the fault-finding novice and be condemned forever to mediocre dogs and wins in the ring. Making decisions based on the faults of the owners is much more ridiculous than making them based on the faults of the dogs. Don't let fault-finders create such peer pressure that you only use dogs they like.

To sum up, fault-finding is a necessary step everyone must grow out of in the learning process called dog showing and judging. Two books I recommend regarding structure and movement that work well in tandem to each other, "Dogs in Action," McDonnell Lyon and "Dog Steps" by Rachel Page Elliott, that will define faults in the action of the dogs. Our standard, as you will note, directs judges and breeders to the positive qualities our dogs shall possess. Let us learn to appreciate our dogs the way they appreciate us. •

Ring Manners

Phoebe Faulmann

MOST of us know what proper ring etiquette is for the exhibitor and usually do our best to make AKC proud, lest (heaven forbid) we should suffer suspension and be forced to take a much needed break from dog showing.

There are always the exceptions to the rule; the exhibitor/handler who purposefully crowds you and your dog, tries to cover your dog, or calls your dog's name from behind so that even those are ringside can hear, but these are the EXCEPTIONS.

Me, I'm not concerned as much with my fellow exhibitors' manners quite as much as I've gotten tired of grumpy, rough, ill-tempered, Godlike judges I've had the misfortune to meet up with. Why must we abide by such strict ring manners and in turn be treated rudely by a person who is actually on our payroll. How often have I told myself, "You buy your ticket and you take your chances"? An experienced exhibitor hopefully learns to accept his losses gracefully, acknowledging a judge's decision of an entrant more qualified than his own, especially if he feels the judging was fair and consistent. Similarly, the experienced judge has learned to conduct his ring with dignity, however, some judges confuse power with dignity.

I love to show pups, and do it as much as possible, but on two occasions I've had to take weeks to retrain pups who were MAN handled (no pun intended) their first weekend out. I ask you the need to bounce up and down on the back of a 6-month-old 40-pound puppy bitch until you hear her spine crackle. Have you ever been in the 6-9 month class with five or six entrants for over 30 minutes? Some judges like to take their time and see who burns out first, then make their decision by this process of elimination. Some pups that young may be able to concentrate for a long period, but I'll suffer losing a placement before pushing a youngster too hard, too fast. Another problem is that many judges just SWOOP down on these unsuspecting babes

wearing a floppy hat and psychedelic sunglasses, looking like ghostbusters, expecting the pups to react like veterans. The ones who have a hang-up with tails should find an easier way to check length than jerking back and down, as if trying to lengthen it in the process. I even had one judge get her big, bangled bracelet caught in my dog's coat. No problem, she just jerked until it came loose, accompanied by my dog's coat.

Have you ever lost your attention span in a large class and had trouble following a judge's directions exactly when he changed his format mid-stream in the class? Did the judge politely explain his instructions again or simply grump at your lack of finesse? On the other hand, how often does the judge look to another ring or up to the sky as you are doing your individual gaiting?

I admit I may be exaggerating somewhat, there are many wonderful judges out there. Probably I'd get just as tired and cranky after six hours and 175 dogs and as many complaints. But in the future, I will not abide some "God for the day" judge roughing up another of my dogs. I will politely ask him to be more concerned with his approach. If that doesn't work, I'll bite him or step on his toes, and if that isn't enough, I promise to write AKC. I want my dogs to enjoy what I have

chosen for them to do, without being subdued by a judge in the process.

I did have a very nice experience recently. I was showing an entry in a large class. The judge was very quick, but knew just what she wanted and was looking for. She smiled and lovingly fondled each dog BEFORE actually examining him. When she had her hands on the dog, she was slow and deliberate, and when moving you up for the "down and back," she guided you with a light touch on the shoulder. After coming back to her and stopping, she evaluated the dog and then made eye contact with the handler and with a smile say, "Thank you." That was at 2:30, after 100 dogs previous to us! I didn't place that day, but watching this judge conduct her ring brought a smile to my face as I was leaving. She caught my eye and said, "Honey, that sure is a pretty suit." I thanked her for the compliment, and after the judging, I went back to tell her what a pleasure it had been to be in her ring that day. I told her that it was obvious she liked dogs. "Honey, I like dogs and I like people - it takes both out here."

I wish I could meet up with more judges with that attitude. It could help to make our hard work and long hours a little easier and the day a bit brighter for us, the dogs, AND the judges. •

Kennel Runs

*Don and Dot Hodges
Poynette, Wisconsin*

PEOPLE who have acquired a serious case of the malady called "Dogs" find that at some point they must DO SOMETHING about the number of critters sharing the house. Disposing of some of them being unthinkable, the obvious solution is some sort of kennel arrangement with runs, etc.

This transition is usually coincident with a change from car or station wagon to van and often includes a move from suburban home to exurbia or even a "farmette" in the country. In any case, the object is to be able to keep more dogs, keep them in condition to show, and still maintain one's health and sanity.

There are numerous books that will show you how to design and build a kennel that can be successfully

maintained and kept sanitary. Gaines, for example, has a pamphlet with various designs and instructions for building them. They all emphasize sanitation, especially control of parasites. These are marvelous for most breeds, but they do not take into account the special requirements of a long-coated, white breed like the Samoyed. The standard plan calls for concrete for ease of maintenance and sanitation. But concrete is hard on the white coat and the problem is intensified by urine. The white coat must not be exposed to chronic moisture or harsh compounds which make it excessively dry and brittle. The standard concrete run, even one with a steep pitch to shed water, doesn't shed urine. You can hose it off at regular intervals, but sometimes that makes matters worse by keeping the area constantly wet.

THE best alternative we know is gravel. However, gravel must be applied in a certain way or it will not keep the dogs out of standing water or mud. Just putting down gravel doesn't prevent digging and very soon the gravel will be no better than a dirt run. Even the use of wire under it to prevent digging doesn't help for long because wire soon rusts out. Our answer is concrete block laid with the holes up, filled and covered with gravel. Seconds or culls in good condition can be obtained at substantially reduced prices. The standard block is 8 inches x 8 inches x 16 inches with

two or three holes. With a layer of sand or gravel under the block and several inches of gravel on top, you have twelve inches or more of drainage, and the dogs may empty the holes now and then, but they can't get below the base of the block and therefore can't get to the dirt. Even if you get parasites in some droppings, the eggs or larvae are restricted to the lower levels where there is still moisture and the dogs are not easily exposed to them. The runs can also be disinfected periodically with a dilute bleach solution or other kennel disinfectant.

We haven't mentioned the type of gravel, but that may depend on what's available in your area and the type of dogs you have. The one necessity is clean gravel free of dirt and fines. That isn't always readily available. We have used three-quarter-inch crushed rock which was washed or selected from the edge of the pile where the larger pieces "floated" down the edge while the fines filtered through. We are presently changing to one-and-a-half-inch stone because we have had some plugging of the holes with leaves, hair and other debris blown in or brought in by the dogs from the surrounding woods. The larger stone should allow more of this to drain through. Some dogs will also eat rock occasionally and this should be minimized with larger stone. Some people use pea gravel, but we would be more concerned with ingestion of

this size stone, especially by Sams. Runs for smaller dogs, however, might well require finer gravel.

IF you feel it is necessary to have a setup that can be hosed and sanitized regularly, we know of one modification that would allow this. Poured concrete runs with the usual gutters and drains can be designed with lips around the perimeter and then gravel can be placed over the concrete. With the proper pitch to the concrete, cleaning water will still run through the gravel to the drains and into the sewer or septic system. This is, of course, much more expensive.

There are certain constraints depending on your particular conditions. Picking up droppings is more difficult and, in case of diarrhea, much of it may have to be washed through. You may also have to keep leaves out in the fall to keep the drainage free. Nearby plantings may be affected by the accumulation of urine or occasional use of disinfectant, especially if the underlying soil does not drain well. We have not experienced this difficulty, but it can probably be avoided by hosing down the area more often. The top layer of gravel will have to be replenished periodically as you pick up some stone with the droppings. WE have used this system for some years now and we are very happy with it. Not only does it keep our Sams' coats in good condition, it also is beneficial to the formation of good feet. •