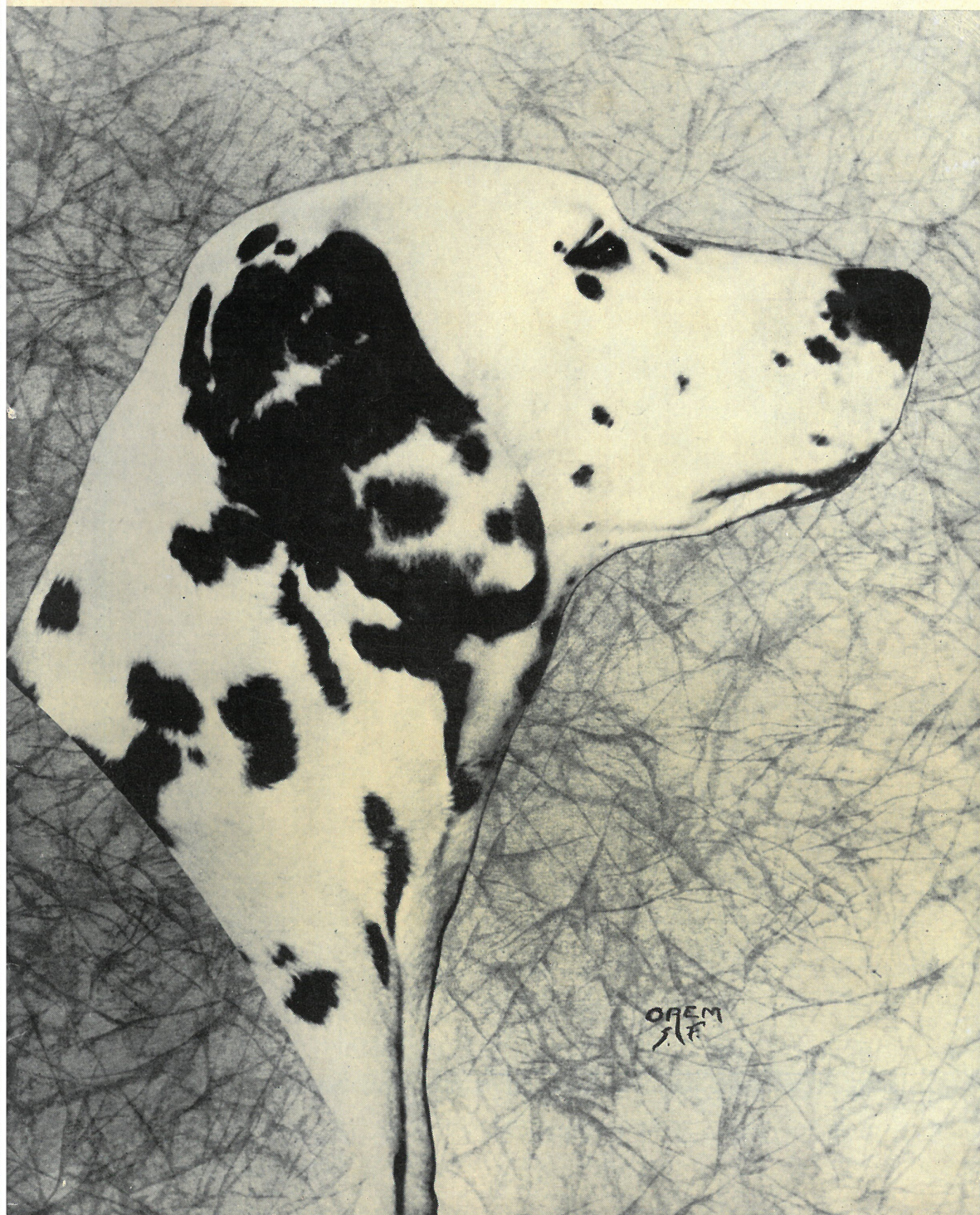


Western Kennel World

NOVEMBER

35c

1947



The Dalmatian,
CH. FOUR-IN-HAND ATHOS

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SAMOYEDS

By Vera Lawrence

It is our privilege to present here an item written (partly in answer to Lady Ritson's criticism of our Samoyeds here in America) by Mr. S. K. Ruick, President of our Samoyed Club of America. It is titled:

THE NEW SAMOYED STANDARD

There has been some criticism of the new Samoyed Standard, principally by our English cousins, but also by a few owners and breeders in this country, some of whom are not members of the Samoyed Club of America.

In discussing this matter, we do so not alone as our personal opinion, but also that of the Samoyed Club of America, whose duty it is to fix such standard in America. Above all things, we do not wish to offend anyone, as we are firm believers in the saying of that well known Frenchman of the past, "I disagree with everything you have said, but I shall defend to the death, your right to say it."

The Samoyed Club of America voted, practically unanimously to adopt the present Standard, which increases the height of the males to 23½ inches, and the weight to 67 pounds. The females to 21 inches in height and 55 pounds in weight. When the members voted, they did not do so blindly, but after some years of deliberation and discussion, with a report of a committee before them, composed of the oldest, largest and best known breeders from all sections of our country, which considered the matter unhurriedly and with painstaking care. The members then voted without any urging or propaganda of any kind.

We feel that it is our duty on behalf of the Samoyed Club of America, and as its presiding officer, to meet this criticism, and frankly state the facts and reasons upon which our conclusion was based.

The chief criticism, which has been given much publicity in both England and America, comes from Lady Kitty Ritson of England, who judged our Samoyeds at the Chicago show last March. We had the very great pleasure of meeting and talking with her at the ringside, and found her not only extremely charming, agreeable and affable, but a most able, conscientious and careful judge in every way. She has our most sincere respect and admiration.

Lady Ritson is quoted in the British Dog World as follows: "Some of the dogs were

much too big, and an over large Samoyed is, to my mind, even worse than one which is too small." Of course she is entitled to her opinion

a small dog? If they wish to perpetuate the Samoyed as it has been, and now is in its native habitat, they are not doing it, and can not do it. Perhaps as to size only, but not in other respects. We venture to say that no Samoyed from its northern home would have a ghost of a show in any ring. It would be underfed, and a victim of gruelling work and privation. No matter what its size might be, it would be no match for any well fed and cared for English or American Samoyed of fair points and condition. What then is this view point? Is it to preserve the size and expression, and to add to these the development that comes from plenty of good food and care?

We have read with much interest the article by Lady Ritson in the British Samoyed Association News Letter for June, 1947. We do not agree with her in many things therein. It is somewhat obvious that she would not draw a very sizeable entry in America with her known views. We most certainly differ with her when she writes (quote) "A disastrous craze in England, and an even more disastrous one in America for making medium sized breeds larger." We cannot say as to England, but we have seen no signs of disaster in America. It is easy to understand why our Samoyeds and other breeds in America have become larger than those in England and other countries, especially during the past five or six years. It is of course due to the food and care we have been able to give them. We know full well the privation our English friends have endured and are enduring, and we take off our hats to them, but this does not alter the facts.

All domestic animals in America, dogs, cats, horses and many others, have grown somewhat larger for the reasons above stated, and we point to a recent article in the American Kennel Gazette to this effect. We have talked to many authorities on different animals, and they all tell the same story. The leading driver of trotting horses in America, Sep. Palin, recently told us the same thing about such horses, and one of our members, Charles W. Jewett, who has owned some of the finest Arabian horses in this country, tells us that they have grown larger, but that their speed has not decreased.

As to horses in military campaigns, and again we quote Lady Ritson, "It has been proved in campaigns that a small horse endured better than a big horse." This statement is not very explicit, and might be misleading. Of course a small horse of the mustang type has more endurance than a huge draft horse like

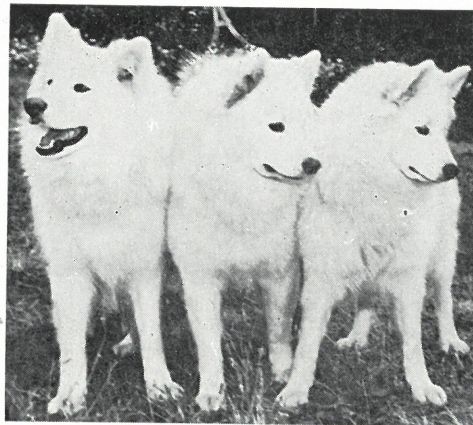


CHAMPION
ARDCLIFFE WHITE CLOUD OF STORM
Mrs. C. H. Chamberlain, owner

and the right to express it, but perhaps she does not know all the facts and reasons for raising our Standard in America. Then too, unfortunately, she had a very small number of 12 to judge at Chicago, instead of the 77 at our Chicago Specialty show last October.

Inasmuch as this criticism is frankly stated as a matter of like and dislike, may we suggest that it is not constructive, as no viewpoint is expressed, other than "like and dislike." Do our English friends desire the Samoyeds to be like those of the frozen north, or do they just like

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the Percheron. The cavalry horses of the U. S. Army, or in fact most armies, are not Percherons. They are of the type that has speed and endurance, and are not ponies.

We fear that Lady Ritson is misinformed as to the history of our Indian wars, when she writes, "The Indians made rings around the white troops." The fact is, that the strategy of the Indians, unfortunately for them, was to continually circle the whites, who bunched together behind barricades and calmly mowed them down. The result of this mistaken strategy was to practically exterminate the Indians. This is a matter of recorded history and fact, and cannot be successfully disputed.

Then again, the writer of this article evidently does not know that the U. S. Cavalry in these Indian wars was made up of exactly the same kind of horses as those of the Indians, namely, the Western Mustang or wild horse of the prairies, caught and tamed.

Lady Ritson further says, (quote) "I have lived in the Arctic Circle, and I have seen Samoyeds herding reindeer." We wonder if during the time she saw Samoyeds beating off the wolves and fighting to the death, while herding such reindeer. If not, then she did not see Samoyeds doing the most vital and important part of their work.

Again, if Lady Ritson saw in America, during her short stay, Samoyeds like elephants, as she writes, we challenge her to name such dogs, their owners or their localities. We have seen many Samoyeds in America, from coast to coast, and from the Gulf into Canada, and we have never yet seen nor heard of any that could be said to be like elephants. When any of our English friends say they have seen such animals in America, and that they are (quote) "plum homely," we fear they may have been victims of some optical illusions.

Further, we again take issue with Lady Ritson as to our first English judge. We point to the 1923 Westminster show, at which Mr. J. Willoughby was our first English judge, followed by Mr. Muss-Arnold.

It has been stated that a large Samoyed is not, and cannot be true to type. We take issue with this, for it is not borne out by the facts. We have seen many large Samoyeds within our present Standard, that have been just as true to type as the smaller. If any Samoyed is of a pure Samoyed type, it is born that way, and does

not acquire it in after life. It is not a matter of size, unless that size should be unusual and freakish, which seldom happens.

The principal reason a very large majority of the members of the Samoyed Club of America voted to raise our standard as to size and weight, was that for the past ten or 12 years, the larger dogs have consistently won over the smaller, under both breed and all rounder judges, provided of course, the larger dogs were equal or better in other particulars of the standard. The records will bear this out. The reason for this is understandable, for the Samoyed is a true working dog, and must stand the brunt of severe gruelling work and sub zero weather in its native home. It is primarily a herd dog, taking care of its charges, the reindeer. Not like the Collie, which mostly keeps his sheep from straying, but the Samoyed must fight packs of wolves to the death. It is needless to say that a powerful dog is better fitted for this than one not so powerful.

Again Lady Ritson contends that (quote) "A good big 'un will always beat a good little 'un' is not true." We most respectfully contend that this quotation applies correctly to both man and beast. The truth of this expression has been exemplified so many thousands of times, that very few people question its accuracy.

We have heard it said that a small Samoyed is faster. We challenge this for we have seen, many times, a large Sam out-run a smaller one, both for long and short distances.

Another reason is that a good large Samoyed, and again we mean one within our present standard, is more eye arresting than a good small one. Most of our winning dogs of the past 10 or 12 years have been over the old standard; and again I appeal to the record. What then, is the sense of having a standard that is consistently and continually violated and ignored?

We have also heard it said that a large Samoyed loses style. Again we challenge this statement. In some cases, yes, but in most instances, no. Your dog is born with style, or it is not so born. Its final size does not affect its style in any way. We have all seen some very beautiful ladies both in the drawing room and on the stage. Some are stylish and some are not, but

their size does not determine this. We do not apologize for the comparison, for all human beings may well emulate some of the qualities of our canine friends.

One of our few members who wrote us deploring the raising of our standard, was the owner and importer of one of our great dogs of the past. This member, however, may have forgotten that this dog was over our former standard.

All our English friends do not take the same view as their Samoyed breeders and owners generally. For instance, the English Cocker is somewhat larger than the American, and the two are in separate classes in this country, as may be seen by glancing at any show catalog.

We do not advise breeding huge Samoyeds, but we do think the raising of our standard as to size and weight was wise, sensible and expedient under the existing conditions. We should not, of course, breed for size, but for other important features, such as style, coat, conformation, good heads with true Samoyed expression, and many other points. The most exasperating thing we know of, is to have our dogs called Spitz by those who do not know the breed. The larger dog is seldom called this.

We do not take issue with our English friends and others, for if they prefer small Samoyeds, that is their right and privilege, but we do think it would carry more weight and be more constructive if a view point were expressed, other than like and dislike. Our thought is, not to attempt to impose our views in any way upon our English friends or those few in this country who do not approve of our new standard; but merely to set out facts and reasons. We have the greatest respect for

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and to have free expression of such disagreement, and we realize fully that great masses of our countrymen and their allies have died to preserve this right. We sincerely hope we have offended no one by frankly setting out these the right and privilege of anyone to disagree, views and facts, for we most certainly have not intended to do so.

—Respectfully submitted, S. K. Ruick, President, Samoyed Club of America.

CH. ARDCLIFF WHITE CLOUD of STORM Best of Breed at Akron, Ohio

We take pleasure in presenting here a picture of Ch. Ardcliff White Cloud of Storm with his owner, Mrs. Clifford Chamberlain of Cleveland, Ohio, being presented best of breed trophy at Akron, Ohio, show, by Judge Major Godsol of California. "Cloudy" had gone best of breed at Warren, Ohio show the day before under Rees Davis. Mrs. A. L. MacBain's Alstasia's Tanyana was best opposite sex both days—while Frank Brigg's Anniki of White Crest was best of winners.

Mrs. Chamberlain says that in the picture Cloudy was practically out of coat — "but it shows up his grand stifles and strong hind-quarters — also his lovely wedge-shaped head, laughing Sam expression and good shoulders and spring of rib. "Sometimes I think you can honestly 'see' a good dog—or a poor one for that matter—when they don't have their glorious 'camouflage' of lustrous white coats." She adds—"Of course I'll take the coats!"

SOME SHOW REPORTS

It was very late in the afternoon of an uncomfortably hot day at the Petaluma show of September 14th when Mrs. L. Zingler of Everett, Washington, judged the 10 Sams entered for competition. Her placements were: winners dog, best of winners, and on to best of breed White Way Kennel's Nick of White Way (Ch. Petrof Lebanov ex Ch. Herdsman's Faith). Reserve was Mrs. Dorothy Larson's Petra of Valiki (Kharkov ex Princess Snow Sonia). Winner's bitch and best opposite sex went to Mrs. Mason's Gay of White Way. Reserve winner's bitch was Mrs. Dorothy Larson's Samoyland's Soozee (Soldier Frosty of Rimini ex Samoyland's Verla's Tula).

At the Riviera Show, Judge R. L. Patterson placed Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Bristol's young 10 month old male, Starchak's Witangemote (Ch. Starchak ex Ch. Staryvna of Snowland) as winners dog, best of winners, and best of breed, with Mr. Proudfoot's Laska of White Way (Sooltan ex Ch. Silver Star of White

Way) as reserve winner. Winners bitch was Mr. and Mrs. Bristol's Princess Startinda (Ch. Starchak ex Princess Tina of Tonia)—reserve going to Elmer Ebersol's Snow Queen of White Way.



Kiska Snow Frost, Mrs. Laura M. Poirier, Highland Park, Mich.

KISKA SNOW FROST FIRST IN WORKING GROUP AT MICH. SHOW

This show, held at Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, brought great happiness to Mrs. Laura M. Poirier of Highland Park, Michigan, for her Park-Cliff Kiska Snow Frost was best of breed Samoyed, and then went on to place first in the working group, defeating the best Boxer (50 Boxers entered) and thus "Frosty" won 5 points, under Judge Thos. D. Buck of Rochester, N. Y. "Frosty" is by Park-Cliffe Sanorka out of Park-Cliffe Sarafan II.

Mrs. Poirier writes that when Judge Buck patted Frosty's head, preparatory to opening his mouth, Frosty obligingly opened his mouth, much to everyone's amusement. We present here a recent picture of Mrs. Poirier's Kiska Snow Frost.



STARCHAK'S WEOTUMA

(Pictured)

8 Points in 2 Shows
Litter by CH. STARCHAK, C. D. ex STARCHAK'S WEOTUMA daughter of CH. STARYVNA OF SNOWLAND. Line bred for type and style.

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Notes from Mrs. Quereaux' Sam Club Bulletin

Chagrin Valley Show August 24, with Anton Rost judging, gave best of breed and 4th in working rroup to Roy Brott's Zoveek of Snowland.

Our sympathy to Mr. J. T. Roth who recently lost his first show winning Sam—Ch. Yenisei Lady Gail, who held a very special place in his heart. However, a new youngster has gone to fill that empty place in the Roth home—a puppy by Dr. Iven's Ch. Snowland Taz out of Kola. In a puppy match, when it was about 7 or 8 weeks old, this pup went best pup, and on to first in the pup working group, all toddlers of about the same age.

Mavis Miller, owner of Ch. Zutano and many other outstanding Great Pyrenees here on the coast, tells us that her young daughter is so interested in our Sammy pictures that she is making her a scrap book of just Sammy pictures, which the youngster looks at by the hour. We'd say that that baby has really excellent taste, wouldn't you?

When the White House Went to the Dogs

It was during the week previous to the San Mateo show that the White House in San Francisco literally went to the dogs, that is to Samoyeds. When Mr. Rosenbaum presented the idea to us, we immediately called on Mr. Stang to take over the job, and it was a task to get together on such short notice all the interesting things that were finally displayed in the Post street window.

In the center of the display was a huge spinning wheel obtained by Mr. Duhamel of San Anselmo. We took time one morning on our way to the office to scan the VERY interesting display (as noted by the crowds of interested passers-by). There were yards and yards of cloth woven of Sammy wool brushings. Across the arm of the spinning wheel were a sweater knit of Sammy yarn, beanies hand-dyed a lovely sky blue, a handy purse to wear with that sport suit, beautiful knitted socks, a huge wad of raw wool, and a skein or so of spun yarn, all made from the waste combings of our Sammies' coats. No, folks, we do NOT clip our dogs. We simply make use of nature's method of keeping our dogs in good condition for summer. When warm weather arrives the Sammy begins to shed that heavy winter coat, and we have found that in aiding by brushing out the loose wool we are gaining wool to be spun into yarn for future uses.

But to get back to that window at the White House. There were pictures galore, there were puppies, grown dogs, sled teams, there was a photo taken at the Oakland show, showing Mrs. Lisa Lepik at her spinning wheel actually spinning yarn from wool obtained from brushings of the dogs' coats preparatory to their exhibition, Sasha II lying beside the spinning wheel as though watching the operation involved.

A colorful exhibit was presented by the many ribbons won by Sams at various San Mateo shows during the years gone by—as well as trophies of all sizes.

And folks, so that we may have this window picture for our records Mrs. Dot Lineer, known to W. K. W. readers, photographed it for us, a photo which we hope to present in our Christmas issue.

And lo—that's not all—there's more to come! All for this time, folks. Now for that Special Christmas Issue! And a Happy Thanksgiving to you all!
— V. L.

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