

Samoyed Expression

*Don and Dot Hodges
Poynette, Wisconsin*

OVER the years, we have seen some really attractive Samoyed heads, and as we have analyzed those heads to determine exactly what it was about them that made them so appealing to us, we found more often than not it was the expression that turned us on. Some Sams simply exude so much joy and delight in their expression that you can't help but smile back and give them a hug or a pat.

The standard makes it clear that expression is extremely important to the breed and defines expression as "sparkle of the eyes, animation and lighting up of the face when alert or intent on anything." The standard lists three components of expression: eyes, ears and mouth. We would like to share some observations on each of these with you and add two more components which, we have observed, influence expression.

Of the three components mentioned by the standard, we feel eye shape, color and set are the most important factors in the creation of expression. Take an otherwise perfect head and alter the eye shape to round or triangular and the whole expression changes. A triangular eye can alter the expression from a happy one to one of a pout. A round eye can turn an otherwise perfect head into one completely devoid of expression, or give it a sad look, much like Keene's paintings of the children and animals with huge round eyes. Certain narrow eyesets can create a cold look and the lack of proper slant can change a beautiful head into an ordinary one. Very light eyes can change the appearance from warm and happy to cold and calculating. We feel, therefore, that eyes play an extremely important role in the general appearance created by the dog.

After eyes, the second most important influence on expression is, in our opinion, earset. A dog with a perfect head in all respects but for an earset that is too wide loses the sense

of animation called for in the standard. Instead, the impression created is that of a dull dog half asleep on his feet. Narrow earsets, while not proper, do much less harm to expression, since they do not subtract from the appearance of animation.

The standard mentions a third component, mouth. A dog with good eye shape, color and set, and a good earset, can maintain some degree of cheerful expression without a good lip line, but a pleasing smile certainly adds to the "happy" appearance of the face. Today the Samoyed smile has almost disappeared; very few Samoyeds have a truly correct lip line. A good Samoyed smile should be evident regardless of whether the mouth is open or closed. The line of the mouth, when closed, should curve gently upward in a smile; there should be no "lippiness" or loose flews.

While the standard does not explicitly mention pigmentation in conjunction with its discussion of expression, we find that if a dark nose lightens with age or if eye rim color fades on an otherwise perfect head, it will definitely rob the head of some of its expression. We would also add that chiseling around the eyes and foreface changes the sweet look of the head to a hard look, and certainly removes some of the happy animated appearance which is desired.

We wish to make a distinction, in this discussion, between a good expression and a good head. A Samoyed can have a good expression even if he is lacking in other aspects of his head conformation. On the other hand, a Samoyed cannot have a good head if he does not have good expression. Many people seem to confuse good head with good expression, or completely overlook expression in evaluating the quality of a head. We owned a Samoyed for many years who, we feel, had outstanding expression although his head was notably lacking in some respects. His ears were properly set; his eyes were a correct almond shape with a very pleasing slant as required by the standard; his

nose was very dark, as were his eyes, and he wore a smile at all times. (We are reminded of an incident which happened many years ago when we had him at work one day; a person totally unacquainted with the Samoyed breed walked into the office, saw him lying soundly asleep on the floor [his eyes and mouth closed], and exclaimed, "Look! He's smiling!"). The dog, nevertheless, had a somewhat narrow muzzle and skull. His muzzle was of insufficient depth, and his ears lacked good furring. The head was not a correct one; yet, it was extremely expressive — it conveyed that look of alertness and happiness synonymous with the breed characteristics described in the standard. By the same token, we have seen Samoyed heads which were correct in almost all respects, but, because they were lacking in just one aspect, were devoid of much expression at all — or created a definite impression of coldness, hardness, an unhappy pout, or dullness.

GIVEN the emphasis the standard places on expression, we are somewhat bothered by the preoccupation breeders often have with width (or shortness) of muzzle and width of head to the exclusion of almost all other aspects of the head, including expression. Ask a fancier to describe his dog's head and so often the reply is in terms such as "wolf type" or "bear type," which the fancier may use to describe shape of skull and muzzle. Practically no mention of expression and its components is volunteered, despite the fact that the discussion of head in the Samoyed Standard emphasizes its importance. The next time you look at a Samoyed head, take a few moments to analyze the expression. Does the face express cheer, alertness, sweetness? Does it have a grin you can't resist? Remember, "The big white dog that carries in its face and heart the spirit of Christmas the whole year through." The Samoyed won't be perceived that way if he loses his Samoyed expression.

The Name's the Game

Bill Stanfield
New Orleans, Louisiana

FREQUENTLY in the past I discussed the problems and the significance in selecting an appropriate kennel name, one that expresses the character and the identity of the dogs you wish to project to the public. For me, the appropriate name was found in the Arthurian legend; hence, Paladin, those who were frequently dispatched on difficult errands in search of the elusive – though I'm not certain any were sent to find the perfect dog. Nonetheless, I dearly love a fictional legend, a saga, an epic, which perhaps explains my interest in dogs and in hearing the folklore surrounding such things as tales of past breedings, wins, etc.

Of equal importance, though, is the selection of the dog's name. Again, one wishes to project the proper public image using only the allowable number of letters. Selection of canine nomenclature varies with individuals, and is usually dependent upon the characteristics one wishes to be emphasized. Absolute belief in the absurd, for example, or a peculiar sense of humor, can produce something like Black Wind's Volcanic Canelope, an image, perhaps, that only Bob Dylan could savor and kick around in the "smokerings" of his mind. Others prefer to stress the cute personality traits of the dog, thus, a host of Cuddly bears, Teddy Bears, and Pooky Poohs. Xavier Hollander has also spawned (pardon the expression) a few "Happy Hookers" lately, a name I like because the implication is one of permissiveness, and I think we could use more of that. On the other hand, most of the hookers I ever met (only on a casual basis, I assure you) seemed, for the most part, merely stoic, neither happy nor even sad.

It's fairly evident, by now, that I prefer something of the heroic proportion. For awhile I toyed with the idea of naming my dogs after my personal contemporary heroes. Can one imagine naming a dog Wailin' Waylon in honor of the best country-western singer on either side of the Rockies?

That was exactly my intention until I was threatened with being kenneled with Wailin' Waylon. Or, how about Joltin' Joe in honor of DiMaggio, the man termed "poetry in motion" in center field for those great Yankee teams? "Much better," she says, but, as one uninterested in sports, she suggests that few will know anything of the legendary Joe DiMaggio other than the fact that he plugs coffeemakers on TV.

That observation is probably correct and suggests a major problem in choosing names. Namely, finding a name with which most of us are familiar and can, therefore, as the sociologists say, "relate to." My own Nelli Kim, whose name I did not choose, but one I like, is a case in point. I am astounded at those who have never heard of Nelli Kim, the beautiful gymnast, nay even gorgeous (to resort to the superlative) Chinese lady, albeit Russian citizen, who scored a perfect ten in the '76 Olympics. Or my Sauce Piquante, a name I did choose and one which has even more obscurity, apparently, than Nelli Kim, and as a result, also requires an explanation. A sauce piquante, I explain, is a savory sauce of French origin quite popular in parts of Louisiana where Creole and Cajun cuisine is dispensed. That name was given to suggest visions of the delightful – something savory to the senses, a thing of beauty, a joy forever, ad infinitum.

Many of us also like to dwell on remembrances of things past, paying homage to dogs of the past we admired. For instance, I named our male Adrian, in tribute to Adrian of the Arctic, the first Sam my father purchased in England, from the late Miss Keyte-Perry. Her subsequent correspondence to my family indicated she was, indeed, a classy lady, and old Adrian, I'm told, was not lacking in class either; therefore, the name seemed appropriate for me. Regrettably, some have suggested that Adrian is a sissy name. It's not. Adrienne would be for a dog, but no one ever referred to those Roman Hadrians, from whom the name is derived, as sissies.

Admittedly, the designated name

of Adrian of Nola is lacking in many respects, since it's rather esoteric and means little to those outside the immediate family. And it really doesn't conjure up much of an image in the mind's eye of those who read it. As a result, I am going out on the linguistic limb and selecting, in my opinion, the top ten names, kennel names inclusive, those names that really have power and pizzazz. Not only that, I will cite the reasons for that selection.

1. Silver Dagger of Sworddale. (Pure poetry, with alliteration and nice meter, suggesting proper color and a powerful sharp thrusting movement.)

2. Hillhead's Mitre of Sleighburn. (Again, very poetic with visions of the sacred.)

3. Yurok of Whitecliff. (Granite-like strength with the concept of rock blending well with the cliff imagery.)

4. Odin of Asgard. (Powerful, lofty, very Nordic, capable of zapping you with Sturm und Drang if you're not careful.)

5. Sam O'Khan's Ghengis Khan. (Move aside, women and children, dogs out of the ring, the man is here, cutting a swathe a mile wide.)

6. Rickshaw's Hot Saki. (An appeal to the sense of taste, smell and touch. Very smooth and deceptively powerful.)

7. Ka-Tag's Memory in Silver. (Simple, straightforward statement of tribute to a valued one.)

8. Merlin of Vicrian. (No explanation required. Merlin of Arthur's Court, capable of performing great magical feats.)

9. Borodino Has No Spots. (This one really defies an explanation on my part. Why should Borodino have spots? It simply grabs my attention and makes me wonder.)

10. Grenadier of Crensa. (Moving with the precision of the queen's Grenadiers.)

THOSE are my top ten, not necessarily in order of preference. Ten, of course, is the magical number for ratings in this country. My preference indicates a penchant for prosody, but the real criterion for selecting the dog's name is that it makes the namer happy; your dog isn't

going to know the difference anyway. "Spot" or "Rex," "Muffy" or "Queen," it's all the same to them. If, for instance, you want to plug your geographical area with names like Napa Valley Salley, Alexis of Texas, Ramona from Pomona, then do it. If you want a name suggesting heroic or

celebrity proportions, then by all means go with Atilla the Hon or Clark Gable in Sable. In short, if it makes you feel good, do it. At times, I even think it would have been worth a few nights in the kennel if I had stuck with Wailin' Waylon, which really made me feel good! •

Take It with a Grain of Salt

*Ann Hogue
Richardson, Texas*

DEAR Breed Ring Exhibitor, isn't it amazing how 99 percent of all the people attending dog shows claim to be all-knowing experts, ready and willing to enlighten you with what they (cough) know? Even if you are only just beginning to exhibit in the breed ring, surely you have noticed how many folks are anxious to force their expertise on you; whiz kids, it seems, are a dime a dozen. There are lots of different kinds of these self-proclaimed intellectual heavyweights, but I want to call your attention to the particular type of dog authority who makes me grind my teeth in a fury – the JUDGE EXPERT! This guy first asks you who your judge is, and then says something like, "Oh, yes, Judge Nosebender. He looks for a good arch to the neck, and he has a thing about the dog's holding his head up. So be sure and keep a tight lead on your dog so he'll hold his head high." The exhibitor, poor innocent, tries to follow this advice, only to be admonished by the judge, "Loose lead, please!" Or, another example is the time I was told by three different people – all of whose opinions I respected – that my judge liked great big dogs and therefore always put up the largest dog in the ring. I watched the man judge all the Saint Bernards, and all the Belgian Sheepdogs. Not in any class in either breed did he choose the largest one. Finally, when our

Samoyed class came, we were standing next to an enormous Samoyed, who made mine look like a peanut by comparison. The big one placed second, AFTER mine. So, after many such experiences, I am inclined to want to give these so-called experts the raspberries.

Now, don't get me wrong, some judge-type advice can be very helpful, like, "Oh, yes, Judge Cudchewer. He likes to gait the dogs in a very complicated pattern ..." or "Oh, Judge Goutleg. He likes to check the dogs' pads for pigment, so be sure your dog doesn't mind having his feet handled." In the case of the gaiting pattern, we had practiced ahead of time, and in the ring we were able to negotiate the turns, switch lead hands, etc., with ease. And I had several strangers "examine" my dog's feet, so that when the judge did the same thing, it was no surprise to my dog. So the above kind of judge-type advice really can be worthwhile. The other kind, which purports to predict what qualities the judge is "looking for" in the dogs, is just so much HOGWASH! It is my opinion, and therefore I OPINE, that anybody who tells you he is sure what a judge "thinks" is simply wasting your time (unless, of course, he is Dunninger the Mind-reader).

SO please have the following tattooed on the inside of your arm, and the next time you are tempted to listen to such nonsense, reread it:

Now let it be known,

At the shows where I've shown
You hear bundles of stuff that is
phony.
So lest you should grieve,
Take care to believe
Just the good stuff and not the
baloney!

It's all very well
For folks who will tell
What they know about that judge or
this'n;
Let it be understood,
Some advice may be good,
But mostly you're smart not to listen.

Oh, may they endure,
Those folks who are sure
Just which kind the judge will be
choosin'.
May it not be too long,
'Ere their info prove wrong,
And they'll be the ones who are
losing!

So fie! on the name
Of those who would claim
They understand your judge, expertly,
I think you will find
They can't read his mind
So turn down their help, oh, so curtly!

Just count by the score
All the creeps who just bore,
Telling how you should go about
winning.
To your own knowledge cling,
And do your own thing,
Like you should have, from the
beginning.

Be brave and stand fast,
Be firm to the last,
Though your eyes be all bloodshot and
bleary;
Just hold back that sob
As your ears start to throb,
When of all of their rantings you
weary.

So here's what to do
To those who tell you
That they know just how your judge
will pick 'em;
Be tough and be strong
When you show them they're wrong –
Just take aim on their backsides, and
kick 'em! •

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Samoyed People

The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
Joan Lueck
OAKWOOD FARM
Oxford, Michigan

This interview was conducted at the home of Mrs. Lueck on December 1, 1979 by Judie Treuschel.

How did you first get started in purebred dogs and why Sammies?

I had a Sammy when I was just five years old. I picked him out; it was NO accident and I really fell in love with him. He lived until I was out of school and off to college, when he died of old age. When we felt we could afford to buy a farm, we bought one in Oxford and I immediately wanted a dog. I had NO thoughts of show dogs or of EVER breeding dogs at all.

After looking through AKC books and talking to different people, I decided I wanted a Samoyed again. I began looking (this was in 1964 or 1965) and I started checking all around Michigan to see who had dogs available, Samoyed dogs.

I contacted Laura Porier, who had been in Sammies since about 1915 and knew all the dogs in the country. Finally, she located a litter of puppies with Ruth Bates Young, a close friend of hers, and Ruth lived in Dayton, Ohio.

At the time I bought the puppy, I had no desire to show a dog, but I had promised Ruth Young that I would show this puppy for her, or at least HAVE it shown by someone.

I was introduced to a man named Bob Fisher, who lived not far from the farm. He agreed to show the dog. The dog was Ch. Velko Chipaquipa. He was my first show dog!

After Velko, where did you go from there?

I decided what I needed would be to get TWO nice bitches, for myself! Still, with no thoughts of breeding; I just wanted to have the companionship of a nice dog I could take with me without being knocked against the wall and down the stairs – and dragged down the street!

I discussed this problem with

Laura Porier and one day she called me and said a woman who had been breeding her line had two six-month-old bitches that she wanted to sell immediately! I bought them immediately and drove home with the two bitches in the car! We had a marvelous time with the two females and the male. I STILL had no intention of ever breeding dogs!

At that time, as I recall, I had talked to someone about getting a female and I got a telephone call form out in the Northwest. There was a male and female puppy out of a litter that were available for sale, but the breeder wanted both of them sold together! I purchased those two. All of a sudden I had five Sammies.

What did you do with the two from the Northwest?

I started going to Michigan State immediately – with my first dog. What actually was taking place was that I took my first dog to Michigan State and told them I wanted him checked for everything a dog could possibly have! I didn't know what a dog COULD have, congenitally, hereditarily, acquired, or otherwise! I wanted to know what faults and problems dogs could develop. They x-rayed the dog and his hips were good.

Did you know about dysplasia then?

I had heard the word, but I didn't know what it was. I wanted the dog's eyes and ears checked. They put me through Michigan State University. The dog was checked and I learned quite a lot about acquired, congenital and hereditary diseases of animals.

Without naming names, my early dogs were an education for me. A number of them were dysplastic and they had other problems. They were OFA certified, yet they had other problems I felt made them difficult for me to keep. I was forced to start thinking about the dogs in a little more scientific fashion! Finally, I'm up to ten, and now I need a kennel! (laughter)

You built a kennel?

We started planning the kennel and as the weeks wore on, Les was drawing the kennel on the drafting board. The kennel got bigger and big-

ger and bigger! We finally ended up with a kitchen, a grooming area, all automatic watering up and down both sides of the kennel, fourteen runs on the inside and about eighteen to twenty large exercise runs on the outside! That was so they could come out of the kennel and go into large exercise areas. The kennel had a washer and dryer, stove, refrigerator – and after we built the kennel, we'd go to the kennel to have breakfast with the dogs!

Just as we were building the kennel building, I had a call from Joan Sheets, whom I had become very well acquainted with, saying that Doris McLaughlin (in Denver) had a very nice adult bitch and dog for sale that were both OFA certified. I called Doris and told her I'd like to buy the two dogs. The one male was out of Chief and Jinka. He was Silveracres Ivan and the female was a granddaughter of Chief and Jinka. She was sired by Ch. Polar Star's Nika Frost. Her name was Silveracres Tsaritsa.

Doris had written a note that Cajun was in her second day of season. I immediately checked Cajun and couldn't see that she WAS in season. To make a long story short, Big John bred Cajun the next morning! I hadn't planned this at all, but they were tied and there was nothing I could do about it.

How big was the litter and where did they go?

There were seven.

Did you keep them all?

No, I didn't keep them all. I kept three here and every puppy in the litter went to personal friends of mine!

I actually had AKC registration in MY name on the ENTIRE litter! None of the puppies in the litter were placed for breeding or show by anyone else!

At this time, you still weren't really into showing or breeding, but you had all these dogs ...?

I WAS, but I didn't THINK I was! I was involved in it and was spending 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with the dogs and kept telling everyone I wasn't involved.

By then, I had the kennel building, about ten dogs and a litter of pup-

pies. (I was keeping puppies out of the litter.) I got an American and Canadian championship on Oakwood Farms Silvaputta and an American and Canadian championship on Oakwood Farms Silvacarrie. Unfortunately, Putta was dysplastic and also had cataracts, so he was never used for breeding, but Carrie was OFA certified and I took her to Jim and Joan Sheets' dog, Ch. Sam O'Khan's Chingis Khan, and bred Carrie to Jingo and got Am/Can Ch. Oakwood Farms Kari J'Go Diko out of that litter.

At this time, you were really into it?

Yes, REALLY into it! I'd gotten very much into studying the differences in the various lines and the differences in the temperament of the animals and the diseases they acquired, and also their hereditary problems. By this time, I had joined an all breed kennel club and had become so involved that I was losing contact with all of the interests I'd had prior to the time I got the dogs.

Now, remember, I STILL was not going to become a dog BREEDER. I had NO plans to establish my own line and no plan to become a breeder of dogs. I just happened to have a large group of dogs and I had become very emotionally attached to them and still didn't really plan to do any more breeding than that one accidental litter between Cajun and Big John!

Actually, I think what precipitated my becoming a dog breeder was the fact that I was quite determined and didn't want my animals to suffer the affliction of hereditary problems. I recognized that nothing could be 100 percent controlled, but I was very disappointed in the fact that the dog industry, in general, was very calloused to the hereditary problems with mankind that we can't make ANY attempt to correct them because who can breed humans in a scientific fashion? It's just not done, but we CERTAINLY can breed animals in a scientific fashion. There is really NO reason whatsoever for these dogs to suffer from the things they are suffering from! I was quite determined that whatever dogs I had, I would make every attempt possible to first breed them so they didn't HAVE these hereditary defects; secondly, if they DID have defects, I had to know about

it or there was no way I could help the animal.

So, my breeding of dogs was a situation of self-defense. I found that in all of the dogs I was buying from around the country, many were growing up affected with hereditary defects that made them unable to live a happy and healthy life. I started breeding dogs in the hope of providing dogs just for myself that were very sound. I never had any desire or intention of breeding dogs for the general public, but as I began to breed dogs, I became more and more involved in the genetics of dog breeding and started inbreeding my dogs very closely and found the only way I could produce good dogs for myself to enjoy was to breed my OWN dogs to my OWN bitches and, finally, reached a point where I had a great deal of predictability in both the defects that might be apparent in the litter and also the good qualities were coming through the litter. I was able to predict many things I would get out of a litter. This gave me a lot of personal security because if I felt I needed or wanted a dog that, perhaps, was very large to keep in the house with me as a personal guard dog, I felt I had the number of animals and the knowledge of what was behind them genetically to be able to produce the kind of dog I needed. Of course, my one little dog I started out with developed into 40 or 45 dogs after about three or four years. Once I started breeding dogs, my numbers increased and increased until I kept 45 dogs here in this kennel for a number of years!

Dr. Uvie Mostovski at Michigan State University has been the greatest influence on my dog breeding of anyone I've known. He's very knowledgeable about genetics. He's an excellent radiologist; he was also generous enough to put me in contact with Dr. Champion, who bred Arabian horses and was very knowledgeable about genetics. I was able to glean so much help and information from those people that this was the only glimmer of hope I had in being able to acquire a security for myself in producing dogs that I liked and wanted.

What problems were you seeing?

The problems I had in the beginning were with hip dysplasia. I was producing a very high number of dysplastic puppies out of OFA certified

stock. It was my experience during the early years that if a person was weak of heart, you could not POSSIBLY bring hip dysplasia under control because you had to cull, or at least cull from breeding, any animal that was dysplastic. I never, in my entire number of years of breeding, bred ANY dog or bitch that was not OFA certified. I would NEVER give stud service to any bitch that was not OFA certified.

I feel personally grieved that we see so many people attempting to breed dogs, who only have a few dogs. Through my own experience over the past years, I know without any question that this is a failure for them. Unless you can breed repeatedly and prove out your breeding stock, you are constantly frustrated with dog breeding. You MUST be able to first ascertain a goal. What kind of dog do you want and what are your goals in your standards for your own personal dogs? What methods will you undertake to produce these dogs that will satisfy whatever it is within us that makes us want to breed dogs? After all, dog breeding is very demanding, a very personal thing.

And if we once begin breeding dogs, it's like eating popcorn, you take one handful and then another, and soon you've eaten the whole bowl! Dog breeding is very much the same way. You breed one generation, then you want to breed the next generation, then another. And if you don't have the facilities, space, time and situation to be able to do this, you're wasting your time and money and are possibly creating a problem for the purebred dog industry in general, in that there are many people breeding dogs who cannot assume the responsibility for those puppies! They sell their puppies to homes that aren't good, reliable dog pet homes. Many of the general American public does not feel that a dog is a member of the family. They feel a dog is an acquisition. Therefore, they treat it far less than a human and considerably less than a human and considerably less than an acquisition. They feel that a dog has its rights - and part of the rights is to run loose, breed freely and take its chances with the Lord. Well, we all take chances with the Lord, but if we don't help these animals, so they are kept secure, then there really isn't any point in sell-

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ing the animal to the person. There are far too many people who don't make any attempt to keep their animals fenced, who don't give them proper medical care. If a dog breeder is going to put so much sacrifice and time into producing puppies, the breeder can't afford to sell puppies to a home like that because there's nothing meaningful that will come out of that puppy.

In the beginning, you were actually outcrossing.

Yes. My very first litter was a linebred litter: Silveracres Ivan and Silveracres Tsaritsa was a linebreeding. The first stud service I did on Velko was a linebreeding. Following that, I produced a couple of outcrossed breedings and, through doing these breedings, I was able to decide that it didn't make any difference whether you outcrossed, inbred or linebred, so long as you had a plan and knew why you were doing it and could, with some reliability, ascertain what would come out of the litter.

You do a lot of inbreeding, now, don't you?

The only breeding I do now or have done for quite some time is my own dogs to my own bitches. I'd NEVER consider under ANY circumstances, breeding one of my bitches outside of my kennel. The only stud services I will permit here are to outcrossed bitches that are of very fine lines and are very good quality animals. I would NOT consider at any time or for any reason would I EVER outcross one of my animals.

What have you been able to improve or sustain in your breedings?

Reliability. There was no reliability whatsoever, no predictability, when I started breeding the dogs. When you outcross dogs, you have no idea what genes those animals carry, so it is completely impossible to predict what you are going to get in the litter.

As you begin to inbreed, you are undergoing a process of culling. You are breeding only good animals because it would be self-destructive to inbreed anything but very good animals. The more generations you inbreed, the fewer negative genes you'll be working with.

How many litters have you bred?

Thirty-seven litters – unless I've missed a few.

What do you look for in your

planned breedings?

I don't look for anything in a planned breeding. I PUT it there. I planned it several generations before and when I select animals for breeding, I know what is behind the dog because I owned all of them; therefore, I'm able to predict and to plan which bitches should be bred to which studs, in order to get the highest number of quality animals.

How many champions have you bred or finished?

I think around 23 in the United States and about 9 in Canada.

Who has been the biggest winner?

Diko has been the biggest winner. Am/Can Ch. Oakwood Farms Kari J'Go Diko.

How old is Diko?

He's eight now.

How old was he when he won the Specialty in 1976?

He was five.

Do you sell on puppy-back terms?

Very seldom will I sell a bitch even with papers on her. Actually, I very seldom sell a dog with its AKC papers. All of my dogs are sold under a written, legal contract that is signed by the purchaser and myself. I do NOT like my dogs bred unless they are being bred by a knowledgeable individual or being bred by someone who will permit me to assist them or advise them and guide them through the breeding. Consequently, I rarely sell papers when I sell the dog. The dog is sold strictly as a pet.

However, when I sell a puppy, it is ALWAYS with reservation – and discussion with the purchaser – in the event that a puppy I've sold as show quality at the age of six months or one year or even two years has NOT met the standards that I like to keep for this kennel, then I request that the purchaser please not show the dog, but return it to me and I'll give him another puppy, or they may certainly keep the dog as a pet, and I'll just GIVE them another dog that IS of show quality. I feel it is VERY injurious to the purebred dog fancy to have dogs out on the show mats that are of bad quality. It is very urgent that we make every effort to improve the quality of dogs that are out at the dog shows at this time.

What do you consider a very serious fault in the breed?

To me, the most serious fault in any breed is a disease entity that is

hereditary. These defects, such as hip dysplasia, progressive retinal atrophy, hearing defects and orthopedic problems such as stifles, hocks, shoulders, osteochondritis, cause severe pain to the animal, which does not permit the animal to live a healthy, happy life.

Would you breed to a dog that had a very serious conformation fault, if it had other redeeming qualities?

No, I definitely would not. I have a number of very cowhocked OFA excellents. All of those animals were placed in pet homes and I maintained the papers on them, but their conformation defect, to me, made them not usable for breeding. There is no such thing as a perfect dog, but a person must be very careful to maintain a high standard in selecting breeding stock or you are simply going to perpetuate the structural defects.

Have you had any experience with aggressive dogs?

It is my feeling that in every breeding program you'll have throwbacks in temperament and there are dogs who MUST be euthanized because their temperaments are not conducive to cohabitation with society. In those instances, I have always euthanized the dog with no regrets, but, by and large, bad temperament is created by the breeder and not by the purchaser. I know this is NOT the popular feeling of most dog breeders. Most dog breeders want to blame the purchaser for every temperament fault the dog has, but it is MY feeling that if the dog is properly bred and if the breeder is very careful about selecting a home that matches the temperament of that particular puppy, you will have a very high percentage of success in the temperament of your dogs.

Has the breed improved during the past years?

That's interesting, because sometimes, when I talk with the older dog breeders, we talk about certain dogs that were so magnificent back fifteen to twenty years ago and we look at some of the dogs that are out now and try to compare them. It was an entirely different situation, showing dogs back in the 60's. Back then, there were very few Samoyeds in the country. You had two kinds of Samoyeds. You had either a very excellent, wonderful show dog that was well known to everyone or you had the dogs whose quality was so bad that they

didn't even look like a Sam, so we had no in between. We had either outstanding dogs or really bad animals.

Now, I'm seeing an entirely different situation. I am seeing many very mediocre dogs and just don't ever see anything outstanding; yet the dogs that are out in the ring have improved, generally, in type, but their overall quality is really quite bad.

In what way?

They are very unsound animals. I've seen many animals with very bad rear ends, which always indicates to me that there is a great possibility for hip dysplasia. I see animals that are very fine-boned, very small, that couldn't pull my snow shovel across the yard, let alone my sled! I'm seeing dogs now, for instance, at last year's Cobol Hall show. I went to watch the breed and I was almost shocked because there were some entries standing at ringside and I couldn't tell whether it was a dog or bitch. This is very alarming, particularly to an individual with my taste, because I like a male to be a very large and strong, robust, outgoing animal who is obviously a stud or he has no business being in the show ring. I like a bitch who is more feminine, quiet and looks motherly in temperament and deportment. I'm not seeing this, I'm seeing an animal that looks like it isn't a male or a female. It's almost like a lot of the young kids now who are running around with their blue jeans and the boys have long hair; girls have long hair and don't wear makeup anymore.

What about this difference in size? The standard calls for a variance.

Unfortunately, there are very few people who are reading the standard. There are many people now out in the show rings who don't even KNOW there is a standard written for the breed.

I am personally grieved at what I've seen take place in the dog industry. In past years, there were very few people showing and breeding dogs. Now, there are many people out running around the mats; they are pet people, are not dog breeders, are not professional dog people. They are simply pet people running around with one or two dogs, attempting to breed dogs when they don't even know there is a written standard for the breed.

This is the reason why the appearance of the dog has changed so much. It's the hands that are breeding them.

Have you found there are more quality dogs in one part of the country than another?

Definitely not. I've found the quality is so sadly lacking all over the United States that when I see a really good dog, I want to throw my arms around him, kiss him and take him home with me. The general quality is bad everywhere.

Unfortunately, one problem that is contributing to the bad quality in dogs is ignorance. Many people breeding and also individuals judging dogs in the ring have not suffered themselves to study what it is they are accomplishing with the dogs. I've seen many breeders and many judges who don't understand the proper structure of the animal. Therefore, they will decide that a serious fault is a virtue in that dog and they'll place this dog to many wins; this dog will be acclaimed for having an excellent whatever, when indeed that whatever is a FAULT not a VIRTUE!

It's a conformation structural defect and the animal is being praised for it! It's a frightening experience. If a dog has a good shoulder layback, usually they'll have the proper angulation on the pastern and many times the whole front assembly will be affected by the shoulder layback in the shoulder structure. Many people don't recognize this. There are defects in shoulder structure that will bring about problems in that the legs, pasterns and feet also originate in the shoulder. The problem simply goes down the entire front quarter of the dog. It's likewise on the rear quarters of an animal.

An animal that is dysplastic will frequently have problems in other areas of his rear quarters. He'll have an incorrect or insufficient angulation on the stifle which could contribute to a stifle displacement or a problem in the hocks. It's because the hip is not fitting properly. That's the origination of the problem that is manifesting itself further down into the leg quarters of the dog. The dog may have a hock displacement, slipped hocks (what some breeders are calling double hocks). If you x-ray the hips of the dog, you will find that the dog is dysplastic and these other orthopedic

problems are secondary to the original problem of hip dysplasia in the animal.

What is the dysplasia rate you're seeing today?

In my kennel, the dysplasia rate is very low. I am probably running about 80 percent OFA certified. It is my judgement that the entire remainder of the breed, taken as a whole, is in very critical condition where hips are concerned.

From talking to other people breeding dogs, from knowing the results of many X-rays that are being done, both in my area and other areas, it is my judgement that this breed is no better off than it was fifteen years ago, where hip dysplasia is concerned. It is my grave fear that it will get far worse in the future, if we don't bring it under firm control and see to it that a way is devised so that the dysplastic dogs can no longer be bred.

What, in your opinion, is the most urgent fault?

The most urgent fault involves your congenital, hereditary diseases: hip dysplasia, eye diseases, heart defects. Those problems make it almost impossible for the animal to survive. Our secondary priority must be to the skeletal formation of the animal so his muscles, ligaments and tissues have something to hang on. If the dog's skeletal structure is proper, then we can go to our next priority and worry about whether this dog's type is proper for the breed and whether his beauty is sufficient. Then we can start worrying about minor things, like whether his tail is tight enough or loose enough, or busy enough or spotted enough. We can then go to all the little minor things that are quite irrelevant in determining whether this dog can live a healthy, happy life — but they are little niceties we enjoy in the dogs.

Is judging, by and large, fair?

I think, in general, the judges aren't individuals who take bribes or who are really dishonest. I think many of them are misunderstood. I think, unfortunately, that a lot of people are condemning some judges because they don't really understand the problem the judges are faced with. The dogs are so darned bad, does it matter if you put one up with a terrible front or a terrible rear? It is my feeling that our system of judging must be changed.

How would you change it?

First, the dogs must be graded as individuals in the ring. The judge must be given a chalkboard and it should be up to that judge whether or not he wants to grade this dog, based on a numerical figure or whether he wants to use lettering or whether he just wants to say "excellent," "good," "fair" or "terrible." We should give the judge the ability to select the format he'll use in grading that animal. But, each animal must be graded front, rear, movement, head, coat, type. The animal must be portrayed on the chalkboard for what he, indeed, is. We must cease to pit these animals one against the other in the show ring.

We must grade these dogs as individuals in the ring and the judge should be given the prerogative of simply voting "Yes, I'd give this dog a championship," or "No, in my opinion, this dog isn't good enough to be a champion and I withhold the credit." The judge's integrity should NEVER be in question.

The judge should be able to give his opinion and have it written up for all to see. Then those who don't agree with him can damned well not show their dog anymore. If they feel that individual is astute and intelligent in his opinion of the dog, they can haul out their whole kennel for his judgement if they want. The dogs should not be winners and losers. They should be dogs, all of which have problems. Let us find out what those problems are. We should grade the dogs. The dogs who, in that judge's opinion, qualify for championship credit should be given that credit, regardless of whether there is one dog entered or 750 entered. It is irrelevant. We should not simply grade dogs on the quality of the animal.

You would agree more, then, with the way the judging is done in England?

No. I like the way judging is done in Russia. A few years ago, I read a large article in the AKC Gazette and, in my opinion, the way the Russians are grading the dogs in the show ring and their entire attitude about the animals certainly puts us to shame. In Russia, when dogs are judged in the ring, the pedigree of the dog is handed to the judge so the judge can look at it and determine if the dog is well bred or not! Then the judge will give his

opinion on that dog. When the dog goes into the ring, no one attempts to obscure the quality of the animal by throwing liver and popcorn around and having double handling going on to excite the dog. It is up to the judge to KNOW if that dog has proper ears for that breed!

Would you do away with judging on the Group level?

Definitely, unequivocally. What I would do is have the judge select one animal that he feels should represent that breed at the end of the day. I feel there should be one animal go out into the ring and simply go around the ring and be gaited, so that if there are people left at the dog show who want to see what that breed looks like, they have an opportunity to go and see every breed walked around the ring and the general public could be educated in the differences in the breeds.

As I see it now, the dog shows are simply self-destructive. It's like an octopus eating his own tentacles. We're choking on our own tentacles. We put on dog shows that don't educate the public. We put on dog shows, which system is creating nothing but hatred and animosity among the exhibitors and breeders because they're thrown into competition with each other when they don't even understand what they're competing for! They don't even know if they have a good dog. So, they go into the ring to do battle to win a little piece of blue ribbon that means nothing to anyone. That little ribbon isn't going to help them breed and produce good dogs. They MUST get education and learn what a good dog IS. The dog shows are destroying the dog fancy.

We must change the system of judging so we don't pit these people and their animals against each other. We have a very negative, aggressive approach to the dog industry, all of us. We're all out to cut each other's throats and then we have the unmitigated gall to complain about the temperament of the animals. If we had half the good temperament that the animals have, we wouldn't be in the ring trying to cut each other's throats.

Are you interested in judging?

Not at all. When you ask if I'm interested in judging, I judge every dog I see. If I'm going down the road and I see a mongrel, I look at it and determine that it might have a little

Elkhound in it or maybe a German Shepherd for a father. I judge every dog I see and I don't need a license to do it. I'm going to leave it that way!

Does advertising influence judges?

Everything influences judges, and that's unfortunate. What we must endeavor to do is change the system in dogs and we're going to have a big change in the judges. The man who can't stand in the middle of the ring with a chalkboard in front of him and critique the dog is going to have to quit being a judge because he can't stand at that chalkboard and draw a cartoon. He'll HAVE to know dogs.

Do you feel regional clubs and parent clubs play an important role?

The breed club must work as an educational force. The breed clubs must stop fiddling while Rome burns and recognize that purebred dogs are in very serious trouble. People cannot afford to buy dogs anymore. When they DO buy them, they don't want to pay very much for them. Everyone is under financial pressure and we must recognize that all of these things are going to influence the dog industry. Our national breed clubs can bring very great pressure to bear upon the American Kennel Club, upon the quality of the judges, upon the Professional Handler's Association.

Are you a member of any clubs now?

I am a member of the Samoyed Club of America and I'm sure I will be for the rest of my life. I hope they remember to give me my honorary watch when I'm 95 years old! As far as other dog clubs are concerned, I am no longer a member of any other dog club. I found a few years ago that I'd involved myself in the dog industry to a point that was detrimental to my own personal health and my own personal life. I had become TOO absorbed in the problems of the dogs and it threatened to destroy me. I decided that in order to save myself, I had to start cutting back on much of the work I was doing. Consequently, I cut down on the numbers of dogs I had; I cut down my participation in many groups and clubs. I was sorry to have to do this, but one person can only do so much. I did my best.

Tell us about your work with OFA.

I'm delighted you asked that. I'd been very disappointed if you hadn't.

OFA is one of my very favorite subjects. It is my feeling, and it always has been, that every animal that is exhibited in a dog show should be of show quality. That means the dog should not have any congenital hereditary defects such as hip dysplasia, eye disease, coronary involvement. The dog should be an excellent animal. Therefore, in order to maintain a high standard in the show ring, it has been my opinion that all dogs should be two years of age or older prior to being granted their first championship credit.

I feel dogs under two years of age, six months or two years of age, should be taken to the dog shows and exhibited and graded by that little man out in the middle of the ring with his chalkboard. However, those dogs shouldn't be eligible for championship credit until they are mature. They should be two years of age, tattooed for identification, OFA certified, eye certified, hearts certified — all parts of the animal should be certified by a veterinary group and we should all submit our dogs to this prior to submitting them to championship credits.

The OFA, for me, hasn't helped me in any way to control hip dysplasia because all they do is certify a film. I had to do the work myself. There are so many breeders who expect OFA to do their work for them! OFA is nothing but a piece of paper which certifies your dog. It is up to you as the individual dog breeder to genetically study your dogs and understand, yourself, how you must control hip dysplasia. Unfortunately, there are so many people who feel it isn't necessary to prove if their dog is dysplastic or not, and when they say that to me, I KNOW it IS dysplastic. I don't even question it. Any dog that is free of hip dysplasia should be certified. Any dog that is free of eye disease should be certified. Any dog that is free of any coronary disease should be certified. All dogs used for breeding should be tattooed to prevent pilferage by criminal breeders. They should be tattooed, because we have an unfortunate incidence in purebred dogs where people are not only stupid but are also dishonest. They will falsify records and animals. There are animals certified OFA who are indeed dysplastic because the owner falsified the dog. They substituted another dog for their dysplastic

dog and the dog is, unfortunately, certified. This is because they are breeding and there are animals in their pedigree who have OFA numbers who are indeed dysplastic, and the individual who is now trying to breed on that pedigree is having problems. I can absolutely attest and would open my information to any knowledgeable, experienced breeder who can understand the genetics of breeding. It is a simple problem; a simply challenge to control hip dysplasia, but we must work at it.

Would you care to share that information here?

Certainly. The first thing you must do is inbreed and linebreed your dogs. You'll get nowhere outcross breeding them. It just isn't possible. The genetic makeup of hip dysplasia, in my judgement, is such that when you outcross, you are breeding to a different genetic pattern and you cannot bring down your numbers of dysplastics unless you breed right within your own family, very closely. You must also be certain that all dogs you use for breeding purposes be genetically evaluated.

You can have an animal that is OFA excellent who is genetically dysplastic and the animal will produce a very high percentage of dysplastic animals, and I don't care how or who they are bred to. You MUST be strong enough to not use that animal for breeding. If an animal has good hips, radiographically, that doesn't mean that animal will produce good hips. The only chance that animal has of ever producing anything is if he has good hips behind him and you breed him to a bitch of his own family who has the same animals and the same good hips behind her. If you don't do this, you don't stand one chance whatsoever of controlling hip dysplasia.

Are you doing any work at the university?

Yes. I feel that the dogs should be very carefully studied because the only way we can help them is by understanding the problems. When I first started breeding dogs, I made the agreement with Dr. Mostovsky that he would x-ray every puppy that came out of this kennel. The only ones that have not been x-rayed are a few that were lost or run over or the owners moved and we couldn't find them. The only dogs that were not x-rayed

that were ever produced from this kennel were dogs where it was totally impossible to get it x-rayed. Almost all the puppies ever born here have been x-rayed.

And you have documentation on them?

Oh, yes, definitely. I have records. Each litter is documented and the names, results and age of x-ray and where the X-ray was taken. So each litter is completely studied as far as congenital hereditary defects: eyes, hips, hearts, everything! Everything that would affect the animal.

I get the distinct impression after talking here with you that you are far more interested in producing genetically sound dogs than in producing champions.

Oh, champions don't mean anything to me. In fact, it's very embarrassing. People ask me how many champions I've produced or how many champions a certain one of my dogs has produced. I frankly don't even know half the time. As I'm sitting here right now, I don't know how many champions Diko produced. I'd have to spend probably several hours and make several telephone calls because I'm not even sure what some of his children are doing in the ring right now. To me, a good dog stands on his own feet and on his own merit. He is there to be seen. We have nothing to prove to anyone but ourselves.

Unfortunately, in the dog industry, everyone seems to be trying to prove something to everybody else instead of proving it to themselves. People are out running around the show ring, trying to win. What do you do what that? Do you take that ribbon home and put salt and pepper on it and eat it? What is it worth to you? If you cannot produce good dogs, if you can't have the satisfaction of knowing that you have something you can hold onto for the rest of your life, if you don't have that security in your dogs, then all the show wins in the world are worth nothing to you because you won't stay in the game; you can't — you won't have any animals. You must be able to stay with it for the rest of your life or you're wasting your time.

When was the last time you bred a litter?

Nineteen seventy-seven.

Why was that the last one?

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I had a number of things happen several years ago, both personal and healthwise, that all happened at the same time and I just put the brakes on breeding. I've always felt that if I couldn't take proper care of the animals, there's NO way I'd suffer them to do without. Other reasons why it's not been difficult to not breed is we are really going through some very serious problems in our country and it is affecting people. You could say we're having a huge national nervous breakdown. Our families are falling apart, people are getting divorced, parents are turning on their children, children are turning on their parents; we have a high dope rate, a high alcohol rate, it's become a society that is sick. It is a world in which an animal has a hard time making it because the animals can't make it unless we see them through and help them through.

It does no good to breed dogs

unless you can have good responsible homes to put them in because they're just going to be destroyed anyway. I've worked too hard on my dogs and have cared too much for them to breed them and put them out into homes where they won't be taken care of. It is easier for me to just not breed them. Besides that, it's a lot less expensive to not breed them. I never had a litter that didn't cost me money!

How have the dogs affected your life-style?

They have consumed it. I don't do anything with my life without thinking about my dogs first. I find that my dogs dictate where I will live, how I will live, where I go, what friends I have. They naturally consume all my vacation time; I have NO leisure time because it isn't possible to have leisure time, as I have to be here to see to me animals. My animals are dictating my life, and it is my opinion

that no one can possibly be a dog breeder unless they can happily enjoy this type of sacrifice with the animals. If you're not willing to make that kind of sacrifice, you can't make it; it's best not to start it.

Have the years spent in dogs been worth it?

Definitely. I wouldn't be without my dogs. I can't imagine what I'd do with my life or my time if I didn't have my dogs. Owning dogs is an experience that is different from any other. You can have members of your family you're close to, you can have friends you enjoy, but your dog is with you always. Probably I'll never get married again, because my attitude is, love me, love my dogs! I think even if I were to meet someone I could be happy with under other circumstances, if he could not accept my dogs, there could be no relationship between us.

Thank you very much. •

Breeders, We're to Blame

Lewis Hoehn
Lowell, Indiana

TODAY, as never before, we can see more deviation in our Sammy breed than possibly any other breed which is recognized by the AKC. Why? How has this come about? And what is this elusive thing called *TYPE*? This term, used to describe our breed, has been misused and abused, and every owner says he has it in his dog. So, *WHY* such deviation?

Let's start with a very simplistic definition of *TYPE*: Type is the characteristic which distinguishes a Samoyed from any other breed. If one were to cast a silhouette of a dog on a wall one should be able to determine the breed. This, then, is what type is. It would eliminate the Chow-like Sams as well as the German Shepherd-like Sams. Today, however, it is very common to see these forms of Sams in the ring. How has this come about?

The number of breeders today who know little or nothing about the

ancestors of their breeding stock is appalling. Many are lucky if they know the second generation, let alone being able to sit down and write the pedigree of the fourth or fifth generations. Unless a breeder not only knows the pedigree but also the virtues and faults of the ancestors, he or she will not become a consistently good breeder, and most definitely not a great one. The breeder must know where the faults and qualities are coming from in order to successfully retain or eliminate these factors. Today, as never before, we can see the ever increasing number of purebred Sams whose genetic pool is as vast as the stars in the universe. It is more common today to see pedigrees of dogs that are lucky to have more than two ancestors in common within the first two or three generations. In no other breed can one observe in the show ring such a wide diversity of *TYPE*. My contention is that this is because of the generally practiced breeding method called *OUTCROSSING*, done without any regard for phenotype or

genotype. The majority of bitch owners today – and this is not only novices – have the tendency to breed to the top winners or the ones in the glamorous photos, and these potential studs are themselves *OUTCROSSES*. These outcross bitches and studs have the capability to intensify the genetic purity as much as a snowflake does of surviving in hell. The breeders who follow this type of program are not only doing the breed a disservice, but they are doing a disservice to the poor puppy buyers who ultimately will wish to breed their bitches. Their ability to develop a genetic purity or pure line within the breed has little or no chance for success within a lifetime.

THE old adage that producers produce producers is very appropriate. Just think of the studs who have been consistently top studs over a period of years. They almost all have in common one thing: *THEY ARE LINE- OR INBRED*. Yes, there are always exceptions, but these are few and far between. Breeding an

outcross bitch to an outcross stud is equivalent to trying to make water run uphill. There is the remote possibility of a successful first generation breeding, but you accomplish nothing for the following generations. It is an absolute shame that with the more than 700 litters registered in 1978 that probably less than ten percent have the genetic concentration to be considered a pure line within the purebred breed. There are, however, several breeders who have successfully maintained a pure line within the breed; their consistency of stock is distinguished on sight. The McLaughlins (Silveracres), the Richardsons (Kondako), Morehouse (Kubla Khan), Raymond (Williwaw), Baer (Baerstone) and Coulter (Whitecliff) are, to name just a few, among them. These purebred lines were not established in one generation, but, rather, through selectivity of breeding, over the years – and most definitely not by random outcrossing. All too often what one sees in the ring today bears little resemblance to these lines. Why? Because the buyers have taken these Sams and bred on an outcross basis, or if they did linebreed, they did so with little regard to physical compensation and phenotype to the extent that an animal having these dogs in the background bears little or no resemblance to the original.

It is a universally proven fact that, in the long run, breeding to a stud who himself is an outcross is a hit and miss breeding, trusting entirely to luck, and that the stud's ability to produce his desired qualities is practically zero. This does not mean that you won't produce quality, by chance, but what do you do in successional generations? You have been successful only in increasing the genetic pool to where a determination of the dominant and recessive genes is impossible to predict.

For a breeder to be successful over the years, he must know the background of his mated pair, in order to determine the dominant and recessive genes. This can only be accomplished by decreasing the genetic pool. (This is assuming that he also has the knowledge to not breed fault to fault, i.e., physical compensation. It is difficult enough to learn the qualities and faults of a line- or inbred male or bitch from this country, so how can we find out about those from abroad? The fact

is that probably not one in a hundred of the breeders using imports knows one darned thing about what to guard against (long coats, poor texture, short necks, or any of the undesired recessives). This does not mean that breeding to an import who himself is line- or inbred is not a desired approach, versus breeding to a stud who is a result of an outcross. However, the predictability of the genetic pool in following generations is hopeless. In

other words, it gives the potential puppy buyers a hodgepodge of breed traits which gives them little to work with on a genetic basis. As Dr. Daglish, world famous geneticist, stated, "Only in a line- or inbreeding can the high degree of genetic purity established in a valuable pure breeding strain be recovered and the bad effects of mixing the genes carried by unrelated animals be avoided." •

Parasites? Not in My Dog!

Don and Dot Hodges
Poynette, Wisconsin

ALMOST all dog owners are aware of the fact that their pets can become infested with parasites, and they take steps to eliminate a parasite infestation if one is detected. Experiences we have had in recent years, however, suggest that many parasite problems – some potentially serious – go undetected and untreated despite well-meaning attempts by owners to check for and control such problems.

We are primarily writing this column for two groups of dog owners: those who are convinced their dogs have no parasites, and those who know they have a parasite problem and believe the solution is regular worming treatments. Let us address the latter group first.

We recently had several dogs come onto our premises from conscientious breeders who knew their own kennels had recurring parasite problems and who had, therefore, adopted a regular worming regimen. Despite fairly recent treatment of these dogs, we found that they carried one or more parasites when they arrived here – notably fleas, tapeworms, hookworms and whipworms. We are sure these breeders were not aware that their dogs had these parasites when they sent them, particularly since they had been recently treated with their regular worming medications. The difficulty with this approach is that no regular

worming medication treats *ALL* parasites. Tapeworm is particularly resistant to medication, and it requires an effective tapeworm medicine. Many regular worming medications are also useless for whipworms and some are ineffective for hookworms. *NONE* of the regular worming medications will affect coccidia (which is not a worm but a protozoan that penetrates the cells lining the gut and eventually ruptures them) or fleas. So, in general, the point to be made is that regular worming treatments don't eliminate all parasites and they certainly don't eliminate the need for stool checks and other examination procedures.

JUST as one type of "wormer" can't eliminate all parasite problems, so too, one method for checking on the presence of parasites cannot *DETECT* all parasites. Regular stool checks, *IF DONE PROPERLY*, can reveal the presence of some of the most common problems: roundworm, hookworm, whipworm and coccidia (although many times veterinarians will fail to notice the presence of coccidia unless forewarned to specifically look for it). If several of these are simultaneously present in the dog, only one may be detected in the initial stool check. The presence of others, however, may be detected on subsequent checks after treatment has begun. For example, one dog came into our kennel with coccidia, hookworms and whipworms. The initial stool check revealed only coccidia. A

few days after treatment for coccidia began, another stool was checked and this revealed the hookworms and whipworms. This kind of "masking" of some parasite problems by others is not uncommon, particularly if the infestations are heavy.

Do not rely on stool checks which are done by simply smearing some of the stool sample directly on a slide and examining it under a microscope. The dog would have to have **HEAVY, HEAVY** infestations to detect anything this way. The most common procedure used by veterinarians today involves the use of flotation solution. This separates the parasite eggs from other fecal matter and concentrates them at the fluid surface where they can be removed and examined. This process is highly effective. If you are uncertain about the procedure used by your veterinarian, ask him. If you wish to do your own checks, use a **GOOD** microscope (not one of these "el cheapo" models listed in the dog supply catalogs) and make sure you know how to recognize and differentiate the variety of parasite problems that can occur.

THERE are many more parasites that cannot be detected by stool checks. Heartworms, fleas and mange, to name just three of the more common ones, are among these. Tapeworm, while it might be detected by stool check, is best detected via other means also, since the production of egg sacs on the stool may occur only intermittently.

The only effective check for heartworm is through examination of a blood sample. Your vet will be looking for the presence of microfilaria, and such a check should be done in the evening (around sunset) since the microfilaria are present in the blood in greatest numbers at that time, thereby making it easier to detect them then. Fleas and mange are best observed in your regular grooming sessions, but both can be subtle and escape attention. Use of a "flea shampoo" when bathing the dog will effectively eliminate fleas on the dog. However, if the flea population has been on the dog awhile, chances are good the fleas are also present in the dog's living quarters, requiring treatment of the entire surroundings for complete elimination. If you do discover fleas on your dog,

start a careful examination for tapeworm also (and vice versa) since tapeworm is obtained via the flea. The simplest way to check for tapeworm is to frequently examine the hair around the dog's anus for the presence of small "kernels of rice" (dried up egg sacs). These usually appear periodically if tapeworm is present.

Mange is sometimes hard to recognize because it can take on different appearances depending upon the severity and the type of mite involved. If you see a suspicious area on your dog's skin, have your veterinarian examine a skin scraping to diagnose the problem. Watch for areas which are reddened or inflamed, have bloody pimples or lesions and scabs, or in which the dog has lost some hair. It is extremely important to detect and treat mange early because it can be very

difficult to eliminate.

In conclusion, let us point out that the only effective treatment of a parasite problem is the elimination of the source of infection. Worming treatments eliminate the current worm infestation but do not eliminate the basic problem if the source of infection is not treated at the same time. For this reason, we strongly object to "regular worming treatments," since they are an admission that the basic source of difficulty has not been dealt with. In kennel situations, the control and elimination of parasites is not difficult. However, in home settings, where dogs are kept on soil rather than on gravel or concrete, greater difficulties exist, and in extreme circumstances, the only solution may be to revise the dog's basic exercise area. •

Samoyed People

The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
Peggy Borcharding
St. Louis, Missouri

This interview was taped in November 1979 at Mrs. Borcharding's home.

Tell us how you got started in Sams.

If anyone ever came in through the "back door," it was I. My mother and her husband at the time had bought Rick, my son, a dog. Shar Khan (registered as Taymyr of Krisland) was perfectly normal until about four months of age. From there on, though, he just went out of his mind. He was growing rapidly and had tremendous strength. Oh, I could talk about seventeen hours about this dog, but ...

We, honestly and truly, had a different kind of dog. He was a hyperactive, a very TRUE hyperactive. And this was at a time when hyperactivity was seldom diagnosed by veterinarians because they didn't know much about the syndrome. (This was back

in 1958.) Obedience trainers didn't know much about the problem either. They said such a dog was too boisterous or aggressive, and tried to train them with methods normally used to curb that type of behavior. There were many strange things about the dog. From four months of age on, anything that was portable, that he could get his teeth on, was eaten. However, in his whole life he NEVER touched a piece of furniture. He ate the bark off the trees, he ate the flowers, tin cans, books, socks, cigarettes, shoes, throw rugs, rubber bands, buttons and everything else. You name it, he ate it!

Anyway, we got a minimal amount of training in him, at least enough so we could take him out on a lead. NEVER in his life could he EVER be left off lead outside a building or a fenced-in yard. Never in his life did anyone ever get complete control over him. He did, however, gain a sufficient amount of manners to make living with him possible. The main thing was I got the training that was necessary to continue to work on his many problems, AND I found myself so fascinated by the whole obedience

training thing that the next logical step was for me to consider joining an obedience club. I took that step, and, within a year, I was apprenticing to learn how to be an instructor myself. From there, one thing just progressed into another, and, from the end of 1959 to about 1967, I was primarily active in obedience work. At this point I have to digress a bit.

I am a service-oriented person, have always been a service-oriented person. Having belonged to a lot of different clubs in my life, and in every one of them I seem to end up in organization-type work. If there is something new to be tried out, or a stinking rotten job that has to be filled, they often let Peggy do it! (Or Peggy just upped and volunteered to do it!)

Over most of these past 21 years, I've never had the same kinds of interests the majority of avid dog fanciers have. In fact, if you were to set forth my credentials, the kind a dog fancier is usually judged by, how many litters you have bred, how many champions in them ... well, based on that, it would be utterly ridiculous for you to be sitting here interviewing me. I have never put a title on a dog, I have never personally bred a dog, I haven't even been in the show ring for seven or eight years. I have done literally NOTHING with my own dogs. No, I take that back. I do have one leg on a CD with my Shar Khan, a leg earned when he was ten years, three months and two days old. As far as I know, that may be a record, because he was trained for obedience work when he was nine months old – and it took me that long to get the first leg, although I didn't show him constantly during all those years. It was the only leg he was to get, because six months later he was dying of lung cancer and had to be put down. So, for whatever Shar Khan was, or wasn't, if it hadn't been for him, we wouldn't be sitting here today.

I started out as an instructor in Novice training. Within two years I was the director of training of the club and I held that job for four years. I edited a monthly obedience bulletin for the club for seven years, served as trial secretary a couple years running, held a couple other offices, and wrote lots of obedience articles. I can't remember all the things I did, but those years in obedience work were

invaluable. They gave me a far broader education about dogs than I might have gotten otherwise.

One of the smarter things I did back in the beginning – and there aren't too many things I have done that were very smart – was to join the Samoyed Club of America. Sams were quite rare in the St. Louis area back in 1958, you certainly didn't see too many of them out in public. When the word got out there was a Sam in a training class, a few Sam owners were interested in getting a look at this "new dog in town" and dropped by the training class to take a look. One of the gals was most helpful in giving me what information she could about the breed – you sure couldn't find much about the breed in books – and she was a member of SCA and suggested I join when she realized I really was interested in knowing more about the breed. It sounded very good to me. By then, I was also desperate for help in trying to find out what to do with this uncommon dog of mine. So, I joined the SCA in 1959.

I devoured every issue of the Bulletin when it came out. Every time I'd read an article written by someone who sounded like they knew what they were talking about, I'd sit down and write to them, trying to pick their brains for anything they might know that I didn't, explaining my problems with Shar and asking if they had come across any other Sams like him.

In a few years I'd built up a fairly good correspondence with other people around the country, and some of that correspondence continues today. Some of these people are long since gone, but they did share their knowledge with me and, little by little, I was getting the education I so badly needed. Combining that with the career in obedience work was a pretty good formula. If you really want to learn about dogs, go into obedience training work. This is where you're going to learn temperament, structure, behavior patterns and everything else under the sun, and if you WANT to be a GOOD obedience instructor, which I definitely did, you study, study, study. You study breeds individually; you study breeds in groups. Obedience work, it's more than just training a dog. You've got to learn grooming and you've got to learn basic health care, because you have to be able to quickly




spot if a dog isn't in good shape. The majority of people who are bringing their dogs in for novice training work are first-time dog owners and they often know very little about the basics. You may have to teach them about proper feeding, grooming, health protection, etc. – even basics about the breed they own.

Back to the SCA. I was learning a great deal more about my breed through the people who were willing to share their knowledge with me, people like Helene Spathold, who WAS Drayalene, Roberta Bickerstaff, who was very interested in health problems, Lila Weir, who was to eventually get me involved with the SCA Bulletin, and Dan Wynne, now dead, who was very active in obedience work, as well as a NUMBER of people here in the Midwest.

In 1964, back when the SCA had club divisions, I was asked to edit the Midwest Bulletin. I did that for a year, and copies of it used to go to certain people in other divisions. When

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Lila Weir decided she wanted to retire as editor of the national Bulletin, she asked if I would have any interest in taking it on. Of course, dumb me, I couldn't refuse a challenge like that, mainly because I'm a frustrated journalist, having, from the age of six years, always knows that I wanted to do something in the writing and publishing field. In fact, when I was in high school, I had this vision of being one of those dashing foreign correspondents who traveled all over the world. (I watched a lot of movies in those days.) I think the main reason I wanted such a career was because of the trench coats those people always wore ... Humphrey Bogart and that type of thing. What happened was, by the time I got out of high school, I wasn't in great health and the doctor said I was NOT to start college right away. He said I needed a year to try to build up my health and that if I didn't have a COMPLETE change, something terrible would happen to me. Well, something TERRIBLE did happen to me - I got MARRIED! (It took a second try to get that right!) I never did get to college, never did get to be that dashing foreign correspondent, but the frustration remained and anytime anyone mentioned the word "write," there I was, standing and waiting for an opportunity to try my hand at it.

When Lila Weir asked me if I'd be interested in the job, it was an elective job - there wasn't anyone opposed me, and that's the only way I EVER would win an election. I don't win elections if there is competition, not even if the person opposing me is someone the voters never heard of before. I don't know for sure just what that means, but I suspect my "charming" personality isn't one of my greater assets! Again, I digress.

Being unopposed, I got the job. Now there I was, faced with editing work for a national organization, and going to be doing a publication which by then was something more than a bunch of mimeographed pages of type. By then the SCA Bulletin was being done by offset press and carried pictures and advertising. There I was, with absolutely no knowledge about graphic artwork. I had a typewriter that was about 30 years old at that time, literally no graphic art equipment (I didn't have the foggiest idea

of what tools one MIGHT use), and yet I had the audacity to think that I could do the work. Well, that first year was certainly challenging and difficult. FORTUNATELY, the SCA Bulletin came out only four times a year, and at that point averaged around 25 to 30 pages an issue. At that time, it seemed GIGANTIC! Anyway, I began editing the SCA Bulletin in March of 1966. I stayed with it until the end of 1972, then I gave it up. My thought then was that it was time to do something else. Ten months later, I got it back. The gal who took over from me found after ten months that she couldn't continue and the club was rather desperate for someone who could quickly pick up the threads, particularly because it was time for the December issue to be produced, the biggest and most looked forward to issue of the year. The president at that time, Estelene Beckman, called and asked if I could possibly see my way clear to producing the December issue. Well, Baby came home, and Baby stayed!

I would have learned to live without the job eventually, but the ten-month layoff wasn't quite long enough to get it out of my system.

In 1973, when I gave it up, I only gave up the editing work, I certainly didn't give up any interest in dog activities. No one has to look too hard to find places where they can be used in the dog world if they are willing to expend time and energy. Before I knew it, I was writing two monthly columns for the two nationally published obedience magazines, "Off Lead" and "Front and Finish." I also tried my hand at some freelance writing. As you know, dog magazines very seldom pay for articles they publish, so it isn't all that hard to get articles published. I had no turndowns on any of the stuff I was writing then. I also took on some work within the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals and I was the obedience representative to the breed panel group headed by Vern Bower. With her untimely death, that has sort of fallen on hard times.

Hip dysplasia, its causes and cures, is something very important to me. Since 1958, I have had just three different Sams living in my house, and all three of them turned out to be dysplastic. This answers the questions on

why I have never finished any champions or done any breeding. My own personal code of conduct with dogs was developed early, and hasn't changed much. I would never show a dog in conformation that I wouldn't breed, and certainly I would have never knowingly breed a dysplastic dog. I never had anything against showing a dysplastic dog in Novice obedience as long as the dog would not be adversely affected by such training and showing, but I would never show a dysplastic dog in Open or Utility, simply because I would never jump a dog with this type of hip defect.

I don't want you to think that I never cared that I have personally owned no champions, or bred any litters. I would have delighted in having such experiences, but I was never so disillusioned by this not coming to pass that I ever thought of giving up dogs as a hobby. There are hundreds of people who can breed good dogs, maybe even thousands, just as there are many hundreds of people who can put titles on dogs, but people who are willing to do SERVICE work for other people and their dogs, well, there are too few of them. Since I am happiest and feeling most useful when I am doing something for someone else, I don't feel that I have lost too much by choosing endeavors that go in a different direction than the roads most dog fanciers follow.

Perhaps one other thing that makes me different from a lot of other people is that what I consider hard work, and what someone else considers hard work, are sometimes two very different things. To me, if I put in ten hours a day on a job, I figure that's hard work. If I put in four hours a day on club work, it seems like a very normal thing to do. Granted, this feeling about what constitutes, or does not constitute, hard work may put me in a somewhat different category than the normal joiner or volunteer worker, but it by no means makes me unique. Almost no club is without its hard worker(s).

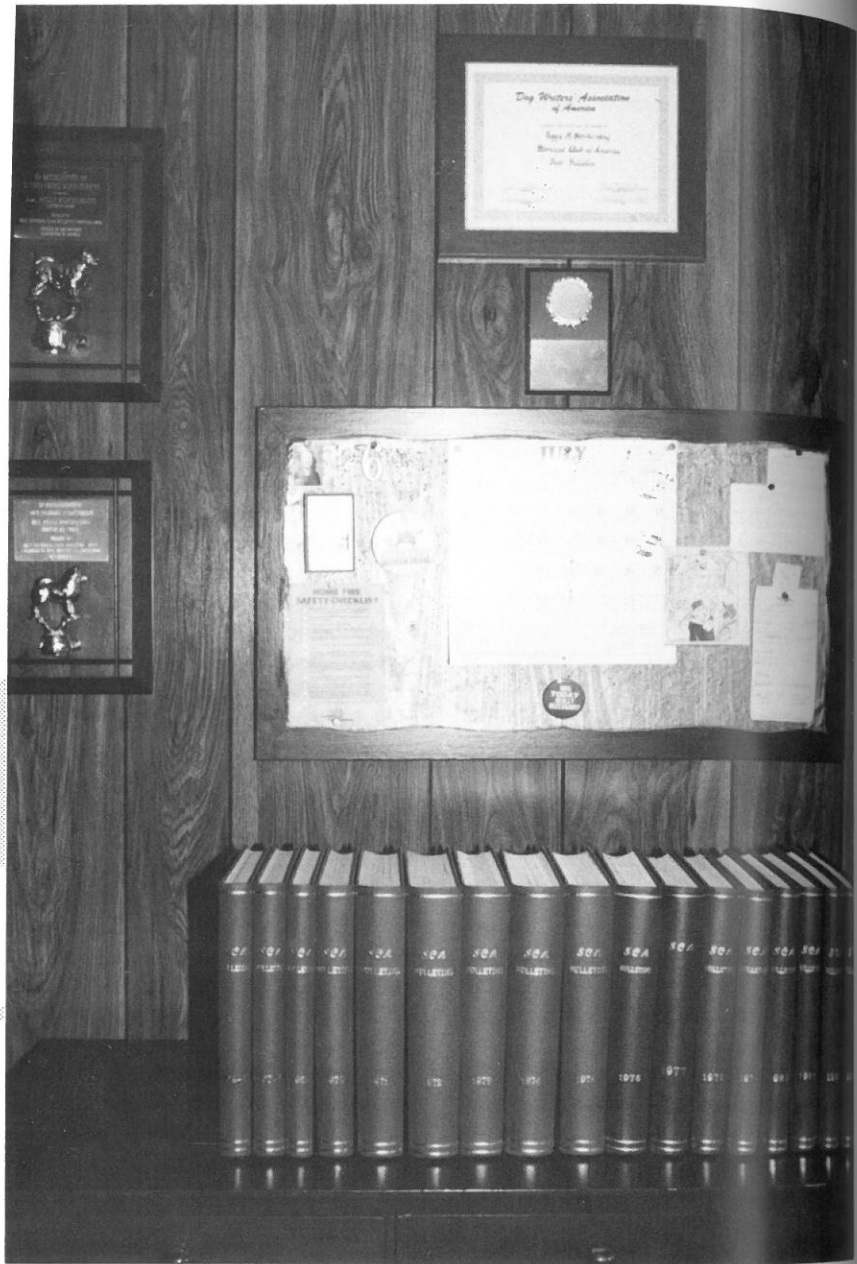
What with editing work taking up more and more of my time, I gradually had to drop other dog-related activities I had. The six-issue-a-year publishing schedule finally became so God awful time-consuming that it was affecting both my mental and physical well-

being, and in 1977, it was cut back to five issues. Then, what with inflation, my husband's deteriorating health situation which called for my assuming more household duties, and a brand-new kind of competition, something called The Samoyed Quarterly, I felt the best solution was to go back to the four issues a year that we had when I started out in 1966.

The cutting back made doing each issue more enjoyable as I had some breathing space between each issue, and for the first time in five years, I have even managed to consider some work for a different kind of organization, this time the American Dog Owners' Association. I have been a member of this group from the time it came into existence. I feel the Association does VALUABLE work in areas where the individual dog owner, or even a club, cannot reach.

I dearly love the Samoyed breed, yet I sit here today with no dog at all. It has now been two years since I have had one for my own personal companion. I have no dog because I cannot as yet reconcile myself to another breed and the doctors say I MUST NOT ever again own a dog as large as a Sam. They have set limits on any future dog I own. It can be no more than 25 pounds at maturity. I have tried really hard to consider getting another dog. I can work myself up to the point of being almost ready to buy, and then I can't take the step of actually contacting a breeder. Even though I may forever be denied another of my own, the Sam is MY breed.

The club worker is not very likely to ever be anyone's hero, or have his name remembered after he leaves the scene. The very idea that I am doing the kind of work I do for honor and glory is absolutely STUPID. If I wanted honor and glory, I'd try to go someplace where there was a paycheck as compensation for my services, or I'd take a stab at writing a best seller (pure fantasy). Honor and glory doesn't apply here. I KNOW I'm not good enough to ever make any big-time scene in dogs. I was simply lucky to have gotten the opportunity to work at something I have never stopped enjoying, and something which offers new challenges. Sure, a lot of work is repetitious, but there is always room for improvement and always room to try out new things.



The end results of seventeen of the twenty years served as editor of the SCA Bulletin.

Just the wide contact with people all over the world is fascinating in itself.

It's just like the dogs, the breed. I cannot find within myself the willingness to go to another breed, yet I've NEVER overrated the Sam. I don't believe it's the most intelligent breed in the world, I don't think it has qualities that can't also be found in other breeds. The Samoyed does have its own special look, and its charms certainly outweigh its lesser desired features, but I DO NOT, and NEVER have, set the Samoyed up on a special

pedestal. Perhaps my greatest fault with my own dogs was that I faulted them too much.

I think if I were going to fault Sammy people for doing things that are detrimental to the breed, it would be that they have romanticized this very hearty northern breed into an animal that isn't and SHOULDN'T BE, particularly as it applies to temperament. I don't know where this idea that the Sam has very delicate feelings got started.

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Delicate in that you can't put pressures on the dog, you cannot give it firm, hard correction as you might a German Shepherd or a Doberman, you cannot train the dog firmly, but must be very gentle at all times. This is probably because of the dog's normally gentle temperament. That's where some of it started. If I were to think the breed had a really unique quality – and so far I have never found any breed with qualities that make them TOTALLY different than another breed – I would at least give the Sam very high marks for having a greater amount of acting talent than some other breeds have. My, yes, the Sam can certainly impress you with some of his performances. It can demonstrate the physical appearance of "broken spirit" faster than almost any other breed I have dealt with; the ears lay back, the tail goes down, the belly is only an inch off the floor and you have this dog looking at you (if it will deign to do that) with a look that says, "Now you've crushed my spirit forever and I'll never again be able to stand up straight, or at least I won't ever be able to do it if you jerk on my collar one more time." The thought of crushing a Sam's spirit is the most appalling thought in the world to many owners, so they just go through life making sure they never jerk on that collar again. The dog in the space of two minutes' time has trained the owner to 100 percent perfection!

For all its gentleness, the Sam also has a streak of stubbornness that is as strong as steel. Here again, the Sam can be pretty tricky. It doesn't necessarily spit in your eye and say, "I absolutely won't!" It plays fun little games with you. It can be the crushed spirit performance or a silly performance, with lots of tail wagging, coaxing, happy-seeming nonsense. But, underneath, their object is not to have to do something they don't want to do. The breed as a whole has never achieved as much distinction in the obedience ring as it might, not because the breed lacks the capability of doing first-class and consistent work, but because far too many Sam owners are taken in by the idea that the dog will fall apart if it has to be "forced" to do something. Oh, yes, the temperament of the breed is changing, and not for the better, I might add. I have been a ringside witness on that score for a

long time now.

What do you think the temperament should be?

I don't think the breed is as bright and gay and effervescent as it once was. I think, in a lot of ways, the breed is becoming TOO placid. We are seeing more and more sparkless dogs. It's not really bad yet, but it's certainly not what I consider good for the breed. I think we HAVE actually bred down on intelligence in the breed. That's one thing. Definitely we are seeing that the dog is NOT as willing a worker as it once was. You go talk to people who are into sledding and you find that many of them cannot run all-Sam sled teams anymore because too much of the "Get up and GO" spirit is gone. The breed is developing too many Indians and not enough chiefs. Too many aren't leaders, only followers. Certainly the breed might be an easier one to handle than it once was, at least where the placid attitudes prevail, but if you have a dog that is too placid, you can have a real devil of a time ever getting it animated to that point that is needed to do well in the conformation ring.

Opposed to this placidness, you also have Sams with totally nasty temperaments. The breed doesn't get along together nearly as well as it once did. More Sams are developing a real viciousness; they don't have to be provoked to attack. And I am not talking about the type of aggressiveness that has always been there to some extent within the breed. With some of these dogs today, it is almost like sitting on a powder keg. They would be willing to tear another dog apart if given even the slightest opportunity to do so. Today more Sams are having to be put down because of severe temperament flaws than was ever necessary in the past.

What has happened?

It's quite simple. We have paid far too little attention to temperament flaws, either because we didn't recognize the flaw, or we figured it wasn't something to worry about too much. You breed the placid to the placid and you get wonderfully easy dogs to live with, but dogs without much natural animation. Of course, Sam owners are no more guilty in ignoring temperament flaws than people in other breeds have been. I know you have heard the word "expression" used a lot. After

all, "Sam expression" has always been touted as one of the breed's outstanding attributes. Well, take a really good look at our breed today. Fresh off this year's specialty, it was again shown to me how much we are losing in that department. The true Sam expression the lighted-up face, the sparkle in the eye, that type of thing, you are seeing less and less of it. Oh, you're still seeing beautiful dogs, but take a good look at them head on. There is no light in the eye. The dog may appear to "smile" if it is panting, but there is no brightness. That very special look was such a tremendous asset in the breed. The standard itself calls for this expressiveness. Too many of our dogs today have a dull look to their heads. Some of that dullness is, I believe, due to changes in temperament. Too much of the bright glow and zest is gone.

What do you think the worst problems are today?

I am concerned about temperament, very much so, and, surprisingly enough, not as much about the aggressive type of temperament as the too shy type. I think this is one of the most "undertalked" about problems we have. I am all too well aware of the great dangers of an overly shy temperament. Give me an overly aggressive or an overly shy dog and I can do more to get the overaggressiveness under control than I can to control the shyness problem. Most animal behaviorists will tell you the same thing. With the aggressive dog, you know you have dangers to watch out for and so you guard against them and stay on the alert. The overly shy dog can pose just as much danger, sometimes more so, but it is a danger that people are less likely to prepare for. Consequently, a great many more dog bites are inflicted by dogs out of fear than from pure viciousness. We have in the Sam a problem that is still not out of control but which does appear to be growing. As I have sort of mentioned before, we have these dogs that are no problem at all as long as they live in a routine atmosphere with fairly easy-to-take surroundings; take them out where any pressure is applied to them and they have a tendency to fall apart.

The patterns of breeding and interchanging bloodlines have changed very much in the last twenty years. You put your dog on a plane

and ship it to a stud 2,000 miles away. Through greater use of advertising, more shows, and more handlers making broader circuits of shows, dogs are seen much more often than they used to be, and they build up winning records that are very impressive. Today we also recognize the fact that a bloodline other than our own particular one can be very good, and sometimes we very much need what that bloodline is likely to have to offer. The upshot of this is that at the same time we are crossing bloodlines to attain something needed, we also can be crossing two totally different kinds of temperament, and, if we breed this introverted, rather insecure type of temperament to the very outgoing type, or, at times, to the overly aggressive kind, we create a bit of a time bomb that can go off when we least expect it. From what I have seen for myself, or have been told about firsthand, the surface temperament of such a dog is usually very pleasant. The dog is easy to live with, loving and rather quiet. But, when this dog is put under pressure, instead of just quietly falling apart, the aggressive side takes over, but is all mixed up with the fear side, and so the dog lashes out at anything and everything. Sometimes it will attach either a person or another dog for apparently no reason at all. You can't seem to train enough of the fears out of the dog for the aggressive instincts to lessen, so you cannot ever be sure what will set the dog off, or that he won't inflict injury on you and anyone who is in the vicinity at the time the dog goes off balance.

How many people do you know who won't breed an otherwise good specimen of the breed if that dog has demonstrated definite temperament flaws? There just aren't too many of those people around. There is little doubt that there is more kennel blindness when it comes to flawed temperament than there is for physical faults.

You've been in kind of a unique position in that you've been able to observe dogs and people over a relatively long period of time. Objectively, what does it take to be a success in dogs?

You can do it in a number of different ways. The most easy way to attain success is to have plenty of money. (I assume you're talking about breeding and showing success in

dogs.) Give me enough money and I can be well-known. Now, "successful" and "well-known" doesn't necessarily mean the same thing, but money will get you a long way down the road on either. Of course, money has ALWAYS done it for you in our breed. You go back to the early people in the breed and you find that a good percentage of them were monied people. They did the importing of the quality stock, they hired whatever help was needed to care for, train and show their dogs. They had big kennels and they could afford to experiment with breeding programs. Today, great wealth isn't as big a factor as it once was, but you still find that the more modest families are sometimes spending a very large portion of their income on the showing and breeding of dogs, often more than seems logical.

The dog game does have a number of overnight successes too. Sometimes just by the "luck of the draw" you get a really superior dog. That one dog might be about the only good thing you ever have, but sometimes you can ride for a very long way just on its reputation. The same thing can happen with a breeder. You can get one of these breedings (maybe even two or three litters, if you repeat the same breeding) that will produce some exceptional animals. There have been a number of breeders who have become famous just through one or two litters they were fortunate enough to have produced. Some of those breeders have also managed to run their kennels into the ground in less than six or seven years because so many people knock at their doors for awhile that they breed anything and everything to try to fill orders for all the dogs people want to buy from them.

However, if you want to be both a successful breeder and a respected breeder and still be in business fifteen to twenty years after you begin, then you have to take it slow and work at it very hard along the way. Your greatest stumbling blocks may be ones that you set in your own path. No one remains a successful breeder for too long who cannot keep an open mind about his own dogs and dogs other people own. No one remains a successful breeder if he becomes afraid to experiment. Sometimes I think that

today half the people exhibiting and breeding are so hipped up on being overnight successes that they lose sight of all kinds of very important things. All too often they are burning themselves out in their mad dashes for success, burning themselves out very quickly, and after it is all over and done with, they just don't have much to show for all that time, money and effort.

What does it take to be a success in dogs? You can get there by luck, with money or with patience, study and lots of hard work. With the first two, the success might be relatively short-termed, but, with the latter, it's different. Those successful people will probably be names that still are around and still spoken about in kindly terms after they have been in the game for twenty years.

One thing you see happening today is a buildup of too many dogs in one household. You start out with one dog, really loving that dog, and then figure if one is great, two would be double the pleasure. Then, if you get into the breeding end, you end up keeping something for yourself. It might not take too long before you have five, six or seven dogs. Unless you have adequate time, money and space for that many dogs, you also find one day that you vaguely resent all the effort required to manage that many dogs. You can't quite bring yourself to getting rid of any of them, so you are more or less trapped into a life-style that might not be quite what you had originally envisioned. And, little by little, your dogs mean less to you. I know quite a few cases where people breed more litters than they should simply because they need the money to support the number of dogs they are trying to keep.

Sometimes you wish that people would give up a little of that love they have for dogs and try to replace it with a little more respect. The show world in a great many ways is a very artificial world for the dog to live in. In fact, one's respect for a dog should be increased simply because it does stand up as well as it does. A lot of times it lives in an atmosphere that is foreign to the dog's basic nature. What with the proliferation of dog shows over the past twenty years, the increased spirit of competition and the great emphasis not only on having titled dogs but hav-

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ing numbers of titled dogs, more and more dog fanciers have little time left over to just sit back and enjoy their dogs as companions. No wonder there seems to be a lack of humor within the dog world. Lots of people no longer seem to have any time or energy left over just to have a good laugh.

Has all been worth it?

If I had it to do over again, I'd do it over again. I have already told you that I've been involved in a great many different activities over the years, different hobbies, different interests. I never found any of these other things to be as compelling, as time-consuming, as constantly amazing and ever-changing. It is a place

where, regardless of how hard you may try, you can never know it all. Yes, I most certainly would do it all over again.

Thank you very much. •

The Inheritance of Coat Color in the Samoyed

J.E. James
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THE Samoyed is said to be "The Most Beautiful Dog in Existence"; this smiling big, white babysitter dates back centuries, to nomadic arctic tribes.

His color heritage is complex, with black and white, fawn, fawn and white, and brown and white added to the recognized colors in this country and England, of biscuit, cream, white and both cream and biscuit combined with white. In some European countries, the fawns, blacks, etc., are still being shown.

Black-Liver: This most basic of all color genes is told by the color of the nose, eye rims, lips and foot pads. True nose color is hard to determine, as the color cells in the nose are damaged, either temporarily or permanently, by the action of the sun, snow, injury, illness, stress or diet. Basic color must then be determined by nose edges and other points. Most Samoyeds have the dominant black nose gene. The recessive liver is present in the breed, cropping up now and again to give all liver points and lighter eyes to the animal.

Yellow-Red: Two different types of yellow occur in dogs. It is unknown which type the Samoyed carries, as all color that occurs is lightened to biscuit or cream by the action of the other genes. The most likely type of yellow is the extension yellow of the E series. This is an all over coloration with little change in color in the life of the animal. The sable type of yellow could also be present along

with a black mask. If this type of yellow is present along with the extension yellow, the animal would be born with black masking extending beyond nose, and excellence of black mascara to eyes. A sable animal could occur in a biscuit, cream or white body color that might show the action of a full black mask, unless covered up by white spotting genes. If full color occurs somewhere on the animal and one parent is the extension type of yellow and the other parent is a sable type of yellow, puppies could be born with black spotting. Usually the last place on the dog to lose color will be around the eyes, on the ears, or a patch above the tail. This author believes that the sable yellow exists in the breed, along with the extension yellow, and is very desirable for the addition of excellence in black points; however, it is believed that the occurrence of the sable coloration in the breed without the extension yellow should be considered very rare.

COLOR and Paling: These two genes combine to lighten all full colors on the dog except black and white. In the Samoyed, all full color produced anywhere on the dog is lightened to shades of silver, cream, biscuit or an almost white-cream. In a dog having areas of the body with full color (not lightened to white by action of spotting genes), the color remains deeper along the midline of back, head, ears and root of tail. The biscuit colored dog could have these areas a darker fawn biscuit. The extension of pure white areas created by the white spotting might be

obvious on such a dog.

Spotting: All white spotting in the Samoyed is normal in every way. The defective white produced by the action of the merle gene in Collies, etc., is not present in the breed. At least three different spotting genes are responsible for white spotting in the Samoyed.

Self and Irish spotting genes give symmetrical markings to the head, neck, boots, belly, chest and tail tip. Spotting starts on the chest and toes, spreading in an orderly way to being marked like a Boston Terrier or Sheltie. Markings somewhat mirror each other.

Piebald Spotting: A wild gene; marks the dog in an uneven manner. It mimics the white spotting of the Irish and self gene, but gives half heads, rakish looks to eyes, uneven body patches, one fully colored boot, while others are white, and when doubled up gives an almost white dog or one with color left on just ears or root of tail. Sometimes the action of the piebald genes will give uneven color to eye rims, or noses.

Full Recessive White: Not proven in the breed – but a full "ice white" occurs as a simple recessive to color that does not add to white spotting. Breeds true when bred to another of this type. This is the white produced from two fully colored German Shepherds.

The ideal colorings of the Samoyed would be produced thus:

Biscuit: A good saturation of dominant color and paling genes, but not enough to get the dog darker than the desired accepted colors. A basic

yellow produced the action of the extension genes. A sable gene with a good dominant black mask would give excellent black points to this dog. White spotting should be limited to Irish or self genes, as the piebald genes breaking up the body or the head might be visible against the biscuit color.

WHITE: Doubling of piebald genes. A base coloration of the lightest cream or yellow-white would be the best, as spotting on body and head would not then be visible. Might leave color on ears, head or root of tail. If piebald hits eye rims or nose, could have an incomplete black area on points. If sable yellow is present with extension yellow, and a black mask is present, if right amount of piebald genes are present, without striking the nose or eye rims, a beauti-

ful pure white dog with excellence of black points, mascara could occur. This animal might have a slight bit of lightest color.

White Recessive Type: Dog is pure white from birth. No sign of color anywhere. If dog is an extension yellow and also a sable yellow with a black mask, a strikingly beautiful animal with depth of black mascara and points could occur. A limited amount of the "wild" piebald spotting genes would keep the points a deep black.

Other colors in the Samoyed: Colors darker than biscuit – could be either an extension yellow or a sable yellow, without enough of the color and paling genes desired in the breed. IN a true sable animal without the extension yellow being present, could have a full black mask, like an Afghan or German Shepherd. Dog cannot show this coloration if white spotting

is also present. Sable bred to extension could produce a black ear or other black body spotting.

Desirable Samoyed coloration, with too many piebald spotting genes, could give a born "pink-nosed" animal that remains so his entire life, or one whose eye rims never fill in.

If the basic recessive liver nose gene crops up – all points, noses, eye rims, lips and foot pads become chocolate and eye color is lightened to amber.

Silvers: The agouti colors of the Elkhound and Husky might be present in the breed, giving a softly banded-all-over "brindled silver" or "ghost-striped" look to a silver-white dog.

Greying with age, as in Old English Sheepdogs, roaning, ticking, tan points, saddle brindle, blue dilution and merle are either not present in the breed or do not show. •

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