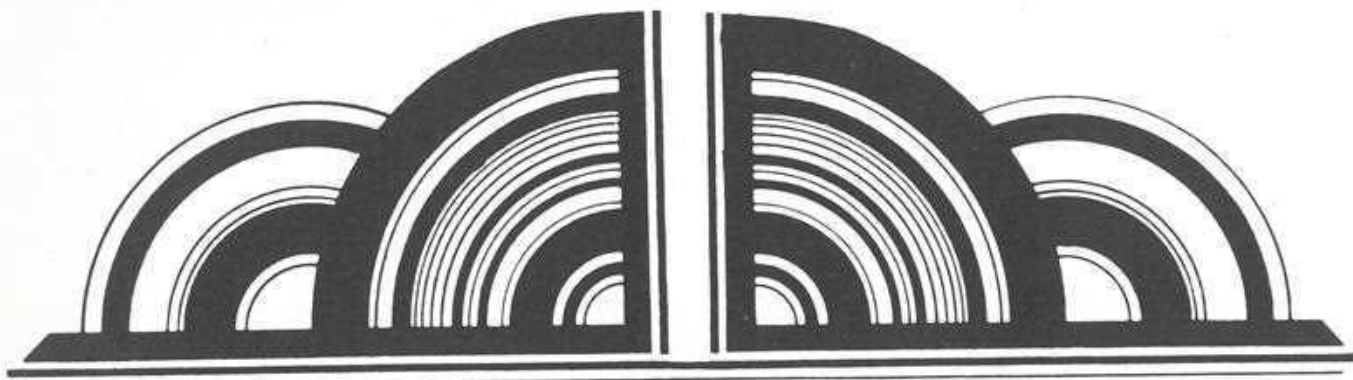


THE SAMOYED QUARTERLY
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SAMOYED PEOPLE



The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
Doug and Pat Gillam
DESERT SON
Tucson, Arizona

This interview was conducted at the home of Doug and Pat Gillam in June, 1983 by Lyn Snyder Hoflin.

How did you get started in dogs?

Pat: Years ago, when Doug and I first met and started dating, we had a friend named Lou Snow who had a beautiful white dog. Lou used to bring his dog down to the rugby games and practices, and he used to race all over the field. We found out his name was Mishka; we really thought the dog was super. We got married and got into a place where we could have a dog, the type of dog we wanted. We looked and looked and in Tucson at that time, twelve years ago, there just weren't many Samoyeds. Supposedly not the climate for Samoyeds. We

looked in the paper and finally found someone that had a litter of puppies. We went out, and it was your typical backyard breeder. But, of course, being novices at the time we didn't know a thing about backyard breeders. We brought home a little puppy who was very small, and we named him Sobaka, which is Russian for dog. We bought him on a Saturday; I believe we took him to the vet on Monday and he was sick. He was at the vets for six weeks. He came down with everything a dog could get, because he had never been inoculated. The people said they didn't believe in inoculating. He had distemper; you name it and he had it. So after we finally had to have him put down, I talked to the lady - you know, being recently married and Doug being in school the vet bill was quite high for us - I asked the lady if she could possibly help us out a little bit with the vet bills, because the dog was sick when we took him home, apparently. She said, "No, when the dog left my premises I had no further responsibilities for it." That just slayed us; we just couldn't handle that. So I wrote everybody, the Better Business Bureau, the AKC, anybody I could think of to talk about this person who was selling dogs and not being responsible for them. She didn't even give us his papers; when we bought him, she didn't have blue slips. We didn't get the blue slip until six months after the dog had died. So it was a very sad experience. That was our first experience.

Our second experience wasn't so bad. We found some people not too far from here that had Samoyeds; they were doctors at the University Hospital. We went out and looked; they had the mother, they had the



father, and they had pedigrees. The puppies were very nice so we took home a male. We named him Tomah's Tevye. The mother was named Toma, and we named him Tevye because we had just seen "Fiddler On The Roof"; we enjoyed the movie so we called the dog Tevye. From the beginning he was just a really neat puppy. I guess he was more Doug's dog than he was mine, because he sort of tuned into Doug a lot. We took a trip back East in 1973 to New York, and Doug was out running with Tevye in a grassy area. Some people stopped and said, "Gee, what a beautiful dog; do you show this dog?" We didn't know anything about showing dogs, then. We just had a really nice pet and that's what we wanted. This was a person who belonged to the Long Island Kennel Club, and she had seen Tevye running and asked us about him. When we got back to Tucson we tried to find some handling classes; we found some classes just north of here. We started going; it was kind of an ex-



Sobaka - Our first Samoyed



Tomah's Tevye

perience then because we didn't know anything about showing at all. It was fun. Tevye was about 10 months old, something like that. A real nice dog, lots of hair, beautiful face, and a wonderful temperament. So we started showing him. Things went along our merry little way, at about a year and a half of age, we noticed that in his rear movement, there was something funny going on. We didn't know exactly what it was and we took him to the vet. The vet didn't seem to know what the problem was. After a few months, when he was in some shows, a friend of ours that had been in dogs for about 20 years was at the park with us. I showed Tevye to him and said, "Jack, I don't know what is wrong with this dog; he just has this weird movement sometimes, and I'm just not sure what it is." So I moved him up and down for him; Jack felt him, and he went back to the rear. Jack pushed the hocks and they buckled. Tevye had double jointed hocks, which is, of course, a fault in Samoyeds. Of course, we were very upset about this, but what can you do? So we stopped Tevye's show career as far as conformation went and started him in obedience. He did very well in obedience. He came in first in his pre-novice class and second in his novice class. As a matter of fact Doug started him in these classes when some shows came along. Doug took Tevye into the novice obedience class and Tevye got his CD in three shows. He got a CD before he finished his novice training class, which was really neat.

Doug: What Pat forgot to say

and I just want to interject is that before we had even entered the dog in any conformation classes, I took him into obedience and he was just much too young for that. He was just a little over six months, and was totally unruly. He was not into it, and as a consequence, he failed miserably his first time out. Then we said, okay, he's not going to do obedience so let's try conformation. We got into that and we did that for awhile. Then we found out about the double jointedness of the hocks and we wondered what's left. You beat your head against a stone wall trying to do something with a dog that has an obvious fault and you know it's just like riding a dead horse. So we went back to obedience; it was with some reservations that I went back into it because he had done so poorly the first time out. We put him into pre-novice, and he was a little older; he was about a year old. We worked about twenty minutes everyday on obedience. I would take him up to a little baseball park that had gates to enclose it. It was about 150 feet by 75 feet, all fenced in. We'd play for about 10 minutes, run around and race around, and I'd go back to the truck and get the lead and I'd say, "Okay, Tev, it's time to work." We would do about 20 minutes of obedience training on lead and then later off lead. He went through the pre-novice classes like a trooper and some of the people who had been instructors the first time around said, "I can't believe that's the same dog." As a matter of fact, the dog was first in his class. They gave us a

little flag, and a little trophy because of how well he did then. We decided to stay with obedience and do what we could. So we went through Novice class and the first time around, he failed again. There was a period of about 3 or 4 months that we didn't work very much in obedience, just maybe every other day or so. I think maybe I was resting on his laurels; after all, he did so well the first time, it's going to be a piece of cake the second time around. The second time around he just didn't have - he wasn't in training for that; it's my fault because the dog can't hang himself. I just thought we could do it because of the first time around.

It was back to the drawing board and back to the things that we had been successful with in pre-novice, which is a very structured regimented training program - get the play out of the way and get to work. He started coming around immediately after we started strict discipline and training, not fooling around as much as we had. He was doing so well that there were some shows coming up, and we decided to enter them, entering him in these three shows even though we were only half way through the class. I think it was a sixteen week class and we were about in the seventh week, maybe not even that far along. We went to two Phoenix shows and the Tucson show; we just went straight through. I think he got better than a 190 all three weekends. After that there was not much else to do with the dog. He's still a great dog in terms of obedience and

being obedient. You tell him down and stay and he wouldn't move. He wouldn't move a muscle. The interesting thing about it is his final act of obedience cost him his life or I should say disobedience, because sometime after he got his CD, we were still talking about going in and getting a CDX. I had the dogs up at the high school near here; I had Mishka and Tevey. We were running around; actually, they were running and I was limping because I had an injury from rugby. My knee was jammed up and I had a brace on it; I couldn't run much. They saw a jack-rabbit; there are a lot of jackrabbits around there. They took off after the jackrabbit, under the school fence. Some of the gates had spaces of 18 to 20 inches underneath them, and they just both scooted under the gates. I'm standing in the middle of the field yelling, "Mishka and Tevey, come back!" And, of course, they aren't paying any attention to me at all. So I limped back to the truck and drove around to where they had gone out and couldn't find them anywhere. I spent about an hour looking for them, then I went home, called work and said, "I'm not going to be in because my dogs got loose and I've got to find them, so I have to stay here." I figured they would come home, because at this time the neighborhood wasn't all that built up; it was mostly desert and I figured they would find their way home. Mishka came home about 8 hours later. He came home all covered with burrs, very hungry and very thirsty. Tevey never came home; about four days after the incident, a friend of ours came to the door and said that her teenager son, who is a quarterback up at the high school, had been hiking in a wash and found the dog. We never, to this day, knew or know what really happened to him, whether he got hit by a rattler or whether he just ran. Tevey had a very, very thick coat; he had a coat like you wouldn't believe, similar to Bark Star and some of the heavy weights that have thick coats. It's possible he just ran himself to exhaustion and then just laid down to rest in the shade of the tree, because he was found underneath a tree, which you can't do in the desert. You just can't lay down and rest; you have to have water there, especially if you're a heavy coated dog. He might have just fallen prey to the heat. After that I was very careful with the dogs, I mean dog, because we were down to one dog, Mishka, at that time. Now we're back up to five, but I'm still very careful with them. I keep an eye on them. Most of the dogs I don't put in a position where they could fall prey to their own impulses, because there are too many rabbits, jackrab-



Silverado's Konan O'Desert Sun

bits, cottontails, and whatever that you really take a chance. We have about 3/4 of an acre fenced, and we can put them out there and they can just race all over. There are no rabbits; the rabbits can't get in. But they can chase their imaginary rabbits. Mishka, who has now come around and is relatively obedient, and his friend, Dani, the little bitch, are the only two I take out and put in a position where they might run off, but they won't now, because they know I'll break their face. (laughter)

Pat: While we were going through this problem with Tevey not being able to be shown, I had by this time gotten "the bug" as most people do. I decided I wanted to "show dogs," and started looking again. There were some people here in town, finally, that had Samoyeds. I met them at handling class. I went over one night to their house; they brought out a stack of about 15 Bulletins, The Samoyed Club of America Bulletins, and I just sat there, going through them for about three hours looking at the different pictures of the dogs and deciding, you know, which ones I liked the best. I came up with three kennel names that I liked especially. One was Misty Way, one was Kondako, and the other one was Ice Way. I liked the looks of the dogs from the ads.

So I wrote all three kennels and got responses from Kondako and Ice Way. When we were over in California visiting my parents, we drove down to San Diego to the Samoyed Club of San Diego Specialty. Some of my friends here from Tucson were going; they said to come because these people, Kondako and Ice Way, have dogs that would be at the specialty, and we should come and meet them. So we drove down and went to the dog show. That was our first experience, and, of course, there was nothing but Samoyeds. We had been to all-breed shows, but never all Samoyeds. So we met the Richardsons and we met Bobbie

Smith. We also met Pat Morehouse of Kubla Khan Samoyeds. It was just by chance they had bred two of their dogs. They had bred Ch. Sam O'Khan's Kubla Khan, which was Bobbie and Pat's dog, to Bobbi Smith's bitch, Ice Way's Angel. They were expecting the litter of pups in about two weeks, so I said I would like to reserve a male. After the puppies were born, Bobbie wrote me that there were only two, a girl and a boy. Pat had wanted a girl, so she took the girl and we got the male, who we named Ice Way's Bialow Mishka, after our friend's dog. It was a very lucky thing, I thought, because Mishka was the only male in the litter. He was born cesarean, which made him kind of special. He was just a neat dog from the beginning. Bobbie would write me weekly about him, and tell me what he was doing and what he wasn't doing. We drove over to Northridge, California, to pick him up when he was about 9 weeks old. And, of course, we fell in love with him. He was a neat dog from the beginning, and, of course, we didn't know about two males being together. We bought him when he was a baby, when Tevey was about a year and a half. They were good buddies, they were just great buddies.

Doug: "The Terrible Two."

Pat: Oh, I'll tell you, what they couldn't think up to do. They tore our screen porch to pieces, dug up everything in the backyard, and ate the siding on the house. I mean, what one didn't think of, the other one did. We had two little ruffians there. Tevey sort of regressed back into a second childhood, but Mishka was very much the puppy then. We have pictures of Mishka all over Tevey, just pulling his ear, and Tevey would just sit there and take it. They were such good friends. We had two really nice dogs. We were looking forward to showing Mishka. He was a beautifully structured dog, conformationwise. But he went through what one would call the "god awful uglies." He just started going gangly and everything. I'd take him to matches and he'd get beaten. If there were four dogs, he would be fourth. If there were five dogs, he wouldn't place. You know, that type of thing. So I kept writing Bobbie, and I'd say, "Bobbie, well, this is kind of disappointing. This is supposed to be a show dog. He's showing, but he's just really not a cutesy little fluff ball that a lot of match judges like." So after about a year, he had finally come together. He finally had gotten over the high rear, and the weird front, and the ugly head. He came all together, and I took him up to a match in Phoenix. I had been going to matches regularly with my friends in Tucson.

All the time, you know, we loved to go, and he loved to show, but he just kept getting beaten. So finally when he was about a year of age, I took him up to Phoenix and competed against every single puppy and every single dog that he had been competing with when we first started with him. He beat every single one, and we went into the Group and took a Group 4, which was just a thrill. I was just so excited. Of course, that started his show career. My friend here in Tucson, who had gotten us interested in show dogs in the beginning, decided that he was a good enough dog to take out, so he and his friends took Mishka to Mexico and he got his first five points there at about a year and a half, which was, we thought, pretty good for him. At that time, it was our first real introduction to the game of dog shows. We didn't show in the summer, because you just don't show in summertime here because it's just too hot. In the fall, we started up again. We had a tragedy at that time; we lost Tevye. We had to get another dog, which we soon got. Mainly because of Mishka's personality; he and Tevye were such close friends, that when Tevye was gone he felt like, "Well, are they going to get rid of me?" I'd walk in the house after I came home from school, and normally the two of them would come and greet me at the door. So now Mishka would come and see who it was and he'd go and get into his crate. He was just very much affected in his personality. So we decided we better do something fast, because we didn't want him to go into a recluse type of thing. Tevye's absence affected his personality really badly. We got another male from some people in California; this puppy was closely related to Ice Way breeding, and we went on from there. We just went along step by step. Now we are up to five here, and we co-own three others. Basically that's how we got started.

Is this the most dogs that you have ever kept at one time?

Pat: Yes, five. That's about all we can handle here. We both work and we don't think it's fair to have any more than that. I don't feel I can handle more than five well. Maybe if I had a couple of really old dogs that weren't quite as active, but we have five dogs, seven years old ranging down to eleven months, and they're all pretty active. So you have to give each their own special time. Of course, we run them in shifts.

We have two males, father and son and it's not a good idea to put them together now. So we have the girls shifting with the males all the time. We have a big enough area outside; the dog run



Mishka's granddaughter, Anatevtra's Kiska and daughter, Silverado's Impossible Dream

area is made in such a way that we can keep two bunches out there at the same time and they don't have to worry about being next to each other. We have the big area out here that we can let one group run and there is a smaller area over there where the other group can run. So it has worked out pretty well.

When did you get involved in breeding?

Pat: We haven't had a lot of

breeding experience. When we bred Mishka - we helped with the whelping. We've had a litter with Bobbie Smith; we co-owned a litter with Bobbie Smith and we are co-breeders of that particular litter. She leased one of our bitches, Jena and bred her to Ice Ways Ice Breaker. It's a relatively close line to Mishka. We got a puppy back; that was the agreement. There were six puppies born and we wanted pick of the litter bitch, to be bred back to Mishka. That was the whole idea. It's worked out pretty well.

So how many litters have you bred?

Pat: Just the one so far. We're probably going to breed Jena, not this next season, but the one afterwards. I want to get her back into the show ring. She's got a 3 point major, that I put on her myself, and I'd like for her to get some more points before we breed her again. She's completely out of coat right now, so she will start being shown again in the fall, and hopefully continue.

I'd like to get her finished before I breed her again. That would be kind of nice. I did want to get a litter from her before she got too old. She'll be three. She was about two when she was bred.



Am/Can. Ch. Ice Way's Bialow Mishka

So what is your goal?

Pat: Well, we're not going to be a kennel that breeds a tremendous amount. We can't really handle that. Now I do have the three months off in the summer, but having puppies in the summertime here is not terrific. So it would just have to be during the fall or during the spring. Right now we don't really have the facilities to have too many puppies. What I would like to have someday, of course, is a dog to replace Mishka as far as showing goes. He's semi-retired now; when he was in active competition, he did very well. I think he's a special dog because he is biscuit; he was competing with a lot of dogs that were very good and he did his thing. I think he was very, very competitive. I

biscuit goes, the male puppy I have here, Konan, has the most biscuit of any of the puppies Mishka has produced. He has biscuit on the ears, which is sometimes an Ice Way trait. A lot of Ice Way dogs have biscuit on their ears; Konan has a few freckles, and he has one area on his back that is biscuit. But none of the puppies that Mishka has produced look like Mishka, with the patches of the biscuit very pronounced. I know of two other dogs that look like him. One is his uncle, Ch. Ice Ways Honey Bear, which is where he got his biscuit. Ice Way's Angel is Honey Bear's sister. Then a son that Honey Bear produced, who is no longer with us, Ice Ways Prancer of Perma Frost, had biscuit coloring just like Mishka. I don't know any other of the Ice

always talked about as being a desired goal, in our experience with Samoyeds, would be to have good show dogs, perhaps not all champions, who are also good obedience dogs, who are also good team dogs. Good working dogs. We are involved with a combined breed club here, the Southern Arizona Husky Club, which includes Alaskan Malamute, Siberian Husky, and Samoyed owners. We do have some carting events in the summer and the spring, and many of the members do go up to the North country in the winter to Morman Lake and various places, and sled their teams. Three of the dogs that we have here now have been in races before; all three of them have done well. What I would like to see, sometime in the future, if you could ask for the best of all possible worlds, for us, would be to have all champions with CDXs that were really good on the trail. To me that would epitomize the best that there is in the breed. Dogs who can work, who can act responsibly, and who also typify all the physical traits that are good about the breed. Although as we all know sometimes even the best conformation doesn't win in the ring. That's what I would like to see somewhere down the line, that kind of situation. Of course, that's something that takes a long time to achieve. Look how long it took me to get a CD on one, and I will try to do that with all. But you know that's just a goal to shoot for, excellence. Excellence in temperament, and that's something that you can only aspire towards through a breeding program. Temperament and conformation. As far as obedience, I'm not sure anybody can really predict how a Samoyed is going to do in the obedience ring. They haven't exactly been world beaters there as almost anybody in the breed knows. I think they've got the capability; everyone of them has the capability. It's just that some of them take a little bit more work than others. I've never heard of one that was a piece of cake in the obedience ring, but some are less difficult than others. Sometime you just have to give some of them a little more time to settle down and grow up. But that's what I would like to see somewhere down the line.

Pat: That's one of the reasons we bred Mishka to the Silverado Samoyeds bitch Gilly, because she has her CD. Gilly is a very intelligent bitch; she and Mishka produced two litters for a total of 17 puppies. Many of those puppies, including some here, are in the obedience ring now, and doing very well. I would like to take a couple of our Sams that we have here through obedience; one would be Konan, who is from the second litter of Mishka bred to Gilly.



Don-Del's Subodai O'Desert Sun and Ch. Mishka - "Bookends"

hope to eventually have some puppies from him, that are better than him or are as good as him. So far we have several that are doing very well. One now that we co-own, Kazak, has one point to go to finish. One last point. From this one particular litter, he was my pick, and the breeder's pick, and I think he's done very well. Invariably, of course, with Mishka being biscuit, a lot of people have thought that because he is biscuit, we're going to get all biscuit puppies, and that's just not the case. He has produced, I think, 23 puppies. Of those 23, 12 are in show homes, and of those 12, I would say perhaps 3 have biscuit. Some of the others have a few freckles on their nose or maybe a touch on their ears, but as far as

Way dogs that have that particular coloring. There are other biscuit dogs that I've seen, but mostly the biscuit is not as pronounced as Mishka's is. I've always found his coloring rather unique. I like it. I'm only sorry that more people don't like it, because it is something that one needs in many ways to have good pigment. I have done some studying on it, and those dogs who have biscuit coloring tend to have very dark pigment and their coat texture is very, very good. I think that it is something that one needs occasionally. You can't get white and keep going. You need something in there to produce a little pigment.

Doug: To respond to your last question. One thing that we've

I'd also like Doug to take Mishka through obedience, because I think Mishka would do very well. Mishka's grandfather is Shawnee, the Mayfield's top winning, top obedience Samoyed. Doug has worked with him, and Mishka does a lot of things right now so he could go into the obedience ring and do very well, I believe. I think that would be something Doug could do with Mishka right now, now that he has been retired from active breed competition. Like he said, you have to judge each dog by his maturity level. The younger dogs that we have here are not ready for obedience, and there is no sense beating your brains out to work with them, to take them to a class and have them do miserably; I guess this would be an experience that you wouldn't enjoy much. I think it's important to have a good, all-around dog in all aspects. We have enough people here in Tucson now to run at least two full Samoyed teams. Ten years ago, there weren't any. There are people in our own Husky Club who are going to be putting together a couple of Sam teams this fall to do a little of racing here and there, and I think it will be fun. I'd like to go to Colorado; the Abbotts invited us to come to Colorado to some races this last fall and winter. We couldn't manage to go, but it's a possibility this fall and winter.

Did you ever refuse to service a bitch?

Pat: Oh, many times. First of all, I always talk to the people about x-raying the hips. If they never heard of that, well, that's about as far as the conversation goes. But if they have x-rayed the hips then the next to do is to go and look at the bitch. We look for any noticeable faults, such as cowhocks or too wide a front or anything that we feel that would not be something that one would want to carry on. Too many faults - I mean you can over shadow some by breeding and bettering them, but when a bitch or dog has too many faults then it's not a good idea. We discouraged some people; others, of course, when you talk to them they're not going to listen and they're going to breed anyway. They will just go to some other place and find some other person that will. I don't feel that we can afford to do that. We don't want our puppies running all over the place and have people say, "this is from Mishka" and have this type of breeding practice is going on. I do not want to be associated with that type of situation.

Doug: Some people come off immediately as being interested in breeding because they want to make a lot of money. Some of these people sell dogs for the heavy bucks, you know. I'm not interested in



Silverado's Kazak O'Shadow Mt.

dealing with people like that. People who have that philosophy are the same kind of people who have ruined the breeds. We all know that there are some breeds, who shall remain nameless, who have very high percentages of manifest genetic faults. I'm talking about monorchidism, I'm talking about CHD, and there are some breeds that have a better than 9% manifestation. I think that it's unprincipled people who are breeding dogs for what I consider to be the wrong reasons that have ruined some breeds.

By ruined, I mean to say, that I would think twice or a few times before buying a member of that breed under any circumstances, no matter how many x-rays I was shown. It wouldn't matter if someone gave me his sworn oath that this dog was free and clear of all faults. There are some breeds that I just wouldn't take a chance on at all. I think that when we decided to become involved in AKC and involved in dogs as opposed to just having a couple of dogs around, we made a moral commitment to ourselves and to our dogs to never do anything that might prove detrimental to the breed and to our own integrity. I

think that if there is any question whatsoever about possible detrimental affects of the breeding or association then you're better off not taking a chance at all. I don't believe in playing Russian roulette with genetics. It's enough of a gamble to begin with, but when you're faced with situations where the odds become shorter and shorter then you just get out of the game. When we see a dog that has faults or has a very questionable pedigree, or when we see an owner who has faults or very questionable moral fiber, we don't deal with them. We say sorry, we won't deal with you. Maybe someone will but not us. Sometimes we lecture them about the evils of this particular course of action and how this kind of philosophy has hurt dogs in general, and particularly the Northern breeds. Anyway that's my personal philosophy about breeding.

What is a fair stud fee?

Pat: Mishka's stud fee is \$250. It should probably be more.

Doug: A fair stud fee is relative. It depends on the circumstances. If someone of very high moral fiber and character had an outstanding bitch who was just crying



Patty Brace and Desert Son's Dani O'Devonshire (Jr. Showmanship)

to be bred because of the outstanding physical characteristics of the animal, disposition and physiology, and that person didn't have the standard or going rate then I think that moral imperative would have to come into play there, too. The moral imperative being that whereas we would never do anything to the detriment of the breed, in a situation where we would do something to help the breed and didn't because of economics, that would be detrimental too. I think the moral imperative, which all of us have, is that if there is a potential breeding that will help the breed in general, then don't worry about stud fees. Don't worry about dollars and cents; things will work out. If it's something that needs to be done then we'll find a way to do. I'm not saying we will waive a stud fee, but there are ways to work these things out. Even if you didn't get a stud fee out of it, if the breeding produced six outstanding dogs of which perhaps you got one or maybe you didn't get one, but there were six outstanding dogs that are going to benefit the breed in general, in the long run then, I think that's probably a fair compensation. My accountant might not think so, but ...

Pat: I agree, I think it's important. The money is not all that important. I'm really not all that concerned about that particular aspect of it. I am, and Doug is, concerned about the quality of the breed itself. I've read many articles and talked to many people about how the Samoyed is changing and some people think for the worse. I would like to think that in our own small

way we're helping to better the breed. We're members of several clubs and I do newsletters for two of those clubs myself, and I read articles from people all over the country about different things that are going on. When I read my Gazette every month I see that the records - of Samoyeds being registered and litters being registered are about the same or maybe a little less than the previous year. This tells me a lot of different things. We're not being overbred, not being underbred either, but we're not as popular as some of the other breeds for a variety of reasons. I feel that this is to our advantage in many ways, because many of the breeds that are very, very popular, of course, have been overbred and as Doug said, the faults are caused by people. The dogs are being bred indiscriminately without various things being checked, just because they are a popular breed. Everything just keeps mushrooming, and I feel lucky that Samoyeds don't fall into that particular problem. There are some, of course, that have, in our way of thinking, been bred and not really been looked at as far as pedigrees, as far as phenotypes, as far as seeing, does this stud complement this bitch at all. That's one of the problems we have here with some of the so called "backyard breeders." They think, "We'll take this dog and this dog and we'll throw them together and we'll end up with puppies." That's one of the problems that I've been fighting here in Tucson for quite a while and been trying to educate people here in Tucson. Hopefully, we've helped in many ways. Some people, I feel, have benefited by some of the things that we've tried to do. Being one of the very few people with Sams, for a long time we were some of the only

people you could talk to, which has its advantages and disadvantages.

Doug: They assumed we knew what we were talking about. (laughter)

Pat: Yes, but we try, we try. I read a lot, I talk to a lot of people, I have friends all over the country that I talk to at various times and write to, and I've been to the SCA Specialties in Atlanta, in San Diego, and in Seattle, plus different shows across the country. I enjoy talking to people and listening to what's going on in that particular part of the country. I think if we had been upset or disturbed by some of the things, more disturbed than what we are, we probably would of gotten out of what we are doing, but we kept on and slowly, but surely, kept doing our own thing, and I think that's important.

Doug: I'd like to expand on that a little bit. We have been concerned and quite upset about those things which motivate some people to breed their animals; maybe the reason that we did not get out of dogs is because we felt that we might have more of an impact staying in. I think that to get out, to throw up one's hands in disgust, and I'm sure a lot of people have, is the easy way out. It's the abdication of responsibility, the responsibility that one feels towards the breed that we've adopted, or that has adopted us. I think to not try and do something would be irresponsible. To not try and educate people, to not try and bring a better class of dog into the breed would be irresponsible. I think that, getting back to your question as to what is a responsible stud fee, you have to ask at the same time what is a reasonable or responsible breeding. What is going to be good for the breed in the long run, taking all things into considera-



Puppies by Mishka and Wynter Sno's Galena (1st litter)

tion. When you take all things into consideration, if you're going to be acting responsibly, then things like stud fees are really not that relevant. It's the overall net affect on the breed itself. We always ask ourselves why does this person want to breed? The answer should be immediately obvious that they want to breed because number one they love Samoyeds, and they want to take that first little step towards breeding the perfect Samoyed. If that is not immediately apparent then the next thing to do is back off for about three paces and start asking yourself some very pointed questions about where this person is coming from, what this person's intent is. There is a great deal of responsibility involved in bringing any baby into the world, whether you're talking human babies or dog babies. I think that at least in our particular circumstances we can be a little more objective about things than perhaps people are in general. I mean I don't know of any humans that decline not to breed because of a potential genetic fault. Although, I suppose it's entirely possible, if there are situations like - well, a situation like a human was a hemophiliac carrier, it would be irresponsible for that person to decide to take a chance on having a child. It might have to suffer that disorder. I'm sure there are a lot of genetic problems that humans are saddled with that affect their decisions to "breed" or not, and I feel that the situation is amplified in dogs and that you have much greater latitude to make those decisions. Although some people may think that it's almost as if we're trying to play God. My answer to that would be, if we don't make those kinds of conscious choices, who is going to make them? The dogs are not able to make the decision themselves. Certainly no dog would make a conscious decision to have herself/himself spayed or neutered. But those are the hard decisions sometimes. Especially where you have a situation where you have a bitch with only a very, very minor subluxation, but you made a moral commitment to yourself that any kind of fault like that will be immediate cause for spaying. Those are hard decisions to make, but someone has got to make them. When they don't make those decisions and they take a chance, that's irresponsible, because that dog can get out and that dog can be bred accidentally and then here we are with another litter of puppies out of a bitch who is dysplastic, mildly dysplastic but nonetheless dysplastic, with a much greater percentage of diffusing that genetic fault throughout the breed. We have a bitch who had a very minor subluxa-

tion and it was a tough thing to hear from the radiologist. It wasn't something I wanted to hear, because she was going to be the brood bitch. But once we found out and we accepted that, then the next responsible thing to do was set her up for spaying, and that's what we did. Not happy decisions to make, but you know you've got to make them, you've got to do them.

Pat: She ended up in a very

do.

What should a nice puppy sell for?

Doug: That's relative, too. Nice puppies can be either show puppies or pet puppies. I know for a fact that a lot of puppies of similar quality sell for more back East than they would here. Show puppies around here, depending upon the breeding and the relative track record of the parents, will go



Desert Son's Jena O'Devonshire - 12 weeks

good situation. We have a teenage friend whom I had talked to about showing our little bitch, Dani, who is spayed, in Junior Showmanship. Patty showed Dani in Junior Showmanship for two years. There are two classes where you can have a spayed dog, in Junior Showmanship and in Obedience. They did very well. Patty and Dani took a Best in Specialty and took four Best in Shows with Junior handling; they were in the Top 10 for Sam Jr. Handlers for 2 years. So there is always something, you know. If you can't work in one area, you can work in another, and that's what we try to

anywhere from \$300 to \$400. Pet, once again depending upon the parentage, will go anywhere from \$150 to \$250. That's just the standard, more or less semi-official standard, in Tucson. That's going to vary all over the country. If I were a novice just getting into a dog, looking at a Samoyed or any other dog, but especially a Samoyed because I know them, I would certainly suspect a bargain basement rate. I can say that now even though we got a bargain basement dog. The first dog that we bought turned out not to be a bargain. The first one that we got was \$75, for a "pedigreed"



Left to right: Mishka, Subodai and Dani

Samoyed pup. The plain fact of the matter is that there are certain costs which are attendant upon breeding and whelping a litter that have to be amortized. You just don't eat the costs, and you can't advertise that cost at \$75 a shot. It's just not possible.

You start talking about vet bills, and those can be fairly substantial. My immediate thought when someone advertises a bargain basement dog is that the dog really hasn't had the care that it should have, hasn't had shots, and therefore, it would be extremely dangerous to even look at it seriously.

Pat: Some "breeders" advertise puppies for \$200 with papers and \$100 without papers. This practice is standard thing, as far as your backyard breeder goes, and this would be just really a bargain type puppy. There are lots of people who do this unfortunately.

Doug: No one that I know personally does better than break even on litters. I think that if you can do that, and at the same time achieve your goal, which is to produce good Samoyeds, then you're way ahead of the game. You haven't really broken even economically and monetarily, you're no farther in the hole than you were before, but look what you've got. Maybe six nice little puppies. Assuming, of course, you bred properly. Anybody that thinks that reputable Samoyed breeders make a lot of money, or breeders in any breed make a lot of money, is probably way off the mark, because that adjective, reputable, itself denotes a certain responsibility

Control ... continued from page 62

Ivermectin is a fermentation product produced by an actinomycete, a filamentous bacterium. It is odorless and colorless. It has an unusually wide safety margin. Dogs given a single oral dose of 2.0 mg/kg. showed no toxic effects. Normal dosage seems to be 0.2 mg/kg. Other side effects might be seen with higher doses, but death did not even occur at 20 mg/kg (20,000 times normal dosage). No teratogenic effects have been seen in bitches treated orally with 0.5 mg/kg. four times during pregnancy.

Ivermectin is not effective against protozoa, flukes or tapeworms. It is effective against many other organisms. It is particularly effective against nematodes (roundworms) and arthropods (insects, ticks, and mites). Nematodes encompass a large number of roundworms, not only that that dog people customarily consider roundworms, but the whip worms, hookworms and heartworms. All are roundworms. The antinematodal action of ivermectin varies with the species and stage of the life cycle of each species but is very much less than other preventatives. Nematodes which live in extraintestinal tissues (muscles) as well as in the intestine are susceptible to ivermectin. Ivermectin to date seems to be ineffective against

to the breed and responsibility is further defined as economic outlay in terms of vet bills, inoculations, prenatal and postnatal care, and Lord knows what all. But if you're responsible, you take care of those things. You have to.

Pat: You also have to be concerned about parvo virus and corona virus that can wipe out the entire litter. I know there have been several instances in the recent past, friends of mine not only in Sams, that have had their whole litters wiped out by one or the other of these viruses. It's a very sad thing. It's a lot of pain and a lot of grief for people that aren't used to it. It's devastating. It's one thing that a lot of people aren't used to; that's what breeding entails. They just don't expect anything like that. Coupled with everything else here in the southwest is that extra heartache, valley fever.

To be continued ...

adult heartworms. It is however, very effective against the filarial stages of the disease and prevents the disease condition when given 1 day - 2 months after inoculation of larvae from a mosquito bite. Recent field tests suggest that dogs can be fully protected against heartworm by a monthly treatment of ivermectin.

Little has been said of the effect of ivermectin on fleas but it is effective in controlling lice which bite or suck other animals. Ticks do not undergo immediate death or detachment from animals which have been treated but they usually undergo a disruption of essential life processes such as enlargement, molting and reproduction. Some ticks have little susceptibility to ivermectin.

Of interest to dog owners is the possible effect on mange. Mange is caused by mites. In cattle and swine, mange mites are susceptible to ivermectin. In cattle, skin scrapings 2 weeks after treatment fail to produce any mites in cattle who had mange and were treated with ivermectin. There seems to be hope for a cure to mange.

The side spectrum of efficacy, safety and the lack of cross-resistance with other drugs suggests that ivermectin has the potential to be an important control measure for several species of parasites which plague our canines. ***