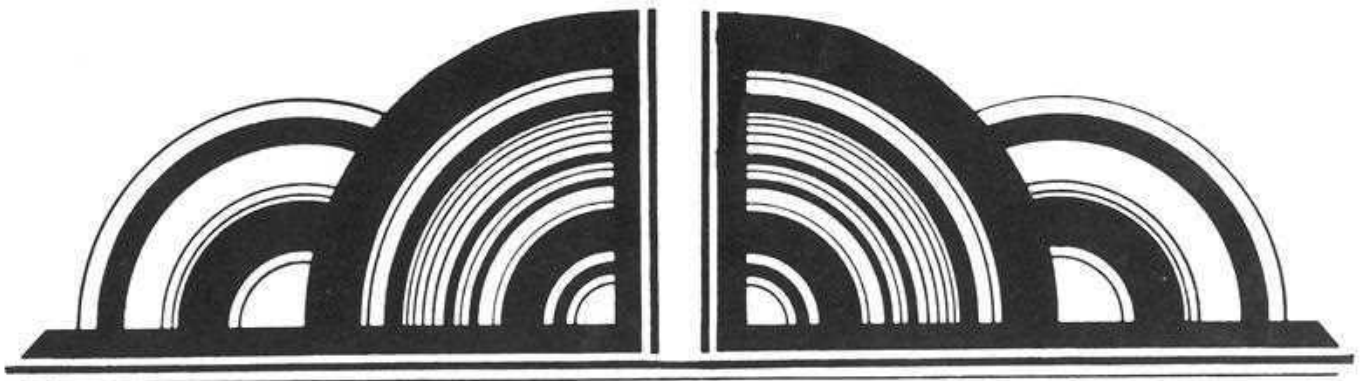


The
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QUARTERLY



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SAMOYED PEOPLE



The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks With
Bob and Dolly Ward
STARCTIC KENNELS
Calabasas, California

Part II

This interview was conducted by
Cynthia Kerstiens in the home of

Bob and Dolly Ward in July, 1982.
Additions and corrections were added
by the Wards in June, 1984.

Do you think there is a conflict of interest when judges handle their own dogs?

Dolly: Absolutely not. There is a purpose and I have thought about this subject for some long

time. It is debatable yes, but there are good arguments for showing dogs, not campaigning, but showing dogs to the championships. I think when you have been in the breed for many years and have learned something about being able to breed or buy good dogs, then those are the ones you would be showing. The dog could tell breeders and judges something about the breed. We showed in Northern California one time and the judge was Sam Lothrop, who looked at me showing the dog, put her at the end of the line, and he judged the class. When it was all over he said, "I would never put up a judge showing a dog." We believe that is as incorrect as putting a friend up with the worst dog, or not putting up your friend with the best dog. You are supposed to judge the dogs. These are intricate relationships, we agree. They are the kind that might be difficult sometimes, but that's not fair, because this is my hobby. Why should I throw my hobby out the window when I have only now begun to learn a few things that I think I can contribute? I have learned something in all these years, and I enjoy showing, that is my fun. I don't go nightclubbing, or something else, I love dog shows, exhibiting, spectating or judging the dogs.

In Australia, England, Europe and the Orient judges show their own dogs. In England the breeder-judges are the ones that judge the shows, they are the core of the judging program there. We think the dog game is about breeding good animals, showing them and enjoying them with each other as a social entity.

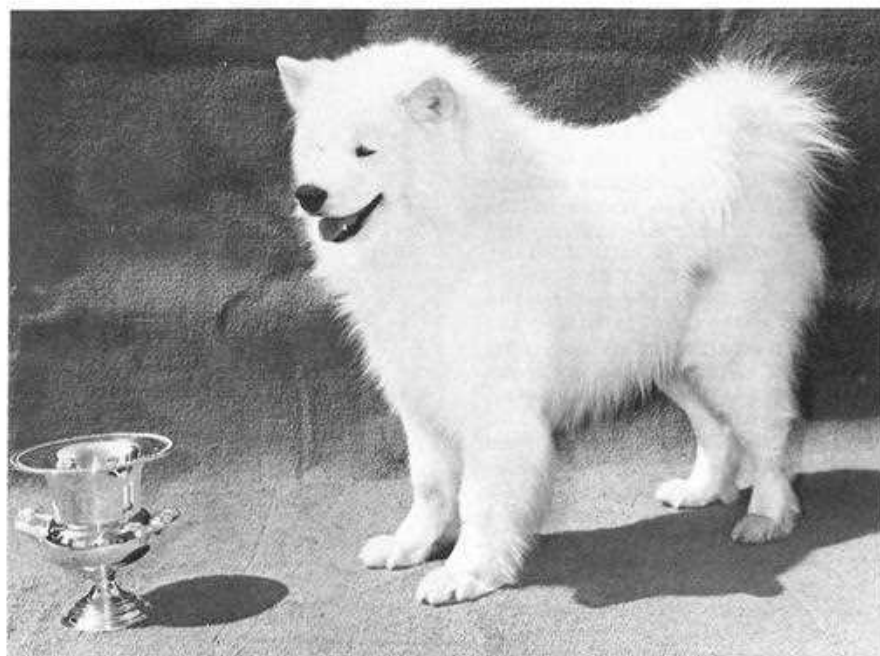
What about magazine advertising?

Dolly: We believe in advertising, and we see nothing wrong with

dog magazines, there is a lot to be learned from them. If Bob sees a good looking dog that is highly advertised and if he comes in the ring, and isn't as good as his picture looked, he probably won't do very well. He would be in especially big trouble if he couldn't move properly. We judge a dog as we see it, not by its record. I know records are important to many people; I personally don't care so much about records. Bob and Mardee turned in Painter's record listing his sons and daughters because he was at stud, and they were proud of the fact that Starchak won the SCA Stud Dog Award in 1956, and 25 years later Painter won it. The two dogs were picked for type and fortunately reproduced themselves, that is because each of them happened to be dominant. We think Painter has produced some lovely dogs and bitches, and will be a credit to the continuation of the breed. That is why we are in the dog game. We have never advertised the fact that he has three sons with all-breed Best in Shows, and a daughter who truly deserves one as well.

Do you think it is important to be in the Top Ten or the Top Twenty?

Dolly: We don't think it is, but it means a lot to some people. All it tells is that a person took a lot of time and money and energy to get an above-average dog everywhere where he might win. It is a shame that we have these old Phillips and Kennel Review and Chronicle systems to push people into so much campaigning, but I believe the good wins



Chief - Stud Dog Trophy - 1971

among the breed exhibits is more important than those for the group. However, we will not lose the excitement of the campaigned dog. This picture of Ch. Tasha O'Shasha (a double granddaughter of Painter), was top bitch in 1981 and 1982, and we never applied for it until this year. We call her Tika. In some breeds the national clubs have someone who keeps the records on the dogs within their breed, the people do not apply for the awards as we do in the SCA.

I think it is better than making application because quite often some dogs don't apply. If they haven't applied, they have no chance of winning, some of the winners in the SCA have no competition. However, now in 1984, in editing this interview, we can be very sure that Razz Ma Tazz will hold the all-time win record in Sams, ever in most probability, owned by Chris and Danny Miller of Houston, Texas, and Eugene and Joyce Curtis of Phoenix,



Almost Christmas Chatter, CD

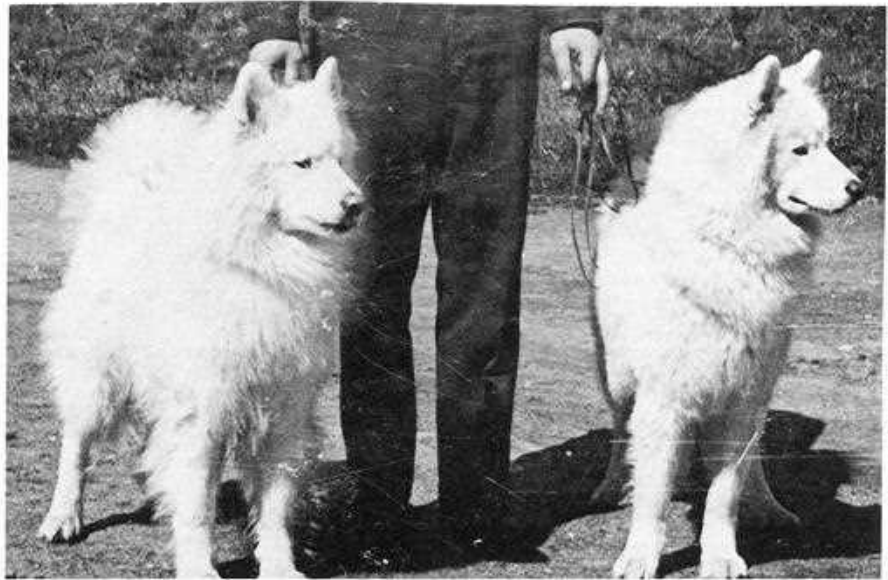


Ch. Kiskas Karaholme Cherokee

Arizona. With the two lady co-owners doing all the perfect grooming, and the two men co-owners running the extra roofing business to subsidize Taza's campaign, and having top Texas handler Roy Murray on the dog with a Texas style campaign, we are quite sure his record of 34 Best in Shows in the USA cannot be matched in the future. And Tazz is still a young, beautiful dog. We think the Award of Merit system is good in the specialties, whether they are the local club specialties or national club specialties. The top dog might not be suitable for breeding to certain females where one of the Award of Merit or Select as the German Shepherd people call their chosen ones, may be much better. It is some five or ten percent of the total. The Award of Merits may be more suitable for breeding. After all there is usually more than one winner, really, at the specialties.

Earlier you had mentioned that a lot of people equate size with type. How would you define type?

Dolly: It is definitely not "wolf or bear." Type in any breed is where the dog looks what he is supposed to look like. A Yorkshire Terrier should look like a Yorkie and not a Silkie. A Siberian should look like a Siberian, not a Malamute. A Sammy should not look like a white Collie or a cream colored Chow. There is really only one type for a breed, but there are variations of style among the type. That's where the confusion comes in. Part of the Sammy type is that his tail curls over his back. Why? Because he is a Northern dog, and if it was down and it got frozen, he would lose it. So all Northern dogs carry their tails over their backs. Northern dogs have prick ears that are mobile and can be buried in their ruff so their ears won't freeze. Northern dogs have slanty eyes that can squint so they won't become snow-blind. The eyes are not round. They need to have proper feet so they won't ball up and get sore or sink into the snow. These are things that go with type. The way their tail is set, the way their shoulders are laid on and laid back, too different terms meaning two different things. The way they move properly for their breed, and in the case of the Sammies, an easy going trot that could go all day on a march or in front of a sled or herding reindeer. That tail set is important in this regard - we differ from the opinion expressed by Quentin La Ham. We see some Southern California dogs getting some very poor grade tail sets, and that is going to be a hard thing to breed out. They are low and loose and that is not typey. It is especially



Silver Spark of the Arctic, 11 years old and Ch. Starchak CD, 14 months old.



Ch. Hoti-Ami of Starchak (Ch. Noatak of Silver Moon x Ch. Dajja Mashad-E of Calaveras)



Ch. Kazan of Kentwood (Ch. Starctic Storm x Winter Trail's Kazanna)



Ch Rainier (Ch Starchak CD x Snowy Dawn)

hard showing if you have to stand there and hold the tail up all the time. The big round eyes are very bad, and the squint are not nice for their expression either. They don't have to be black eyes, they need to be dark brown. Black looks harsh and you don't see the warmth in the expression of the eye.

Did you run your dogs?

Dolly: Yes, it was just a part of everything. We were showing, but racing was just one of the activities the people in those days did.

Bob: I had a team of nine and could run seven at the same speed that did four minutes to the mile. I went up and watched the races in 1948 and went back to race in 1949. They ran a packed track that was two and a half miles around four times. I went up with the team, they had been in the show only once or twice. When I got up to Trucky and told him, "You have got to pace your dogs," they just ran and won. I ran them and when they slowed to a trot and stopped running I stopped the team. They would recover in thirty seconds and would start out at a dead run. We did a lot of stopping and a lot of running but we ran four minutes to the mile. I guess Dolly disagrees with the premise that the dog must be worked to be built right or to be shown as a working dog. It is nice if you can get out and run the monosled, but it is not practical for most exhibitors; also it is not practical to keep a dog in show coat and then run him on a sled every weekend. They are going to have their coats torn up. So I would like to make the distinction

that I think it is great to go sledging, but I don't think they have to go sledging to be a working dog and to be built properly. Anything that you read of Mel Fishback's (Ryan), I will tell you that they're all becoming powder-puffs. (So, we will see you at the National in Denver and have some more talk about all of this.)

When you breed are you there for the mating?

Dolly: Absolutely. We took care of them. We won't be doing it anymore because we have turned all of that over to Mardee, our daughter.

How do you cut off those dew claws?

Dolly: You take a little pair of rounded manicure scissors, and be sure you get down to the knubben. Someone asked what you put on it to stop the bleeding. You can hold it if it is not serious, or put on ferrous sulfate.

When do you pick puppies?

Dolly: Bob likes to pick them at birth before they are dried out. He can see every bone in their little bodies when they are wet. Count their ribs, see their shoulder placement and layback. Then when they fill up with air and fluff up you can't tell again until they are eleven or twelve weeks. The longer the better; if you could chose your dogs for whatever purpose closer to a year that would be ideal.

What do you think a show quality Sam puppy should sell for?

Bob: Around \$400 to \$500. They are paying that in pet stores

for questionable stock. We have always found that if you didn't sell the puppy for something the people didn't take care of it. Giving them away is very dangerous. I think that most dogs that go for pets are selling for \$300. A show puppy is \$400 and up.

Dolly: When Bob picks a puppy, he picks at birth, before they grow up. We are pretty lucky in picking puppies but it is still a gamble. In the last litter we had with Sioux and Neavu, we had one that truly fooled us. Most puppies are fifteen or sixteen ounces, and we had one that was no bigger than a Saint pup. A St. Bernard pup weighs from four to six ounces at birth, it was a midget. We had a puppy that weighed six ounces at birth. She was the most energetic. She is about four and a half now and the last I heard she was running point on Bob Lecour's sled team. She is about 22" high. She grew up past everybody. She was a toughy, had a terrific attitude, but that kind of growth pattern we hadn't seen before. To be an absolute runt at birth, and going by the others on size. That was in Sioux's last litter. It was really Mardee's because she bred to Neavu, but the one with Painter six years ago was really our last litter of Sioux and Painter. We had two very nice bitches. One went to Germany for foundation stock and one in Oklahoma, Starting Kochina, did very nicely by Hal and Mel and Del.

Are there reasons that you wouldn't accept a bitch for stud service?



Ch. Petrof - Ch. Chum - Ch. Faith



Mason's Famous Samoyede Dog Team

Bob: You bet your life. Painter is twelve in 1982, and he has only sired fourteen litters.

Dolly: First of all, they have to be x-rayed. There must be a brucellosis test and of course, today we have to worry about PRA. Or if they are poor examples or very faulty in some area; there are many good reasons why we wouldn't breed a bitch that came to us.

If a dog was really outstanding in many ways, are there any faults that would keep you from breeding to it? Any fault that you consider bad enough?

Dolly: To put it succinctly, I would say temperament. Temperament which includes from shyness and reticence to belligerence or

whatever.

Have you ever culled puppies?

Dolly: I have threatened to seriously, but not having too many litters, I haven't needed to. I would if I were a breeder. I think culling puppies is important, especially if there is a cleft palate or any serious abnormality. Now culling puppies after they are about ten days old becomes very difficult. What usually happens is you hope to place them in pet homes, but if they are just less than good show potential, if they have serious defects, yes we would put them down.

How did you come up with your kennel name?

Dolly: Starctic. Star comes

from the same of Starchak's dam who was Silver Star of White Way. The Arctic, of course, explains itself. Starchak, the last part of the name chak, came from his sire's name Chattigan. The k was Starchak's own. So, putting Star with Arctic we produced the kennel name Starctic, from our first dog Starchak. At one time only the large kennels who did a lot of breeding had the kennel names, then it became more and more popular for people with one or two dogs, or one or two litters, to choose a kennel name. Now it seems that everybody has a kennel name. Sometimes they choose their kennel name before they get their dog.

Is there any advice you would like to give to people just starting out in the breed?

Dolly: Buy the finest bitch you can get, and probably choose it at a year of age, or thereabouts. Not eight weeks if possible. Of course this is most difficult. People who have good bitches aren't willing to part with them either. But you may be lucky and find one, hopefully. The same would apply to a male if you prefer a male for whatever reasons. However, we mention the bitch because if you were to go into breeding, the bitch is the one to select most carefully. It's true that males are easier to campaign than bitches because of their being in season, losing their coats more often, etc., but if you were going to buy a show dog you might want to start with a puppy. Just remember that puppies last in that size only a very short time. The worst mistake people can make is to buy a pair so they can have puppies. The first litter from that pair may not be any good, then they have the male that doesn't complement the bitch obviously. So if you have a good bitch, and the first litter is no good from that, you breed to a different



Ch. Tasha of Sacha's Knight (Ch. The Hoof 'N Paw White Knight x Sacha of Sayan



Bob Ward with Ch. Starchak and sire Ch. Herdsman's Chattigan



Starchak (1) and his sister Jill at Mason's White Way.

male. Bob started with a male because he wanted a lead dog in the sled team. But later he began to think that the better lead dogs were the bitches.

Bob: In all the years our purpose in producing anything was to try to get one of the best possible show dogs not just to have white dogs that breed white for someone who wants pets. It was never our intention to breed for just more dogs but to find that illusive perfect show dog. One of the things that we bred for was show attitude. A really great dog has attitude and personality and character. He is a "show dog." A really good bitch is the queen of the pack, absolutely from the time she is eight weeks old. You put ten Sammies out there and she might be the boss. The show attitude determines the success in the ring from breed to group.

Do you teach your dogs to free stack when you are handling?

Dolly: Yes. This is done often informally in the kitchen with little tidbits and a lot of sweet talk making it less formal and more fun.

As judges, do you think there is a lot of overhandling?

Dolly: I don't know how to answer that. In judging a breed of any kind, I don't mind if they want to handle a lot. When the dog moves it is not being stacked so you can see whatever you need to see in the movement.

What kind of grooming do you want to see, and how much is too much?

Dolly: We are not used to doing as much grooming as they are doing today, which is quite extreme with lots of chalk, power blowers and much more trimming than we used to do. We think the feet could be trimmed a little if they are ragged looking. I don't even want to trim the whiskers, but I know people are going to trim whiskers. I guess some dogs look a little better with facial whiskers, but the brushing is fundamental to all grooming. Of course the type of bath and soap you use enhance the elbow work. The elbow grease. I suppose for fantastic grooming, we could name a number that do a very good job, but I believe anyone may be in awe of a dog that is very well presented and they should be clean. It is a disservice to a judge to bring a Sammy in that is not well groomed. Our daughter does most of the grooming now, of course I still comb and brush, but we aren't showing the dogs much. One is going to the National and that is it for her. Someday I may get a small dog, I don't know what kind yet, but it would be more practical for me to walk around the ring with a small dog than a big Sammy. Subsequently, since 1982, Bob, this year in 1984, has bought us a Beagle bitch. She is from Marysong's Beagles in Nebraska, and we are very proud of her. He

bought her at the St. Joseph, Missouri Show so we call her "Missy Mo."

What about your personal background? How long have you been in this house, hobbies, and so forth?

Dolly: We have two daughters and three grandchildren, one teenage boy and two cute little girls, granddaughters under 4 years. They are Lindy and Kelly Moore's family. Mardee does the dogs and has our bloodlines to continue. We moved here to Hidden Hills in 1957 to raise our girls in the country, the dogs and our Morgan horses. The girls had Welsh ponies that they learned to ride on, and we were here for twelve years and moved out for just a short time to Thousand Oaks, and then back. It seemed so unlike home, that we came back to Hidden Hills, even though our daughters had left our nest.

How many dogs do you have now?

Dolly: We have three Samoyeds and one Beagle. We have Veteran Painter, Kiskas Karaholme Cherokee, whom we imported from England, and who is now fourteen years old, in 1984, and then we have Starctic Snowbasin's Sioux, who is our girl of twelve years and she acts like a puppy. Antika is going to be six in 1984, and I sort of think that is going to be - and I have said this before! - the last of our Sammies, probably.

How long have you been judging?

Dolly: Bob has been judging since 1954 and I have been judging since 1960. There are eighteen Sammy judges, and I am going to name them here, having looked them up from the judges book: (1983) Richard Breckenridge, Ohio, T.J. Dendinger, Louisiana; Madelin Druse, Northern California, Bernice Helinski, Colorado, Duvella Kusler, Idaho; Elva Libby, Florida; Anastasia MacBain, Ohio, Tom Mayfield, Southern California - and group 7 and BIS; Mary Mayfield, Southern California; Dan Morgan, Northern California; Ken O'Brien, Northern California; Betty Omohundro, Southern California; Joyce Reynaud, New Jersey; Alyce Seekins Northern New York - and Groups 3, 7 and BIS; Kathryn Tagliaferri, Louisiana - and Groups 3, 7 and BIS; Dr. Maurice Waller, Tennessee - and Groups;

counted the shows in the US. We're pleased to go abroad for assignments, some judges won't go overseas. It is a great opportunity to see the dog fancy abroad and have a nice trip too.

What are some of the advantages and benefits of being in dogs?

Dolly: So many nice memories.

Bob: If I go to a dog show and see one or two outstanding dogs in the weekend, and meet a couple of nice people, I have had a very good time.

Dolly: You meet a lot of nice people, and there are more nice people in this game than bad people.

Bob: You have so much in common just meeting them, because you can talk dogs and maybe the places you have been together. You meet nice dogs and people.

What about the drawbacks?

Dolly: Any drawbacks are just

game is that it is a complete cross-section of America, both occupations and ages. You always know people who are older and many who are younger, and they all get along. Because they have the common ground of dogs. I don't know any other activity like that. If you compared it to tennis, where you would have to keep running, it would be a little hard as you get older, but in the dog game, the older you get, theoretically, the more you know, and it is a very nice plus. It is not a drawback to get old, because you can keep on doing what you have done, and you are getting better at it.

Bob: Well, if I had spent this much time working in another business, I would have made a lot more money. (laughter) No you don't make millions, but then what is life all about? I think being happy is important, it isn't always just money. That is why we don't ask for big exorbitant fees, such as some judges may do, we hope to go to these places and be invited back and not let fees be a disadvantage. We enjoy the dogs. We have been invited back to many places which is a compliment. If you do a lousy job, you won't be asked back. We were the first American judges and I was the first lady judge to be invited to judge in Taiwan in 1982. We didn't expect to go back to Taiwan, but we were invited back to Hong Kong, and subsequently to Japan, as a result of those experiences in the Orient. So that makes you feel good and opens many more horizons.

Do you think it has all been worth it?

Dolly: Yes absolutely, without hesitation.

Bob: Dolly enjoyed the years in the Sammy Club of America, and we were concerned about its reorganization and direction and all of that.

Dolly: Bob was president in 1968 and 1969, and I was president about 1961 and 1962. That has been a good experience, although we don't think it helped us in our judging. We have now joined the new organization that Melbourne Downing helped form, The Senior Judges Confirmation Association. We are looking forward to their influence upon the dog fancy, that it be positive and of help to continuing education of those interested in judging the breeds.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Dolly: (laughing) I can't imagine what it would be. Just love your Samoyeds the way they love you.

Thank you.

Dolly: You are welcome **



R.H. Ward's Exhibition Team with Ch. Starchak CD at lead - 1949.

Mardee Ward, Southern California - and Sibs and JR Show; Dolly Ward, Southern California - and Groups 3, 6, 7, some of the Toy Breeds and BIS; Robert Ward, Southern California - and Groups 2, 3, 6, 7 and BIS.

For some time, Bob and I were the only ones who had groups and multiple breeds, but now we have been joined by Alyce Seekins and Kathryn Tagliaferri. We welcome them and wish more will continue with multi-breeds. An interesting sideline on judging and judges, based on 2500 shows, how many judges do you think were determined by computer to have done over 30 shows in a year average? Thirty-four judges. We were glad to be two of the thirty-four. There were seventeen and eighteen of us who did only two groups and were doing thirty-five or thirty-six shows a year. They only

life, it just comes with life. Things that go wrong or that you wish were different, or somebody starts criticizing your stud dog for things you know he shouldn't be criticized for, those are drawbacks but that is life. Somebody is going to do that kind of talking, so you learn to live with it whether you like it or not. I really don't know what specific drawbacks there are.

Bob: (laughing) Well, it does keep you out of other activities.

Dolly: Yes, you can't do a lot of other things because you are doing the dog scene, but you choose to do this, so it would be true of anything you choose to pursue. It is very frustrating to deal with the American Kennel Club, that is probably a drawback. But not everyone has that drawback. One of the most interesting things to us about the whole dog