

THE SAMOYED QUARTERLY

Spring 1999 • \$13



Samoyed people

The Samoyed Quarterly
Talks with
Emily (Betty) Moody
NOVASKAYA
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This interview was conducted at the home of Emily Moody in June of 1998 by Connie Porter.

How did you get started in dogs?

We've always had dogs as long as I can remember, but my husband got a shipment back to England in 1970. (He was in the USAF.) Back then, we had what is now known as American Eskimos. Now I am talking before 1970, because I had them when I met John, so it would be around '60 or '62. We got married and the shipment came through and we applied for permits to put them into quarantine to take them with us, because we had one male and one female by that time. The rest of them had gone to their new homes. Someone smuggled a dog in from Germany and went on holiday. They put the dog in a kennel in England, whereupon it broke out with rabies. Of course, they are paranoid about rabies in England; therefore, the quarantine went from six months to nine months to twelve months, and then they said that they weren't accepting any live animals in at all.

Consequently, we couldn't take our dogs with us, so we had them spayed and neutered and placed them in good homes. As soon as we got to England, I was so miserable; I missed my dogs. I was flipping through dog books - I wanted another one like I'd had - and I saw this picture of a Samoyed. Of course, I didn't realize the difference in size from an American Eskimo to a Samoyed, and I said, "There it is. That's what I want."

It took us about four months to locate one. We bought our first Samoyed in 1970 from Eileen Danvers in Leicester, UK. She drove all the way down to just outside of Oxford to bring "Misty" to us. She was just a pet. That was what we asked for. We were out shopping and someone saw her with us. Back then, people in Eng-

land took their dogs everywhere, and someone saw her and said, "Oh, you must show her." At the time, John had had an accident. He was in a cast from his hip down to his knee, because he had broken his leg. We went to this little show, and of course, she won her class, and that started it all off.

From there, I bought another girl, Fairvilla Francesca, who was obviously better than the pet. Everybody called her "Judy Moody," and everything we have is descended from her or her litterbrother in Samoyeds, and that was the start of our Samoyeds in 1970.



What other breeds do you have?

Oh, about fourteen years ago, Hilda and I were just dickering around, and she had a friend who had Cavaliers, and she decided she was going to get one. I said, "Why don't we get one together?" She said, "Okay." "Beau" was the first one, dear old Beau. Then Hilda said, "What if we went into it and bred a litter?" I said, "Well, we have to get a bitch to breed a litter." She said, "Yes, I know, but what if we did." So I said, "Okay," and went home and paid an outrageous price for this show puppy to be. (laughter) A "Ruby." Unfortunately, she

looked like a little black-and-tan Chihuahua. (laughter) People kept saying, "Cavaliers are funny. They can produce something beautiful from something ugly." Therefore, we bred her, and she did. She produced us some very good stock. It just sort of snowballed from there, and then I started bringing them back with me to the USA. This was before AKC recognition.

Is this a picture of her?

Hilda: Her great, great, great-grandson. He is with us now in the USA. He is two years old.

Emily: We have two little Ruby puppies out of him right now in the nest. They are two weeks old. That's "James." It just sort of snowballed from there. Actually, we have done so well with the Cavaliers the past couple of years that the oth-

love to take her in the ring, but I know I can't. So she will have to sit on the sidelines for awhile.

How long have you been in the Shibas?

Oh, Gosh. Minimeadow Diamond Lil, "Lili," was our first Shiba. We did buy her with the intentions of showing her, but unfortunately, she just never quite came up to scratch. Then, later on, we had problems when we bred her. She just wouldn't get pregnant, and then we had to get her spayed because she had pyometria. She's a couch potato. She spends most of her time next door with my neighbors because they love her to death. (laughter) They are both in the Navy, and when Connie's husband goes off for any length of time, she wants company. She wants Lili over there to be company. They have put dog doors in the doors, so she can come and go as she pleases, and she spends 98 percent of her time over there now.

Our second one was Minimeadow Miss Mischief. That's "Smudge." Delightful. Absolutely delightful. Loved her to death; still do. Unfortunately when her second teeth came in, her mouth wasn't right, so we couldn't show her either. (laughter)

But meantime, we met a lot of nice Shiba people, and I really got to where I liked the breed so much that I wanted to stay with it. Lili was born November 1990. We learned a lot from Lili, we really did. Then we got Miss Mischief, which is Smudge, and Smudge is a law unto herself. She was born October of 1993.

Back in those days, we used to go to a lot of AKC shows and states' kennel club shows. The Shiba was one of the breeds then that weren't AKC recognized, so the SKC were the shows they rotated to, and I fell in love with them there. Finally, I talked to Mary Malone and we decided that we would get one.

When Smudge didn't come up to scratch with her mouth, we didn't quite know what to do then. So I leased a bitch from Debbie Meador of the Tanasea Shibas, and she bred "Blossom" to Ch. Kinouks Road Warrior Tanasea, "Max." We (Debbie is co-breeder) had a litter of five - three males and two females. Debbie had a female out of the litter which she finished very



Trophies and awards.



Picture on right is a needlepoint done by Emily.

quickly. We kept "Pixie," Novaskaya Cherry Blossom. One of the boys went to a friend of mine in England. He is siring some beautiful puppies for her over there, and she is absolutely delighted. One little boy went to Texas, and the other boy is up around the Fredericksburg area, near where Debbie is.

We thought about showing Pixie, but somehow everything has been against me. My legs have just let me down the last few years, so I haven't done much with her. However, she is only just now starting to mature, so hopefully I'll get her out next year. The other boy who went to Texas has already been

shown, and he's pointed, too. It was a pretty litter.

Hilda, do you get involved with showing and so on?

Hilda: Yes. I have ten Cavaliers at home.

Emily: She shows a lot. She came over here to take care of me for ten weeks, and the week before I went into the hospital

there were the Virginia Beach shows on Memorial Day weekend. The first day she took in a little seven-month-old that I'd brought over from England in March 1998. We have joint kennels in England and joint kennels over here. She got a five-point major with her.

Hilda: My first show ever



in the USA. I won a five-point major with a Ruby bitch, that was in December 1996. She has since finished her championship.

Emily: Her first time in a USA show, no less.

Hilda: She is also the mother of James' two puppies. Two years ago during Christmas of '96, I went up to Bethlehem and took a five-point major and Best of Winners that day, and she was only thirteen months.

What is your last name, Hilda?

so that I know I can take care of any problem that crops up. And the Shibas are lively puppies. They are a handful.

So in that litter you said there were five? How many champions?

There's only one right now. Debbie Meador finished the bitch she had. "Wharf" is totally out of coat, but he is going to be shown this year, and Kim Belham, who co-owns him, says that she has high hopes that he will do well.

However, usually during that particular bitch's lifetime, I will keep at least one puppy from her. I don't just breed for the sake of breeding. Each breeding is very well thought out. I do linebreed and try to stay with my linebreeding.

Do you outcross or inbreed at all?

I don't inbreed. No.

Is there a reason?

I looked at a lot of breeding that were inbreedings, and to my mind, I haven't seen any-

lems, and also hip dysplasia, of course. I have never had any eye problems or heart problems so far. We have had over the course of 30 years maybe five or so dysplastic dogs, that I know of. Our dogs do go out with a guarantee that we will replace them if they come up with a hereditary defect. So it's there, but we try our best. All of our dogs are X-rayed and we have their eyes checked. We try to eliminate it in the little ones, too.



Above and right: Ch. Kazumi Toyko Rose, the most awarded bitch under Shiba specialists.

Hilda: Brewer.

You are from England?

Hilda: Yes.

Is this your first trip over?

Hilda: No, this is my third trip over.

Emily: Hilda, her husband Ray and daughter Krystine came over Christmas a couple of years back. They also came over the summer we all went to Canada to some shows.

Back to the Shibas. How many litters have you bred in the Shibas?

Just the one.

So it's your best litter? (laughter)

Obviously. (laughter) I would love to breed some more litters, but I'm really not up to it yet. I like to be 100 percent. I don't mind having these little ones, especially knowing that Hilda is going to be here. However, I want to be 100 percent,

What about the Samoyeds? How many litters of those have you bred?

Oh, gosh. I really couldn't say, between the ones that were bred in England and here. I bred more in England than I do over here. Usually it's one or two litters a year over here, at the outside. I never bred more than two. Sometimes I don't breed at all. It depends on what we have going on at that time.

Is there a reason for each litter that you plan?

Usually because I want to keep something. That's the main reason. All my Samoyeds are from England, and a lot of people like the English look, so they come to me and want me to sell them a puppy. Therefore, I sometimes will breed that one litter and then sell them all.

thing in my lines that was spectacular enough to take a chance with. There are too many things that can crop up with inbreeding. It is not something that I want to get into to, but I do linebreed.

I believe I outcrossed once, but that wasn't a total outcross because the dog went back to the same English lines that I carry. Therefore, it really wasn't a total outcross, but it was far enough out to where it gave me a little bit more leeway. I didn't sort of box myself in.

With the Sams, they do have eye problems, and I understand there are some heart prob-

lems, and also hip dysplasia, of course. I have never had any eye problems or heart problems so far. We have had over the course of 30 years maybe five or so dysplastic dogs, that I know of. Our dogs do go out with a guarantee that we will replace them if they come up with a hereditary defect. So it's there, but we try our best. All of our dogs are X-rayed and we have their eyes checked. We try to eliminate it in the little ones, too.

In the Shibas, what are the common problems or faults that you find?

As a whole, the Shibas are a pretty healthy breed - at least, the ones that I've talked to people about. I know there are problems in the breed, but there are in every breed. The Shiba people I talk to seem very conscientious. They are very quick to eliminate something in their breeding if it doesn't come up to scratch. It's still a fairly new breed when you think about it,

so it hasn't had time to get in the hands of the people who are just using them to breed and make money.

Do you feel that the pedigrees can be trusted as to accuracy?

I don't know about other people. I can go back in my pedigrees ten generations. I'm very particular on that point. Everything we have is on computer. Every pedigree that I

merge together somewhere in the pedigree, although there are so many dogs in Cavaliers that sometimes you are lucky if you can linebreed. They are so popular in England.

The Shiba is becoming quite popular, too, in England. My friend Roz has about eight of them, and she has done very well with them. Whenever I go to England, we go down to visit.

She says that a lot of the English dogs were kind of a muddy red, and she is getting a really rich red from him. He is Novaskaya King of The Road For Skiandu.

Who or what has influenced you the most in your breeding?

Debbie Meador. She's so very easy to talk to, and if you want to know something, she is very open. Some breeders can be very close-mouthed, but she

course, like most people you are supposed to be restricted to a certain amount of dogs, but it just doesn't always work out that way. We've been here ten years, and we've had no problems. Of course, the dogs are not allowed to run riot. They are not allowed to go outside and screech and bark, or else. The Sams are the worst culprits of that. The Shibas are basically



Krystal Blaze, a Samoyed puppy.

send out is probably checked through the English Kennel Club anyway, and it's the same with the little ones. Their pedigrees are all basically English pedigrees. So far, we have bred with English stock in the background. The pedigree on these puppies' father basically goes back to English. Their pedigrees do match. They sort of

She is the one who has the imported one from my litter. She's delighted with the puppies that she has gotten, because she found that the English Shibas were getting too large. She calls him "Kai," and she's delighted that he's producing an in-size dog, with very pretty heads, and beautiful colors. The reds are very rich that she gets from him.

has always been very open and helpful. When I said that I would like to breed Pixie to a certain dog, she was quite open in saying what I might get or not get.

How many dogs do you keep now?

More than I should. Too many, actually. We try to keep the numbers down, and of

quite quiet. We don't have a lot of barking from them at all.

The Cavalier puppies are the ones that most of the time you don't know you have them in the house. Pixie can't wait to get to the puppies. When they were tiny, I took the Shiba pups out to see Debbie, because she had to pick out her bitch. I bring up all my puppies the

same way, from the Sams right on through. I just roll them on their backs, and they lay on their backs and I tickle their belly, and they go to sleep like that. Debbie said to me one time, "Shibas aren't like that. They are not submissive," and I said, "Well, mine are." To this day, when I pick them up, they'll roll over on their back and go to sleep on their back, especially Pixie. She knows if she comes up on my lap, she just flops on my lap and stretches all out and I'll scratch her belly for her.

How did you come up with your kennel name, Novaskaya?

That's what I have for the Sams and the Shibas. That was applied for in England, by the way, and still is a registered kennel in England. It would be in our English Kennel Club. With the Cavaliers, we already have a kennel for those, they are Bowfort, so that's a separate affix for them, but we still use Novaskaya for the rest.

We sent off all sorts of affixes to the English Kennel Club. We had sent six of them. We sent all sorts of pretty names, such as Snowflake, Whitefrost, Winterfall, and every one of them got turned down. They were either someone else's or they weren't allowed. They sent it back and said that we had to send them six more. We sat there and sat there and we couldn't come up with a darn thing. They had this program in England called *The Sky at Night*. It was about the stars and was a really interesting program. We were sitting there watching it one night, and he said that tonight's program would be on novas. I sat there and thought about it. He went on to say "novas in the sky," and I said to John, "That doesn't sound bad. Novasky," but it didn't sound quite right, so we added the two "A's" in between and made it Novaskaya, and it got accepted. (laughter) Weird.

Do you name your litters by any sort of scheme or theme?

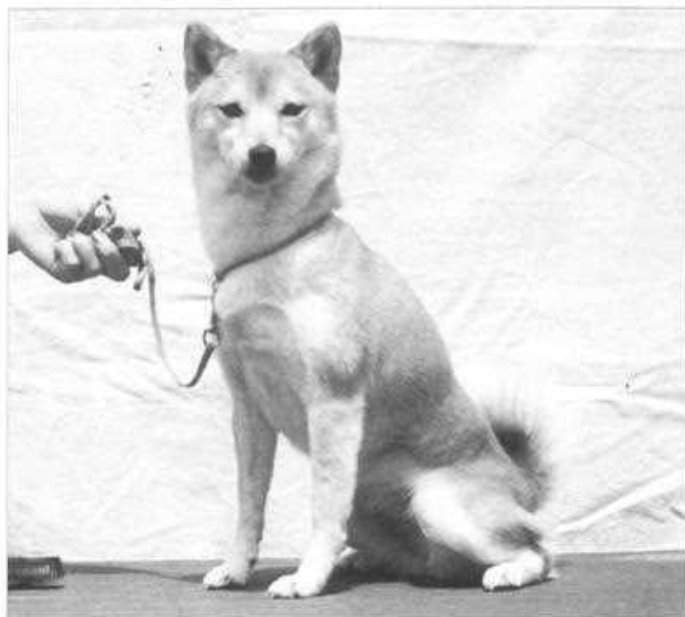
At the moment I am. All of the puppies who come down from Ch. Dazzle, which includes this litter - she's Ch. Bowfort's Bedazzled - so anything from her we try to put "Be" in front of it, such as Be Happy, Be Magic, Be Misty, Be Sunny.

"Angel's" litter, she is Copper Angel and James is Music Maker, so we have tried to com-

bine those two as Copper Penny and Music Maestro.

However, with the others? No, not really. The only time we do use a specific name is on a specific line, like "Judy," our very first bitch in the Samoyeds; everything we had bred down from her had "Silva," such as Silva Solo, Silva King. Anything to do with her that came down that line had "Silva."

Then we have another bitch that we took in as a rescue, and we finished her in England. She was the noisiest bitch. Oh, I couldn't stand it. Eng. Ch. Morgana Tisha Lafay of Novaskaya, but she produced some beautiful puppies and everything that comes down from her has "Lafay" on the end of her names, such as the Samoyed who won Crufts Best of Breed this year goes back to her, and I always know it does, because his name is Ch. Novaskaya Zahrek Lafay, so anytime we hear "Lafay," we know that dog goes back to "Tisha" somewhere. Anytime we see "Silva" it goes



Novaskaya Cherry Blossom, "Pixie," out of coat.

back to Judy, and they were our two basic lines; so I suppose we do.

We have one more now,

"Zoey's" line, a bitch named "Sweet Charity." Everything that comes down from her has "blaze" on the end of it for some



Ch. Zahrek Lafay, BOB, Crufts 1998.

reason. In fact, the little puppy out there right now, the new puppy, she goes back to that line, even though it is not here anymore. She is Novaskaya Krystal Blaze. She goes back to Ir/Am/Can Ch. Novaskaya Modesty Blaze, "Zoe." I guess in a way we do, and it sort of gives us some idea of what lines they go back onto, even Tisha has just about slipped off the pedigree now.

How do you rate type, temperament and soundness in order of importance?

I suppose in a way, especially with the Shibas, I'm a bit odd, because I certainly would put temperament first. We have been lucky with ours. When she's in season, Smudge gets a bit upset and a bit unreasonable when she comes in and sees me. She comes through the house growl, growl, growl. She has never started a fight or anything, but she swears at every dog she sees. Once she goes out of season, she's fine. However, Pixie is such a doll. She plays with all the rest. She'll curl up next to a Samoyed's belly with them and go to sleep with them, and she'll curl up next to one of the Cavaliers in one of the baskets. Generally, that's where we find her. We found five dogs in that basket over there one day. We couldn't find Pixie anywhere and we were all calling, "Pixie, Pixie," and all of a sudden this little red nose poked up from the middle of four Cavaliers, and she was right underneath them. So I must rate temperament first.

I'd like soundness and type as well, but they must have good temperament. Our Samies are very even-tempered; we have never had any problems with one of those. I don't think the Cavaliers would even snarl at you. I guess I'm sold on temperament. I must have good temperament.

What is your long-range goal in breeding dogs?

To be able to look back and hear, as people in England say to me when I go back - "I usually go back every year - Betty, we can always tell one of your dogs. They look alike. The type is there."

There are several new books out on Cavaliers and several breed articles, and I really am kind of proud in a way because every one of them has always said that it was so easy to pick out a Novaskaya Samoyed.

That kind of puts me up there with the top kennels, and I kind of get choked up about that.

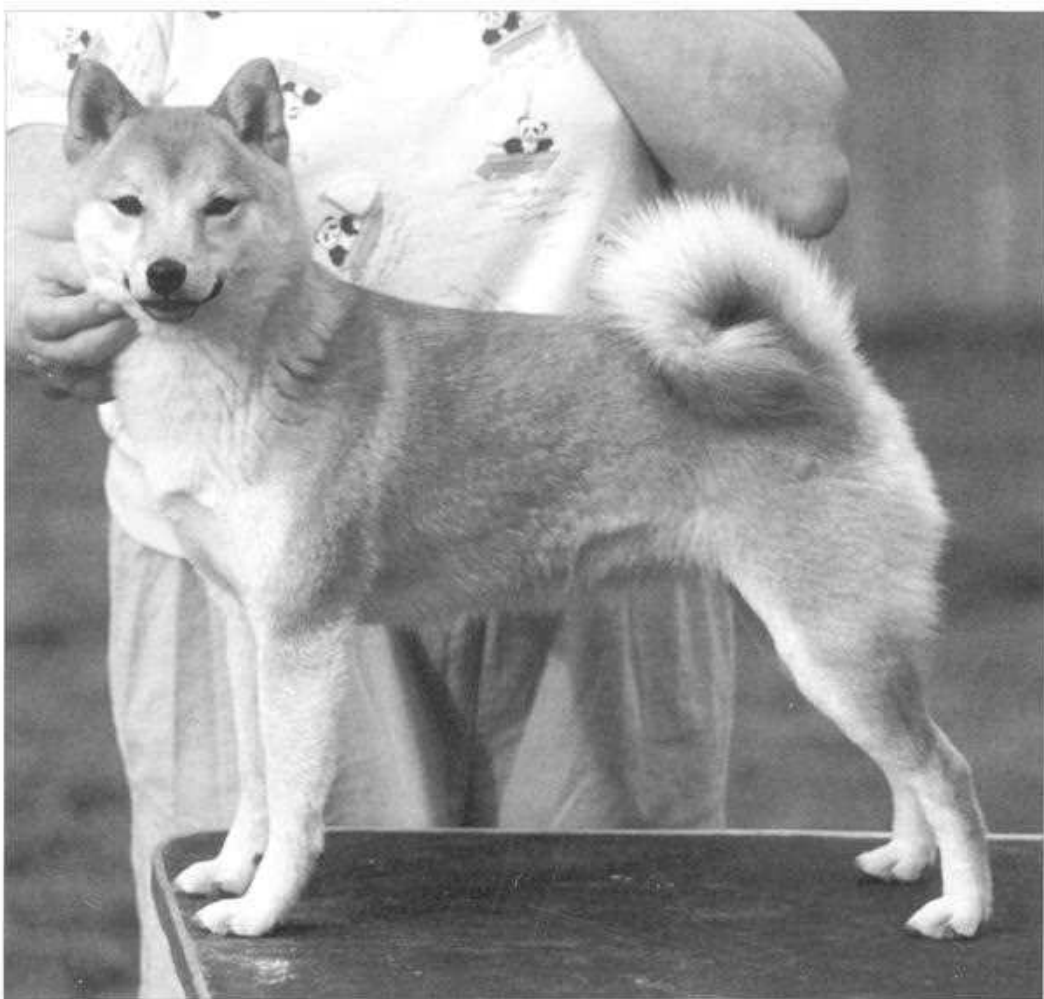
That's my main goal. To just keep breeding good dogs, not just breeding a litter of mediocre dogs, and feeling quite pleased about it, because I did have one litter - Angie's litter - that I could have cheerfully hidden every one of them. (laughter) It was not a good litter, and

the only puppy I've had in two years, so I don't think I'm overbreeding.

The thing is I have people, when the bitches didn't take, that I've offered to inquire around and find them a nice puppy, or send them to a breeder that I know is responsible, and they say, "No, we would rather wait." Therefore, I still have about eight people on my

describe your interpretation of the perfect Shiba?

The first word that comes to mind is balance. If a dog isn't balanced, the parts don't fit. If the back is too long, it obviously has a weak back or it lacks neck. In Spitz breeds, which is what a Shiba is, if they lack that good reach of neck, it tends to make the whole dog stuffy. Balance is what you look for. It's what I



Novaskaya Cherry Blossom, ten months.

we never repeated it. It was an awful litter. We didn't breed the bitch again. It was not a litter that we could be proud of. That kind of upset me. I'm very careful. If I am going to have a litter, I plan it two years ahead. I have three bitches out there that we sent by air to be bred, and we got one bitch puppy out of it, and that's kind of an expensive proposition when you have to ship them out. I haven't had a litter full of Sams now - Krissy is the only puppy I've had. She's eight months now. She's

books now waiting for a Samoyed.

That's a wonderful compliment.

I think it is. The nice part is that my sister in England still has some of my dogs over there and another friend, Avis, does too. Also people who have had dogs from me before and their dog has died and they've come back for another one; they want one like they had before. That's really what I'm aiming for, that the type and temperament are always there - consistency.

And ideal conformation. Can you

look for when I judge.

Why do some dogs look good standing and posing, and not good when moving?

That's very easy. You can stack a dog and it will look good. However, if it is unsound, the minute it comes out of that man-made stack, it is going to fall apart when moving. It's just not going to be sound. It is easy to stack a dog and make it look good. Also, a pair of scissors helps often.

How should the dog move coming toward you?



Emily judging the Tibetan Mastiff Regional Specialty, 1997.

It should, if you move it at gentle speed, single track.

And away from you?

It should do the same going away. I don't like to see dogs' feet turning in or out, or loose

hocks, or what we call "knitting" - where the legs cross. Anything in that department isn't sound.

What about from the side?

I like to see a nice easy

springy gait. I'm not wild about this throwing the back legs out and way above and outside the hip line. I don't believe that is necessary. It is a very wasteful movement. But I do like to see

a nice driving movement when the dog hits the ground, pushes the ground away, and a nice full reach with the front legs. I do like to see that. Anything else gets a bit choppy-gaited. A lot



Above and below left and right: Blossom x Max pups.

of Shibas that I have seen are really nice Shibas. We do have some very nice Shibas out there in the ring. Even if I am show-

ing that day, I always make a point of watching the Shibas that are judged. One day, when I finally get back on my feet

again, I'll be able to get back in the ring with them.

What are you looking for in the head?

I'm not an expert in this department, but I've seen quite a few heads that I like. Usually it is a slightly shorter muzzle to my own dog. It's slightly shorter in the muzzle, and if they have that beautiful dark almond-shaped eye, it adds greatly to the expression. Round eyes just spoil the expression on a dog. Also, I like to see nice, thick-furred ears, and I do like to see that forward tilted ear. I've noticed on some of them coming up that the ears aren't quite tilted forward, and again that spoils the head. Of course, when they get that little ruff around their ears, they are exquisite.

Do you have problems with missing teeth?

I haven't so far, but again I don't have a lot of experience in that department either. All of Blossom's and Max's litter had beautiful mouths.

What is the correct bite for the Shiba?

A scissors bite. I don't know if they accept a level bite. Some people say, "Oh, go ahead and show it." I personally wouldn't like to. If it is wrong in the breed standard, then it shouldn't be in the ring.

Are all colors acceptable?

Just about, I would assume. You have your reds, your sesames, black and tans, and



creams are acceptable, I understand. I have only seen one, but I understand they are acceptable. A lot of people don't like them, but I haven't seen enough of them to state whether it is good or bad. I must say that I do honestly prefer the reds myself.

With everything else being equal, has it been your experience that one color goes up more than another?

I think people tend to feel that the black and tans get a rough ride sometimes. They don't seem to go up as often as the reds and the red sesames do, although I've seen two or three of the black and tans and I rather like them. Those markings around the eyes give them a different look. I suppose the only way I compare is the difference between the Cavalier black and tan and a ruby. The rubies have a rough ride because they are a little different in the head. We were so delighted when Edd Bivin put up our little red girl and said afterward that he had read the standard thoroughly and he realized there was just that little bit of difference. It's up to the judges to really read standards and to know a good one when they see it.

What is the correct topline?

It should be level.

Is that for function or beauty?

For function. They are supposed to be a very quick dog. The more I read of it, I found they were used for flushing, and any dog that doesn't have a good level topline really isn't fit for that kind of work.

Do you believe a breed should do what it is bred for?

I like to see them do it, yes. I am kind of spoiled, because my husband has sled my Sams in snow and on carts, and he races them. These Cavaliers, of course, were bred for nothing more than to be couch potatoes. They are just companions, so we don't even think about anything there. I feel if they can work, they should.

What is the ideal tail length and set for the Shiba?

It should be set high and well over their back with a double curl. I don't like to see a very high, hanging, loose tail. When it is set right, it looks right. With the coloring on the tail, the light and dark colors, if there is a bad tailset, it will show where it begins.

What is the ideal foot?

Tight. I want to say cat

foot, but I don't believe that it really is that catlike. It is a little longer than a cat foot, but it should be nice and tight. It shouldn't be splayed and it shouldn't be down on its pastern.

What is the ideal temperament?

The ideal temperament is a sweet temperament. One that

sweet. I can trust her with every other dog in the house. I trust her with anyone coming in the house. She loves everybody. I suppose really that is what I'm looking at.

Do you feel our standard is a good one?

I think so.

Is there anything you would like

judge. Can you tell us how you became a judge?

I'm not a judge here in the USA. I started judging Samoyeds in 1972 in England.

How many breeds do you do?

This is the funny part. You work so hard to get a few breeds, but you basically stay with one breed until you get past to give out what they call Challenge Certificates which are the points. That can take anywhere up to ten years. You have to judge a certain amount of classes. You have to be on a breed club judging list.

Back when I started, you had to have judged 30 classes of dogs over a five-year period before you could go on the judging list. You have to remember, too, judging Open Shows is where you start, at the small shows, the limited Open, and then Championship Shows. The Open Shows are like matches only they are huge compared to a match, and from there you progress to your Championship Shows eventually. You get about four classes to judge and usually they are mixed classes - Puppy Dog or Bitch, Novice Dog or Bitch, Post-graduate Dog or Bitch, Open Dog or Bitch. In those four classes, you can get as many as 40 dogs; so looking at it from that point of view, you get far more experience from an Open Show over there. I did all of my Open Shows. You also have to do what we call a Breed Club Open Show, which is usually about twenty classes of dogs, nothing but Sams. You can probably put in about 100 dogs in those ten classes. So I had done all that.

Then I was asked to judge The British Samoyed Club Championship Show. I was on the British Samoyed Club committee for about seven or eight years. They knew I was coming back to the States when they asked me to do their show. Unfortunately, I'd accepted an appointment from the West of England Ladies' Society to judge. I was passed and told I could give out CC's (Challenge Certificates). They asked if I could return the following year and do the BSC specialty, and I was delighted. I said, "Yes." It just snowballed from there.

The pinnacle for every judge in England is to judge at Crufts, and I did that in 1996. I went back to England and judged



"Smudge."

you can trust. We hear some horror stories about temperament in some Shibas, and I don't know. I haven't bred enough or been in it long enough to set myself up as an example. All I can say is the one that I kept out of my own litter I can do anything with. Her temperament is very, very

to see changed?

I'm not a great one for disqualifications. I realize at some point or other you must have some disqualifications. However, I think the Shiba standard as it stands right now is pretty good. It's as good as any other standard.

You mentioned that you are

Crufts, and I had 217 dogs entered under me. That was really something. We started at 9:00 in the morning and finished at 5:00 that evening. There was no cut-off point as such. (This was right before I had my leg done.)

I think I had one of the highest entries in the show. But in Cavaliers there will be so many entered they will have a judge to judge the dogs and a judge to judge the bitches, and if they can't agree on who to put up for Best of Breed, they bring in a referee. (laughter) The referee goes over the dogs and says which is their choice, and that's it. Most times, they are pretty amiable, and both tend to agree on which dog goes Best of Breed, but there are so many Cavaliers shown. There are so many clubs in England, and because there are so many of them, each of those clubs has a specialty, so they have quite a few specialties through the year.

I've been to New Zealand twice and judged two specialties there. I went over and did the Dominion Samoyed Club one year. Two years later, I went to do the Auckland Provincial Samoyed Club, and the Dominion Club asked me back again while I was over there to do a second one, which I was really pleased about. One specialty on each island.

June 20th, 1999, I'm going over to Finland to do a Finnish specialty. They have just one Samoyed club.

Also, I have all my papers to get my license here. I've done all the stewarding. I belong to the Eastern Pennsylvania Steward Association, and I've done all the matches. It is just a matter of sitting down and getting the paperwork done. I will do it. I keep promising that I will do it.

Do you think breeders or handlers go on to make the better judges?

You can't really generalize that. I've been under ex-handlers who I considered very knowledgeable in all three of my breeds, and I've been under breed specialists who have been excellent, and I've been under others where I wasn't too happy about what they did. I wouldn't generalize on that. I would say it just depends on the person.

What are you looking for when the dogs first enter the ring?

When everybody walks in the ring, and I do this when I'm

stewarding, too, I stand there as they come in the ring, and look for balance. It is so easy to pick out a balanced dog. You can bring a dog in the ring and the handler can be busy putting his or her number on or something, and the dog just comes in the ring, sets itself up, and proceeds to look around at everything and what's going on - especially a Shiba. True balance will really stand out like a sore thumb.

Have you or would you withhold ribbons if quality was lacking?

Yes, I'm a great believer in that. I stewarded for one judge over here, and she just shook her head as the dogs came in the ring. I knew just from looking at them and the way they were moving and just had a feeling that she was going to withhold the ribbons, and she did. Afterward, I chatted with her about it, and she said, "I hate to do it. People feel like they have paid money for nothing, but when the quality is not there, it is not fair to give out ribbons."

How do you feel about an exhibitor who comes to you later asking about your judging decision, or does that happen in England?

Actually, what we have to do in England is when you have your lineup, you line up five dogs. You have first, second, third, fourth, and what we call "VHC," very highly commended. At a Championship Show, you then have to write a critique on the first, second and third dogs. That is printed every week in two large magazines, one's called *Our Dogs*, and one's called *Dog World*. When you are given a judging book, inside is a stamped and addressed envelope from each one of them asking if you will do this. At an Open Show, you just critique the first and second, so you are basically giving them an opinion, which sometimes can rebound on you. It's what you like about the dog, why you put this particular dog up over another dog, and this the exhibitors expect from you.

Does the appearance and dress of the exhibitors have any influence on your judging?

I have to say no, because in England where I learned my craft, so to speak, it is much more relaxed than it is here. People don't dress up the way you do here. Jeans and a sweater are the order of the day. Some of the judging conditions over there, especially in the fall, winter and spring, and if a show

is held outside, can be very wet and windy and cold, so you dress according to the weather. Consequently, when Hilda came over when we went to Bethlehem, I asked her what she was going to put on. She said, "I've got these pants and this blouse." I said, "No, Hilda, that's not going to work." She said, "What do you mean?" I said, "No, not over here. We don't do things this way. You are going to have to dress."

Hilda: I said, "I'm going to wear trousers."

Emily: No, you dress, you just have to. Everybody does. It's an unwritten law. So I found a green suit that I had and a pretty blouse. She put it on, and she looked very good. And she didn't look out of place. Afterward, when she came out of the ring, she said, "I understand what you mean now. If I had gone dressed the way I wanted to, I would have been out of place." However, I can't say appearance and dress would influence me, because I've been brought up judging dogs, not what somebody has on. It wouldn't influence me one way or the other.

Have you come across many dogs that are not well groomed for the ring?

Oh, yes. That happens. It's amazing how many Samoyeds look absolutely gorgeous going in the ring - that pristine white and everything - but when you put your hands on them, you can feel masses of mats where the dog hadn't been groomed to the skin. Also, sometimes when you go to feel the thickness of the ear, you'll find knots behind the ears and things like that. Yes, it happens.

Can grooming be over done?

Yes, when it comes to scissoring and spraying, it can.

How important is training to winning in the conformation ring?

I'm sure it's very important. There is nothing worse than an unruly dog. Again, for the last few years, I haven't been able to do anything with my dogs. I was always complimented in critiques on my presentation and grooming and the way my dogs were so well-behaved in the UK. That's one of the things that almost always the judges remarked on. There is nothing worse than taking a dog that squirms all over the place and the judge can't get his hands on it. It won't let him look in its

mouth and so forth. Cavaliers and Shibas are terrors for that. They hate their mouths being looked at, so we start on these right from the get-go. By the time they leave us they are usually used to having their teeth looked at and their bodies being gone over. They are used to being bathed and groomed.

How do you feel about training dogs in obedience while they are being shown in conformation?

Funny you should say that. (laughter) We are the proud breeders of a High in Trial at the Samoyed Club of America National Specialty at fourteen months, Ch. Novaskaya Arctic Rose, a Sam, which is most unusual. Her owner, Genevieve Deltieure, generally just took her in and she never put a foot wrong. She was wonderful. She was groomed to perfection. She was also entered in the Sweepstakes at the time, too, and she placed there. Within six months, she had also finished in conformation. She is now going through agility. Genevieve took her out last weekend. The first time she had ever speialed her, and she took Best of Breed in Maryland. So, yes, obedience doesn't hurt a Sammy one darn bit. The old boy out there has two legs on his CD, but I never went back and got his third. I regret that. He's fourteen-and-a-half now.

What about the Shibas?

I haven't tried the Shibas, and I must admit they would be a bit of a challenge, because I can be sitting here and Smudge will be over in the basket or Pixie will be in the basket over there, and we'll open the door and say, "Come on. Let's go. It's time to go to bed. Everybody out," and she'll just poke her nose up in the air. I'll say, "Pixie, come. PIXIE! COME!" And John says, "Dumb obedience." (laughter) Dumb in sense. But, yes, I imagine they would be quite a challenge, although as intelligent as they are and if they really got into it, I'm sure you could do very well with them. They are very intelligent.

How intelligent are they compared to other breeds?

They are very intelligent, very quick. I would say of my three breeds that they are the most intelligent. They are very quick to learn, but they are also very stubborn.

To be continued ...